

The William Ransom Orbit

This has been a very different term for me! Spending three days a week at another school has taught me lots about how different schools work and has made me realise what I miss about William Ransom when I am not there. It is lovely to come back in on a Friday and to be greeted with such enthusiasm by everyone! To hear, 'Hello Mrs Driver, we have missed you!' is such a wonderful feeling!

Pirton is a very small school and it is very different being a village school. There are only 5 classes and everyone plays together at playtime. I have introduced them to pancake racing and Dr Seuss; it has been great fun. Unfortunately, they still don't have a headteacher so this means I will have to stay with them for another term. However, I am only going to do 2 days a week. I love the summer term and all the things that go with it at William Ransom and I didn't want to miss that! So you will see me around school a little more in the summer term.

Looking ahead, there is lots to look forward to. School trips are planned for all year groups and we will have sports day and the summer musical for years 5 & 6. This year we are moving away from Disney and towards Roald Dahl as we are going to be presenting Matilda the Musical Jr. Rehearsals will start straight away and all four classes will have the music playing out upstairs in Redwood as they learn all the songs!

Well done to all of you for all your hard work this term. It is wonderful to see the school working so hard and making all the progress we need to make even when I am not there. And thank you to all your teachers and support staff for making sure everything continues just as it should!

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to working with you all in the summer term.



What a fantastic fox!



Mrs Driver

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Packed full of interesting facts and fun! Look inside!



Happy Easter

from the Orbit Team

Welcome to the Spring edition of The William Ransom Orbit. Thanks to everyone who entered our Christmas Crossword competition. Lots of people got the answers correct so we selected the winners from the tie-breaker question. Congratulations to Aaira (KS1), Ruby and Anna (KS2).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Orbit and we wish you all a very Happy Easter.

**Cupcake
Competition**

Turn to the back page

**Easter
Craft Idea**

Turn to the back page

The Fun Celtic Harmony



Year 3 went to Celtic Harmony on Monday 7th February to learn about the Stone Age. In Celtic Harmony we first were introduced to our tribe leaders.

First we gathered fruits and animals [on cards]. Then we went hunting. We had wooden sticks to throw at the animal boards which had holes. Next, we built dens which were made out of huge, thick logs, crunchy leaves, and thin branches.

After that, we had our scrumptious lunch. Then we did some treasuring trades with shells, horns, animal skins and hammer stones. Then we took some lovely things to go home. After that, we saw a team leader make some tools for tricky hunting. Last but not least, we made soup. It was made out of lots of herbs.



Roar of the Tiger



Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival in China. The date marks the end of the Year of the Ox and the start of the Year of the Tiger. It is celebrated on February 1st, with festivities that can go on for more than two weeks. Lunar New Year is celebrated in East

and in South Asian communities worldwide.

The Lunar New Year is seen as a time of reunion and rebirth, marking the end of winter and the start of spring. 2022 is the year of the tiger. If you were born in the year of the tiger then your lucky colours are: blue and green; lucky numbers are: 1,3,7; lucky flower is a plum blossom and your lucky direction is north. On television the London Eye will be illuminated with red and gold lights on the 6th February.

Also at Chinese New Year, people gift red bags with some money in to friends and family. On receiving this, the children bless them.



Reception celebrate with a Chinese Dragon - can you guess who it is?



They also made a Blossom tree to carry their wishes for the next year.

Fun Facts

By Salman

- People born in the Year of the Tiger are born leaders, who walk and talk assertively and inspire respect.
- Famous people born in the year of the Tiger include Her Majesty the Queen, Tom Cruise, Usain Bolt and Sir David Attenborough.
- They are courageous and energetic and love a challenge or competition
- This year (2022) is a water tiger.
- The animal cycle includes the Rat, the Ox, the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Dragon, the Snake, the Horse, the Goat, the Monkey, the Rooster, the Dog and the Pig.





Let's Get Italian!

By Esmée

Our favourite recipe...



Ingredients: Recipe:

225g self-raising flour

65g margarine

150ml milk

Toppings of choice
(tomato purée,
cheese, olives)

1. Turn on oven to 200c (fan).
2. Rub the margarine into the flour to make a 'breadcrumb' effect.
3. Add half the milk and start making a soft dough. Then add the other half.

4. Knead the dough until soft.

5. Roll out dough on a floured surface until 1cm thick.

6. Place pizza base on a lined baking tray.

7. Put on toppings.

8. Bake in oven for 15-20 minutes until base is golden.



Spotlight on Mrs Gibson



Mrs Gibson has been at William Ransom Primary School for nearly two years. This is the fourth school she has taught at in England. She has taught at schools in Luton, St Albans and Harpenden.

Mrs Gibson's favourite subjects are Science and RE. Her favourite school trip is going to the Hari Krishna temple. She grew up in Canada and in her school most people didn't wear school uniform. They also had school trips to see games of ice hockey.

In home life Mrs Gibson has three sons but no pets. In her spare time she likes to read and write. The most exciting thing she has done in England is going to the Tank Museum in Dorset. By Hannah and Gowri





France Facts

By Jasleen

France is the third largest country in Europe. It is 543,940 km². 68 million people live in this well known country. It is the most visited country in the world. The capital of France is Paris.

