

# Newsletter

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

## Forthcoming dates

**16 & 17 Mar** Parent/Teacher meetings  
**28 Mar** Y4 Easter Assembly  
**29 Mar** Y5 Easter Assembly  
**31 Mar** Y6 Easter Assembly  
**1 Apr** break up 1.30pm  
**19 Apr** INSET day, school closed to pupils  
**20 April** Back to school  
**2 May** bank Holiday  
**5 May** Quiz night  
**6 May** cake sale  
**9 May** Y6 SATs week  
**13 May** Y4 assembly  
**23 May** International week  
**27 May** School closed for Diamond Jubilee Day  
**30 May-3 Jun:** Half Term  
**10 Jun:** Y1 class assembly  
**18 Jun:** Y3 First Holy Communion

*Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements*

## Dear Parents and Carers,

We are exactly halfway through this half term already, which means we are halfway through the academic year too! The children continue to work hard and we are immensely proud of their dedication to their learning. I have had so many children come to me over the past couple of weeks for Golden Griffiths awards and it has been a pleasure to read their work and look at how carefully they present their learning. I hope you have enjoyed seeing your children's books at our recent parent/child bookshares for Years 1-6 and you can also see the huge strides they are making with their learning.

This week we are holding our Spring Term Parent/Teacher meetings which will be an opportunity to ask your child's teacher any questions you have about their learning. I hope you have managed to sign up using the directions given on classlist. We are still offering a hybrid of online/in person meetings based on your feedback at the end of last academic year. We hope that this offers a good solution for working parents to be able to speak with the teachers.

**Best wishes,  
Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher**

## A word from Fr Michael Lang, Chair of Governors

Some of you will know me from the Oratory Church, where I have served as a priest since 2004. As Chair of the Governing Body, I work with the Headteacher to maintain the Oratory Primary School's high standards of education. Another key responsibility is to promote the Catholic vision and ethos of our school. Contact with our staff and parents is essential, and I hope to write more regularly in the weekly newsletter to keep you up to date about the work of the Governing Body.

Fr Michael Lang

## Get thinking!

Are our shadows  
part of us?

What do you think? Take a moment to discuss this at home, or with your friends. Remember, there is no right or wrong answer and it is the process of discussing that is important!



## Parents' Association News

Dear Parents

We raised an incredible £395.33 in the pancake sale! Thank you again for your support. As we said in the last newsletter, this will be split between the Catholic Children's Society of Westminster and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the parent questionnaire. Mrs Griffiths, the Reps and I went through everything in detail on Monday at the Forum and we will be following up and addressing all the issues raised.

Fundraising was one issue that was raised. I'm always on the lookout for anyone willing to give the time and effort to help with fundraising. If you would like to join a fundraising group, please send me a message.

I'm staring out at the rain and think now may be a good time to launch a new competition: to design an umbrella! I know lots of the children are very creative so I think we could come up with a fabulous Oratory umbrella for the Autumn. More details to follow over the next week or so.

Have a good week  
Alex

## Fortnightly Learning Summaries

You may wish to work on the following areas of learning with your children.

### Reception

- Literacy: Writing instructions for bean planting using time connectives.
- Phonics: Revising and applying set 6 and 7 sounds.
- Maths: Exploring number bonds to 10 using a variety of representations.
- UTW: Exploring what material would be best to build a house for the 3 little pigs. Bean planting inspired Jack and the Beanstalk.
- EAD: Junk model castles, Paul Klee inspired castle artwork using oil pastels and painting beanstalks.
- RE: What is Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?
- PE: Exploring high and low movements and shapes using apparatus.

### Year 1:

- English: focusing on the correct use of capital letters. Writing a persuasive letter to our main character.
- Maths: learning to represent and compare numbers up to 50.
- Science: Identifying the four main seasons of the year and the key differences.
- Topic: Comparing shops from the Victorian era to shops today. Drawing and labelling pictures of shops from the past and present.
- RE: Learning about the importance of prayer. Making our own prayer handbooks to take home and use.
- Art: Using a straw to blow paint into the shape of a tree.

