



The William Ransom Orbit



The William Ransom Community...

Unbelievably, it has been half a year for me now at William Ransom and it feels like a good time to reflect. The one thing that really stands out for me and that I really value is the William Ransom community and all of its many parts. Within that community are of course all of you and your wonderful children, supporting so many things that happen here. But there are two key parts that make it all work, two little motors continually running in the background that really need to be mentioned.

First off, the SPA. I have been thoroughly impressed by the efforts of the members of the SPA in all of the events and meetings that have taken place so far. The fun, enjoyment, laughter, teamwork and selfless giving that occurs in every meeting and event is something very special indeed. If you haven't been part of it yet, come along and get involved, no commitment required and I promise you will smile and laugh multiple times!

Then there is the staff team here. The desire of the staff to give every child memorable experiences and opportunities and to go that extra step is evident throughout this school. I see examples of it everywhere, from a growing number of children with a real appetite for sport, stemming from the vast range of sports clubs on offer, to children with confidence and self-belief from the class assemblies, that originate from learning all about topics that they enjoy and are motivated by. The buzz of curiosity from young scientists, as a result of making and experimenting with slime, creating time-lapse videos and investigating what happens to food that is left out for days on end as part of Science week! The list could go on and on and on and you only have to take a look at the newsletters to see just how many there are!

But the most exciting part about it for me is that there is an energy in this school to do even more, to offer further opportunity and even wider experiences and to do even more for every child and that is something that is really exciting!

Mr Plunkett



Happy Easter to everyone at William Ransom



Happy Easter

Welcome to the Easter issue of the Orbit. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Congratulations to the winners of the Elf competition: Joshua and Daisy. We had so many amazing entries!

We wish you all a very Happy Easter!

The Orbit Team



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Mrs Butler

Mrs Butler has worked here at William Ransom school for 14 years in Reception.

The reason why she likes Reception so much is because they are new to learning and she likes to nurture them. Her favourite subject is Geography, because she likes learning about the earth.

Mrs Butler's typical day starts with group work which is called Discover and Do where they learn through playing and at lunchtime she is helping in the dining room.

Her favourite part of the job is listening to the children reading. The reason why is because at the beginning of Reception they can't read a sound, and then, at the end of the first year of school, they can read a whole book by themselves!



TA's on a Desert Island

We asked all three what three things they would take with them if they were stuck on a desert island!

Mrs Thomas said, *"My family, a Christmas dinner and my phone."*

Mrs Butler said, *"Lip salve, a radio and another person!"*

Mr Thrasher said, *"A football, some water and my phone."*



Teaching Assistants

We have interviewed three different Teaching Assistants to find out more about their job and about them.

Mrs Thomas

Mrs Thomas's favourite year group is Year 1, because they learn and grow so much then.

Mrs Thomas has worked at William Ransom for 10 years, starting as an MSA, which means you work outside at lunchtime.

On a typical day, she helps Mrs Tite and Mr Sears. She also supports children with learning; spellings / reading / phonics.

Mrs Thomas loves her job, as she gets to watch children grow in confidence and knowledge. The subject she likes the most is science, because she likes to find out how and why things happen. She also likes experiments.



Mr Thrasher

His favourite Year group is Year 4 because he works in there most of the time.

Mr Thrasher has worked here for two and a half years, and this is his third year at William Ransom.

On a typical day, Mr. Thrasher does Lexia before school and then he goes into the classroom and helps Year 4.

He actually likes that no day is the same as another. His favourite subject is computing because he likes the computers, but he does like maths.

Later, he does lunch duty; 20:20:20 for three days a week and on Tuesdays he does lunch duty for the Year 5s and the Year 6s.



Gorgeous Greece

By Thomas and Molly

Greece is in the east of the Mediterranean and it is known for its rich culture and scenic islands dotted around the sea. Greece has many islands, ranging from somewhere around 1,200 to 6,000, depending on the size. The number of inhabited islands range between 166 and 227.

Greek Gods

It is believed that the Greek myths were created in 3000 BC by the Minoan civilization of Crete. They are stories to explain how the world started and the Greeks worshipped and sacrificed to them. There are twelve major gods, and their palace was on Mount Olympus. Year 6 study the ancient Greeks in the summer term.

Food

The Greeks are very well known for their food and cuisine like olive oil, feta, and Briam - a type of cheese. Here are some of their well-known dishes Souvlaki, Moussaka and Keftedes.



*Moussaka
- traditional
Greek
cuisine*



Fun Facts about Greece

- Skiathos Island has a beach near the airport runway, and you can almost touch the landing gear
- 80% of Greece is mountainous
- Greece has 16,000 km of coastline
- The national animal is the dolphin
- Greece's national sport is football
- Greece's national flower is the Bear's Breech



Brilliant Book Day

at William Ransom School
Thursday 7th March 2024

On the 7th of March 2024, William Ransom celebrated World Book Day. A lot of different people dressed up as different characters from different books. The most popular character was either Hermione Granger, or Harry Potter from the Harry Potter books.