The Eiffel tower is a famous landmark in France. Some other landmarks are Arc de Triumphe, Sacré-cœur and Place of Versailles.

Breads, pastries and cheese are very common foods in France.

The president of France is Emmanuel Macron.



Schools in France



- Uniform is not worn by students.
- French people get Wednesdays off every week.
- School days are much longer than our school days because they start at 8am and finish at 5 or 6pm.

French is taught at William Ransom

*Disgusting fact!!
The French eat 25,000 tons of snails each year!*

*Unusual fact!!
France has more roundabouts than any other country in the world!*

People in France talk French. Here are some questions answered by Miss Hallahan about French.

Do you like teaching French?

Yes I love teaching French! It is my favourite subject!

Have you been to France before?

Lots of times - over 5.

What is your favourite word in French and why?

Grenouille which means frog. I like the sound it makes.

How did you learn French?

In school, college and Uni.

Is French your favourite language?

No, Spanish is because it is more phonetic (which means it reads more closely to how it is spelt.)

*Fun fact!!
Louis XIX was the king of France for only 20 minutes in 1930!*

*Weird fact!!
Turning a baguette upside down is seen as unlucky in France.*

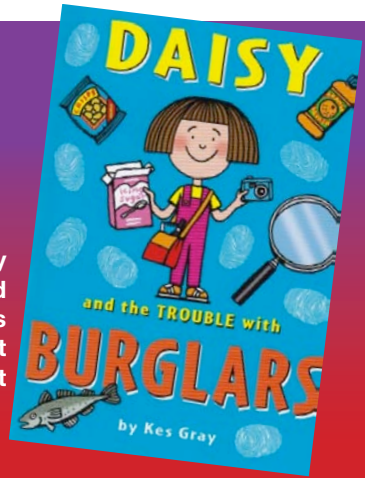


Our Recommended Reads and Movies...

Daisy and the trouble With Burglars By Kes Gray

Fiction For Ages 6+ ★★★★★

I would recommend this book. It is by the author Kes Gray and illustrated by Garry Parsons. It's all about a girl called Daisy whose town got burgled! Daisy's best friend helps her to find out who committed the crime. Her biggest suspects are some random Russian men (who are not real) whose getaway driver's favourite sweet is polos!!! I give it 5 out of 5!!! By Esmée



The Beast Quest Series

By Adam Blade Fiction For Ages 8+ ★★★★★

Beast Quest is an amazing series of books by Adam Blade. There are over 25 series which are made up of 4 or 6 books! It is about a boy called Tom who is on a quest to defeat some evil beasts which were made by witches. In the first series an evil wizard called Malvel puts an enchanted spell on the good beasts of Avantia and Tom has to break the enchantment. I would really recommend Beast Quest. By Sartaaaj



Encanto Movie By Esmée

Disney Movie PG Rating ★★★★★

Encanto is the new Disney movie, and it was a great success. It is all about a 15-year-old girl called Mirabel Madrigal and she is the only one in her family without a magical gift. Her sister Isabella has the gift of making flowers appear wherever she wants. Her other sister, Luisa has the gift of strength so she can move churches and bridges.

But once on her 5-year-old cousin's gift day Mirabel noticed that the Madrigal house starts to crumble!!!! She goes on a daring quest to try and save their house.

Watch the movie to find out more of Mirabel's adventure...



World Book Day

at William Ransom School

Thursday 3rd March 2022



World book day is a day where we celebrate the world of books. Most people dress up as a book character and come to school in the costume. In William Ransom, we do lots of fun activities based on the subject of fiction books!

Sometime during the day lots of classes met an author called Sarah Oliver online. She told us about how she became an author.

In Reception, they shared their favourite books and did a fun World Book Day quiz!

In year 1, they decorated potatoes to look like what character they were!

In year 2, they made their very own books!

In year 3 and year 4, they designed a cool book cover and wrote a blurb!

In year 5, they made a PowerPoint of a book they made up in partners!

In year 6, they met the author Sarah Oliver and did some mindfulness colouring.

By Jasleen, Hannah and Esmée



Sarah Oliver the author, with a personal message to William Ransom.



***Lots of amazing costumes!
Can you guess the characters and the books they are from?***



Year 5

Vicious Vikings

Viking Day for Year 5 was very exciting. We got to wear Viking clothes to school!

We had a Viking teacher whose name was Eiric Goodmenson. We also got taught many things that we didn't know about the Vikings.

The man gave us a really fun quiz to do. We had to look at boards that had information on, so we could answer the questions. In the last question we learnt to spell our names in Old Norse (the Viking language).

After the fun quiz, we got taught about Viking long ships and we learnt that they made fire using flint and steel. He told us that to preserve fire you have to find tinder fungus. They would then take a spark from the fire and wrap it up in the fungus preserving the spark. They would even put it in their pocket!