### Year 2:

- English: writing a diary entry in role as the robot from *The Robot and The Bluebird*
- Maths: measuring length and recognising 2D and 3D shapes
- Science: what Living things need to survive
- Topic: learning about aerial maps in readiness to draw our own
- Art and DT: making Wright Planes
- PE: explorer dance routines
- RE: why it is important to listen to the readings in Mass

### Year 3:

- Maths: Multiplication and Division: Multiplying and dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number,
- English: *The Pebble in my Pocket*; Making inferences from the text; Creating blackout poetry
- Topic: Tribal Tales: Stone Age Workshop at Fulham Palace; Changes in the Neolithic era; The discovery of Bronze
- Science: Rocks: Comparing different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties
- R.E: Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thinking about what the Sacrament of Reconciliation does for us and reflecting on God's love and forgiveness
- French: Naming fruit and vegetables

### Year 4:

- Maths: Calculating area of rectilinear shapes / finding equivalent fractions / simplifying fractions
- English: Writing in role as Lucy from our class book *Lob* / Inferring on a character's personality and appearance using clues from the text and different mythological poems
- RE: Know about Jesus' entry in Jerusalem / Think about the importance of Holy Week for us / Reflect on how we can show our love for Jesus
- Science: Identifying electrical appliances that work through mains and/or batteries / How to stay safe with electricity
- DT: Making Mayan worry dolls / Making *quesadillas*
- PE: Learning chest pass in netball

### Year 5:

- Maths: Comparing and ordering fractions; Fractions as division; Adding and subtracting fractions; Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator; Problem solving; Multiplying fractions
- English: Text: *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill. Outcomes: Recount of own journey, Character Profile, Job Application Letter, Persuasive Sales Brochure, Diary Entry
- Topic: Geography of Arctic and Antarctic
- RE: Inspirational People: Know that the meek are blessed. Reflect on the importance of trying to do God's will. To know what it means to be a saint and to think about how it could affect your life. Reconciliation: To understand that actions have consequences; To reflect on some of the consequences of actions
- Science: Properties and Changes in Materials: Solubility; Separating Mixtures; Reversible and Irreversible Changes

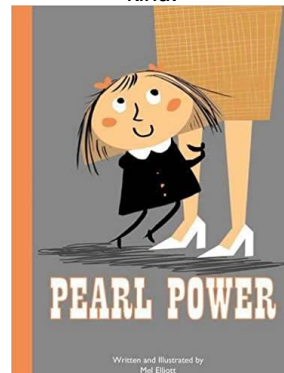
### Year 6:

- English: writing and acting character. Writing an argument in letter form to the main character in our class book, *Rose Blanche*.
- Maths: solving ratio and proportion problems, and learning about scaling up and down; calculating area of compound shapes, trapeziums and triangles and perimeter. They have calculated volume and been revising calculating missing angles in shapes and on straight lines.
- RE: They culminated their knowledge of the Mass in an excellent assessment piece of writing on the meaning and purpose of the Mass. They have started a new unit in which they will deepen their understanding of Jesus.
- Science: learning about the work of Carl Linnaeus: how all living things are classified, using the skill of observing (differences in features).
- Latin: To learn some prepositions and conjunctions. To be able to translate simple sentences which include the above. To look at English words that use Latin prepositions e.g. circus, subsoil etc

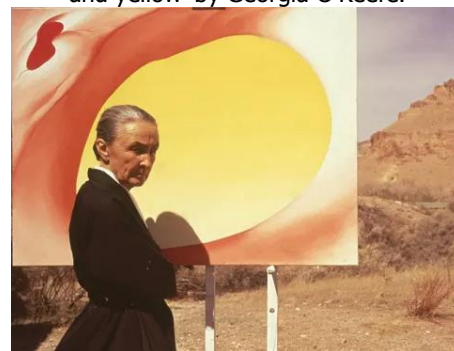
## Assembly this week

Our theme for assemblies last week was 'International Women's Day'. We learned that although boys and girls are different, they are also of equal importance.

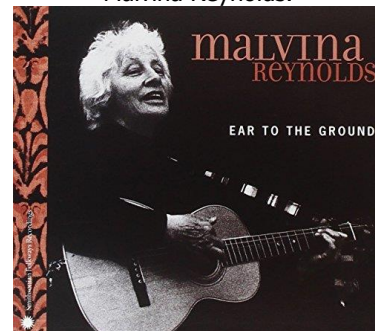
We read 'Pearl Power' by Mel Elliot, a story about how girls can be strong, clever and kind.



Our artwork of the week was 'pelvis series red and yellow' by Georgia O'Keefe.



Our music of the week was 'Little Boxes' by Malvina Reynolds.



## Museum of Brands

This museum in Notting Hill takes visitors on a journey through 200 years of social change, culture and lifestyle. It is an exciting new way of looking at history through the things that generations of families have thrown away – a fascinating insight into how we have lived since Victorian times.

