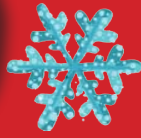




The William Ransom



# Orbit

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



In some ways the start of the school year feels like only last week and in other ways it feels like a lifetime ago! Yet here we are rapidly approaching Christmas once again getting ready for performances, an outside Winter Wonderland and having already enjoyed Decorations Days across the school. It's that season of school community once again, although I think it would be fair to say that it has been a whole term of school community as I look back.

We are truly thankful to the parents and family members who have been volunteering their time to come and support with the education of the children here. This has been, and will continue to be, so important in ensuring that we can continue to make the day-to-day education and experience of every child here as positive and impactful as we all want it to be, in the light of the many financial pressures impacting all school budgets moving forward.

And then there is our very hard-working SPA, who our school community continue to be very grateful to (and would gladly welcome new members and any and all help that can be provided!).

With all that is going on in the world at the moment, with the growing use of screens and isolated working in modern life, a strong sense of community has never been more important and this is exactly what we aim to achieve each and every day at William Ransom. We all really hope that you feel that, at this festive time of year. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, successful and enjoyable 2025!

**Mr Plunkett**



**Merry Christmas to everyone at William Ransom**



Spotlight on ●●●

# Miss Payne

Miss Payne has taught for almost 20 years and now teaches Year 3 at William Ransom.

Her favourite subject to teach is Art because she likes getting creative. She says children at William Ransom are hard-working, polite & respectful. She also taught at Martins Wood school in Stevenage.

Her favourite colour is blue and she enjoys cooking & gardening. She likes pizza with chicken & pepper on it.

Her two cats are called Smudge and Future and she likes to play the piano. She likes R+B music as well as drum and bass music.

She says that all the teachers at William Ransom are friendly.

She knows quite a lot of French because she did French GCSE.

David Attenborough is her favourite celebrity because she loves his nature programmes. She also met Prince Phillip when training to be a teacher!



By Theo and Arthur

## Merry Christmas from the Orbit Team

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

**All this  
and more  
inside...**

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# Majestic Music

There are many musical opportunities in this school. Special people come in to show us how to play some instruments. You can play guitar in Years 3 and 4 , recorder in Year 3, violin in Key Stage 2 and Djembe drumming later in Year 5.

We also let students have music lessons in our music room. They can play pretty much anything!

We asked all the teachers in our school if they played any musical instruments. Here are the results...

- Mrs Thorn can play the flute all the way up to grade 8!
- Mr Vincent can play the piano.
- Mrs Gibson can play the piano to grade 8!
- Mrs Rowley-Jones is excellent at singing
- Mrs Morris can play the French horn to grade 6 and is learning violin
- Miss Payne can play the piano to grade 4



By Jasmine  
and Faye

## Christmas Shows

Most Years are doing Christmas productions for parents to watch and enjoy. We are all busy rehearsing. Here are the dates...

Reception = 17th December

KS1= 9th December.

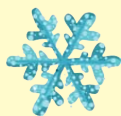
Lower KS2 = 11th December

Carol Concert Years 5 and 6 = 13th December

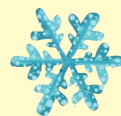
### Fun Facts!!

Albert Einstein played  
the violin and King  
Charles plays the cello.





# A Very Victorian Visit



Year 2 headed over to the British School Museum to find out about how schools have changed over the years. Year 2 got into the zone by wearing clothes that the children would wear before walking to the school just like you would in real life. Here is what the children thought about the trip...



**Millie says:** *I loved it all! The experience was unique, and I loved the outfits. The best thing about it was Penny wearing the dunce hat!*

**Eren says:** *The old places were so different to modern day. So cool!*

By Faye and Jasmine

**Bonnie says:** *I love the old classrooms. The teacher was very strict, but I still enjoyed it!*

**Olive says:** *It was so fun. The rooms were vintage, and it was so strange! I'm just glad I wasn't the dunce!*

**Penny:** *Being the dunce was very odd and funny. I got to wear a silly hat and stand in the corner. It wasn't too bad.*

**Elizabeth says:** *I loved all of classrooms because it looked nothing like our school, even the desks looked different! I think I'll stick to modern day though.*

**Imogen says:** *My favourite thing was the massive booklets all about old schools. I loved it!*



How to make...

