

# The William Ransom Orbit



**As the blossom begins to appear on the trees and the days stretch longer, it is the perfect moment to reflect on what has been a truly spectacular Spring Term here at William Ransom.**

The “WR spirit” has been alive and well on the sports field; we have celebrated remarkable sporting achievements and fantastic participation, with so many children discovering a genuine love for being active and supporting their teammates. This energy translates directly into the classroom, where amazing learning is taking place across every year group. Our youngest learners in Early Years have been busy exploring and investigating the world around them with infectious curiosity, while our Year 1 children are thriving under our new continuous provision approach, which fosters wonderful independence and creative problem-solving. This modern, child-centred approach in the lower years creates the solid foundations upon which all subsequent learning is built. As our pupils move through the school, they carry this spirit of inquiry, engagement, and confidence with them. It is these core attributes that will hold them in such great stead as they eventually depart William Ransom to embark on their secondary schooling adventure. *(continued inside)*



**Happy Easter to everyone at William Ransom**



**(Continued from the cover)**

This term also marked a spectacular 'first' for our school, with our Year 4 Easter performance. Seeing the children take to the stage with such radiant joy and confidence was a true highlight for us all.

Beyond the classroom, we have continued to enrich our curriculum with a variety of successful trips, providing the children with invaluable real-world experiences that not only bring their learning to life but offer vital opportunities to develop key life skills as well. As I write this, our School Councillors are preparing for an exciting journey of their own to the Houses of Parliament this Friday. We wish them a truly inspiring visit as they see firsthand where their leadership roles could lead and gain a deeper understanding of the positive impact they can make in the wider world.

**It has truly been a term defined by growth, discovery, and a wonderful sense of community!**

**Mr Plunkett**

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# Happy Easter



**Welcome to the Easter issue of the Orbit. We hope you enjoy reading it.**

Congratulations to the winners of the Design a Christmas Tree competition from the last issue. We had so many amazing entries, it was difficult to choose a winner!

Key Stage 1 winner was Coco from Pine Class. Key Stage 2 winner was Joshua from Beech Class.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter!  
**The Orbit Team**

**KS1  
Winner**



**KS2  
Winner**



# Happy New Year

## from around the world!

People celebrate New Year in different ways all around the world and at different times. Read on to find out more...

By Idris



In China this year, they celebrated the new year on the 17th of February.

2026 is the year of the horse.

In China they tidy their houses to make space for lots of good luck.

Also red represents wealth and happiness, so they decorate their windows and doors and give money in red envelopes.



In Scotland, they call it Hogmanay.

They have a tradition called First Footing. This is when the first guest after midnight brings good luck with coal for warmth, shortbread for food and whisky for cheer

It is traditional to sing Auld Lang Syne at midnight. It was written by Robert Burns, who is Scottish.



In Uganda fire symbolises change and renewal. So at New Year they celebrate by lighting bonfires across the country.

Also they sing and tell stories.



They celebrate by having beach parties and family barbecues because January is in the middle of their summer.



# Plain Jane with the Lion Mane

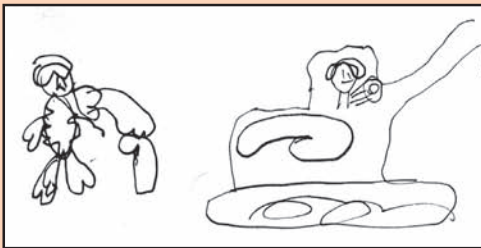


**Plain Jane** had a crane.

One day **Jane** wanted to go to **Spain**, so she hopped onto a **plane**, then went on a **train** to **Spain**. But the journey was too long so ...



... she went on another **plane** for 13 **painful** hours. But when **Jane** arrived in **Spain** she lost her lion mane because her mane wasn't used to the hot weather!



**Jane** saw her dad in **Spain**.

He said "Where's your lion mane?"  
"It just fell out down the **drain**!"  
**Jane** told her dad. So then **Jane's** dad hit her on her **brain** with his crane and left. What a **pain**!



But one day a lion **came** to **Jane** and he said "Roah, I will take you back to your **main** land!"



So she didn't **complain**. They went together to live in the state called **Maine** to **entertain**!

By Otis and Lila

# Eco Club

Eco Club is a new club at school run by Mrs Hibbs.

## What is an Eco club?

Eco club is a club to help the environment and nature.

## When do Eco Club meet?

They meet every Thursday each week

## How many people are part of Eco Club?

17 people are in Eco Club at the moment.

