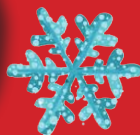




The William Ransom



Orbit

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

What a wonderful start to the school year at William Ransom, with an autumn term filled with vibrant experiences that truly celebrate the strength and diversity of our school community.

This has included our child-led assemblies marking cultural and religious festivals, as well as our annual Food Around the World event, where families shared delicious homemade dishes that showcased the rich heritage of our school. A joyful reminder of how much we gain from coming together.

Year 5 set off on their two-night Cuffley residential, returning with stories of exciting outdoor activities, newfound independence and the magic of singing around a campfire. Meanwhile, across the school site, the beautiful clay poppies created by Years 3 and 4 have been brought to life with twinkling lights, offering a thoughtful and eye-catching display for everyone to enjoy.

Our learning this term has been enriched by a range of trips and in-school experiences - from Year 3's journey back in time at Celtic Harmony to the ever-popular Great Fire of London Day in Year 1. The children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

As we move into the festive season, excitement is building for performances, whole-school celebrations and the chance to see Santa touring the local streets with William Ransom staff and our wonderful SPA volunteers. It has been a fantastic first term, and there is still so much more to look forward to!

Mr Plunkett

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Merry Christmas to everyone at William Ransom



Merry Christmas

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Orbit, written by our new Orbit team. We've really enjoyed putting it together and hope you enjoy reading it too.

Don't forget to enter the Christmas Colouring Competition on Page 12, for your chance of winning a prize!

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Sponsor an issue

Would your company like to sponsor an issue of the Orbit? In return for the cost of printing, your company can advertise on the back cover. For more details please email l.thorn@wransom.herts.sch.uk

from the Orbit team



Spotlight on ●●●

Mrs Holmes

Mrs Holmes is a new member of staff. She teaches Oak class

We asked her some questions about herself. These are her answers:

She has 2 dogs; one called Buddy and one called Rocky. She also has 3 children, 1 boy and 2 girls. Although she lives in Lower Stondon, she was born in Luton. She has been a teacher for 13 years and she used to teach at Wymondley school.

Her favourite food is pepperoni pizza and her favourite colour is purple. She likes everyone here because everyone is friendly. Her favourite lesson is literacy.

If she wasn't a teacher she would have been a doctor instead. Her favourite place to be on holiday is anywhere with a beach and a hot sun. Her favourite sports are swimming and running.



The Fancy Festival of Languages

By Otis and Lila

The festival of languages took place on the 26th of September and we found out that people have come from all over the world: Uzbekistan, Luxembourg, India and even Japan.

We had fake passports in which to colour the different types of flags and record all the work that we had learnt from all the different languages. Lots of people came in to talk to us and help us learn the languages.

Fantastic Food!

After school lots of people's parents ran lots of stalls showing food from around the world. Lots of children enjoyed eating the different food. Some of the food was *out of this world*. There was food from lots of different countries including: Romania, India, Ukraine, Mexico, Bangladesh, Wales and Africa too.

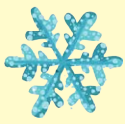


Interesting Facts!

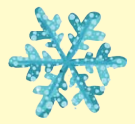
I was hungry for some turkey. Talking about turkey, it is one of the only countries to be in two continents! In Turkiye there are some great foods like turkish delight and much more.

Turkiye is actually in the middle of Asia and Europe so if you live in Turkey and your grandparents live in Asia or Europe you just have to go on a boat for 5 to 20 minutes and then you are there.





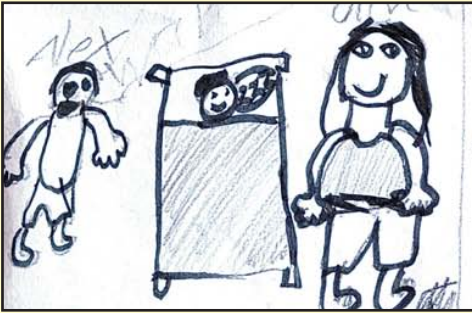
Ned in Bed



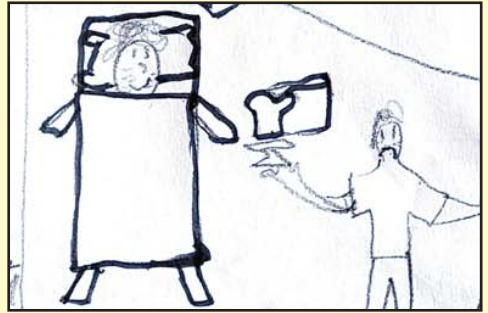
Once upon a time there was a boy called Ned, who was always in bed.



