



# The William Ransom Orbit



## A Term of Adventure and Achievement

As the long, sunny days of the summer term draw to a close, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the many incredible experiences, achievements and new opportunities for our pupils to learn, grow, and thrive.

This term has been packed with amazing trips, providing invaluable learning opportunities outside the classroom. A huge highlight, of course, was the Year 6 three-night adventure to PGL Bawdsey Manor. The children embraced every activity with courage, from scaling climbing walls to braving the cold water in canoes! Watching them work together to solve problems and support one another was truly inspiring, and the memories they made will undoubtedly last a lifetime. Beyond our trips, the summer term has been a celebration of our school community. Sports Day was a fantastic display of athleticism, sportsmanship, and sheer determination. It was brilliant to see so many families turn out to cheer on our athletes. It's a reminder that it's not just about winning, but about participation, effort, and cheering on your friends.

This term, we also dedicated a whole week to Just Talk Week, a vital initiative focused on supporting the social and personal development of every child. The children engaged in meaningful discussions and activities that encouraged them to express themselves and build empathy. These conversations are crucial in helping our pupils develop the emotional intelligence and confidence they need to navigate the world around them.

A massive thank you and congratulations must also go to the SPA for organising the wonderful Summer Fete! It was a glorious day of fun, laughter, and community spirit. The fete raised an incredible amount of money, which will be spent directly on resources and experiences that will benefit the children. Your support makes a real difference, and we are so grateful for your hard work and generosity.

And the fun isn't over yet! We still have a lot to look forward to before the summer holidays begin. Sports Week and of course, we are all eagerly awaiting our Year 6 summer performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. A lot of hard work has gone into this and I have no doubt that all of the effort and talent will shine through in what promises to be a spectacular show.

As we head into the final weeks, let's continue to make the most of every opportunity. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a safe and restful summer holiday when it arrives.

## Mr Plunkett



Have a lovely summer holiday everyone!



# Welcome to our Summer issue

Welcome to the summer edition of The William Ransom Orbit.

We hope you enjoy reading all the interesting articles about your school and our community. We hope you all enjoy a fun summer holiday.

The Orbit Team

## All this inside and more...

VE Day Celebrations - Pages 2 - 3

House points or Marbles? - Page 3

Geography in school - Page 4

Smartphone Free Debate - Page 5

Year 6 Adventurers - Pages 6 - 7

School Council / Sky Arts - Page 8

Farewell - Page 9

Other School News - Pages 10 - 11

Places to Visit - Page 12

## William Ransom celebrate 80 Years since

By Theo and Jasmine

# VE Day

*The most important part of our celebrations was inviting grandparents to have tea and biscuits and tell us all about their memories of World War 2.*

Also, as part of remembering World War 2, every class had a different display all about World War 2. For example, in Year Six, everyone made large drawings of those who fought for us in the war like the Navy or The Army. Another example was the Year Three classes who made Spitfires using card.

We also observed a 2 minute silence. One of our music teachers played The Last Post on the trumpet for everyone to hear on the MUGA.



Year One made London buses



# Housepoints *versus*

By Diego

*At William Ransom we used to have housepoints but we recently changed to marbles.*

# Marbles!

With marbles each class has a jar. If they fill their jar they get a reward such as a water balloon fight or extra play. All classes decide democratically. With housepoints the house with the most wins the house cup. We asked a few people what they preferred.

Most preferred marbles because you get a prize. Some chose housepoints because house captains get to do less than they used to. We think maybe in the future house captains could be given more to do like award marbles.



*We should learn about VE day because we need to honour the big sacrifices that they have made.*



# Jolly Geography

*There are loads of interesting things happening in geography around the school.*

**Year 4** have been looking at the rainforests and they have also looked at Antarctica. **Year 1** have been looking at traffic and parking in the local area. They completed a traffic and parking survey. Recently they have been looking at climates.

**Year 3** are looking at Mountains like Mount Everest, Ben Nevis, Mount McKinley, Mount Whitney, Mount Teide, Mont Blanc, Mount Kilimanjaro and loads more.



Year 1 on a traffic survey



**Year 5** are looking at the cities and the culture of Mexico. They have also been on a river survey trip. All of Year 5 went. They tested the depth of the river, took water samples and tested the speed of the river by putting an orange in. They also looked for wildlife and found a cray fish!

**Reception** have been looking at Mapping skills. **Year 6** have been looking at extreme weather.



# Smartphone Free Childhood?

By Eliza  
and Arthur

In a recent survey of our Year Sixes, we found that 29% have a flip phone and 21% have a smart phone. They used it for texting, calling and playing games when they were bored . The other people said that if they had a smartphone, they would use it for prank calling and texting.

