

Newsletter

Spring Term: 16th January 2026



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

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

Dear Parents,

Another busy week full of learning, discovery, class masses, Judaism workshops and to finish it all off, a brilliant cake sale this afternoon! As ever, it was wonderful to welcome Ruth back to our school to deliver her fantastic Judaism workshops and I wanted to share her lovely feedback with you:

'Thank you so much for having me back at your charming school. As ever, I was made to feel very welcome by children and staff alike- it really does feel like home from home.'

In every session the children were open- minded, enthusiastic and full of ideas and interesting things to say.'

Thank you so much to all those who have made an extra effort to ensure your child is in the correct full uniform. The good news is that any needed school uniform items can be purchased at our coffee morning and uniform sale this coming Monday morning! We also look forward to welcoming you to our Parent and Child Bookshare on Monday – which is a wonderful opportunity for the children to proudly talk you through some of their learning. Wishing you a lovely weekend in the meantime.

With my very best wishes, Mrs Steinart

Upcoming dates

January 2026

- 19 Jan** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale
- 19 Jan** Parent & Child Book share 3.45-5.30pm
- 23 Jan** Y5 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 26 Jan** STEM Week
- 28 Jan** Parent Forum 10am
- 30 Jan** PTA Gala Breakfast! (8.30am)

February

- 3 Feb** Y2 & Y4 Family Mass 2.15pm
- 6 Feb** Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 9 Feb** Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 Feb** Safer Internet Day
- 13 Feb** Pupil Chaplaincy Team Lent Assembly
- 13 Feb** Year 3 Pancake Sale
- 13 Feb** Half Term 3.30pm

February (cont.)

- 23 Feb** Children return
- 24 Feb** Individual & sibling photos
- 25 Feb** Y6 SATs & School Journey Meeting 3.45pm

March

- 2 March** Book Week
- 5 March** World Book Dress Up Day
- 16 March** Coffee Morning & uniform sale in hall 8.30am
- 18 March** Spring Music Concert: 2pm Infants, 2.30pm Juniors
- 24 March** Y4 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 25 March** Y5 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 26 March** Y6 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 27 March** End of term 1.30pm

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

This week's theme: WINTER

In assemblies this week we have looked at the theme of Winter to celebrate our 'Winter Week'. We studied our artwork of the week and learnt about how Kandinsky loved using colours and shapes to show feelings and how he was a pioneer for the abstract movement. We also learnt about Antonio Vivaldi's Winter composition as well as listening to 'The Sound of Winter' which was brilliantly acted out by our Heads and Deputies of school whilst the rest of the school provided the excellent sounds of winter effects!

Story of the Week

The Sound of Winter

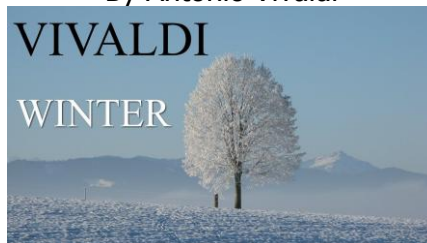
By some of our Year 6 children



Music of the Week

Winter, The Four Seasons

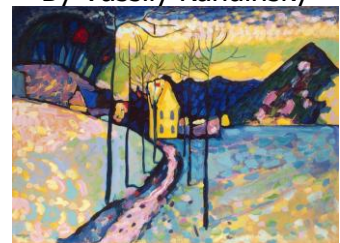
By Antonio Vivaldi



Art of the Week

Winter Landscape

By Vassily Kandinsky



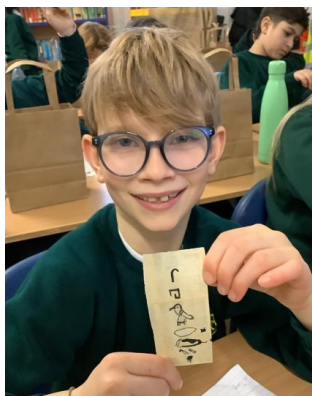
Judaism Workshops

Each class thoroughly enjoyed their interactive Judaism workshops with Ruth this week. They learnt lots of fascinating facts and, as you can see below, got fully immersed with the many artefacts and objects that Ruth had available for them.



