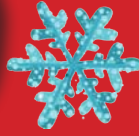




# The William Ransom **Orbit**



**Suddenly we are at the end of 2022 and wondering where on earth the time has gone.**

It has been another incredibly busy year with visitors coming into school and lots of you going out on school trips. We had another fantastic festival of languages day and it was so lovely to be able welcome parents back into school to tell us all about their culture and the countries they come from. This really is a lovely day! It has also been lovely to welcome parents into school for parents' meetings, class assemblies and the coffee and a chat morning. All of these things are really important to strengthen the home / school partnership.

Our biggest focus this term has been wellbeing. We have held wellbeing assemblies at the start of every month and all classes have included wellbeing and mental health in their PSHE lessons. HfL Education, who are the local team looking at different schools came into school at the end of November and were impressed with everything we do to support both pupils and their families. Our aim is that everyone can access school with a positive frame of mind!

Finally, as I write this we are approaching the Education Awards ceremony where we have been shortlisted as Primary School of the Year. Mrs Hall and Mrs Wheat are attending the ceremony and regardless of whether we win or not, I think we are the 'best primary school' and in my mind that makes us 'Primary School of the Year!'

**I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and that you all get what you deserve!**

 **Mrs Driver**

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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**Merry Christmas to everyone at William Ransom**



# Merry Christmas



*from the Orbit team*



Welcome to the Winter issue of the Orbit, written by our new Orbit team. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Congratulations to Meghan in Rowan class for winning the Ice Cream sundae competition. Her design looked really delicious! Don't forget to enter the Christmas Design a Woolly Hat competition for your chance to win a prize. See insert for more details.

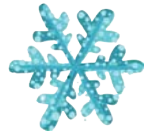
We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year!

**The Orbit Team**

Spotlight on ●●●



## Mrs Herbert



**Mrs Herbert is the Rowan Class teacher on Wednesday to Friday.**

Her favourite subject is PE; the reason being she likes getting active, and she actually learnt Sport Science at university for three years until she decided to go into teaching. She has two children, one named Charlie who is three and the other named Arthur who is five. Her favourite things to do in her free time are running, yoga, reading and gardening. She has an eight year old cat called Buddy. Her favourite animal is a rabbit.

Like a lot of teachers, Mrs Herbert's favourite book series is... you guessed it; Harry Potter! Her favourite cartoon character is Danger Mouse, and her favourite colour is blue. Her favourite food is tapas.

She used to go to William Ransom, and now Arthur does! She used to teach at other schools before returning to William Ransom, which were Maple Primary School and St Nicholas Secondary School.

*By Taran and Abby*



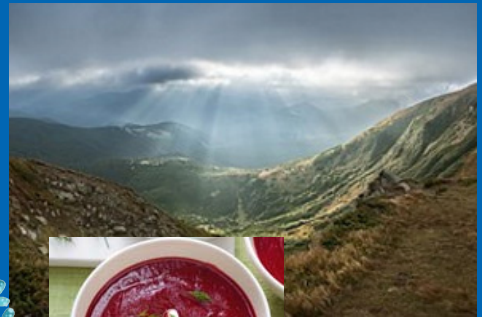
# Unsung Ukraine

In Year 6 they have recently had a boy from Ukraine who has joined. His name is Artem and he was born and grew up in Dnepr, Ukraine.

He is very proud of his homeland by saying Ukraine is washed by two seas: Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. Dnepr is the greatest river in Ukraine and the name of his hometown.

Borsht (pictured below) is Artem's favourite soup. It is a hearty soup made from beetroot. He also likes Pelmeni, these are made of dough and mince.

In Ukraine, his favourite lesson at school was listening to and reading Ukrainian stories.



## Facts About Ukraine

- Kyiv is the capital city of Ukraine.
- Its population is almost 44 million.
- Ukraine is the second biggest country in Europe!
- Its currency is called hryvnia.
- Its area is 603,550 square miles (1,563,184 square kilometres).
- The land is flat which makes its soil excellent for growing crops.
- Its climate is mostly temperate with the exception of the Southern Coast of Crimea which has a subtropical Mediterranean climate.
- Its major mountain ranges are the Carpathian and the Crimean.
- Ukraine is among the most educated nations in the world! More than 99% of all adults can read and write.
- Its' major rivers are the Dnieper River and the Dniester.
- In 2019 Ukraine ranked number 51 in the world in terms of total export value, but it is truly a world leader in terms of agricultural exports. Ukraine produces 18% of the world's sunflower seed, safflower or cottonseed oil exports; 13% of corn production; 12% of global barley exports; and 8% of wheat and meslin.