## Positives

- ◆ **Calling friends**
- ◆ **Parental control** so your child doesn't get onto something they aren't allowed on or isn't age appropriate for them
- ◆ **Updates** on what is happening in your family and staying in touch
- ◆ **Play games** when you have nothing else to do
- ◆ **Allow independence**

## Negatives

- ◆ **Getting scammed**
- ◆ **Breaking your phone** which costs money
- ◆ **Getting addicted** to screen time
- ◆ Your account can get **hacked** and all your passwords will be revealed
- ◆ Social media impacts on your **mental health**
- ◆ Searching the internet affects your **creativity**

Then we interviewed Mrs Airey. This is what she said:

**What inspired you to get involved this movement about not having a smartphone until year 9?**

As Mental Health Lead at William Ransom, I work hard to help children to understand the value of having positive mental health. Good mental health is achieved by sleeping well, eating healthily, doing lots of exercise and through learning how our thoughts, feelings and behaviour are linked. There's now lots of evidence showing that smartphones are having a negative impact on children's mental health. I was inspired to become a part of the SFC movement because I felt that parents and children didn't get much choice when faced with the question 'Can I get a smartphone, everyone else has one!'. There is a choice; they can still get their kids a 'flip phone' so their kids can keep in touch with their friends and family, while protecting them from the harms that have been linked to smartphone.

**What are the positives and negatives?**

Children get a smartphone because they are becoming more independent, often walking to school on their own which is great! They can stay in touch with their parents. You can get phones that are not connected to the internet and they can do the same thing. It's been amazing seeing some of our Y6's with their new 'flip phones' in preparation for their transition to secondary school.

Thanks to the SFC movement, parents and their kids are realising that there is a choice. They can still get them a 'flip phone' so they can keep in touch with their friends and family. They can also protect them from the harms that have been linked to smartphones.



Recently, the Year Sixes went to Bawdsey Manor, which is PGL, to learn crucial life-skills as well as having fun. Here are some of things we did.

All of the activities we took part in were different and unique such as canoeing, archery and even ziplining. Here are our personal favourites.



# Year 6 go Adventures

Sunday 18th May to Wednesday



## Bawdsey Manor

"It was an experience I'll never truly forget."  
Matthew

"I loved it so much; even the food was excellent." Ottoline

## Canoeing

You chose your partner and the taller went at the front and the shortest at the back. The group leader would push your canoe into the water to row away and do some interesting activities. The activities included: learning how to control your boat, collecting floatie toys from one end to the other and an infectious tag. It was much harder than it looked!



By Noah  
and Jasmine



# go on an Adventure

Wednesday 24th May 2025



## The Giant Swing

Groups of 2 or 3 were harnessed tightly to a metal bar with no seats so you were in a constant squat. If you were not on the swing, you would be pulling a rope like tug of war. This rope pulled the people on the metal bar up into the air. They were allowed to tell the people on the rope to stop pulling whenever you wanted. When you are how high you want to be, there is a yellow rope behind you that they tell you to pull hard. Little do you know that the rope drops you and swings you high in the air. It only stops when you are close to the ground and the instructor stops you.

## Abseiling

There was a large vertical tower (around 8 metres) which you could abseil down if you wanted to. There were stairs inside to climb up to the top where instructors (like Angus) harness you up and get you ready to head on down to the bottom. You climbed through the metal bars and got in position to slowly go down to the bottom of the tower!



*"It was epic and cool. The best thing ever!" James*

*"This experience helped me face my fear of heights." Gowri*

What a fantastic trip!

# School Council

In our School Council, we discuss events coming up. So far, we have sorted cakes sales, non-school uniform day, pyjama day, Roald Dahl day and more. We also raise money for charities. We set up stalls and help with the Summer Fete Stocks.

In the stocks, you have one wooden stock, and you can pay to throw a wet sponge or bucket of water on to the person in the stocks. It's great fun for a hot sunny day. We also discuss about how we could change some of the school, such as school lunches.

As school council, we have gone to Parliament as a group. We learnt about the history of Parliament and the history of England.

We also receive feedback on how to improve our school from other pupils. We like to hear suggestions and discuss whether we think it should be added to our school society. We also like to hear your opinions. An example of this is the suggestion of a class pet, specifically a hamster or guinea pig. We heard that some people love the idea of it, but others were scared or just didn't like the idea.

By Jessica

## Sky Arts Competition

### New Visit

On 17th of June 2025, our school was lucky enough to receive a visit from the designer of Marvel and Star Wars comics! How did we achieve this delightful visit I hear you ask? Well, it is only because of James and Alice in Year 6. Our school entered an art competition. The real challenge was to think of a new superhero if you could create one! There were around 2000 entries, and yet both winners came from our school!



### The Prize

We happily accepted the prize of Will Sliney talking to us about his job as a Marvel artist. He showed Years 5 & 6 how to draw Spider-Man. After Spider-Man, both years got to pick a character of their choice, but all had to agree. Year 6 chose SpongeBob from SpongeBob SquarePants and Year 5 chose Luffy from One Piece (anime).



# Farewell

By Faye  
& Jasmine

## Miss Eldridge and Mrs Gunn

**Sadly at the end of the year lots of people move on to new things. Miss Eldridge and Mrs Gunn are amongst those leaving William Ransom this Summer and we will miss them both.**



Miss Eldridge has been teaching for 15 years. She trained at university before teaching. Her favourite memory was her first Christmas show with Year 4/5 in 2011. Miss Eldridge's favourite subject is art. She has taught years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

She has run many clubs over the years including film club, photography club and recycled fashion club.