Year 5 Ancient Egypt Workshop

Year 5 had a fantastic time taking part in the Ancient Egyptian workshop led by *Those History People*. The children were fully immersed in hands-on activities, exploring artefacts, listening to engaging stories and learning about daily life, beliefs and achievements in Ancient Egypt. The workshop brought our history learning to life and gave Year 5 the opportunity to deepen their understanding in a fun, memorable and interactive way! It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement throughout the day.

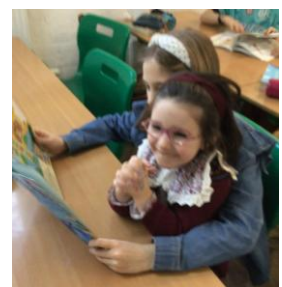


Year 1 Winter Watch

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Holland Park Ecology Centre this week to support their learning on the Seasons. They took part in a fantastic Winter Watch workshop. The whole Year 1 team were so impressed with all of the children who, despite the rain, persevered showing The Oratory Way and having a fantastic day ... Well done Year 1 who are Class of the Week as result!



Happy Owl & Owlet Reading Time!



Coffee Morning this Monday!



PTA Gala Breakfast!

Following the overwhelming success of last year's Gala Breakfast, we are delighted to announce its return! Tickets are available now on Classlist - be sure to secure yours before they're sold out!



Year 5 Class Assembly

We look forward to welcoming all Year 5 parents to our Year 5 class assembly on **Friday 23rd January at 9.15am.** It is sure to be an amazing Ancient Egyptian spectacle!

Year 2 & Year 4 Family Mass



We look forward to welcoming our Year 2 & Year 4 families to their Family Mass on Tuesday 3rd February at 2.15pm. The children will be leading the liturgy as well as choosing the hymns. Please do join us if you can!



Parent and Child Bookshare



We look forward to welcoming you to our **Parent and Child Bookshare** after school this coming **Monday 19th January**. This gives you the opportunity to come into the classrooms with your children to look at exercise books. This is an excellent opportunity to talk to your child about what they are learning, what they enjoy and what they find challenging. Please collect your children as usual at 3.30pm, then enter through the side playground from 3.45pm onwards. Please only look at your own child's books. We will be unable to admit those arriving after 5pm.

Wednesday Word – 14th January 2026

Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

“On 16th January, we keep the Feast of St John Vaz, a priest of the Oratory who was active in Sri Lanka in the late 1600s. Thanks to his heroic work, he rebuilt the Catholic Church on the island amid a period of persecution at the hands of the Dutch Calvinists. St Joseph found the strength for his missionary exertions in extended periods of prayer, and in the Sacraments. This is the same for us too: living a holy life, and establishing holiness in our families, is not something we do out of our power, but rather flows from our union with He who said “without me you can do nothing” (John 15:15).

What's been going on in class this week?

Year 6

It has been a wonderful week in Year 6! A real highlight was our Judaism workshop with Ruth where the children did some immersive learning on the holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In the classroom, the children have focused on:

English: Reading Focus: Retrieval, prediction and inference questioning with focus on class text - When The Sky Falls by Phil Earle. Writing Focus: Planning, drafting and editing informal letter from a character. Grammar & Punctuation Focus: Past & present progressive tense; perfect tense; dashes, commas and brackets for parenthesis.

Maths: Fractions: fraction of an amount, find the whole. Decimals: place value, integers and decimals; round decimals; add & subtract decimals; multiply decimals by 10,100,1000.

RE: Judaism: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur; Exploring the Mass: To understand that Jesus made a New Covenant with us.

Science: Animals including humans (circulatory system): Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.

History: Victorians: investigating the use of diary extracts as a source for historical enquiry.

PE: Hockey & Swimming

Computing: Fun with Scratch: Design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts

Latin: Revising nouns, adjectives and verbs.

PSHE: Identifying spoken and unspoken pressure, understanding it can be good and bad and considering strategies for how to cope.



