



BUXLOW
Preparatory School

Buxlow Bulletin

Date of issue: Friday 15th November 2024

Facta non Verba



KS1 and KS2 Trip: Swan Lake at Sadler's Wells

I am **very** pleased to announce that (many months ago) I have secured tickets for our pupils to see Matthew Bourne's interpretation of Swan Lake at Sadler's Wells.

[You can read more about this awe-inspiring performance here.](#)

[Click here to see the trailer](#)

Pupils in years 2,3,4,5 & 6 will see the matinee performance on Thursday 9th January 2025. We will travel by coach (paid for by the school) after lunch and will return after the end of the normal school day. There are 30 pupil tickets available, on a first come, first served basis.

Payment of £15.00, in advance via Wisepay, is required to secure your child's ticket.

Bookings for this trip close on 10th December 2024

Mrs McLelland

School Updates

Congratulations to our *Stars of the Week*:

Reception: Lily
Year 2: Javon
Year 4: Ananya
Year 6: Toma

Year 1: Amir
Year 3: Riley
Year 5: Dylan

House Points:

Nicoll: 104

O'Donnell: 73

Emery: 47

Probyn: 82



Reception



In **English**, we continued our exploration of the story "Whatever Next!" The children practiced vocabulary introduced in the story and used it to retell the plot in their own words, utilising a story map that we created as a class. This activity not only reinforced comprehension but also enhanced their ability to articulate thoughts and ideas.

To deepen their engagement, we encouraged the children to imagine if they were the bear, where they would like to go—whether it be a park, on a train, or to the zoo. They created a list of items they would take for their chosen adventure, practicing their phonetic sounds to label these items using word mats. This exercise nurtured their writing skills and vocabulary development, making the learning process both fun and relevant.

Linking to the story, the children engaged in an **expressive arts** project where they used various materials to create their own rockets—like the bear's rocket to the moon. This creative activity fostered their imagination and fine motor skills, and they later utilised the rockets in the role-play area, reenacting scenes from the story.

In **mathematics**, we consolidated the concepts of 2-D shapes, specifically circles and triangles. We then transitioned to describing positions using positional language such as "in," "on," "under," and "over." The children participated in playful activities with teddy bears, placing them in different positions around the classroom and giving each other directions. This hands-on approach helps them grasp spatial awareness and language skills.

We also listened to the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt," which reinforces positional language and the concept of a journey. Additionally, we introduced the numbers four and five, focusing on subitising these numbers—recognising them at a glance. The children explored different ways to represent four and five, ensuring they are confident in verbalising the numbers and matching them to their respective quantities.

Using picture cards, the children sorted representations of four and five into appropriate hoops, reinforcing their understanding of number concepts. They also enjoyed a game where they ordered picture cards from one to five by playing hide and seek with the cards, which enhanced their number recognition and sequencing skills.

Reception

Understanding the World

This week, we commemorated Remembrance Day by discussing its significance. The children learned that it is a time to remember those who protected us during the war. To represent this, we created poppy biscuits and made handprints to symbolise Poppy Day. This activity fostered their understanding of history and the importance of remembrance, while also engaging them in creative expression.

In addition, we participated in Anti-Bullying Week with a focus on respect. The children engaged in discussions about what bullying is and how we can show kindness and respect. They wore odd socks to school to symbolise our differences and how we should respect each other. They also created their own odd socks, which encouraged creativity and reinforced the theme of acceptance.

Further exploring the theme of Light and Dark, the children investigated different sources of light around the school. They learned to differentiate between events that occur during the day and at night, such as waking up for breakfast, going to school, and enjoying bedtime stories. This exploration nurtured their observational skills and understanding of the world around them.



In **French**, the children are learning to name some pets. They have learned the dog, the cat, the rabbit and the fish so far. Le chien, le chat, le lapin, le poisson.

We've had a busy and exciting week in Year 1!