She will be a supply teacher until she finds a new job. Hopefully she will visit us.



Mrs Gunn has been with us for a total of 6 years and sadly she is moving to a different school over in Suffolk. She will be teaching Year 3 and Year 4 together. She loved meeting with everyone she has taught and worked with.

One of her favourite memories was being part of the King's coronation with Reception acting out it all. Her worst memory though was all Covid 19 because she couldn't see her class very often.

**Good luck we will miss you.**



**Page 9** 

# Swimming

**Maple class started swimming on Wednesdays for 5 weeks.**

All groups practised different strokes like a backwards stroke and a breast stroke. There are three different Levels of swimming ability. Everyone is enjoying swimming and progressing in each lesson. In the middle group people practised treading water on their backs. At the end of each lesson everyone got a chance to jump in the pool from the edge.

**Elm swimming started on 4th June.**

We had to leave every Wednesday at 10am to get on the coach. There are three teachers, one for the confident swimmers, one for the medium swimmers and one for those less confident. Elm's swimming lessons lasted for 5 weeks too and were two hours long. Elm class really enjoyed their swimming lessons.

By Faye and Theo

# Show time!

Like usual, the Year Sixes are doing a summer show for the whole school to watch. This year, they are producing Beauty and the Beast Jr. Here are the main characters.

Belle: Daisy	Babette: Zara
Beast: Jackson	Mrs Potts: Gowri
Gaston: Harry	Chip: Olivia
Lefou: Noah	Madame De Le Grande
Lumière: Henry	Bouche: Evelyn
Cogsworth: Ari	

They practise every week to produce the best they can for everyone to enjoy. They hope you will love Year Sixes' production!

By Noah and Jasmine



# The London Marathon

Every year there is a Marathon that happens in London. Over 56,000 people participated this year. Kenyan Sabastian Sawe won the men's race in a brilliant time of 02:02:27. Half marathon world record holder Jacob Kiplimo was second on his full marathon debut and 2024 London winner Alexander Mutiso Munyao finished in third. Tigst Assefa of Ethopia won the London Marathon in a women's only record time of 2.15:50, as Kenya's Sabastian Sawe won the men's race.

By Jessica

In our school, we have taken part in the London Mini Marathon (school edition). We had to do twelve laps in total, over two weeks – or even better, more than twelve laps of the field! Everyone has powered through twelve laps over two weeks, if they love running or not. Everyone has participated over the course. We had fun getting two laps done. In the end, everyone got a certificate and glory. But the best prize was a metal gold medal (not real gold of course).

# Our Mini Marathon



# Super Summer Fete



On Saturday 7th June we had our school fete with lots of exciting stalls.

We had a stall for face-painting and nail polish. There were tons of great designs to go on your face and lots of fun patterns to be placed upon your nails. There was a book stall, bottle tombola, go karts, bowling alley and a lucky dip. If you were hungry, you could get lots of different foods such as Colombian food, Indian food and some BBQ. There was also a raffle for the adults and kids. There were lots of prizes such as champagne and two prizes funded by Year 5 and Year 2. School Council were in the stocks and there was also a stall run by us!



# Sunny Sports Day

Just before half term we ran our Sports Days.

It happens once every year and everyone participates. Parents are invited to come and support their child. Reception held theirs on the Thursday and everyone else held theirs on the Friday. We started with team games such as water relay, steal the egg and domes and dishes.

Next, we started the main games on the track.

The races were skipping, egg and spoon, through the hoops and straight sprinting. Everyone races for their houses. These are the results:

KS1 winners: Neptune

KS2 winners: Saturn



Looking for somewhere to visit in the holidays? Why not try...

# Most beautiful places in England to visit!

By Faye

## Pendn Vounder beach, Cornwall

This is a very stunning beach. Plants surround the ocean. Cliffs are all around and its a very good summer holiday destination.



## Fairy Glen, Isle of Skye

It has some beautiful spots of cliffs and green lush grass. It's simply magical. The big swirls of grass and pretty stones. If you visit early in the morning, you will have it all to yourself.



## Durdle Door, Dorset

This is on the Jurassic coast. It is a world Heritage site spanning 95 miles of the coastline across southern England. The iconic arch of Durdle Door is one of the most photographed locations in Dorset.



## Holy Island, Northumbria

The Northumberland coastline is a string of blemish-free sandy beaches interrupted by dramatic castles and old fishing villages. Sitting just offshore is the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, a mystical place reachable by a causeway that is only driveable (or walkable) at certain stages of the tide. On the island there's a ruined priory, a 16th-century castle on a rock, and a real sense of peace among birdsong and woodsmoke.



## South Downs

South Downs, Britain's newest national park. Up here are rollercoaster grazed grasslands mixed with oak coppice and wildlife-rich heathland. These are chalk hills, they only really show their colours where the downlands meet the sea, at the searingly white Seven Sisters cliffs. Striding along the cliff edge here, from Eastbourne to Seaford via Beachy Head and the beach at Cuckmere Haven, is one of England's favourites.

