

# Newsletter

Spring Term: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026



The  
**ORATORY**  
**RC PRIMARY**  
School

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

## Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience for this week's newsletter - which is packed full of all of the wonderful learning the children have been enjoying. The whole school was buzzing with curiosity and creativity for STEM week, as every class immersed themselves in their STEM learning. From designing egg parachutes and engineering spaghetti-and-marshmallow structures to creating their own Stone Age paint – it was a hugely enjoyable and enriching week for all of our Oratorian Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Mathematicians. As ever, huge thanks to our wonderful staff for making it such a brilliant week for the children.

Sincere thanks also to all of you that made our brilliant Breakfast Gala on Friday such a wonderful success – with a total of £1,354.03 raised for the Newman Fund – we are hugely grateful.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 2 and Year 4 families for their Family Mass at 2.15pm tomorrow.

**Best wishes,**  
**Mrs Steinart**

## Upcoming dates

### 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
- 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

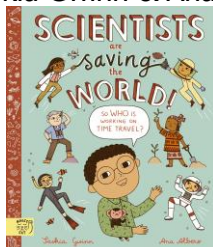
*Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements*

## This week's theme: STEM

In assemblies this week we have looked at the theme of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths. We looked at all the different ways that we learn about STEM in school and then we looked at some of the jobs that our STEM skills can help us with in the future. We also learnt about the very inspirational mathematician, Katherine Johnson. In Friday's assembly, a few children from each class did a brilliant job of talking us through all of the superb STEM activities that their class have been taking part in this week.

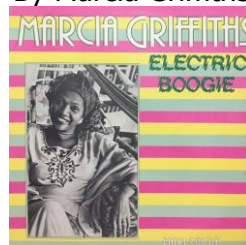
### Story of the Week

Scientists are saving the World  
By Saskia Gwinn & Ana Alberó



### Music of the Week

*Electric Boogie*  
By Marcia Griffiths



### Art of the Week

*Untitled*  
By Bridget Riley



# STEM WEEK

What a wonderful week of STEM it has been – from sensational science workshops for all classes, to brilliant Stop and STEM activities each day – the children have been using their STEM skills in the most creative of ways. Well done Oratorian Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Mathematicians!





## STEM WEEK COMPETITION!

What an AMAZING amount of boats we have entered into our STEM competition. We will be announcing the winners in Friday's assembly ... in the meantime, let the testing begin (and thank goodness I have some very enthusiastic Green Eco Orators to help me get through them all!).



(And this isn't even all of them!)

## Fantastic Footballing Frenzy!

What a fantastic week of football it has been ... with all of our Year 4, 5 and 6 girls taking part in brilliant football matches as part of the GlenSpark programme. Everyone took part with enthusiasm and determination, demonstrating The Oratory Way from start to finish – well done, girls! And then our Year 6 Boys' Football team took part in the Premier League Primary Stars tournament on Thursday. They were absolutely brilliant through five matches, working hard as a team and contending against some tough competition. They did themselves and all of Oratory proud! Well done, Oratorian footballers!



## Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

Friday 30th January is the Feast of Blessed Sebastian Valfré, who was Provost of the Turin Oratory in the 1600s. In his ministry to the people of Turin, he was renowned for his care for the sick and for his tireless work in the confessional. His ministry extended from the royal court to the poorest members of society. Amid all this, Sebastian dealt with a number of personal struggles, including short-temperedness and finding prayer difficult. He overcame these challenges by allowing himself to be transformed by grace, so much so that people came to consider him another Saint Philip. May we, like him, acknowledge our own weakness and entrust ourselves to God's grace that heals and renews us.

## Year 2 & Year 4 Family Mass

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

## Wednesday Word –

[Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January](#)