This week in English, the children have been retelling the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears in their own words. Using the key vocabulary, we focused on last week; they've been building their storytelling skills while practising sentence structure. The children have been using their Super Sentences Checklist to ensure their writing includes capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, and neat handwriting.

In Maths, Year 1 have been working on addition and subtraction using Cuisenaire rods. The children have been exploring how different rods represent different values and have been building their own number sentences with them. They have been solving problems independently and applying their understanding of numbers in a hands-on way.

★ In P4C this week, we focused on the question 'is it better to be a child or an adult?'. It was interesting to hear their responses and how they thought about this question!

Year One



Year Two

This week in Year 2, we've had a wonderful time learning across various subjects.

In maths, we worked on adding two-digit numbers with and without regrouping and subtracting two-digit numbers without regrouping.

In English, we continued reading *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile*, summarizing the section about the animals he meets, and explored the story *Pippety Skycap* by creating story maps, role-playing, and imagining new adventures for the mischievous character.

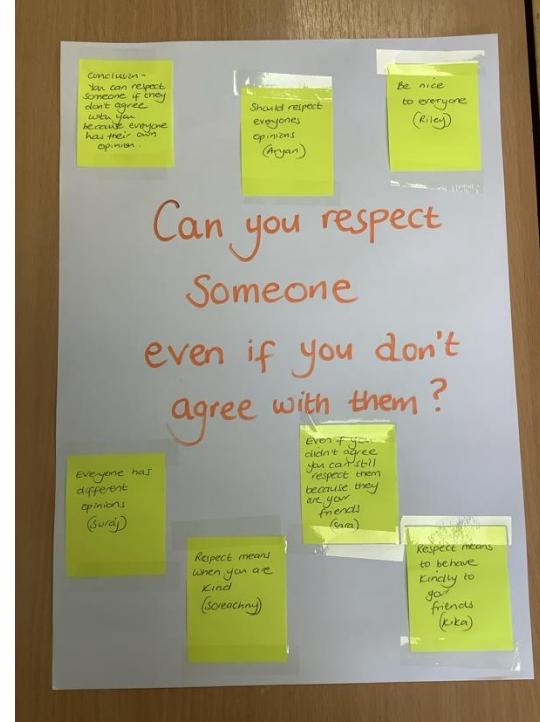
In art, the children crafted festive Christmas ornaments out of salt dough.

For science, we explored our local habitat, learning about the plants and animals in our environment.

Geography lessons focused on mapping the five oceans and seven continents, while in history, we discussed the importance of Remembrance Day and wrote thoughtful letters to honor our brave soldiers. It's been a fun and engaging week full of learning!



Year Three



We have had a busy week in Year 3. In Maths the children completed some revision activities on addition and subtraction to secure their knowledge and started a new topic: Multiplication and Division. They have been learning the technique to develop a written method to multiply TU by U showing their working out.

In English, the children have been developing their skills to write instructions. They rearranged statements on how to make a jam sandwich. They used their knowledge and understanding of the features of instructions and wrote their own set of instructions for recipe.

Our PSHEE lesson and P4C lesson this week had the focus of anti-bullying week them of **Choose Respect**. In PSHEE, we had a class discussion on respect and the children created posters. We explored the question "Can you respect someone even if you don't agree with them?" in P4C which initiated an interesting discussion and the children agreed together that you can respect someone even if you don't agree with them, with really good reasoning.



Year 3 were really proud of their stained-glass poppies that they made in their art lesson for Remembrance Day.