Year 5

We have had another wonderful week of learning in Year 5. The children have been really focused and, as a result, have produced some brilliant work. Here is a snapshot of our week:

- **Maths:** We continued learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 4-digit numbers.
- **English:** We used alliterative statements to create pace and effect when writing action scenes, linked to our class novel *Beowulf*.
- **RE:** We thoroughly enjoyed our Judaism workshop and assembly, where we learned about the Passover.
- **P.E.:** We continued our hockey lessons, focusing on passing to our peers and improving our hand grip.
- **Science:** We explored reversible and irreversible changes, learning that some changes result in new materials.
- **Art:** We planned an image of a fish inspired by the work of Kenojuak Ashevak.
- **PSHE:** We discussed different types of conflict and explored positive ways to handle them.

Have a lovely weekend, Miss Cornes and Miss Ffyon



Year 4:

It has been another busy week in Year 4. Along with all of our other learning, we really enjoyed our Judaism workshop this week!

English: This week we continued reading our novel Varjak Paw. We wrote some brilliant diary entries in character as Varjak, working on portraying thoughts and feelings that this character may experience. We also looked at persuasive writing techniques and debated reasons that Varjak should stay or leave his grandfather in the story.

Maths: We have been working on multiplying and dividing by 10 and by 100. We also started to practise multiplying a two-digit number by a 1 digit number.

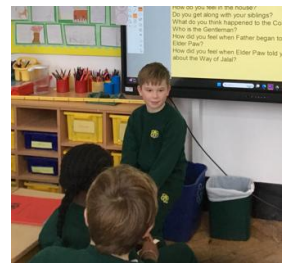
R.E: In addition to our fantastic learning on Judaism this week, we discussed the events of Jesus as a child in the temple as well as his response to Mary and Joseph when they were reunited.

French: Learning the topic of our family, we discussed how the possessive adjective changes depending on the gender of the object we are describing. We applied this learning while drawing and introducing our own families!

Geography: We explored the rainforest this week in our geography lesson. We discussed the importance of rainforests in regulating our planet's temperature as well as the different layers of the rainforest, their characteristics and what plants and animals we might find in each one.

Science: We created our own classification keys this week. We developed our own questions in order to classify different animals.

P.E: We really enjoyed our hockey skills this week. We focused on travelling and control of the ball.

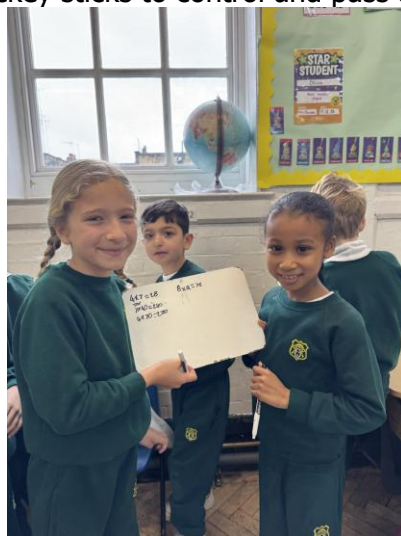
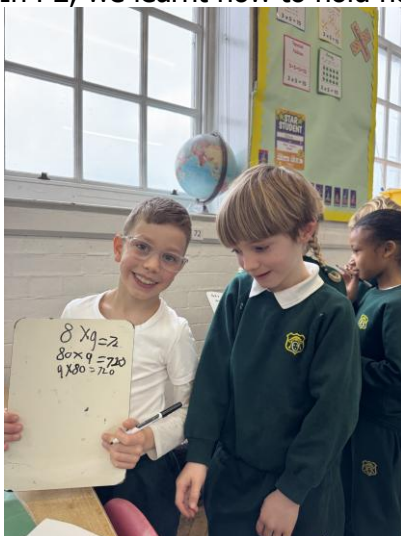


Year 3:

Year 3 have had a great week.

This week Year 3 have learnt:

