



# The William Ransom Orbit



## The Circle Of Life

This is my final piece for The Orbit and as always, I am delighted to have the opportunity to reflect not only on the past term but on the past 41 years at William Ransom School. I started here in 1982, before most of your parents were born and I have seen the school grow and change over those years. During my time here I have witnessed 7 US Presidents, 9 Prime Ministers, 10 Dr Whos and 30 Blue Peter Presenters – what a changing world!

What does change mean? It means we alter something to make it different. Some people are good with change, others are not. But it is something we all must embrace. September is going to be a big change for me, one that I am going to have to get used to. You will all have to get used to a change of teacher, a change of classroom and a change of Headteacher. Mr Plunkett is looking forward to coming to work at William Ransom and that will be a big change for him. He is used to a smaller village school with about 100 students; we are a large town school with 420 students, that alone is an enormous change. But I know he is excited about the challenge, and I hope you will all welcome him into the William Ransom family.

As I write this we are busy preparing for the Lion King musical at the end of term and I feel that The Lion King is the most appropriate show for this summer. I feel The Circle of Life is showing me how I have come full circle with many of you, having taught your parents and now having you as pupils. There is so much about William Ransom that I will miss, but most of all I will miss the people. I will miss the students, every single one of you, and I will miss the adults who work in school. They have become friends as well as work colleagues and I hope they will stay in touch. I will come back and see you, to find out how you are getting on and I hope I will see you out and about in Hitchin.

And what do I wish for all of us next year?  
– Hakuna Matata!

**Mrs Driver**



**Have a wonderful summer everyone!**



Welcome to the Summer issue of the Orbit, we hope you enjoy reading it.

# Spotlight on... Mrs Driver

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Celebrating the Coronation in 2023.

Mrs Driver has worked here for 41 years, her first day at William Ransom was in September 1982. She wanted to be a Blue Peter Presenter so then she studied drama in college but then her dad suggested that she should become a teacher as a backup.

When Mrs Driver started here at William Ransom the children did not have a strict uniform, but they had to wear red and grey or black. There were 9 classes which were all mixed ages and there were only two TAs in the whole school! Before we had Redwood building the school was a lot smaller and they had mobiles for some classes..

## Outstanding outfits!



The Orbit team would like to thank Mrs Driver for her many years of support for the Orbit and wish her all the best for her next adventure.





*The early years*

# Mrs Driver Fact File

- Mrs Driver has a phobia of birds
- Her favourite places to eat out are Browns and she enjoys Turkish takeaways
- She loves gardening which she likes to do with her husband
- She never had a pet growing up so now isn't too keen on them
- Her favourite drink is prosecco
- For holidays, she likes going to the Greek islands
- Her favourite subject to teach at school is Maths



*Pancake Day*

## Funny favourites...

One of the funniest things to happen to Mrs Driver at school was when she moved around while she was teaching and when she leaned on the fire exit door it flung open and she went toppling down the stairs! Another thing that made her laugh was a Gorillagram that Year 6s arranged for her before they left the school.

She thinks that being a headteacher is rewarding, challenging and it is the best feeling in the world.

Some of her favourite events she has done at the school have been Murder Mysteries, Summer Fetes and the 40th birthday party. She is now looking forward to having time in the garden, new challenges and helping in the local community.