But when people tried to get Ned out of bed, he was always red.



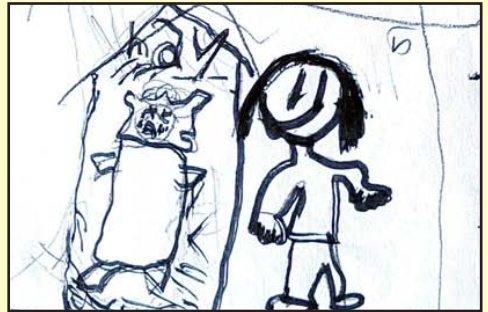
When Alex said "Ned get out of bed!" Ned said "I'm too red because I'm Ned."



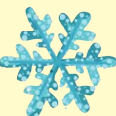
He always got fed bread, in his bed in his shed.



Olive was Ned's sister. She said "LET HIM SLEEP ALEX!" So Alex let Ned sleep with no bread in his shed.



When Olive tried to wake Ned, she thought he was dead, or attached to his bed, which was in the shed.



Cool Cuffley Trip

This term year 5 went on a residential trip to Cuffley Camp. We had so much fun and did so many exciting activities. Everyone gave it their absolute best and would love to go again.

One of the activities was called the Gladiator and it was probably the hardest. Everyone had a go and almost everybody got to the top. Some teachers had a go and three got to the top which included Mr Blake, Mr Plunkett and Mrs Herbert. There were 4 obstacles. The first obstacle was one long pole with small poles sliding through the gaps. Next, there were two tyres connected by chains that spun round and round. After that, there was the Jacobs ladder. This is where loads of planks were scattered around the obstacle. Lastly, there was a cargo net which was at the top of the Gladiator. Most of the year agreed that the hardest part was the transition from the first obstacle to the second.

Another fun activity was fire building. To start our fires we used a modern day flint and steel against cotton wool. But before we lit the fire we had to collect breakfast sticks, lunch sticks and dinner sticks. The breakfast sticks were basically twigs. The lunch sticks were the width of your pinky and dinner sticks were the size of chunky chips if not bigger. The fires were bigger at the start but near the end they started getting smaller. And every group got their fire started.

"It was hard to get to sleep, but most of it was amazing."
Billy

"It was really fun and the activities were great"
Jayven



"It was awesome!"

"The food was good especially pizza palace!"
Anaya



By Sadie
and Harry



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Some Other W



Remembrance Day

Children that do adventure clubs (such as scouts, cubs and brownies) came in their uniforms. The whole school gathered outside on the MUGA and had a two minute silence. Proud Poppy Poems and poppy facts were read out by Mr Plunkett and Mrs Hall.



Reception classes made poppies too. Some from buttons and some from playdough.



Years 3 and 4 created clay poppies, which were proudly displayed outside school with twinkly lights.

Decorations Day



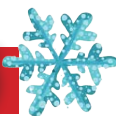
Decoration day is when parents/carers come into school to help make decorations with the pupils. Sadly, it is only from Reception to Year 4 as it's so much fun. You make Christmas decorations to give your classroom some Christmas spirit.



Year 1 made some fabulous Christmas tree decorations.

Children in Need

On the 14th of November we raised a lot of money for children in need. Students (if they want to) come in non-school uniform and paid a pound. We raised £558!



School Council Dominoes

This year for Harvest, we did a cereal box dominos track around the MUGA. We all had to bring cereal boxes, which were donated to Hitchin Pantry. While Yr 6 were setting up the wind kept knocking down the boxes. It was very overrated and every now and then they stopped falling. In total there were 241 cereal boxes.



Shows

This year our Christmas shows have been quite spectacular including the Year 3 and 4 shows.

The Year 3s show had a lot of funny parts including when they said 6-7 altogether.

This year, Year 4 Beech class did a Kpop demon hunters themed Christmas assembly and Lime class did one called A Christmas Quest. Year 5 and 6 did a cracking Christmas Carol Service.



