Newsletter



Spring Term: Issue 2 26th January 2018

We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

Forthcoming dates

30 Jan: PA Tea morning

7 Feb: PA social **9 Feb:** Y3 cake sale **9 Feb:** Break up for half term at 3.30pm

12-16 Feb: half term **19 Feb:** Back to school **20 Feb:** Year 3 class

Mass and First Communion Meeting for

parents

Please note that class trips are not added here, please check your child's bag daily for letters from the teacher.

Get thinking!

This will be a new column in our newsletter to support our school focus of communication, thinking and debate. Each newsletter will contain an interesting question or concept for you to think about and discuss at home. This is our first one:

If a tree is struck by lightning and falls to the ground, does it make a sound if no one is there to hear it?

What do you think? Take a moment to discuss this at home, or with your friends. Don't worry about whether your answer is right or wrong. It is the process of thinking, and trying to explain your ideas that is important. Would you like to share your thoughts to be included in the next newsletter?

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed our parent and child book share yesterday afternoon, and the chance to spend some time talking to your children about their experiences of school, what their favourite subjects are, what challenges they face and how they overcome them. If you were unable to attend, there will be another opportunity after the Easter break. On another note, if you haven't yet contributed the annual £30 donation to the governors' fund for the upkeep of the school building, please do so as soon as possible. Many thanks on behalf of the governors and trustees. **Best wishes, Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher**

Parents' Association News

I haven't thanked Year 4 for the delicious cakes and waffles at the Cake sale. Their efforts raised over £290! Thank you to everyone who helped.

I have some very exciting news about the second hand uniform sale and TEA morning on Tuesday 30th from 8.30 in the hall. Yes, you will have the chance to sample the newly developed Oratory tea! On Tuesday you will be able to try the Chelsea Blend, which is a mixture of finest quality Darjeeling and Assam, and in due course it will be joined by the Oratory Blend, a traditional English Breakfast tea. Both teas will be available to buy soon and will make fantastic Easter presents...for anyone who doesn't like chocolate.

While I'm on the subject of beverages, I've been informed that the Hoop & Toy has got 22 varieties of gin for us to sample on the 7th February at the Valentine's Party. This in addition to a great array of wines and fizz and some rather good non-alcoholic spirits. Tickets are on sale every morning and afternoon at £20 each. Your ticket is your token for the first drink of your choice. The bands have already started rehearsing and from what I've heard so far, sound pretty good. Do come, it's going to be a lot of fun.

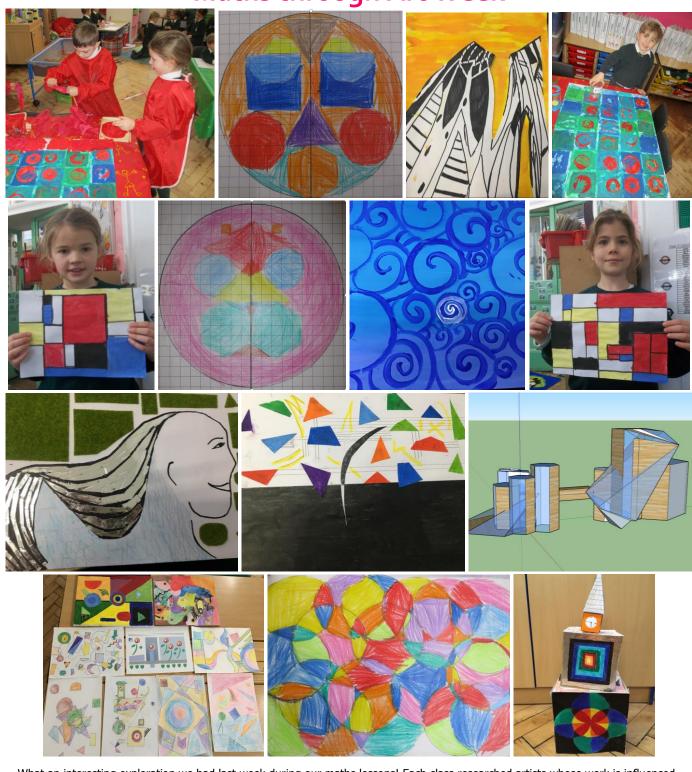
Have a lovely weekend Alex Yates, PA Chair

Growth Mindset

We enjoyed an inspiring assembly by Year 4 last week on the subject of 'Growth Mindset'. The idea of fixed and growth mindset has been explored by Professor Carol Dwek. People with a growth mindset believe that intelligence can be developed, where children focus on learning over and above just looking clever. They see effort as the key to success, and thrive in the face of a challenge. People with a fixed mindset believe that people are born with a certain amount of intelligence, and they can't do much to change that. These pupils focus on looking clever over learning, see effort as a sign of low ability, and retreat in the face of challenge. Growth mindset is something we focus on in school and helps to develop a positive selfesteem. Parents can also help their children by encouraging this at home.

INSTEAD OF	SAY THIS
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

Maths through Art Week



What an interesting exploration we had last week during our maths lessons! Each class researched artists whose work is influenced by pattern, number and geometry and completed inspired work of their own. *Reception have been looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky, particularly Colour Study: Squares with Concentric Circles, 1913. Every child painted and stuck their own square of tissue paper and then printed a circle of their choice on top, adding more texture and colour using oil pastels. They are very proud of their collaborative, mixed-media picture. *Year 1 used their recent learning on 2D shapes to create pictures choosing a shape to repeat and overlap, using different colours to fill each section. *Year 2 have been studying the work of Anai Greog who uses shape and symmetry to create work that often looks like faces. They explored the properties of 2D shapes and practised making symmetrical patterns. For their final pieces they used different 2D shapes and placed them symmetrically in a large circle, using a grid to try to make their pictures as accurate as possible. *Year 3 children have been learning about the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian and his abstract style. They identified horizontal and vertical lines, and pairs of parallel and perpendicular lines. Their knowledge of geometry helped them to create their very own Mondrian-inspired paintings. *Year 4 have been exploring how Kandinsky used colour and shape to express himself. Their homework challenge was to use different types of 2d shape and attempt to include a 3d shape. *Year 5 have been creating their own buildings using 3D shapes *Year 6 have been studying 3D shape in Maths which they have combined with their Computing 3D modelling programme, Sketchup, as well as learning about the architect, Zaha Hadid. They used inspiration from her artworks to create their own and then also looked at her many buildings to inspire their Sketchup designs.