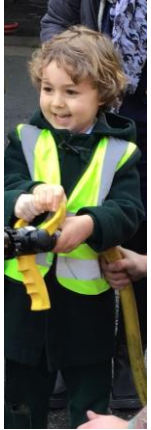
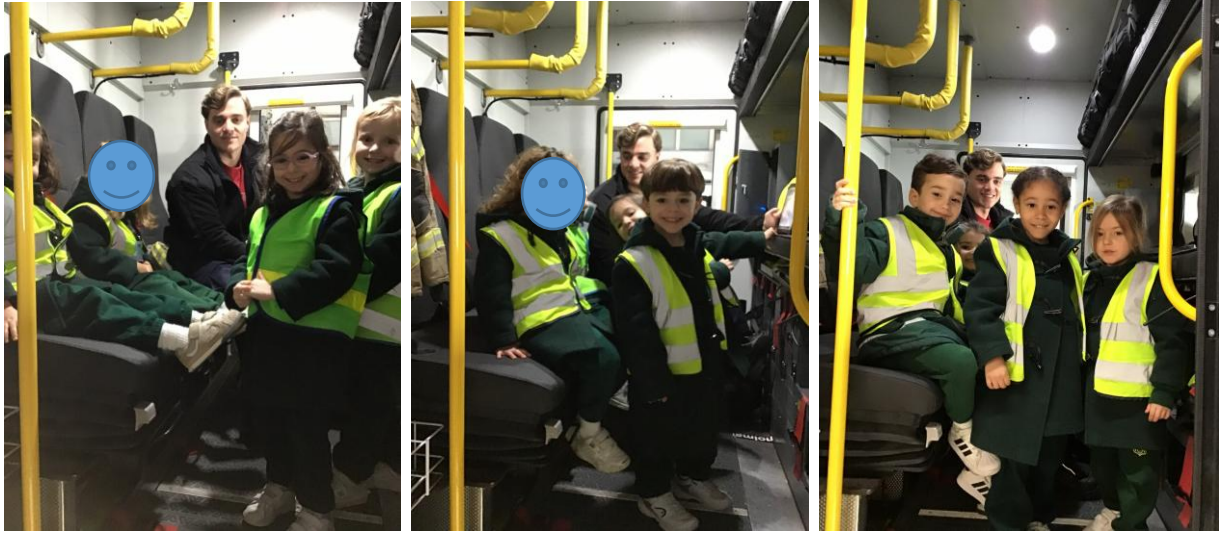
## Amazing Anderson Shelters by Year 6

What brilliant Design and Technologists our Year 6 children are, having planned and then created these brilliant Anderson shelters as part of their learning about WWII. They are now proudly displayed in the hall for the whole school to admire. Well done, Year 6!



# Reception at the Fire Station!

What an exciting day our Reception children had on Wednesday, when they went to Chelsea Fire Station to support their learning on their topic 'People Who Help Us'. Not only was this their first trip out of school, but one of the fire engines even had to leave the station for an emergency while they were there! Through all the excitement, Reception showed The Oratory Way from start to finish and thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. Well done to our very worthy class of the week!



# PTA Gala Breakfast!

Once again, our PTA Gala Breakfast was a superb success on Friday morning. With daffodil-adorned tables, big mugs of hot chocolate and a breakfast spread that would rival London's top hotels, the event was a huge hit and very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Enormous thanks (as ever!) to our wonderful PTA for the meticulous organisation behind the whole thing. The army of parents that set up, served and cleared made the whole event run seamlessly and these very special events for our school community wouldn't be possible with you.

THANK YOU ALL!



# Mind Parent Workshop



## MIND Parents Workshop Encouraging Positive Behaviours

We are happy to announce that we are organising a psychoeducational workshop for parents and carers which are going to be delivered by the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) from West Central London Mind.

The workshop topic will be Encouraging Positive Behaviours. It will be an opportunity to learn strategies around reinforcing positive and prosocial behaviours in children, including communication tools that can support emotional literacy. We will also cover tips to set boundaries effectively.

The workshop is going to take place online at the date and time shown below:

**Friday 06 February 2026, 9:10am to 10:00am**

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

[Microsoft Teams:](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

[Meeting ID: 319 405 863 067 6](#)

[Passcode: Ya2ds2z7](#)

West Central  
London



Charity No. 292708

# What's been going on in class this week?

## Year 6

What an action-packed STEM week it has been in Year 6! The children greatly enjoyed their STEM focus activities. In the classroom, the children have focused on:

**English:** Reading Focus: Retrieval, word meaning and inference questioning with focus on class text - When The Sky Falls by Phil Earle. Writing Focus: planning a formal complaint letter; drafting a formal complaint letter; editing and publishing a formal complaint letter.. Grammar & Punctuation Focus: semi-colons to join main clauses, semi-colons to separate long phrases in a list, colons in an explanation; colons to introduce a list.

