



# February Newsletter

## Time to get back to normal

Hopefully by now, you will have received our Family Engagement letter, and you'll have seen the whole raft of events we have planned to open up the school and provide all of our wonderful families with an opportunity to come in and celebrate their child's learning and the school community.

For too long now, we've been having to cancel or restrict events, and in truth, it can be very tempting when faced with *another* risk assessment following *another* in-depth discussion to Calderdale Public Health to say, 'Let's just not do it!'

We'd like to think we've managed to avoid that with our Christmas Fair and show last term, but for too long now, families have been kept at bay and it's time to say we're back to normal.

So, clear your diary dates, because it's been too long. Take the day off. Call in sick. Tell them you're working from home! It's time to come inside and celebrate the amazing children—the amazing learning—our amazing teachers—or just see what the upstairs is like if you never even climbed our stairs!

We can't wait to see you...

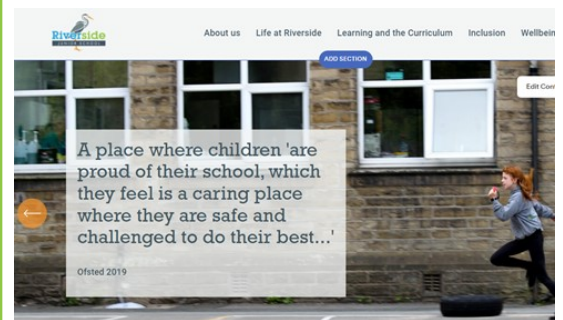
Have a lovely half term, and I leave you with a photo of the heart shaped biscuits the tremendous Cheryl and her team made for the children on Valentine's Day—it feels like the right sentiment to end on!



## New website coming soon!

We've been hard at work redesigning our school websites across the federation and hope to launch them next half term!

Creating them has made us realise just how much there is to celebrate about our wonderful schools.



## Diary Dates

**Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March** : World Book Day—come and read to your child's class

**Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March** : Parent consultations

**Friday April 1st**: Easter Bake Off Competition

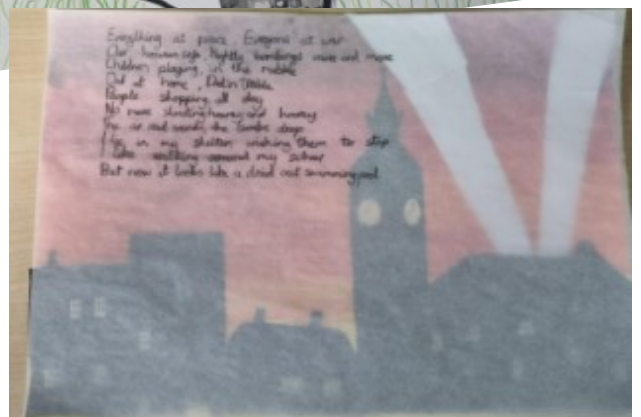
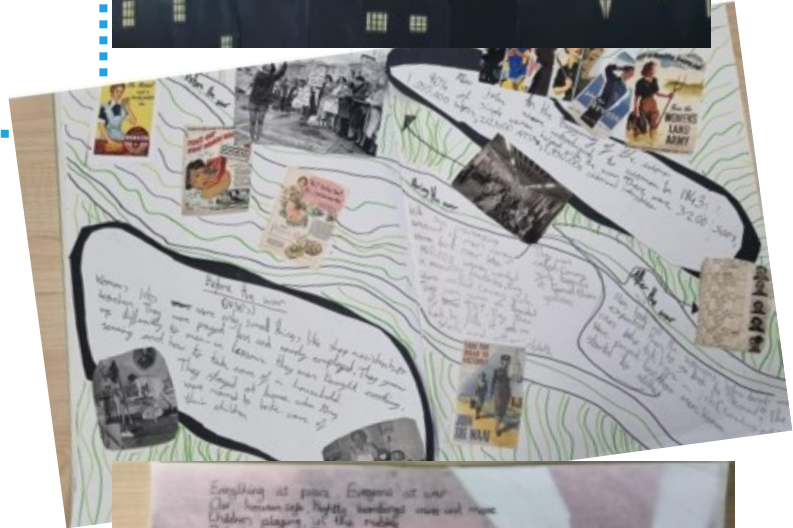
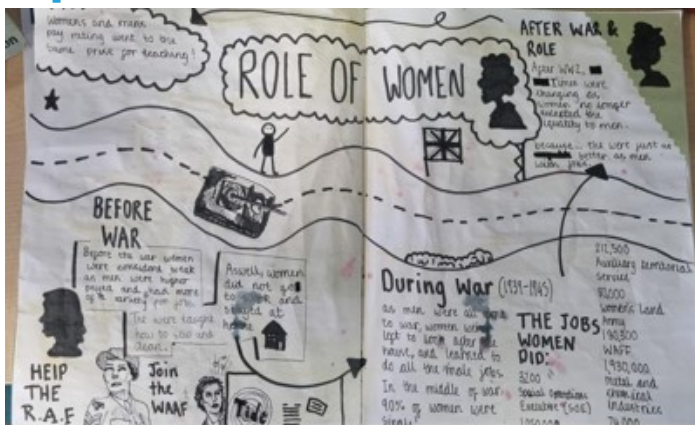
**Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April** : Wrens Class Assembly

**Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April** : Goldfinches Class Assembly

**Friday 8th of April**: Last day of term

## Year 6 learning this half term...

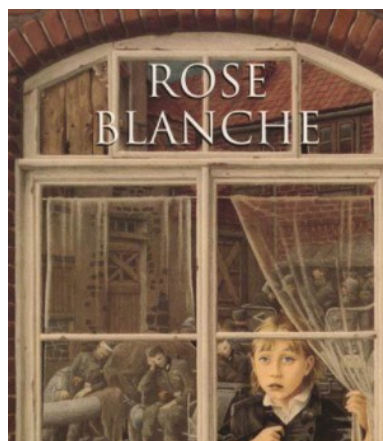
Year 6 have really enjoyed learning about World War 2 in history. They have learnt about a range of topics, including the Blitz, evacuation and rationing. Year 6 particularly enjoyed learning about the role of women during WW2 and how the war has impacted the role of women today. They have produced some wonderful projects detailing the role of women over time and the role that code-breakers played during the war.



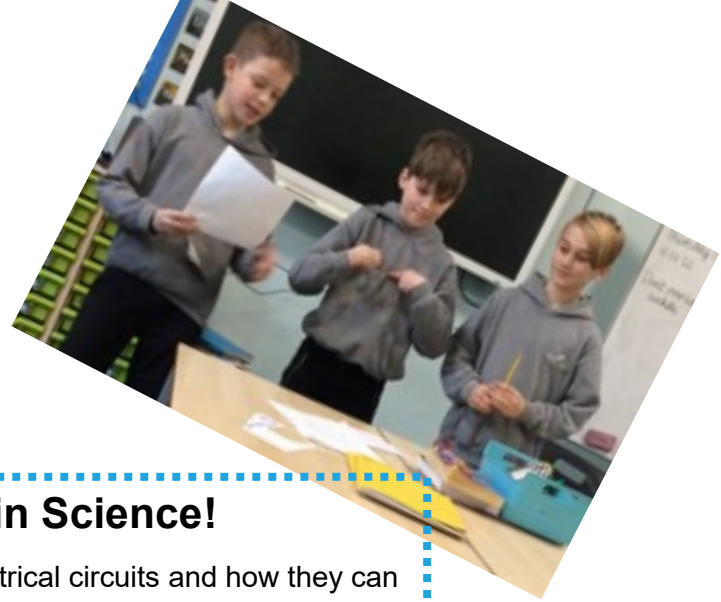
In English, Year 6 have read Roberto Innocenti's *Rose Blanche*.

Innocenti is an Italian illustrator who was brought up as a child during the Second World War. The images he used in his picture book have sparked some fantastic conversations on how tone and mood is reflected throughout the story.

Reading a book based on the author's own childhood experience and reflecting on a child's incomplete comprehension of war has resulted in rich discussion and fantastic conversation within both classes. They have also conducted some thorough and fair debates about the feelings and emotions of a range of different people affected by the war.







## Sparky learning in Science!

In science, year 6 have learnt about electrical circuits and how they can apply their knowledge of circuits to everyday life. They were challenged to create a quiz board using conductive materials (similar to Operation!) Year 6 were also encouraged to research and create a modern electrical safety broadcast video based on historical examples educating people on how to use electricity safely and how to prevent electrical fires, which they particularly enjoyed!



## Clear your diaries!

**Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May start 9:15am in the hall**—Year 6 joint class assembly

**Wednesday the 6th of July**—Sports Day in Calder Park all morning

**Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July** - Year 6 Musical

**Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July from 10:45am to 12pm**—Year 6 Graduation Day



## Year 5 learning this half term...

We have certainly had a fun filled half term in year 5!

All children have worked extremely hard in our lessons and have produced brilliant learning because of this. This half term Year 5 have been learning about the Vikings as part of our History topic, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We were extremely lucky to visit the Jorvik Viking centre in York, which encouraged the children to continue learning more about our topic whilst accessing a wide range of resources to consolidate their new knowledge.



In Computing Year 5 have been developing their Microsoft skills on PowerPoint presentation and have been very creative with their ideas whilst using the program. As part of our Science question for learning we have been investigating how living things adapt to their habitats, allowing us to explore different parts of plants through fun practical activities.







## So much packed in!

We have also been very lucky to be part of the Anxiety Workshops with Alice from the Open Minds service, where we completed a range of activities that engaged the children in really important discussions and supported their well-being. In RE, we have been learning about compassion. We have been exploring what compassion looks like and exploring if compassion can look different to different people. The children explored charity as a form of compassion and debated whether anything can ever really be a selfless gift. In Spanish all children can now form complex sentences about animals, their colours and their names. 5M have started their swimming lessons this half term too, they have all grown in confidence and show so much progress in our weekly sessions!



