



The William Ransom Orbit



Suddenly we find ourselves at the end of the summer term and in that very busy end of year rush when a succession of events take place. Before we know it, we will have reached the summer break.

It has been a busy and rewarding first year, packed with events, that has offered such a fantastic opportunity for me to get to know the amazing children at William Ransom, and to watch them progress, negotiate challenges and develop and apply life skills. In fact, these have been my favourite memories of this academic year. This was so clearly visible when our Year 6 children went on their five day/four night residential to the Suffolk coast. The thing I love most about working with children is seeing them at the edge of their comfort zones, finding resilience and courage that they didn't even realise they had, and this happened on an almost hourly basis there. It is our Year 4 children's turn next when they head off to Cuffley for three days and two nights in September as Year 5's!

These wonders happen every day at William Ransom, sometimes in very clear and big ways and sometimes in small, but no less significant ways. The pride, the happiness, the amazement in the children's eyes when it happens is quite something to see. The sudden realisation that they have just achieved, what minutes before was not believed to be possible, is the best part of this job for me.

As I look forward to seeing our returning pupils again in September, I wish our Year 6 children every success as they continue their journey at secondary school. Thank you for your support and I wish you all a very enjoyable summer and, while I hope that your children enjoy every minute of the break, I also hope that all of you manage to get a break of your own from work to enjoy some of it as well!

Mr Plunkett



Have a wonderful summer everyone!



Super Summer Time

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Orbit, we hope you enjoy reading it. The Orbit team would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

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Behind the Scenes **Deputy**

We have interviewed our two deputy heads about their job and about them.

Mrs Wheat

Mrs Wheat started at William Ransom School 18 years ago. She started as a Deputy Head in January 2023.

Like Mrs Hall she has always worked at a school but unlike her she prefers Maths over French as Mrs Wheat likes to help children in that particular subject.

We asked her what she does in a typical day, and this was her answer: First, she stands at the gates and greets parents and on a Tuesday, she teaches. On a Wednesday, she goes to three different kinds of meetings, which are about safeguarding, with outside agencies and with the Senior Leadership team. Mrs Wheat also does lunch duty.

Her favourite thing about being a Deputy Head is seeing children out and about, but the worst thing is busy days!

Mrs Wheat also told us about her favourite school meal which is macaroni cheese as she is a vegetarian.

“They are supportive, care deeply for the children and staff and I think we work really well together as a team. They also make me laugh!”

Mr Plunkett



By Georgia
and Ottoline

Heads

heads to find out more

Mrs Hall

Mrs Hall started working as a Deputy Head at William Ransom Primary School last January, but she started as a Teaching Assistant here 17 years ago.

However, she has not always worked at this school, she started working at a school in London teaching French and German.

Her favourite subject to teach is French and History second.



Her typical day is she talks to kids who have been good but sometimes kids who have been bad. She also goes to a few meetings with Mr Plunkett and answers emails.

As well as telling us about her typical day she also told us what is good about being a deputy head and what is not. First, she told us what is good and it is that no day is the same. Secondly, she told us what is bad about being a Deputy Head and that is there is not enough time to do things.

Mrs Hall told us about her favourite school meal which is pizza because it is juicy!

Juicy pizza!



Perfect Pets



We did a survey about what pets the students have. There were 31 dogs, 31 cats, 3 hamsters, 2 stick insects, 18 fish, 3 birds (varied species), 4 guinea pigs, 4 rabbits, 1 snail, 2 geckos and even a Bearded dragon!

How do I look after them?

Children with dogs said they must take them for walks at least 2 times a day. You must play with them and feed them dry dog food and wet sticky dog food. They also drink water. Henry said, ***“I have a puppy called Peanut Butter. I love taking him for walks and cuddling him.”***

Cats need to be fed and played with, but sometimes they just want a cuddle! They do funny things!

Stick insects live in a cage. You need to change their leaves and clean the cage. They eat bramble leaves, and the best thing is that the camouflage is cool!

The Bearded Dragon eats live crickets and vegetables. It is currently shedding its skin.

What's great about pets?

Pets can be fluffy to touch. We feel better around them, and they are fun to play with. Cats are easy to look after because you do not have to walk a cat or pick up its faeces. If you are upset, you can stroke your pet which makes you happier. Pets are sensitive and can tell when you are upset.

They must be fed and played with but sometimes they just want a cuddle the best thing is they do lots of funny things that make you laugh!



Mrs Gunn's Dogs



A pet Gecko



A pet Guinea Pig



Lovely Lakes

By Aaron and Jayven



The Lake District is in northern England, and it is full of amazing scenery, and 'hundreds' of mountains!



Lake District Fun Facts

Scafell Pike is the highest mountain in England!