**Maths:** Fractions, Decimals & Percentages: Decimal and fraction equivalents; fractions as division; understanding percentages. Arithmetic review.

**RE:** Exploring the Mass: To know what happens at the Consecration.

**Science:** STEM week workshop - understanding states of matter; Carrying out comparative testing to study surface tension.

**History:** To use sources to research and compare how rich and poor children lived during Victorian times.

**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

**Design & Technology:** Studying WWII Anderson shelters, designing, engineering and building own models of Anderson Shelters for display.

Year 6 were fantastic Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Mathematicians this week. Enjoy your weekend!

## Year 5

It is STEM week and Year 5 have been trying their hands at being engineers and scientists!

Here are a few things we did for our STEM Week:

**Marshmallow Tower Challenge:** Using only marshmallows and spaghetti, we raced to see who could make the tallest self-standing tower. Well done to our winners!

**Magic Milk Experiment:** We explored chemical reactions and surface tension by adding food colouring and washing-up liquid to milk. The children made predictions, observed patterns, and discussed the science behind the colourful reactions.

**Catapult Challenge:** Using lollipop sticks, plastic spoons, and elastic bands, we designed and built catapults. We tested distance and accuracy and refined our designs while learning about forces and energy.

This week we also learned:

In Maths, we have moved on to our second unit on Fractions. We have been multiplying unit and non-unit fractions and mixed numbers by integers, as well as finding fractions of an amount.

In English, as part of our study of Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo, we have written obituaries about the passing of Beowulf. We focused on using superlatives, idioms, and expanded noun phrases to support our creative writing.

In Geography, we continued learning about the layers of the Earth. We also explored how the Earth's crust is split into tectonic plates and learned about the Ring of Fire.

Have a lovely weekend, Miss Cornes and Miss Ffyon



# Year 4:

It's been a fantastic week in Y4 with all our STEM week activities - from Science workshops to 'Stop and Stem' challenges every day!

English: Writing character descriptions using possessive apostrophes; reviewing noun phrases and using inverted commas to punctuate speech; continuing to practice our comprehension skills while reading our class text, *Varjak Paw*.

Maths: Reviewing strategies for multiplying and dividing two and three digit numbers by one digit numbers

Science: We have been busy with all our exciting STEM activities: from building paper cup towers (without using our hands!) to constructing geodesic domes.

History: To identify features of the Maya lintels from the British Museum

RE: To know that Jesus called people to follow him; To know that Jesus travelled around teaching others and to reflect on his key teachings

French: To describe animals and pets

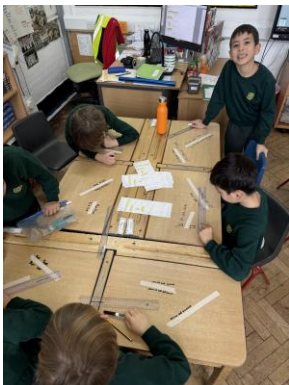


# Year 3:

Year 3 have had a super fun, STEM-filled week.

This week Year 3 have learnt:

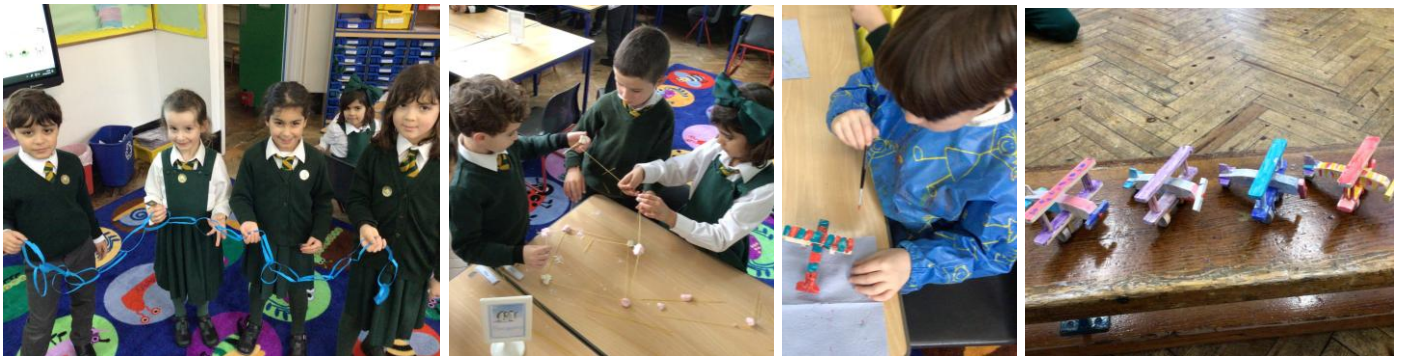
- In Maths, we have learnt how to measure length and height using m, cm and mm. We now know equivalent lengths.
- In English, we looked at how to use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech. We included speech sentences in our own chapter ending.
- In RE, we looked at what forgiven and reconciliation looks like and feels like. We reflected on these feelings and drew our own interpretations of forgiveness.
- In History, we explored cave paintings and how the Stone Age people created these incredible depictions of their lives. We took inspiration and created our own 'cave paint'.
- In PE, we learnt how to pass with purpose and shoot into a goal.
- In Science, we experimented with different objects to see how much light passes through them so that we could understand what objects were opaque, translucent and transparent.
- In French, we were able to use our knowledge of the masculine and feminine forms to describe who the members of our families are and what they're called.