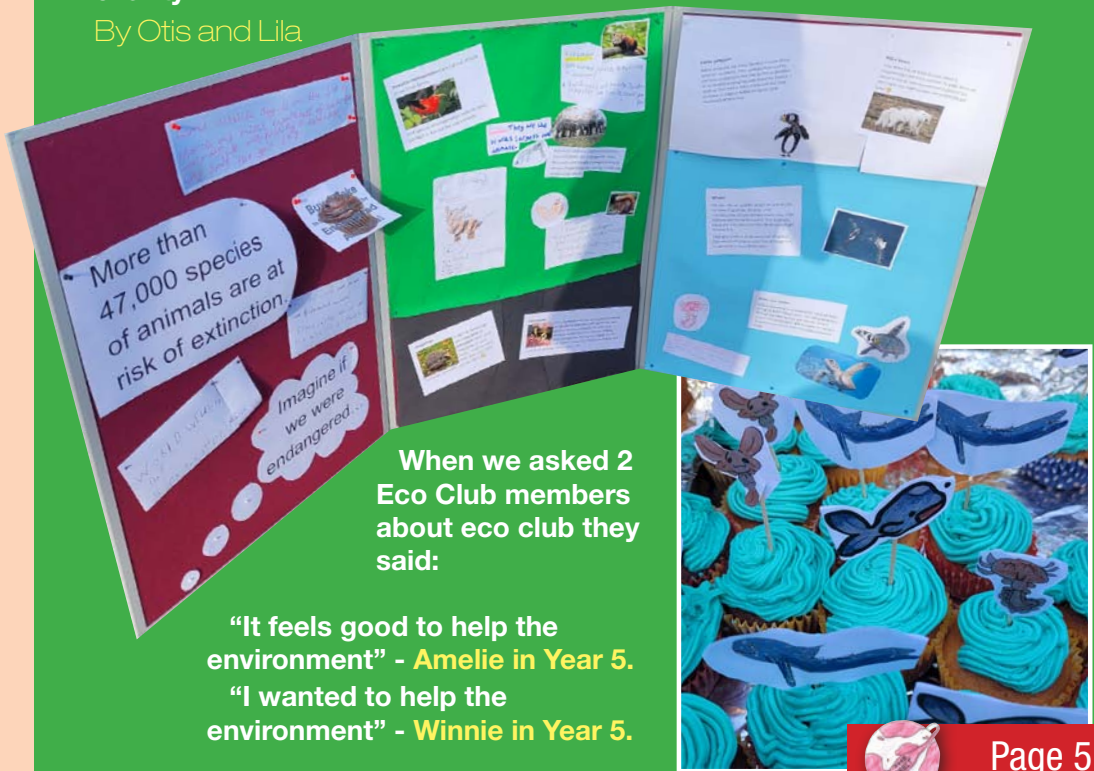
## What have they done?

They have done some things like litter picking, a cake sale to raise money for glue stick recycling and if they have any money left over they will donate it to an animal charity.

By Otis and Lila



In total they made £307.20 in total for their bake sale.



When we asked 2 Eco Club members about eco club they said:

“It feels good to help the environment” - **Amelie in Year 5.**

“I wanted to help the environment” - **Winnie in Year 5.**



# WR School News

## Cherry class assembly

Yr 6 Cherry class did an assembly about a day in the life of a year six pupil. It was very enjoyable and entertaining. They described a Year 6 pupil as an animal and it was in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. There were multiple narrators and a kid who always needed the toilet.

## Chestnut class assembly

Chestnut class assembly was about Mr Bean and Sam time travelling into key points that we have learned about in history. The assembly was funny even though one of the props broke. I think everyone enjoyed it even though we had little time to practise.

*By Farah*

## Year 5 Maths Quiz

On Tuesday 3rd March year five took part in a maths quiz. Four people took part, they were Jake, Phoebe, Masooda and Jayven. There were four rounds. The first round was General Maths, the second was Estimation, the third was Perplexing Puzzles and finally the fourth was Complex Conundrums. The average score was 123 points. They didn't quite make the final 20 but they did amazingly well.

"It was tricky but fun being in the quiz group." said Jake.

*By Olive*



# The Great Easter Mysteries

The Easter show, performed by Year 4 was four stories with a narrator connecting all the stories together.

It took place on Wednesday 18th of March. At one point the Easter bunny loses his basket and has to find it with some of the characters. On the way they meet some very unhelpful characters

like a garden gnome called Gary.

There is also a story made by our own Lilly. One of the stories was when one of the dyes go missing.

The other one was when the Easter bunny found a new assistant.

It was a show that all grownups enjoyed.