# CHRISTMAS COOKIES

By Noah



## Ingredients

- 100 grams butter
- 50 grams caster sugar
- 150 grams plain flour
- (you can add chocolate chips if you want)

## You will need:

- Whisk
- Bowl
- Cookie cutters
- Scales
- Baking tray
- Parchment paper



*First, get the butter and soften it with the whisk.*



*Next, add the sugar and mix it well.*



*After that, put in the flour and mix it.*



*Then use your hands to bring it together.*



*Then, roll the dough and use the cutters to make the Christmas shape and then lay on the tray. Then, bake for 18 minutes.*



# Year 5 Trip to Cuffley



When we arrived, we went into the pods to make our beds. We unpacked then did our first activity which was the climbing wall. Some people didn't make it to the top and others did. It was roughly 32 ft.



Some of our favourite activities were camo concealment and gladiator.

We put wax paint on our faces, ears, legs, neck and arms. It was optional for how much wax paint to put on. For the first part of camo, we practiced an army crawl also known as a kitten crawl. We played a game called 21. One person would be counting to 21. It's a bit like hide and seek. We made pizzas but they put the toppings on for us.

While we were in the woods collecting sticks for the fire apparently Rowan [the boy not the class] said that he heard a wolf and people started screaming and running away! Thankfully, there was no wolf. It was probably an owl.



By Jessica and Diego



About Cuffley: Henry said *“Cuffley was really fun but it was a challenge how you had to be with your friends in a pod for 3 nights”*. Caden added to this by saying *“I really enjoyed the climbing and the fire build. I loved the pods”*. Oscar said *“I loved the axe throwing!”* Finally, Mr. Plunkett added *“The thing I enjoyed the most was seeing Yr5 children gaining confidence and independence and enjoying themselves as much as they did.”*

# History

# in Action Great Fire

Year 1 are learning about the Great Fire of London in History. They took part in an activity day on Tuesday 5th November where they came in dressed in Tudor clothing and took part in activities. These included making soda bread and making houses out of cereal boxes. They burnt them with real fire while singing London's Burning. They also made their own diary entry and rebuilt London with Lego.



By Theo and Arthur



# Celtic

# Harmony

After a delayed start we finally arrived at Celtic Harmony Camp and got greeted by an iron age woman who led us to the big gates. We went to our iron age roundhouses where we kept our bags for the day. In the morning, we looked at stone age tools like flint and spears. We also hunted animals like wild boars, wild pigs and at the end a woolly mammoth! But we had to get 180 points before we ate our lunch. After lunch, we made dens out of logs and twigs. After that we looked inside a stone age cave with stone age paintings. Finally, we traded money for something from the shop.

**Everyone loved the trip to Celtic Harmony.**



# Fantastic Festival of Languages

By Jasmine and Faye



On 27th September we had our fun Festival of Languages! Every year, we go to different classrooms with different countries inside. We had paper passports where we could colour in the passport flags and write about the countries.

We visited several countries with different activities. Here are some...

In **Germany** we made football shirts out of paper and made pretzels out of pipe cleaners

In **Mexico** we made mirror shields out of paper plates and tinfoil with some pens and pencils

In **Ireland** we did some Irish dancing in the hall

In **Punjabi** we did some colouring and much much more! **Which one was your favourite?**



## Fun Food Festival



A few weeks later we had a food festival located at the MUGA. There were some lovely foods and drinks there and we are grateful to all our volunteers that helped. We had a wide range of different foods and drinks from different countries. We had Mexico, Greece, Scotland, USA, Vietnam and several others. Most people came and enjoyed the array of options available. But what did we like?



Jasmine says: The USA coconut bites, and the nachos were lovely plus it was an amazing experience.

Faye says: I liked the experience of area and all the foods.

Noah says: The nachos and Scottish biscuits were great!

Eliza says: The creamy cakes from Greece were nice. I loved them.

Theo says: I liked the jelly!

Diego says: I loved the Mexican food/ nachos.

**Every body had a good time trying new foods and amazing drinks!**



# Spectacular Science

## Year 4 Egg Experiment



The purpose of this experiment was to find out if sugary drinks will cause tooth decay. We used eggs instead of teeth. The drinks were water, milk, orange juice and Coca-Cola. We left them for a week. The egg that was left in the water was the same. The egg that was left in the milk got ridiculously hard. The egg left in the orange juice became slimy and the outer layer peeled off.



## Y6 Body Parts

The Circulatory System is a system which ensures blood, oxygen and nutrients from food are pumped around the body. If we do not have the Circulatory System, we will die.

## Y5 Gravity



"We learn fascinating things."  
"I like exciting projects."