The Lake District does have lakes, but it is also very rainy. If you want to climb any mountains, you need to be prepared for the rain ... and have very flexible plans.

The Lake District National Park provides 40% of the drinking water for the Northwest of England every day of the year.

It is England's largest National Park, covering 2,362 km².

There are 16 main 'lakes' but only one official lake, Bassenthwaite Lake, the others are 'meres' or 'waters'.

It is home to England's deepest lake, Wastwater, 74m deep.

It is home to Herdwick sheep, a native breed.

Some of the mountains:
Scafell Pike 978m, Scafell 964m,
The Old Man of Conistone 803m,
Ill Crag 935m, Broad Crag 910m,
Langdale Pikes 736m, Esk Pike 885m.

I hiked up Scafell Pike, but instead of doing the 1 hour drive and then 7K hike, we chose the 4 minute drive and then the 20K hike. It took just under 9 hours to complete. It was great but it was a bit tiring. We went into clouds for a long time and looked white everywhere. It was a great sense of achievement getting to the top!



Year 6 Adventure



Monday 24th June to Friday 28th June 2024

On the 24th of June Year 6 went on their residential trip to Bawdsey Manor. It's called Peter Gordon Lawrence (but the Year 6s call it parents get lost) and it lasts for 5 days. Throughout the school week they do fun activities such as canoeing, abseiling and eating!

On the way there everyone was bubbling with excitement. We arrived at Bawdsey Manor late in the afternoon. Immediately, we were greeted by two PGL leaders and one, named Sophie, was wearing a pineapple costume. We ate dinner (which was delicious) and after that we completed our first activity which was a Sports Tournament. Then we went to our accommodation which had triple bunks and an ensuite bathroom.

In the morning, after not much sleep, we went to breakfast. You could get bacon or sausage (depending on the day) and hashbrowns, cereal or toast. Then we went off into our activity groups for the morning activities. Some of us were doing canoeing, climbing or rifle shooting. At the end of the day, we had dinner (again) and then we had another

evening activity which was called balloon splash. Everyone slept much better on the second night.

In the middle of the week (Wednesday), we had abseiling, rifle shooting (again) and frisbee golf. Dinner was delicious with bolognese and vegetable bolognese. Our evening activity on Wednesday was a campfire with marshmallows and songs.





We arose to the Mrs Halliwell poking her head round the door to wake us up (which was helpful otherwise we would have woken up in the afternoon) to tell us to get ready for breakfast. But on Thursday we found out that there were no more cocopops. Our activities that day were trapeze, orienteering (that wasn't very popular), giant swing and zipline. We all slept very soundly that night!

For the final day, we were all tired but excited. Our two final activities were Jacob's ladder and the sensory trail. After 5 days, 4 sleeps and 3 injuries the coach departed from PGL Bawdsey Manor and onwards back to school.

By Molly and Thomas

Year 6 Leavers

This summer the Year Sixes are going into secondary school. We asked some of them what they think about going to secondary school.

“ I am excited to explore the school, but I am going to miss William Ransom. ”
Daisy

“ I'm nervous but I know I'll make new friends. ”
Joshua



“ I am excited for the science lessons! ”
Sam

“ I'm happy but nervous. ”
Farah

We all wish the Year Sixes good luck for secondary school.

By Molly and Thomas





Super Swimming

Year Three (Maple and Elm) have been doing swimming lessons at Hitchin Swimming Pool.

Year 3 go on a coach to the swimming pool and they have been learning the important skill of how to swim. They have been practising different types of swimming. They have also been learning how to be a mermaid which they are brilliant at.

There are three groups including Easy, Medium and Hard. The easy group is easy. The Medium group is okay but a bit tricky and the hard group is challenging (you want to be in the top group – you get more time if you are in the top group). In Spring term they have been doing it on a Wednesday for a half term. Then Elm class did it the half term after Maple class.

By Jayven and Anaya

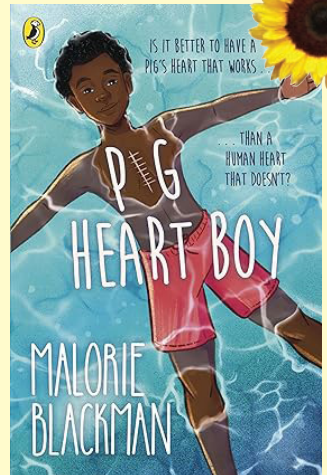
Pig Heart



By Malorie Blackman

Pig Heart Boy is about a 13-year-old boy who has a heart condition which means he does not have the same energy as other people. But when his dad called a doctor who specializes in transgenic mutational transplants his life changes forever. Cameron Kelsey finds out he is being considered for a heart transplant but not just any heart, the heart of a pig. Will he die in the effort, or will he survive with a pig heart?