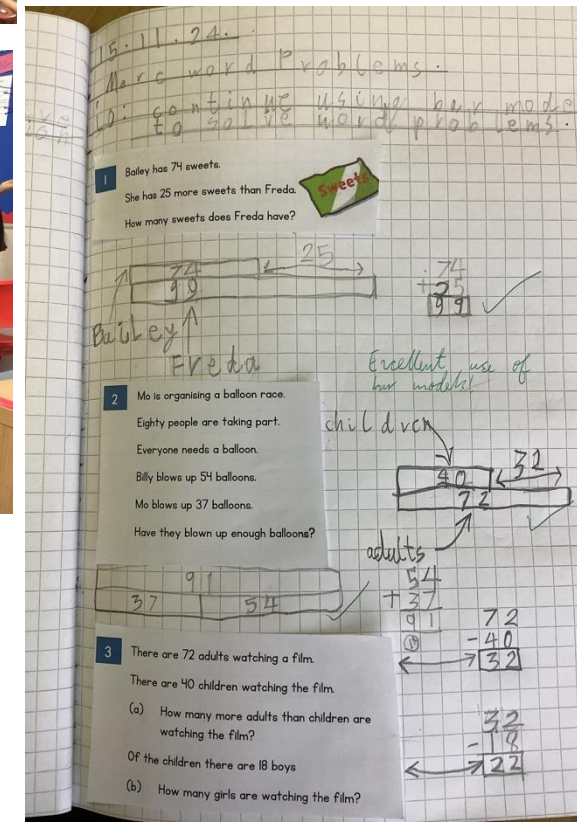
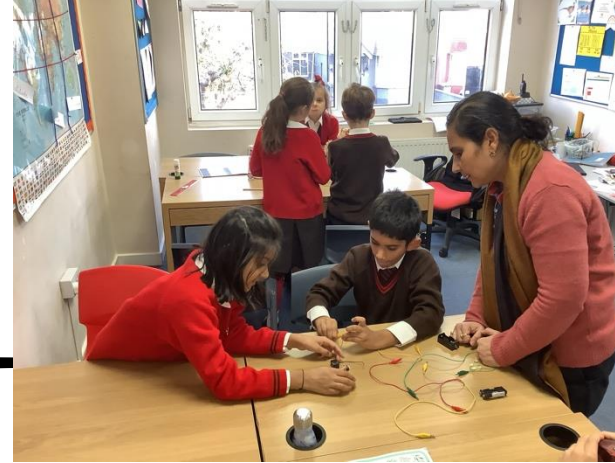
Year Three French

In French, Year 3 have been revising their numbers to 20 and their spellings. They will be counting to 31 and naming the months of the year in order to ask and say their birthdays. They played a fun game of guess my number and a lotto game to practise their recall.



Year Four

- In Year 4, we started the week off by finishing our Remembrance Day wreaths so that we could place them in the middle of our Remembrance Day moment of silence. It was lovely to see them flex their creative muscles!
- In maths, we have been working on solving addition and subtraction word problems by using bar models to visualise the structure of the maths hidden in a word problem.
- In English, we have been learning our new story the King of the Horses and practising our dialogue. We have also had some interesting discussions and games to help understand the characters' motivations and desires in the story! You can see one pupil at the front of the room listening to teams of 2 trying to convince him to let him use their wish.
- In Science, we have been investigating how simple circuits work. It was very tricky to figure out how this works!
- In PSHE, Mr Smith very valiantly underwent a significant lifestyle change (growing a moustache) to create a discussion about the value and effects of saying things without thinking and understanding the unintended consequences of offhand comments.



Year Five

Another busy week in Year 5! In English we explored the characterisation of Bilbo, the lead character in our class reader (The Hobbit). We also completed an 11+ Maths paper in pairs and analysed it. This was on top of our core subject topic work on Found Object stories and Statistics.

In Science we explored how taking cuttings can help plants to reproduce and began the design process for a felt phone case in DT. RE met the 11+ as we completed a comprehension text about Hanukkah, ahead of our upcoming project on winter festivals.

To mark Anti-Bullying Week, we explored Anti-Racism in PSHEE and created designs for awareness ribbons. It was great to explore our similarities and differences and how we are all amazing regardless!