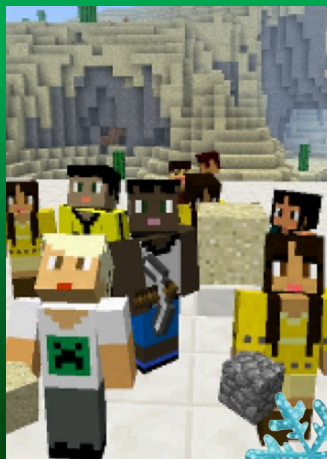
By William



# Adventurous Minecraft

Video Game ★★★★★

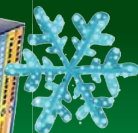
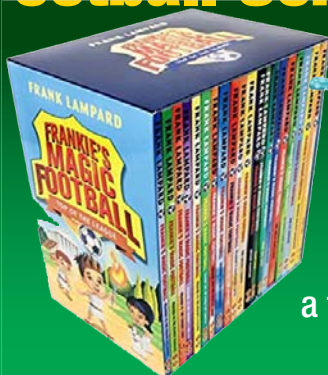
Minecraft is a very cool game suitable for ages 7+. There are monsters and animals which are easier to find at night. Basically if you find the woodland mansion, which is a huge castle it is full of monsters. There are three different types of adventure mode in Minecraft: Survival, Creative and Adventure. In Creative you can build super fast and don't need to collect supplies. In Survival you collect supplies and run away from monsters. In Adventure, the hardest one, you have to find villages and look for chests with emeralds inside. Then you trade these for supplies. If you find a totum of undying you will survive. It's my favourite game to play! By Aron



# Frankie's Magic Football Series

By Frank Lampard ★★★★★

Frankie's Magic Football, by Frank Lampard, is about three friends and a dog who have a football that takes them to magical worlds like Ancient Rome and Lapland. In these worlds, they go on adventures and play football matches. If you are a football fan then I would definitely recommend these books. For ages 6 up. By Taran



Ideal present for a football fan!

# Sea Beast the Movie ★★★★★

Sea Beast is a movie on Netflix that is animated and 8+ age rating.

It is about a girl who lives in an orphanage and, when a famous sea monster hunter ship arrives back to the dock for a party in a pub, the girl sneaks on their ship to become part of their crew. After a series of action-packed hunting, the man and the girl get stranded with a sea beast and venture some more, encountering another monster and eventually find out the truth about hunters.

Me and my brother thoroughly enjoyed the movie and would definitely recommend it.

By Taran



# Magnificent Museum

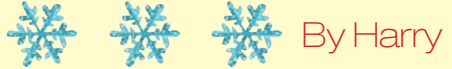


(13th September 1916 – 23 November 1990)

Roald Dahl is a famous author that was born in Wales to his Norwegian parents. He has published loads of children's books and some adult books.

Some of his books are James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the chocolate factory and lots more.

Year 4 went to the Roald Dahl museum on Thursday 13th October, in Great Missenden.



In the morning, Beech class went for a walk in the village and saw the things that inspired Roald Dahl's ideas, while Lime class explored the story centre. The story centre had 4 activities which we did in our groups. One was about making a movie, the second one was about creating sentences, the third was dressing up, and the last was making up silly words by putting together two real words. Then after that we looked at his life.



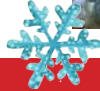


# More School News

By Manjot

## Harvest Festival

On September the 28th, it was the Harvest Festival! We all brought in lots of fruit and all of the fruits and vegetable on the table looked so colourful and bright. The most chosen fruit or vegetable from my point of view was a pineapple. All the money we brought for the raffle will go to a charity and the food brought in will go to the raffle winners.



## Festival of Languages

The festival of languages was on Friday 23rd September. Parents came in to talk about different countries and languages.

KS1 learnt about Germany, France, Italy and Mexico. They learnt some words from the countries and made flags and some beautiful headwear!

KS2 learnt about Africa, Spain and Punjab and had a chance to eat some food from the different countries.



## Shoebboxes

This year we collected shoeboxes for the charity Link to Hope. The shoeboxes are filled with items for the whole family, this includes shampoo, shower gel, games and sweets. They are given to some of the poorest families in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. The pupils collected 87 shoeboxes which will be given to the charity to distribute.



# Vicious Vikings

On the 5th October Year 5 had Viking day! We all enjoyed the day and the man was really funny.

We started the day with him explaining where the Vikings came from and what they did when they invaded. The next thing we did was that we took turns so Willow class first played a board game while Rowan Class did a Quiz.

The game was called Geese and Fox and how you play is the geese need to surround the fox to get it eliminated and the fox can eat the geese if it is right next to them or underneath. The Quiz had a few questions and spread around there were 7 boards. Each group of questions said which board the answer was on so we could find the answer.

After Lunch the man talked about the weapons that the Vikings used and then we practised some Viking battle drills. We then did children wrestling which is where two people sit on the floor and put their feet together and then you hold a wooden stick which you pull like tug of war and if you lift off the floor than you automatically lose.



Practising Viking battle drills.

One of the facts we learnt about the Vikings is their ships are double ended and so they can reverse without turning around!