Year 2s all dressed up and ready to perform.

Sharing Assembly

This year we say goodbye to the achievers assembly and hello to the sharing assembly. Every week, a couple of people from each class go up in assembly and share what they have done in class. Unlike Achievers assembly, you can go up and share more than once every year.



Friendship Day

On Friday 17 October, the whole school celebrated Friendship Day.

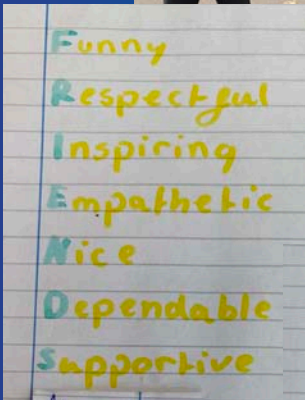


Maple class made a friendship tree to display on their door, to remind people how to be a good friend. You had a leaf and wrote something kind on it.

Elm did colouring and learned some games Maple played the games too.



The whole school coloured circles in different colours of the rainbow. These are displayed in the office window for all to see.



In Year 5, they sorted out problems by talking about them and finding sensible ways to resolve them. Here are a few of them:

Problem: Someone hasn't got anyone to play with at break or lunchtime.

Resolution: You should ask them if they want to play with you.

Problem: You make a new friend and your old friend is jealous.

Resolution;: Invite the old friend to play with you and your new friend.

If you cant work it out yourself and you feel someone's being mean to you, remember to tell an adult.



Children took part in friendship games and discussion.



Celtic Harmony



On Wednesday 12th of November, Year 3 went to Celtic Harmony. They learned to make stone age fire by using a loosened bow and leather which created friction. They also did hunting by throwing pretend sticks through a hole and the biggest animal was the woolly mammoth because which they had to do altogether. Finally the last activity was den making, they were split into three groups. They made the dens out of hard sticks and leaves and bushes. Idris said he liked the den making the most.



By Farah and Henry

Viking Day

On the 18th of November, the Year 5s had Viking day. Everybody dressed up as Vikings.

A man called Eiric ran it. They played a game called Fox and Geese. There were two teams and the geese had to corner the fox but if the fox jumped over a goose they would be eliminated. They also did a quiz about The Vikings.

In the afternoon they played a game called spear wrestling. Two people held onto a fake spear and whoever pulled the spear out of their opponent's hands won. They learned about the first Viking attack on Lindisfarne.

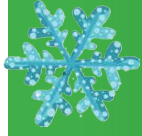


By Sadie
and Harry



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Rugby

I play contact rugby for Hitchin Rugby club near the Priory school. It is very fun as you can learn more about rugby and how to get better.

At school we play tag rugby which is just as fun. The difference between tag and contact rugby is that anyone can play tag rugby and contact is just a bit harder. This is because you have to actually use your body to try and get them to the floor. The only reason contact is dangerous is if you don't do it properly. So, when you tackle, go in with your shoulder not your head. At Hitchin, we play every Sunday

and when you get older you will play more times. On Sunday you will either do training or you will play against another team in the league.

Our local team is Saracens in North London. At Hitchin Rugby every year we go to see them play a match. You also do the Guard of Honour. This is when you are there when the players come out of the tunnel.



SARACENS

By Henry



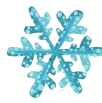
Miss McShane

This year we have a new sport apprentice as Mr Howard left last year.

Her name is Miss McShane and her favourite football team is Liverpool. Also her favourite colour is purple.

She has got two pet cats called Loki and Freya. Her favourite food is mac and cheese. She went to a school called Samuel Whitbread before training as a Sports Apprentice.

Clubs This Term



This year we have clubs during school time and after school.

Obviously there will be a football club run by Mr Maranian, Miss Mumford and Miss McShane, and Mr Sears started on the 9th of October. This is after school.

Netball is run by Miss Swinburne and started on Monday 6th October. We do lots of netball tournaments and matches.

We will have different sports throughout the year including festivals and tournaments. We have had the tag rugby festival which the Year 5s took part in and did very well. We will also have another tag rugby festival for the Year 3 and 4s later this year. They played against schools like Whitehill, Ickleford and St Andrews.