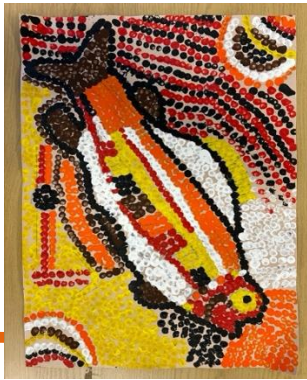
P4C saw us continue to explore the questions we devised about our world. We were joined by Mrs McLlland - what a great discussion!

Quote of the Week: "Miss, I don't know how I've done it but I've written fourteen paragraphs!"





Year Six



This week in art, Year 6 finished their paintings in the style of Australian aboriginal artwork. The class looked at some traditional aboriginal art, studying the symbols, methods and the colours involved in making the artwork, before practising the symbols in their art books. They then chose what they wanted to depict in their final artwork and used cotton buds to painstakingly create the dots on the paper to make their artwork. The paintings look absolutely fantastic, can be seen here, and are now on display in the Year 6 classroom. Well done to all of them for their hard work and perseverance!

Today, it was 'Odd Socks Day' at school to mark 'Anti-Bullying Week' and it was lovely to see so many odd socks being worn by children across the school. Here are Mr H-T's socks!



Eco Schools News – 15.11.24



Eco-Schools
Distinction | 2024 - 2025

Eco Council met on Wednesday to discuss the next stage of our renewal application. We reflected on any environmental learning that may have already taken place and any we know that is upcoming. We know we will need to gently nudge our teachers to help us with this!

We are also preparing for a joint Eco Schools/charity fundraiser as part of our application. Keep a look out for this as we decide what we are doing next!

A continued request: We are working on an Art project about single use plastics. If you have any plastic bottle tops – from milk, fizzy drinks or cartons – we would love it if you could help us by collecting these and sending them in. We can't wait to show you the mural in progress.

Speaking of single use plastics, a polite reminder to bring reusable bottles only to school for water, please! These can be topped up in the fountains.

- Ms Stanton (Staff Rep)
- Noura (Year 6 Eco Lead)



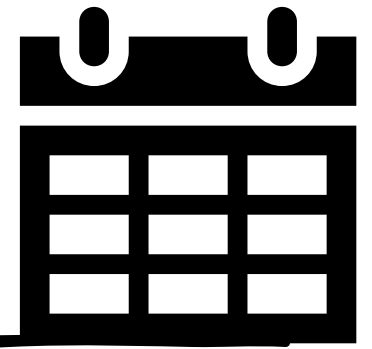
Philosophy 4 Children

We thought you might like to have a mini enquiry with your children and family members at home. With this in mind, we will publish an enquiry question for you to explore each week. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers - the beauty is in the listening to each other and responding to what you hear.

Have a go!

In what ways can we show kindness to our friends and family?

Dates for your Diaries **New Dates*



- **Monday 18th November:** Assessment Week begins
- **Tuesday 19th November:** Y3 & Y4 to workshop at Brent Cross Apple Store
- **Thursday 21st November:** Year 1 & 2 Live Stream (in school): The Great Fire of London
- **Tuesday 26th November:** Y5 & Y6 to workshop at Brent Cross Apple Store
- **Wednesday 20th November:** Debate Club competition at South Hampstead High School
- **Thursday 21st November:** **ILG Football Tournament (after lunch). NO SWIMMING TODAY**
- **Tuesday 10th December CHANGE OF DATE**—Christmas Concert at The Lycée (morning performance, children to return to school afterwards) Reception through to Year 6
- **Friday 13th December:** End of term. School and Nursery close at 12:00
- **Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January 2025**

Term dates for next academic year

TERM DATES – 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September – Start of Autumn Term

Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Return

End of Term – Friday 12th December (1200)

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January – Start of Spring Term

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Return

Friday 27th March – End of Term (1200)

Summer Term 2026

Monday 20th April – Start of Summer Term

Monday 4th May – May Day Bank Holiday

Half Term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Return

Friday 10th July – End of Academic Year (1200)