By Jayven
and Aaron



An author called Lucy Plunkett; Mr Plunkett's wife, talked to us about her book 'Dexter! The Amazing School Dog!' She told us about how she got the idea to create the book. This is how: She was looking for a book about a school dog, but she couldn't find one. Then, she got the idea to write one.

At the end of the day we had the Big Read, when lots of parents came to read to their children.



Potter Magic

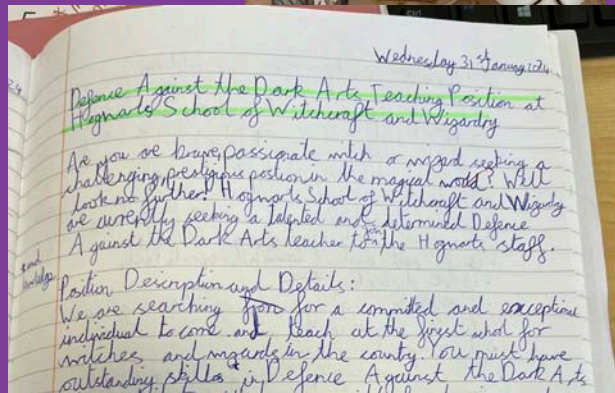
By Thomas
and Molly

On the 7th of February, Year Six went to Warner Brothers Studio in Leavesden. Warner Brothers Studio is a place all about the making of the popular blockbuster series of films Harry Potter. Harry Potter is a famous book series by J. K. Rowling and because the books were so popular, they were made into a film series. At Warner Brothers Studios you get behind the scenes tours to see the sets and lots of costumes and props from the franchise.



Clever Classwork

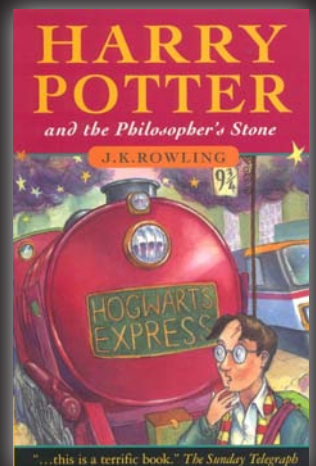
Before that we did some work on Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts in English. Some of the work for Harry Potter included writing a new chapter, writing a description of the Potions classroom, writing a job advert for a new Defence Against the Dark Arts Teacher (right) and much more. During the work about Fantastic Beasts both classes Cherry and Chestnut were visited by some magical creatures including a Niffler! Another piece of work we did was create our own fantastic beast and we wrote a fact file about them.



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

This is about an eleven-year-old child called Harry Potter who finds out he's a wizard and goes to wizard school. He finds two good friends named Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger. Meanwhile the dark evil wizard named Lord Voldemort (who Harry famously survived with only a scar) is rising and Harry and his friends must stop him.

I would rate it a 5 out of 5 because it is gripping and adventurous!



LONDON

THE MAKING OF Harry Potter

ENTRANCE

EXIT

Behind the Magic

First, we went into the famous Great Hall set. On display was a projection of fireworks like the scene in the fifth film where the characters Fred and George released fireworks to disturb the exams that were taking place. Then both classes went to a broomstick experience where you got on a model broomstick and the staff would take your picture.

The next thing that we saw was the headteacher's office where we saw an animatronic phoenix. Then we saw a house common room and dormitories. It was a short walk to the Potions classroom set where the desks and shelves were lined with many jars of potion ingredients. We walked a bit further to see the Death Eaters display. The Death Eaters were Lord Voldemort's (the villain) followers. Next, we saw

the Ministry of Magic which is the government for the British wizarding world. The next set we saw was the forbidden forest which is home to many magical creatures such as acromantulas (giant spiders) and unicorns.

After that we saw the Hogwarts Express which is the train that takes students to the school, Hogwarts. Then we went to have lunch. We walked outside and saw the wizarding transport, the knight bus, the herbology greenhouses and many other outdoor sets. After we had finished with the outdoor sets, we went indoors again and went into the creature effects department and saw how they made many of the animatronic creatures. We travelled further and saw how they created the goblin masks. Further on we walked through the

wizarding bank, Gringotts. Diagon Alley, the wizarding shopping street, was the next set we saw.

We had nearly finished our tour, but the last set was the Hogwarts Castle mode which is a 1/20 scale replica used in aerial shots of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter franchise. The bus was very sleepy!

It was one of the best school trips we had ever been on!



New Year Around

China, Brazil, India and Sri Lanka and many other countries celebrate New Year in different ways.

China

First, we are going to talk about China. This year 2024 is the year of the Dragon! The Lunar New Year is the longest Chinese holiday. The colour red is an important one, symbolising good luck and happiness. Did you know that Lunar New Year is 3500 years old? These are the animals in the lunar New Year calendar Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, and a Monkey.