On a Monday lunch time at 12.20-12.50 there is Sports Hall athletics run by Miss Mumford and Miss McShane. They do activities such as running, jumping and relays. Year 2 also do Sports Hall athletics on Friday lunchtime from 12.20 to 12.50 run by Miss Mumford and Miss McShane. Year 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics is run by Mrs Herbert.

On Tuesday lunchtime 12:50-1:20 there is girls football and then there is Years 3 and 4 boys football that takes place Thursday 12.50-1.20 lunchtime.

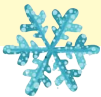
We also have Cooking club run by Mrs Halliwell and Mrs Kitchen on a Monday after school, as well as art club.

By Farah and Henry

Run to the North Pole!

We have also launched a run to the North Pole. This is where we have to run 25,800 laps round the field at school. Altogether this makes up to 4,300 miles the distance from Hitchin to the North Pole.

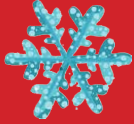
Also there's a Christmas family run on the last week of term to celebrate the end of the challenge.



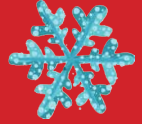
Cross country took place at Knights Templar and the years that took part were Year 5 and Year 6. The girls team came third and the boys team did well too.



CHRISTMAS TREE



COMPETITION



This competition is to decorate and colour your own Christmas tree.

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

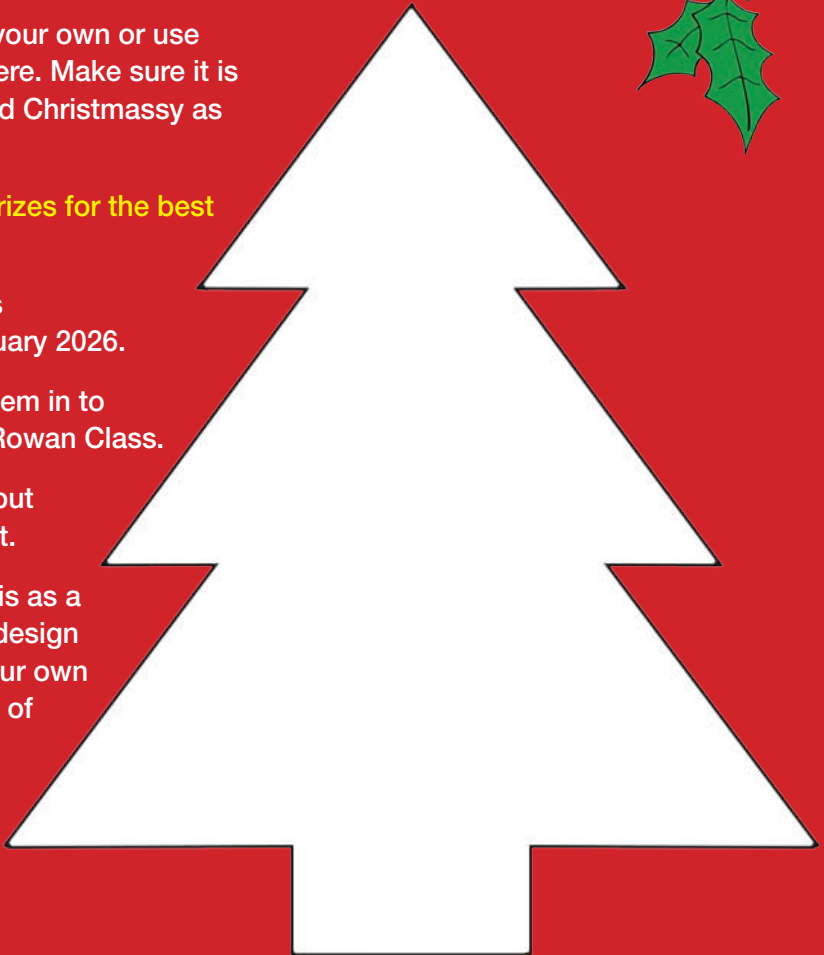
There will be prizes for the best design.

The deadline is
Friday 9th January 2026.

Please hand them in to
Mrs Thorn, in Rowan Class.

Remember to put
your name on it.

You can use this as a
basis for your design
or just draw your own
tree on a piece of
blank paper.



**Happy Christmas and
Happy Colouring!**