*Sports Day*



*The official opening of the Redwood building.*



By Manjot and Abby



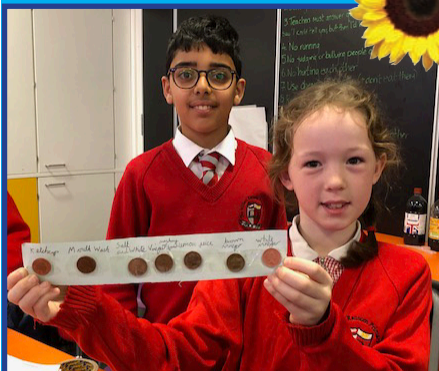
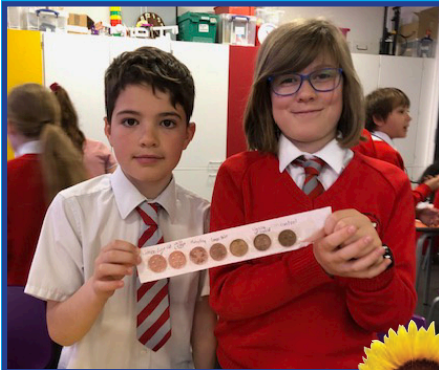
# Amazing Airbus

On the 17th of May, Year 5 went on a trip to Airbus. Airbus is involved with STEM which stands for science, technology, engineering and maths.

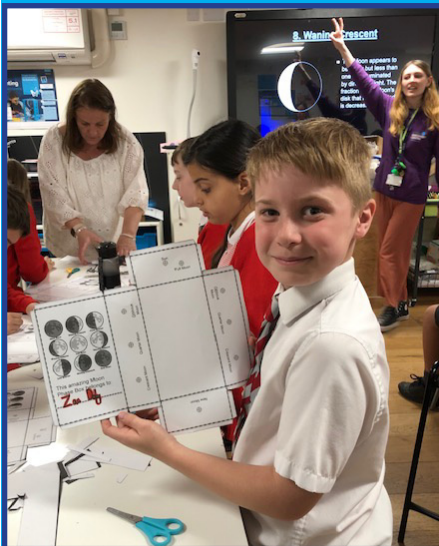
We experimented to find which substances can clean dirty coins and surprisingly brown sauce and ketchup cleaned the coins the most. This is because they both have vinegar in them and so the acid must have cleaned the dirt away.

Then we explored a room which had all kinds of things we could use and play with. For example, there was a ball that if you touch it and then touch someone's nose, you can give them a ting electric shock. We also made Moon boxes, where we shone a light through the hole labelled Sun, then when we looked through different holes we could see the different phases of the moon.

Also, they showed us the Mars Rovers and they made the ground the Mars Rovers were on just like the ground on Mars. We saw the rover that will land next on Mars in 2028 but lots of other Mars rovers have landed on Mars. We couldn't go where the Mars Rovers were kept because the sand has to be completely dry and the room was kept hot to match the conditions on Mars.



*Cleaning coins using food!*



*Having fun learning about the phases of the moon!*

By Manjot



# Our King's Coronation



The Coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday 6th, May at Westminster Abbey at 11am. After the coronation, King Charles III will be the 40th monarch to have reigned over England and now the UK. You might wonder what a coronation is. The coronation is when the monarch at the time is officially crowned. You might've watched the coronation on TV, but you could only go to see it in the abbey if you were invited by the king. The streets were filled up with people all trying to get a peek at the Gold State Coach which was constructed in 1762.

## Royal Reception

The whole school celebrated this event on Friday 5th May. The reception classes re-enacted the coronation - it was too cute! We sang the national anthem (God Save The King), made flags and had tea parties.

When the reception children were interviewed there were mixed feelings. The majority of the children enjoyed the coronation, but some children just found it a bit too loud. The other classes loved waving their flags during the mini coronation and filling themselves up during the tea party.

*Presenting the Orb.*



*Reception marched along the corridors to cheering fans!*



# PGL Adventure



Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May 2023

This year, year 6 were lucky to go to PGL for four nights and five days.

**PGL** stands for **Peter Gordon Lawrence** (or as the children prefer) **Parents Get Lost!**

I know from experience that PGL has great food and loads of fun activities and is a great learning experience of teamwork.

The grounds are massive, and you can do football, basketball and tennis in your free time.

The activities that were done included:

Abseiling, raft building, canoeing, Cluedo, the giant swing, archery, rifle shooting, trapeze, zipline, campfire and much more!