Brazil

Now we are going to talk about Brazil. In Brazil, people who celebrate New Year often wear white and go to the beach. *Prospero Ano Novo* is a way you can say I wish you a new year in Brazilian. This is how to pronounce it *prohs-peh-roh- ah-nyoh-nweh-boh*

India and Sri Lanka

Lastly we're going to talk about India and Sri Lanka. The Indian New Year is on January 1st. The tradition is to clean, decorate homes and share traditional sweets with loved ones. On to Sri Lanka. Households are re-painted; floors are buffed and ready for the preparation of sweetmeats.



The World

By Jayven
and Evni



Super Shuttleworth

On the 6th of March Year One went to visit the Shuttleworth Collection near Biggleswade. Shuttleworth is a museum where Year One went to see some old planes since their history topic is History of Flight. It is home to the oldest flying plane! It includes many World War 1 and World War 2 planes and other machines.



The students really enjoyed the trip:

Nicky said, *"My favourite part was the planes and being with my friends."*

Iris said, *"My favourite part was going inside the passenger plane."*

By Molly

Amazing Animals

By Thomas

On the 5th of March, year 2 went to Hamerton Zoo. They saw lots of birds, tigers and bears. They had lunch and then they saw lots more animals.



We asked some pupils who went to the trip what they thought about it!

Thomas said, *It was very good. My favourite animal was the white tiger"*

Lila said, *"I loved it! My favourite animal was the parrot"*



Creative Clubs ... Creative

By Ottoline and Anaya

Mindful Colouring

The teacher for Mindful Colouring is Mrs Tite. They play relaxing music, and it might make people go to sleep. The colouring has lots of patterns on it. Year one and two love it. It is about half an hour long. People from the club say it's very mindful and they like the colouring.



Board Games Club

Mrs Thorn runs Board Games Club on a Wednesday at lunchtime for the Year Ones.

They play lots of board games such as Shave a Sheep and Pass the Bomb and Build a Beetle. The children learn to take turns and to lose without getting upset as well as having lots of fun. It also build on Maths skills.



Speedstacking

The club is for years 3 and 4 and is run by Mr Sears on a Monday. First the learnt how to do a three stack and then a six stack. On the 8th of February they did a competition. On the last day you get to make a really bid tower or you can practice a six stack.



Harry Potter Club

Harry Potter Club is run on a Wednesday afternoon by Miss Swinburne. It is super fun. On the first week we did a sorting hat and we had cupcakes that had your coloured house inside. On one of the weeks we did a quidditch match outside. We had to catch the snitch, which was a person with golden rugby tags, and the team who got their tags first won. We also hatched dragon eggs out of a balloon!!



Fun with the Hogwart's Train!

Wearing the sorting hat! Which house will I be in?

Year 6 Netball

It is run by Miss Swinburne and Miss Hallahan. Year 6 are good at Netball because most of the matches they have won. They train on a Tuesday afternoon on the Muga. The people in Netball say that they are really enjoying it. The kit they wear is red and a bit of white and it has the William Ransom Primary School logo on it. Year 6 are very good at defending and scoring.

Orbit Club

As you know Orbit Club is run by Mrs Thorn and Mr Palmer. The club writes the very thing you are reading right now! As you should know we write the school newsletter. We write about the news around the school and about the world and also the local community. As part of this we interview adults and children in school. We all have a badge that says Orbit and the colour is orange.



Dodgeball

Dodgeball is run by Miss Pretty and Mr Howard. The game Dodgeball is incredibly fun and is run on Tuesday. The people who go there say they love it. This is how you play dodgeball.

You try and dodge the ball and hit other players on the other team with the ball. The five Ds of dodgeball are Dodge Duck Dive Dodge and Dip .



A Flipping Good Time

On Tuesday 13th February we held our annual Pancake Race. There were 4 teams (Mars, Neptune, Jupiter and Saturn.) There were also two people in each year group making the Pancake Race longer. Sadly, a lot of people slipped and injured themselves in the race. After Mars won the Pancake Race, they also managed to win the House Cup by getting nine more points to put them in the lead against Saturn.



SPD Second-Hand Uniform Shed SPD



Unique Uniform

Alongside Mars winning the House Cup we now have a uniform shop that is currently open from 2:30-3:10pm on Monday and Friday and on Thursday it's open from 8:45-9:15AM. ALSO, THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP!

Library Upgrade

We are creating an improved school library in the activity studio. We also need volunteers for this as well so if you are passionate about books please come and help.

Diversity Box

Diversity club is a club for Years 5 and 6 that promotes diversity around the school. We are now running a new idea that if you have any diversity related problems you can come to Maple class and write your problem on a specially designed piece of paper. We will take you seriously and we will not judge you - no one will find out about your problem but us and we will do our best to help you.

Fab Football

On Friday 8th March it was International Women's Day and all the girls in the school had a football session. It was great to see all the girls playing a sport which used to be mainly for males.