We rate this a 4 out of 5 because it is exciting and gripping.



Terrific Talk Week

By Ottoline

Just talk week is about mental and physical health.

Classes were visited by mental health professionals and Miss Swinburne. The Classes discussed about emotions and feelings and learnt about how to use money.

On Thursday Rising Stars came and brought some bouncy castles and we all had lots of fun.



Some classes did Zumba and some Pilates. Other classes have done Lego building and some of the classes did mindful colouring with relaxing music which was calming and fun. Year five and six also took part in a Graffiti workshop

with spray paint and made lots of amazing pictures.



The Super Mario Brothers Movie

The Super Mario Bros movie is about two brothers who discover a magical pipe that transports them to an archipelago where the evil Bowser wants to marry Princess Peach, the queen of the mushroom kingdom. Meanwhile, Mario and his brother get separated and Luigi finds himself in Bowser's castle.

The movie has a PG rating. We would rate it a 4 out of 5 because it is a great family thriller, and it is funny.



Review Central



LION KING

On Wednesday 9th of June Year 6 went to see the Lion King in the West End, London.

The West End is an area of London where there are many different theatres showing different musicals. We went on a coach and stopped off at a park to have lunch. Then, we got a bit lost, and we passed famous monuments like the London eye, the sewers, and the busiest RNLI station in the UK. We finally arrived

at the Lyceum theatre, where the lion king is being performed.

The show was brilliant, and the songs were great. My favourite part was the fight scene where the lions fought the hyenas. After the show, because we had special passes we met two members of the cast: the characters Shenzi, a hyena, and Zazu, the king's adviser. It was great and we had a singalong on the coach with the radio! By Molly and Thomas



Exciting Egyptian Day

On 1st June it was Egyptian Day! As soon as Year 3 got to school they went straight to the hall and there was a man who talked to us about Ancient Egypt.

The first thing was there were stations where you could pick what you wanted to do and there were adults who helped. The stations were writing your name in hieroglyphics, painting a picture, making an amulet (a bracelet we made from clay), making a beetle out of soap and making a perfume comb. We also used clay to make a person who would come alive and do your chores for you and to make a canopic jar to store your organs in when you die.

In the afternoon we had a festival because the River Nile was flooding. There were four groups and we performed four plays. We ate bread, apple and cheese and drank juice. We performed in front of Queen Nevatiti and the Pharaoh who had fanners to keep them cool.



"It was a very exciting day.

I loved making all the things in the morning!" By Jayven





Awesome Anglo Saxons

On Friday 17th May, all the Year 4s transported into Anglo - Saxon times.

One of the activities was candle making. We had to queue up to a stall that had string that we dipped in hot wax. Another activity was making some traditional medicines that used some herbs, vegetation, and seeds like poppy seeds, garlic, and radish. Then we mashed them up with a pestle and mortar.

Soon after, we made some ink as black as obsidian and used it to write some ancient Runes. In the sunshine, we did some fighting with some shields, bows and sticks.

Zooming back to today, we discovered some special artefacts covered in sand and soil. We also saw a picture of an old artefact, and you had three guesses to decide what it was.

"My favourite part was writing the runes." By Aaron and Evni

"It was great because I loved making the candles."



Superb Summer Fete

It took place on the 8th of June 2024 and we made over £8,000!! There were so many people who were there and there were quite a lot of stalls. It opened at 11:00am and ended at 4:00pm. Mr Plunkett went into the stocks which attracted a very big crowd. The day started off very chilly. We even thought it was going to rain but it got a lot warmer.



Splendid Sports Day

On Friday 12th July sports day is due to be held - weather depending. There will be some very fun activities as well as some traditional races. The children can earn some points for their house team.

D-Day Anniversary

On Thursday 6th June it was the 80th anniversary of the D-day landings. We had a special lunch fish and chips or sausages followed by bread and butter pudding and custard.

Spirited Art Competition

This was a collaborative RE and Art competition all about celebrating pets. The theme was Why Do Animals Matter?

Every year group was allowed to bring pets to show their class. When every year group finishes bringing in their pets Mrs Morris will make a poster of some of the pictures of the animals and enter it in the competition.

By Jayven and Anaya



Shrek Jnr

All of the Year Sixes were thrilled to be putting on a classic Dreamworks tale. Everyone had fun doing it and we all think it was a success. Here are the main characters and who was playing them:

Shrek: Ollie

Donkey: Taran

Fiona: Alina

Lord Farquaad: Zac

Dragon: Lily

We would like to thank Miss Hallahan and Miss Swinburne as none of this would be possible without them. We hope you enjoyed the show. By Thomas & Molly