*By Otis (Otis) and Lila (Miss Strict)*





## Pancake Races

On Monday 23rd February (we had to reschedule because there were very big puddles on the MUGA) the annual Pancake Day took place. It was a joyful event for the school. This year Mars won the race.

The way this race works is, you have a pan with a pancake in it and you run around the MUGA. While you are running, you flip the pancake at every corner. We race in houses: Neptune, Saturn, Mars and Jupiter. Thirty-two people took part, four boys and four girls from each year (two from each house).

Lila Y4 said *"The pancakes were hard to flip and it was very nerve-racking."*

Harry Y5 said *"I was a bit disappointed that my house didn't win."* **By Harry and Sadie**



## Year 6 School Trips

Last term Year 6 went to the Duxford air museum to learn more about WW2 and its planes, as we had been learning about this in our History lessons.

They also had a "We were there" expedition where we asked people who experienced what it is like in a war. We asked questions like what it was like during the war and how did you protect yourselves? We also played true or false where we found out some interesting stories like how one of them sat on an unexploded bomb when they were a young boy. **By Henry and Farah**



## Glow in the Dark Dodgeball



Glow in the dark dodgeball was on Thursday 12th February, only for Key Stage 2. All classes took part. *"Although the games were short, it was a fun experience."* said Farah in Year 6.

Harry in Year 5 said *"They put lots of effort into making it dark. It was a nice change to our day."*

Year 5 made bird boxes in D&T this term.



# World Book Day

Thursday 5th March 2026

World book day is a national celebration of books. It's a day where children can dress up as characters from books.

On Thursday 5th March 2026 we had a quiz assembly about guessing books by the pictures. It was kids vs teachers and everyone was screaming very loudly. Sadly, the kids did not win, but the teachers didn't win either as it was a draw (15-15).



By Harry and Sadie



Also the eco warriors hosted a competition for the best eco friendly costume. The majority of people used cardboard to make their eco friendly costumes.

For World Book Day the whole school took part in a Design your own bookmark competition.

As well as all the children dressing up, some of the teachers dressed up too, including Mr Plunkett. Some people dressed up as Harry Potter characters, David Walliams characters and Roald Dahl characters.



# Happy **200<sup>TH</sup>** Birthday **William Ransom!**

**William Ransom was a very famous man in Hitchin. This school was opened by Michael Ransom in 1973 in memory of his ancestor. He has been in Hitchin history for years and years.**



In the early 2000s William Ransom & Son moved to the Burymead Road site and the Company has remained there ever since. In 2007 the Company received GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) accreditation which was a fantastic achievement as it became the first UK based herbal related pharmaceutical company to receive this quality standard. In 2012, the company was acquired by OBG Pharmaceuticals; a privately owned company based in Liverpool, and became known as Ransom Naturals Limited (RNL).

By Harry and Sadie

William Ransom was born on the 28th of January 1826 and died in 1914. He was born into a Quaker family. A Quaker is a subcategory of Christianity.

He had several jobs. He was a British Botanist, Pharmacist, Archeologist and a Pharmaceutical Company founder. William established a renowned pharmacy which his son and grandson continued after his death. He also published several plant related articles. In the mid-19th century he gave us his lavender field. It was positioned where our school field is now.

In 1981, the company moved to Bancroft, now the Sainsbury's car park in Hitchin town centre. At the time the Company also made their own finished products and sold them into the pharmaceutical and retail markets.



**104 Bancroft in Hitchin,  
where William Ransom lived.**



# Winter Olympics

This year, the Winter Olympics took place in Milano Cortina, Italy this year on 5th of February.

Some of the sports include ice-hockey, snow boarding, skiing, curling and many more fun to watch sports. Italy were the most favourable to win as they have over 1600 votes according to the national votes.

In the end Norway were the winners with 18 gold medals and 41 in total. Meanwhile we finished in 15th place with three

By Henry and Farah

gold medals and 5 in total. This was our best performance ever in the winter olympics. Also in last place was Belgium with 0 gold medals and only 1 medal overall.



## Brilliant Book Reviews

### The Land of Roar By Jenny McLachlan

Arthur and Rose Trout are the masters of Roar. At first Roar was an imaginary game then something amazing happened. They had a grandad who was fun. There was a crow called croaky he hated Rose and Arthur. Half of Roar was sunny and had mystical creatures like mermaids and dragons. The other half was dark and has creatures that they hate. The dark side is Croaky's territory.

Suitable for ages 5 and above.

It is an adventure story. I would rate it 8 out of 10. I like it because the grandads fun.