As described by the children the food was delicious!

Some of their favourite dishes were:

Sausages, pasta, chocolate cake with chocolate custard and their overall favourite **croustons!**

They also included another line which included alternatives for vegans, vegetarians, allergies and anyone who does not eat meat, so everyone was included.





One of the best trips of my life! Ava



PGL inspired me to be myself and be confident. Lucy



All the staff were kind hearted. Joshua

# Year 6 Leavers

Year six have been sharing their thoughts on moving into year 7. We asked a few of them what they thought about it. Here are some of their quotes:

“ I love all my friends and I am going to miss them a lot! ”

Mishka

“ I’m excited although I don’t want to leave everyone behind. ”

Bruno

“ I am going to miss this school but I’m also excited to take new steps into another. ”

Sophia

“ I am excited as it is a new experience. ”

Adam

“ I need a map! ”

Seren



“ I feel nervous about finding my way around and making new friends. ”

Olivia

“ I have made many memories at this school and I am sure I will make many more! ”

Lily

“ I am nervous as my homework will pile up! ”

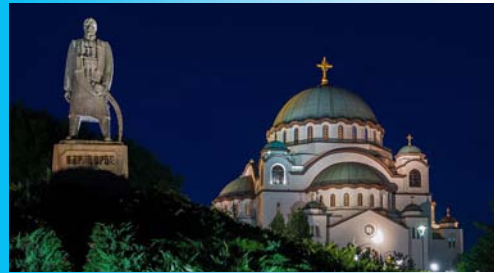
Ruben





# Scenic Serbia

- Serbia is a country in Europe.
- Serbia has lots of traditional foods. One of the most common foods is Sarma, which is white cabbage and minced meat.
- Serbia is also a good tourist country because there are lots of castles from medieval times
- Serbia is 88,499km<sup>2</sup>
- Serbia's capital city is Belgrade
- Serbia's population is 7.2 million
- Serbia's flag is made of red, white and blue with a two-headed eagle wearing a crown
- I am from Serbia myself! Most of my family still live there.
- The religion I am from is common in Serbia. It is orthodox Christian.



*The Church of Saint Sava in Belgrade is one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world.*

By Nina



## Awesome Art Days







# Anglo Saxon Spirits



**On Friday 12th of May in Year 4 we had Anglo Saxon Day.**

In the morning we had eight different activities to do, such as making candles and making bracelets. We also made fortune teller coins out of clay, creepy clay goblin faces and necklaces out of card and coloured foil. We wrote our names with homemade ink and homemade paint. Finally, we made clay moulds where the best design would get a proper metal liquid inside it and made into a pendant necklace.



## AFTERNOON

In the afternoon we were archaeologists and had trays full of dirt and items to find. We had a brush and we dug up items like shells, bones and broken pottery. At the end of the day, he read us a silly Anglo-Saxon story. We enjoyed dressing up and liked all the activities.

By Nina and Harry

**Over the last term classes have been able to do some printing with a Hitchin Artist called Tilly Wonham. Every year did a different animal: Year 1 did fish and year 3 did lizards. This is how it works...**



- Draw your animal on paper then cut it out for a template.
- Put the template on craft foam then draw around it and cut it out.
- Draw patterns and shapes in the foam with a pencil, then roll ink on them.
- For your background you could use stamps, some little nets or bubble wrap. Roll a colour ink on one of the printing items then put it on your background.
- Then finally peel of your animal.

By Abby and Manjot



# LION KING

By Phoebe and William

Mrs Driver has decided that this year, the Year 5's and 6's will perform The Lion King as the summer show for 2023. Unfortunately, this will be Mrs Driver's last summer show before she leaves the school which means everyone is trying to make it the best one yet!