## Y1 Body Parts

Year 1 are learning about animals' senses and body parts. The senses are sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch.

## Y2 Lifecycles

Year 2 are learning about the five groups of animals and the lifecycles of a frog and a butterfly. They are also learning about exercise and what animals need to survive.

## Reception Changing

Reception are learning about growing and planting. They are also learning about changing seasons. In autumn they are planting spring bulbs.



## Y3 Forces and Magnets

Year 3 are learning about forces and magnets. If you get a North end and another North end, they will repel each other. The same will happen with the opposite ends.

By Noah and Eliza



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# School News

By Eliza  
and Noah

## Roald Dahl Day Shoeboxes

On Friday 13th of September, we had Roald Dahl day which is where we spend a day in our pyjamas. We raised £400 for charity.

Shoe box day is all about giving things to people who need it more than you. You bring in a shoebox filled with various things to donate and then Reverend Andrew collects them and sends them to poorer countries.



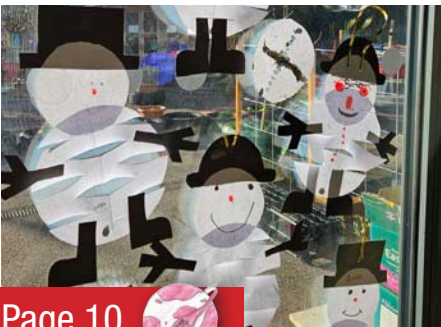
## Remembrance Day

On 11th November 2024 all the years went to the MUGA. Three kids from year six and Mr. Plunkett read a poem about the remembrance of soldiers who fought and are still fighting. There was also someone who played the last post on the trumpet. We also observed a two-minute silence.

## Decorations Day Children in Need

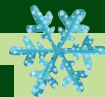
Reception to year 4 had decorations day. They made paper chains, paper plate Christmas trees, wooden decorations and then they coloured it with felt tips, and they made paper strip baubles. Year 1 decorated stars. Reception also made 9 different decorations, and their parents came in to help them. By Arthur and Noah

On the 15th of November 2024 it was Children in Need Day. We came to school in our own clothes. There was a cake sale where everybody got a cake after lunch. We raised £685!





# Clubs at WR



## School Choir

School choir is in Elm class and is 30 minutes long. Miss Payne runs the club on Tuesday at lunchtime.

The children sing festive songs like Run Run Rudolph. They also do sign language to songs like Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.

They all said it was great fun!



## Year 5/6 Football

The club is held on Mondays after school. The school has 3 boys teams the A team, the B team and the C team. The school also has 2 girls teams.

### Football results (LEAGUE)

- WR Boys A team 2 vs 3 Our lady
- WR Boys A team 5 vs 2 Oughton
- WR Boys A team 3 vs 0 St. Andrews
- WR Boys B team 2 vs 1 Samuel Lucas
- WR Boys C team 0 vs 1 Whitehill
- WR Girls A team 5 vs 2 Our Lady
- WR Girls A team 3 vs 1 Samuel Lucas
- WR Girls A team 3 vs 8 St. Andrews
- WR Girls B team 1 vs 0 Whitehill

### Football results (CUP)

- WR Boys A Team 1 vs 0 Oughton
- WR Girls A Team 1 vs 2 St. Andrews

*Some beans and Rosemary plants.*



## Netball

Netball was with Miss Swinburne for year fives. You would have to go to the club straight after school on Mondays. First you practice your footwork, passes then shooting. After you have finished mastering the skills, you have mini matches in school. Miss Hallahan runs the netball club for the Year sixes.

## Gardening Club

At the Gardening Club, we are going to plant lots of fruit and vegetables after Christmas. It is for year 4s only on a Monday and a Friday lunchtime. We have been to visit a Garden Centre and now we are building a polytunnel to plant things in. We are putting bamboo on the top and we are covering it with a white sheet. Mr. Carmody runs the club. I am looking forward to eating some home-grown tomatoes next year. By Eliza



# SUPER STOCKING COMPETITION

**This competition is to decorate and colour  
your own Christmas Stocking.**

You can draw your  
own or use the  
template here. Make  
sure it is as colourful  
and Christmassy as  
possible.



**There will be prizes  
for the best design.**

The deadline is  
Friday 10th January  
2025. Please hand  
them in to Mrs  
Thorn, in Holly Class.  
Remember to put  
your name and class  
on it.

You can download a  
copy of the stocking  
by visiting the Orbit  
page on the school  
website.