# Year 2:

We have had a wonderful STEM week in Year 2! The children have been taking part in lots of fun activities, including making paper chains, building marshmallow and spaghetti towers and freeing dinosaurs from blocks of ice! We finished the week with a lovely trip to the Science Museum to visit the Flight Gallery and Pattern Pod. Here is what else we have been up to:

- In **English**, we wrote a letter home in the role of the polar bear in our story. We also used text to visualise part of the story.
- In **Maths**, we have started a new unit on 'Money'. We have been counting pounds and pence.
- In **RE**, we have continued to look at Jesus' life and how he helped so many people on his journey. We looked at the story of 'Jesus feeds 10,000 people'. We imagined we were the young boy who gave the bread and fish to Jesus and wrote about our experience.
- In **Science**, we continued to look at life cycles. We focused on the life cycle of a human.
- In **History**, we reflected on the development of flight and ordered important events on a timeline.
- In **DT**, we designed and built wooden planes.



# Year 1:

We have had a very exciting week celebrating STEM week, full of scientific experiments and projects. This is what we have been learning

**STEM week:** we conducted four experiments this week including the egg drop challenge, the skittles challenge, the rainbow paper challenge, and the longest paper chain challenge. The pupils had one piece of paper each and had to make the longest paper chain!

**English:** in English, the children used the pronoun "I" to describe how Iggy is feeling as well as acting out his emotions.

**Maths:** In Maths, we used numberlines to find one more and one less of a give number. We also practised how to write out numerals in words.

**Science:** In Science, we learnt about amphibians. We created fact files and learnt how to identify the difference between a frog and toad!

**PSHE:** In PSHE we have been learning about people who help us.

**Phonics:** In Phonics, we have been learning about the alternative spellings for the "ee" sound. The children sorted words into real and nonsense words and into their spelling groups.

**Religious Education:** In Religious Education the children have been learning about Jesus as a child. We thought about ways he may have helped his family and discussed ways we help at home too.

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 Team



## Reception:

Reception have had a wonderful and busy week of learning! We are very proud of them for showing the Oratory way on our school trip!

**Phonics:** This week, we have been revising reading and writing words with digraphs.

**Literacy:** the children have been writing sentences to describe the setting in the story.

**Maths:** this week, we have been focusing on counting and recognising number to 8.

**UTW:** The children have engaged in many science lessons this week as part of STEM week. They also enjoyed learning about light, dark and shadows.

**RE:** This week, we have been discussing the story of the Miracle at the Pool of Bethesda.

**EAD:** The children have been creating pieces of artwork to reflect their learning of shadows and the night.

**C&L:** This week, the children have enjoyed using their knowledge of hospitals to apply to the vets!



## 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
<b>Reception</b>	Giacomo	Otto
<b>Year 1</b>	Giulio	Ignacio
<b>Year 2</b>	On a trip!	
<b>Year 3</b>	Vega	Dominic
<b>Year 4</b>	Athena	Attila
<b>Year 5</b>	Leo Mattia	Sophia
<b>Year 6</b>	Raphael	Max W
<b>Special Act of Kindness</b>	Raphael (Y6)	

<b>House of the Week</b>	<b>Class of the Week</b>
<b>Green House</b>	<b>Reception</b> (For doing so well on their first trip!)