We got to see real arrows that Vikings used in battle. There was the normal arrow that was the weakest. But it could still do some damage! Next, there was the leaf head arrow that obviously was leaf-shaped. The swallow head, was the most dangerous out of the three of them.

The last thing we did was spear wrestling. You had a baton which we would both hold on to. We would then pull it and see who was the strongest.

By Hannah and Salman



Her Royal Highness The Queen's

Platinum Jubilee

1952 - 2022

By Sartaaaj



On 6th February 2022, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. It will mark 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms, and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this great event, events and initiatives will take place all through the year. There will be a four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities as well as national moments of reflection on the Queen's years of service. To mark her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee a nationwide banking competition has been set up to find a brand new pudding

dedicated to The Queen inviting applications from UK residents aged 8 and over to create the perfect Platinum Pudding.

Over 1400 parading soldiers, 200 horses, and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional parade to mark the Queen's official birthday. A service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral. The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace to celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from the Queen's seven-decade reign.

... STOP FLIP ... STOP FLIP ... STOP FLIP ... STOP FLIP ...

Pancake Power 2022!

By Salman

The pancake race is a race between four teams (Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and Neptune.) It was an exciting race but surprisingly... all the teams tied! It took place on Friday morning, which was 4th March.

It was postponed to Friday because there was a high chance of someone

slipping and hurting themselves on Shrove Tuesday because it was raining. That is why they all tied, which is really rare! Everyone in the race loved the experience and definitely would like to do it again.



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Planes, Trains and Automobiles

By Gowri and
Vihaan



Looking at a timeline of transport.

Year 1 said they had a wonderful day at Shuttleworth and it all started with a coach ride!

When they arrived, they were split into groups and shown through the enormous hangars. They saw lots of interesting examples of old aeroplanes including an old passenger plane. It was from the 1930s and actually only fitted six passengers inside. They also saw some old motorbikes, cars and bicycles. There were tonnes of different kinds of transport to learn about. Wow!

After lunch they had a ride in a vintage bus which was 100 years old! The children found it very bumpy.

Jayven: "I had a great day at Shuttleworth!"

Joseph: "I had a really good day!"



The Vintage Bus!

Looking inside the 1930s passenger plane.



Trying on clothing worn by pilots in the past.



The oldest flying plane in the world - Bleriot XI



The race from England to Australia



Cricket - *Interesting Facts*

1. Cricket was invented by shepherds and the first ball was made of wool.
2. England played the longest cricket match ever (14 days) and surprisingly it still ended in a draw because they had to catch the last ship.
3. The only team to play more than 1000 test matches is England (1049 at time of writing).
4. Originally there was only two stumps, thanks to Lumpy Stevens, a third stump was added in 1775 because he bowled three balls and all of them went between the two stumps!
5. Chris Gayle is the only person to hit a six off the first ball of a test match.
6. Wilfred Rhodes from England took an amazing 4024 wickets in first class cricket, which is record till date.
7. Sir Jack Hobbs from England hit 199 centuries and scored 61,760 runs in first class cricket, which is record till date.
8. Shoaib Akhtar from Pakistan was the first ever bowler and the only one to clock 100 mph.

By Vihaan



Environmental **ECO Club**



Eco club is all about helping the natural world around us. The club meet on Tuesday afternoons at 12.30pm. Only KS2 go for about half an hour. They have done an assembly about the environment. They are hosting a competition which involves making an animal out of recycled products. Lots of people entered. Congratulations to the winners.

The Eco Club also planted a Silver Birch tree and an Apple tree for The Queen's Green Canopy event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Here are some quotes from the Eco Club members;

There is no Planet B!

Bin it to Win it!

Save the Earth!

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!



By Esmée and Sartaaaj

School Swimming

For the past few weeks years 4, 5 and 6 have been going swimming at Hitchin Swimming Pool. It was really fun. We learned a lot of tips.

We were put into three groups which were a first group, a middle group and an advanced group. I loved it!

By Sartaaaj



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COOL CUPCAKE COMPETITION



This cupcake competition is where you decorate a cupcake related to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You can make a cupcake and then decorate it with anything to do with the Queen's jubilee.

You **DO NOT** need to bring the cake in, instead take a picture of your fabulous cake and email it to Mrs Thorn at I.thorn@wransom.herts.sch.uk.

The Orbit team will be deciding which cake decoration is the best.

We look forward to seeing your imaginative ideas.

The deadline is Friday 22nd April. Good Luck!!

EASTER CRAFT IDEA - HOW TO MAKE A ... Cute Rabbit Pen pot!

By Ayla

What you will need:

Glue stick

Black pen

Toilet roll

White card

Coloured card

Googly eyes

Pipe cleaners

Scissors



1. Take the white card and wrap it around the toilet roll and glue it. (Remember to measure and cut the card to the right size!).



2. Using the coloured card, draw and cut out two ears and two that are a bit smaller to add more detail to the ears. Glue the ears on after.

3. Glue on googly eyes and cut pipe cleaners in half to glue on too as the whiskers.

4. Draw on a nose and mouth to finish your "pen pal" and place your pens and pencils inside to use in the classroom or at home.

The finished Pen Pot!

