

Hello and welcome to the first Parallel Rhythms newsletter.

Here's a brief round-up of the first term of activity as we look forward to 2024 with new activities and more input from the creative team.

## Project Launch at Hepworth Gallery

Artists Fabric Lenny and Nicolas Lewis from The Colour Foundry led a day of Art activities and Music making at Hepworth Gallery to launch the Parallel Rhythms project. The day was attended by two teachers from each school and was a fabulous way of setting the creative and exploratory tone of the project. The project evaluator, Dr Annie Raw shared her approach to capturing the *story* of project and introduced the use of voice notes as a tool to capture reflections speedily and effectively.

All the teachers were gifted a *Box of Delights*, a collection of creative materials and prompts to encourage creative play and development.



Prepping for movement exploration



Mark-making explorations at the Hepworth Learning Space

*'The training day yesterday was fantastic. A very rare opportunity to take time away from school to think with clarity and be able to explore and engage in creatively. I found it extremely inspiring and am very excited by the project.'*

## In class workshops

Through-out the Autumn Term the artists have delivered Art and Music workshops in four schools: Castle Hill, South Crosland, Fairfield and Roberttown. The creative journey for each has been distinct and has been influenced by the focus selected by the individual teachers. Some teachers have had very clear ideas of a specific area for exploration and others have taken a broad stroke approach to get a sense of what the artists can offer, both are totally valid and have opened the door for creative learning for teachers alongside their pupils/students. Areas of exploration so far have included the use of various Apps to create artworks and music, lyric writing, singing, creation of mixed - media artworks, music improvisation, the creation of physical environments and live animation projection.



Pupil Artwork at Roberttown School

*"I feel more happy to do some art now, I've always shied away from it before."*

Staff INSET and twilight sessions have also taken place at Castle Hill and Roberttown Schools, these sessions have enabled learning and experiences to be disseminated across whole staff teams so the impact of the project can be deepened.



Twilight session at Roberttown School

*"It was the first time where I was an environment in which it was all about drawing and seeing what comes, there was nothing wrong or right, it was about doing and the process and not the finished product."*

## Creative Gathering - A chance to create and reflect together

One of the most exciting things about this project is that it is focussed on *teacher development*, and that the teachers are the ones that are making the decisions in terms of the direction of travel and their own creative development - it is something that all of us working on the project keep having to remind ourselves about! It is all too easy to slip into the 'artist in schools' model and to focus on what the children would most enjoy!

Our end of term *Creative Gathering* was a great way to remind ourselves of our teacher focus. Our two-hour get together, in the art space at the top of the Byram Arcade, Huddersfield, enabled us to experience new drawing activities, write and sing a micro-song, eat some delicious food and reflect on the experiences from the first term of working together.

**Next up** - We are delighted to welcome Lucy and Sophie from Headlands C of E Primary, Liversedge to join the project and are very much looking forward to returning to Castle Hill School for further workshops, as well as kick starting the workshops at Berry Brow Infant School.