By Manjot



# Dance Fusion

I go to this club after school called Dance Fusion and the type of dances they do are a mix of Hip Hop and a little bit of Indian .The Dance teachers are called Nina and Jag they are very kind and funny. Me and my friend go there and we enjoy it so much. The club is on a Monday and it is at 4:30 to 5:15. It is at St Michael Community Centre and our first performance was at Kingshott School. It was a competition and we only did it for fun but the crowd really enjoyed it. We also performed at William Ransom at the Summer Fete! When it is Easter or Halloween or Christmas we do fun games. By Manjot



# Juggling Forces

By Aron



A man came in and he told us about forces. The man's name was Nick and he held workshops throughout the day for Years 3 and 5.

**NICK JUGGLED 5 BALLS AND HE RODE TWO UNICYCLES. ONE WAS SO BIG THAT HE NEEDED TO USE THE APPARATUS TO HELP HIM CLIMB ONTO IT!!**

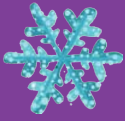
Gravity, friction and force was what we learnt!

**WE GOT TO JUGGLE AND RIDE ON A UNICYCLE.**

It was quite tricky but easier with one ball. Riding the unicycle was easier and lots of fun!







# *Her Majesty*

By Nina and  
Phoebe

# Queen Elizabeth

## 1926 - 2022



### Her Death

As many of you know Her Majesty the Queen has unfortunately died. She died of old age on the 8th of September, at Balmoral castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, at the age of 96.

For the funeral Her Majesty the Queens coffin travelled around the United Kingdom and lots of people visited to show their respect. Some people queued for 14 hours to see her coffin.

Her Majesty reigned for 70 years and 214 days. The longest reigning monarch in the United Kingdom.



# *His Majesty*

# King Charles III



King Charles the III became king of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms on the 8th of September 2022. His coronation will be on Saturday 6th May 2023. His head will be on coins and notes released later this year but not in general circulation until 2024.

King Charles was born Charles Phillip Arthur George on 14th November 1948. He is married to Camilla the Queen Consort and has two sons from his previous marriage to Lady Diana Spencer, called Harry and William.



# 50 Years of William Ransom!

This school was named  
**WILLIAM RANSOM SCHOOL**  
on 18th December, 1973  
by Michael Ransom

**On 7th October 2022 we had a party to celebrate 50 years of William Ransom School.**

There were events to celebrate the special occasion. These events were: archery (no real arrows), bouncy castles, slides and laser tag! The school was named on the 18th of December 1973 by Michael Ransom. He was the founder of the UK's oldest independent pharmaceutical company. He was a quaker and owned a pharmacy in Hitchin on Bancroft, where he lived all his life. A quaker is a historically protestant Christian.



## A Fond Farewell

by Mrs Stephenson

**I have really enjoyed being part of the Orbit team for the last 14 years. I started the school newspaper 13 years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed watching it flourish and evolve.**

I have had the pleasure to work with over 104 Key Stage 2 children during this time. All of them have made great contributions to the Orbit and ensured its ongoing success and appeal; *"A school magazine written by our pupils for our pupils."*

I will miss being part of William Ransom school and the Orbit team. I have no doubt that the Orbit will continue to be produced for many years to come and that there will be lots of fun and interesting articles written.

Mrs Mills is retiring from William Ransom after having worked at the school for 16 years. Her son, Adam, helped me to set up the Orbit whilst he was in the Sixth Form at Hitchin Boys school. We all wish Mrs Mills a very happy retirement.



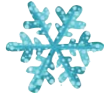


# Creative Clubs



## Choir

The choir is held every Tuesday twelve thirty and sometimes we perform songs in front of the school. When we meet we practice singing songs, we have learnt a harvest song and a remembrance song. We also performed them to the rest of the school which I really enjoyed.



## Art Club

Mrs Morris runs art club. It is held every Tuesday after school for Year 4s.

At the start, Mrs Morris gave art club a challenge. How many different colours could they make by using the three primary colours: red, yellow, blue and a small dash of black and white? They then created a collaborative piece of art based on Damien Hirst's famous spot paintings. Damien Hirst is a British artist from Bristol. The artwork is displayed in the hall if you would like to see it.

Art club does lots of different projects such as an Autumn Hues display.

By Abby and Nina.



## Netball

Miss Hallahan and Miss Swinburne run the netball club on Tuesday's after school. We do some warm ups and then get into matches. We have taken part in lots of matches against other schools and have won many of them. The teachers pick the children fairly. You don't need to be amazing at netball because they will teach you everything you need to know if you are new to netball. Netball can be really fun when you improve and makes you feel really proud of yourself. It's also perfect for your physical and mental health and is a great way to socialise with friends!

## Football

Football club is for boys and for girls in years 5 and 6. It is on Thursday or Wednesday after school depending on which slot you were given. It is run by Mr Maranian, Mr Vincent, Mr Sears and Mr Thrasher. We usually focus on one or two drills every training session. The team is chosen and they play a match most weeks. Sometimes the team do rallies and competitions. So far the team has won all their games.



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