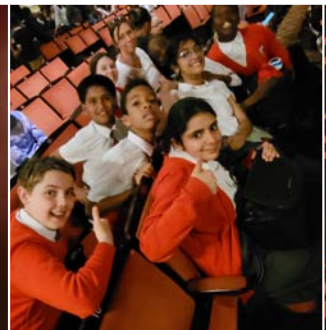
Mrs Driver, Mrs Mackilligan and Miss Hallahan have all thought long and hard when it comes to giving out the parts. They all gave everyone a chance to audition and eventually decided on this.

Young Simba..... Oliver  
Young Nala..... Rosie  
Old Simba .....Jonah  
Old Nala .....Poppy  
Rafiki .....Olivia  
Zazu .....Sargun  
Timon .....Amyran  
Pumba.....Arjan  
Scar.....Ruhi  
Shenzi .....Seren  
Banzai .....Taran  
Ed.....Luca  
Mufasa .....Udonna  
Sarabi.....Deeya  
Serafina.....Phoebe

We usually have rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the assembly hall, where we practise songs and go through scenes. Sometimes for rehearsals Mrs Driver only needs a few characters depending on which scenes we rehearse, and she makes sure everyone has been informed on when they are needed.

## Theatre Trip

This year, year 6 went on a trip to a theatre. The children watched the play and discovered how to project emotion through a mask or costume. They even got to meet the actor of older Simba and Zazu and they asked lots of questions and year 6 were all answered in detail by the actors. It was amazing! The characters were clearly visible but that didn't matter as it was on purpose, and you didn't focus on them.



# Wix County Cup Final

The football A-team for year 5 and 6, made it through to the final of the Wix County Cup, a tournament for schools around the county!

There were 2 groups of 3, and each team played 2 matches. We drew the first match, but the team we drew with beat the other team 4-0. To qualify, we needed to beat the other team 5-0. The team did just that, getting into the final! The team that qualified in the other group was Garden Fields.



After a tense match, it was 3-3, so it went to PENALTIES! Even after the penalties they were still drawing, so it went to SUDDEN DEATH PENALTIES. Both goalkeepers had to take a penalty. First to take his was the Garden Fields goalkeeper. He shot and Samuel saved it! Unfortunately, while saving the penalty, Samuel injured his arm. Next to take his was Samuel, and his shot ended up... in the back of the net! That meant William Ransom had won the Wix County Cup final!

By Taran

## Year 1 Athletics      Year 5 Rounders

Last term, 17 year ones did athletics club, run by Mrs Herbert every Thursday lunchtime.

The year ones did multiple activities, such as speed bounce, long jump, sprinting and much more. A group of year fives helped them to complete these activities.



Rounders club is run after school on Wednesdays for year fives and is run by Mrs Herbert.

In rounders club, the year fives practise catching and batting, as well as playing some fun games. There is an upcoming rounders festival, where William ransom will be playing.

"It is very fun; I love whacking the ball to the end of the field!" said Liam.

"It is the best sport that I have ever learnt!" quoted Edu.



# Superb Summer Fete



This year's Summer Fete was Dr Seuss themed because he is Mrs Driver's favourite author. It was Mrs Driver's last Summer Fete ever. There were bouncy castles, stalls, rides and games. Mrs Driver even went in the stocks, and she got 2 bucketloads of water thrown on her. There were performances happening in the middle of the field there was cheerleading and dancing. Mrs Driver had her last visit from the Hitchin Fire Station, and she had a go at shooting water out of the fire hose.



Thank you to everyone who came along to support!

## Snazzy Sports Day!

On Friday 30th June it was Sports Day. The races that happened were sprinting, skipping, obstacle, egg and spoon, bean bag shuttle and relay. The Key Stage Ones also did skipping and dribbling with a football and Reception did the sack race. The leader board went like this: 1st was Mars, 2nd by two points was Jupiter, 3rd was Neptune and 4th was Saturn. Lots of parents came to watch Mrs Driver's last Sports Day. It was fun to take part and support everyone else who raced.

By Abby and Taran