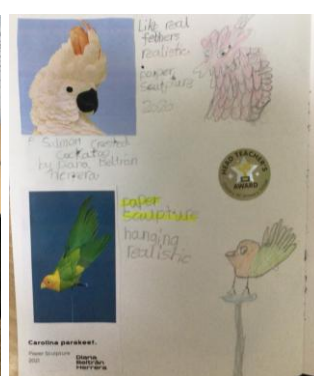
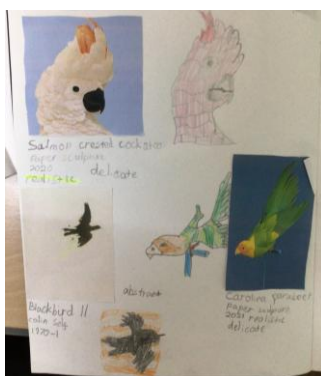
- In Maths, we used our multiplication skills we have learnt to answer related facts. We have begun to multiply 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.
- In English, we created our own race programmes using sub-headings and organising our writing into paragraphs.
- In RE, we look at what 'sin' is and how Jesus wants us to turn away from sin.
- In PSHE, we looked at what constitutes a healthy diet and the risks of eating too much sugar.
- In History, we explored three eras of the Stone Age and compared their similarities and differences.
- In Art, we have begun to create our own artwork inspired by cave paintings.
- In PE, we learnt how to hold hockey sticks to control and pass a ball.



Year 2:

Year 2 have had a lovely week! They have been putting lots of effort into their learning and they very much enjoyed taking part in their Judaism Workshop all about 'Shabbat'. Here is what we have been up to:

- In **English**, we have written non-chronological reports all about Polar Bears.
- In **Maths**, we have started a new unit on 'Shape'. We have been looking at the properties of 2-D shapes.
- In **RE**, we have continued to look at Jesus' life and how he helped so many people on his journey, bringing them faith. We looked at the story 'Jesus is Lost' and thought about how Mary, Joseph and Jesus might have felt.
- In **Science**, we learnt about the importance of hygiene. We made posters explaining the importance of handwashing.
- In **History**, we explored the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci.
- In **Art**, we looked at the works of artists who have portrayed birds.
- In **PSHE**, we focused on the importance of building exercise into our daily and weekly routines.



Year 1:

We have had a very exciting week, starting with our trip to Holland Park and ending with Class of the Week! I was so proud of the way the children showed the Oratory Way, even in soggy conditions! This is what we have been learning this week:

Maths: This week we have been learning about place value. We have been writing numbers eleven to twenty in numerals and words. We have also been partitioning numbers into tens and ones and making our teen numbers using dienes.

English: In English we have been learning about first person and past tense. We have been writing a diary entry as if we were Beegu. We have also written a letter of advice to Beegu, suggesting ways for how she can be a good friend. We have used commands such as 'should' and 'should not'.

Science: In Science, we have been learning about the features of birds. We learnt about what they eat, where we would find different birds and compared the features of different birds.

Phonics: In Phonics this week we have been looking at the soft g sound as well as alternative spellings for ai (a_, ay and ai).

Religious Education: In Religious Education this week we have been reflecting on why our family is important to us and different ways we can show love.

History: In History we have been comparing toys from the past and present. We sorted toys into their section and learnt about what toys were made of, and how they were used in the past.

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 team.



Reception:

Reception haven't let the rain dampen their spirits this week as they got involved in their learning and play!

Phonics: This week, we focused on the sounds ee, or, z and w.

Literacy: This week, we continued reading our class text "All through the night". The children practised writing a sentence about who can help them.

Maths: This week, we recapped number bonds to 5.

UTW: This week, we focused on the hospital and discussed the roles of different people who can help us in the hospital.

EAD: This week, the children enjoyed using different materials to create an "x-ray" of their hands. They also practised their fine motor skills by cutting and making emergency vehicles.

PSED: This week, we talked about our talents and interests and discussed what you can be when you grow up.

PD: This week, the children began to practise basic gymnastic skills such as balance and jumping.

RE: This week, we discussed how Jesus called on friends to help him and how they became "Fishers of men".



PUPIL OF THE WEEK & ACT OF KINDNESS

Congratulations to these children who have had an extra special week and received Pupil of the Week and Act of Kindness awards. Keep up the great work!

	Pupil of the Week	Act of Kindness
Reception	Demi-Eleni	Begona
Year 1	Antonio	Logan
Year 2	Joshua	Juan
Year 3	Dominic	Vincent
Year 4	Luc	Alvaro B
Year 5	Genevieve	Noa
Year 6	Oliver	Anna
Special Act of Kindness		Patrick (Y1)

 House of the Week 	 Class of the Week 
Blue House	Year 1 (For showing The Oratory Way so brilliantly on their very rainy Forest School trip!)