## Clear your diaries!

**Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May start 9:15am in the hall—Kingfishers (5M) assembly**

**Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May start 9:15am in the hall—Wagtails (5S) assembly**

**Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July—Sports Day in Calder Park all morning**



## Year 3/4 learning this half term...

It has been a fantastic term in both 3/4 classes. Children have been enjoying all of their topics and have really developed in all aspects of their learning. Coming up to the end of this term, we have time to reflect on the progress all of our wonderful pupils have made. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves!



In English, the children have absolutely loved reading Ted Hughes' book '*The Iron Man*'. Not only have they written brilliant newspaper reports on the coming of the mammoth man but they have also written some lovely diary entries in role as Hogarth. They've acted in role as the farmers to think about how they might feel if a giant were eating their farm machinery and we had a brilliant debate in class about whether the Iron Man should have been captured. Here are some photos of their fantastic sketches of the Iron Man



In Art, the children have been captivated in art this half term and have produced beautiful artwork inspired by the famous Frederic Hundertwasser! Hundertwasser loved bright, bold colours and despised straight lines! Check out our AMAZING dream houses based on his designs.

Hundertwasser wasn't the only artist who inspired us this half term. We learnt all about Van Gogh and his unique ideas. Check out our amazing artwork inspired by the famous 'Starry Night'.





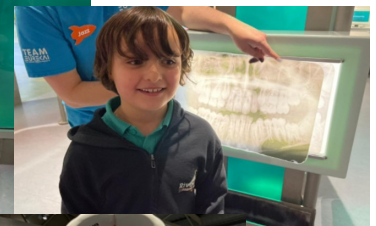
## Vikings attack!

A highlight of our half term has been learning all about the Anglo Saxons. We have had many hands on lessons where we have spent time studying artefacts that have helped us learn about our ancestors' and had an utterly interactive afternoon using our Now Press Play equipment! We travelled back in time and became a young Anglo Saxon child. Though we were banished from our village after being accused of a crime, in the end we were heroes as we managed to save our village from an impending Viking attack!

We had a fantastic trip to EUREKA where we learnt all about teeth and the digestive system as well exploring other fascinating scientific concepts.

Our first stop was the 'Chew to the Poo' workshop where we followed the journey of a banana sandwich from the moment it is chewed to the moment it is pooped, learning about the digestive system and healthy diet along the way!

We then explored the other areas of the museum including the 'All about me' gallery which was packed with interactive exhibits that bring the science of the human body to life. We discovered how amazing and unique we are, as well as how (and why!) we can keep our bodies healthy.



## Clear your diaries!

**Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April start 9:15am in the hall—Wrens Class Assembly (3/4H)**

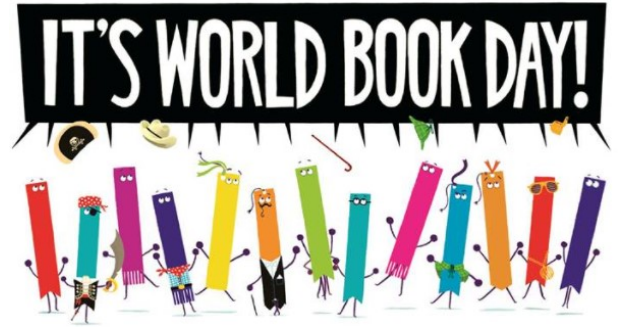
**Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April start 9:15am in the hall—Goldfinches Class Assembly (3/4MT)**

**Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July—Sports Day in Calder Park all morning**

## World Book Day

Dear Families,

As I am sure you have heard, it is World Book Day on Thursday the 3rd March – and this year we are finally able to celebrate it together! To spark a wealth of conversations about books and further inspire a love of reading throughout school, we are encouraging children to dress up as one of their favourite book characters, alternatively, if dressing up is not for them, then they could bring in their favourite book and share it with the class.



As in previous years, we would like to encourage parents/ carers to come and share a short snippet of their favourite (age-appropriate) book with their child's class too. If you are interested in coming to read to the class, then please contact the office and let them know what time slot you would like. Each child will also receive a World Book Day book token which they can use up until the 27th March - this will entitle them to £1 off a book of their choice or a FREE book which you can find at [worldbookday.com](http://worldbookday.com)

Also, if you books spare at home your child no longer reads, please bring them in (on World Book Day or before) as we're organizing a book swap after school in the hall.

Miss Christou

## Places available in the Choir

Colleen Brown, who runs the after school choir club on a Thursday, has told me there are still places available to join the choir after half term.

Singing is an amazing outlet for children and singing in groups was one of the first restrictions to come into place with the pandemic so please take advantage of this brilliant opportunity. Ms Brown is also planning to hold performances in school of the choir and planning to invite parents in to hear their children sing so if you are interested, speak to Jane or Nicki in the office and sign up asap.

## A big THANK YOU!

On Wednesday we had a non-uniform day to raise money for Ash Green Primary school to repair and restock their lower school following the awful arson attack a few weeks ago.

We're super proud to say we raised just over £184!

Mrs Main will deliver our cards and teacher goodies and the money will be donated to the Just Giving page set-up to support Ash Green.

Thank you so much for showing that you care.