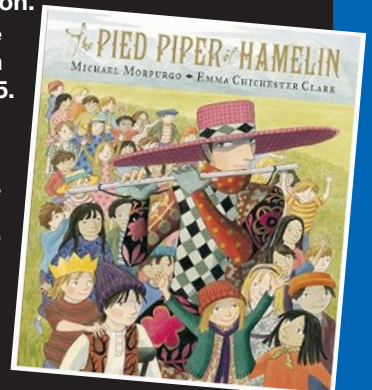


### The Pied Piper of Hamelin

The main character is the lame boy. The Pied Piper of Hamelin has a magical flute that freezes people. It has true places, but is not real. Although it's a traditional story, this version is by Michael Morpurgo and Emma Chichester Clark.

I enjoyed it, but I would give it 9 out of 10 because there is always space for perfection.

It's suitable for children older than 5.



By Olive and Idris



# Clubs and Tournaments

This term we had a whole new club list. This included football, speedstacking, multisports, dodgeball and rapid fire cricket for many year groups. There have also been numerous tournaments which we have entered.

## Boccia



On Wednesday 4th March, Mrs Herbert took some children to Boccia. Boccia is like bowls, sitting down while trying to hit a target ball.

Stanley said **"Boccia was really fun. We won some games and we played against other schools."**

## Herts Athletics

Some children from year 5 and 6 took part in an athletics competition with other schools all over Hertfordshire. The boys team came 2nd and the girls came 3rd.

They did obstacle relay, javelin, long jump, vertical jump, chest push and the triple jump.

Matthew said **"It was really energetic! It was fun to play against other schools."**



## Football Festival



On Tuesday 3rd March, Years 3 and 4 took part in a football tournament here at William Ransom and an incredible 60 children took part.

They played against Whitehill school and there was a boy tournament and a girl tournament.

## Netball

On Monday 9th March our Year 6 A team took part in a netball match against Our Ladies school and won 22-1. To us it was a home match and we absolutely dominated them. The quarters were 8 minutes each.

Also we have been doing matches every Monday since half term where we played other schools such as Whitehill and Samuel Lucas.

There was also a dodgeball tournament where Year 5 and 6 took part.

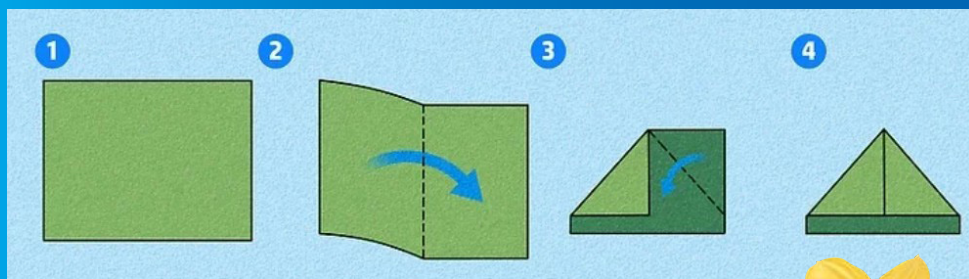




# COMPETITION TIME

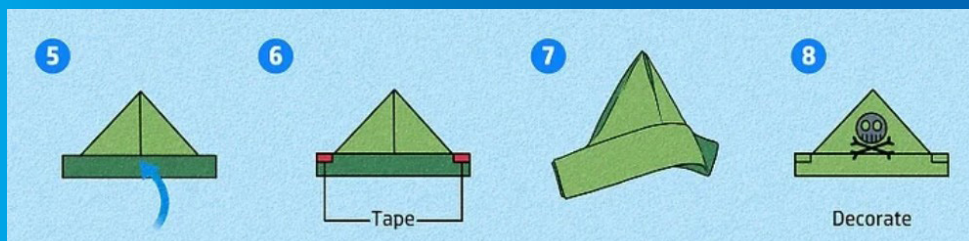
## DESIGN AN EASTER HAT

This egg-citing competition is to make a **PAPER BOAT HAT** and decorate it!



Here are instructions to follow

1. Get a regular piece of rectangular paper.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise.
3. Fold the left corner to the centre.
4. Fold the right corner to the centre to form a triangle



5. Fold up the bottom flap along the base of the triangle.
6. Turn the paper over. Fold up the bottom flap up.
7. Open it up to make a hat!
8. Decorate it!

Hand your hat in to Mrs Thorn in Rowan class by 16th April,  
for your chance to win a prize!!!

We look forward to seeing all your wonderful entries.



**Happy Easter and Happy Decorating!**