<https://museumofbrands.com/>



## School Lunches

In our recent parent questionnaire, parents asked for further information to help them to know whether our school meals were a healthy option for their child. We asked Steph Dennis, the operations manager at Ch & Co, our catering company, to write a few words for you:

*When planning our menu and devising our recipes, we use the School Food Plan's, School Food Standards, to ensure that our meals across the three-week menu cycle, provide the energy, and nutrition, children need across the whole school day.*

*We comply with these standards, while keeping in mind that the meals offered must also look and taste good, too. Variety is key, and we use a wide range of fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses and types of meat, poultry, fish, and plant based alternative protein sources.*

*The School Food Standards require us to create our menus around the following six pillars, summarised below.*

### **Starchy foods**

*One or more portion from this group daily, three different starchy foods each week (one of which is wholegrain), and bread to be served daily.*

### **Meat, fish, eggs, beans**

*A portion of food from this group, every day. A portion of meat or poultry on three or more days each week, and one serving of oily fish every three weeks. For vegetarians, a portion of non-dairy protein on three or more days each week. Meat products on no more than one day each week.*

### **Fruit and vegetables**

*One of more portions of vegetables or salad each day and one or more portion of fruit a day. A dessert containing at least 50 per cent fruit, two or more times each week, and at least three different fruits and three different vegetables each week.*

### **Milk and dairy**

*A portion of food from this group every day.*

### **Foods high in fat, sugar, and salt**

*No more than two portions of food that have been deep-fried, batter-coated, or breadcrumb-coated, each week and no more than two portions of food which include pastry each week. Deserts, cakes, and biscuits are allowed at lunchtime but not contain confectionary. Salt must not be available to add to food, after it has been cooked.*

### **Healthier drinks**

*Free, fresh drinking water always available. The drinks permitted are plain water, low-fat or reduced lactose milk, 150ml maximum serving of fruit juice, plain calcium-fortified soya, rice, oat drinks.*

At Oratory, we decide menus with Steph, taking into account feedback from parents, children and staff about what the children prefer and what parents would like to see more and less of on the menu. Steph is planning a visit for parents from the company's nutritionist, and an assembly for children. We will let you know when a date has been arranged.

We hope this information helps you to understand a little more about how the school meals are planned.

## Speech and Language Development



BBC Tiny Happy People work closely with speech and language therapists across the UK.

In this article, a panel of speech and language therapists answer some of the most common questions parents have about speech and language development. [Click here to read the article.](#)

## Don't forget to use your local library!

Now that we use the internet so frequently, it's easy to forget the wealth of materials available at our local libraries.

All RBKC libraries offer a good selection of children's books.

They offer a wide range of services to children including:

- [Online activities and events](#)
- [Online eResources for children](#)
- [Online English and maths lessons](#)

Need to print school related activities for your children? They have free printing available from the children's computers in the libraries. Please speak to library staff for more information.

There are many events available including 'telling tales':

Telling Tales is a six week programme of online workshops for children to encourage creativity through poetry and art workshops. Throughout the project, the children will work towards a Discover Arts Award. [Visit the Arts Award website for further information.](#)

At the end of the programme, there will be an event for friends and families to come along to. These workshops are suitable for children aged seven to 11 years old.

[To register for a place, please complete this online Telling Tales registration form.](#)

## Phonics for reading and spelling

Children at Oratory are taught phonics from Reception class onwards to enable them to learn the most effective way to read and spell. We use a resource called 'Jolly Phonics'. Jolly Phonics have produced a helpful guide for parents which explains more about phonics and provides some background information on the scheme we use. Use this link to find out more:

[Jolly Phonics Downloadable Parent Guide](#)



## Year 3 Stone Age trip to Fulham Palace



Year 3 visited Fulham Palace last week to learn more about the lives of people living in the Stone Age. They thought about why the river was important to a Stone Age settlement, they built shelters and traps to catch food and they also handled Stone Age tools.

## Book Week



We enjoy reading 52 weeks a year at Oratory, but we had a particular chance to demonstrate this last week as part of our book week. A particular well done to our Year 6 pupils who prepared and performed character monologues to the younger classes.

## Attendance & Punctuality

### Punctuality

An increasing number of children are arriving late to school. Please note that school starts each day at 8.55am and the doors to the playground are open from 8.30am if you would like to drop your children off early. Good timekeeping is an important life skill and we ask parents to support us in ensuring pupils arrive to school on time.

### Absence

Please phone the school before 8.30am and leave a message on the designated absence line giving specific reasons for any illness (eg headache, temperature, upset tummy) rather than just saying that your child is unwell or sick. Please also remember to follow this up with a letter/email to the teacher and the office to ensure that the absence is authorised in the school's official register.

NB public Health England guidelines stipulate that children must stay away from school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.