

# Owl Post

March 2024



## Full STEAM ahead!

As part of National Careers Week, the school focused curriculum delivery on the exciting opportunities STEAM subjects bring to future careers and prospects.

This all started with an exciting assembly on the Monday by Miss Khan and Miss Marchi on what STEAM is and how it can support us in our futures. Over the week, the children then worked in their 'community classrooms' to experience a different subject each day with different teachers.

They explored a range of hands on practical activities from colour mixing in Art to making slime in Science to building stable structures in Design Technology to making mini films in Computing. On the Friday, all classes experienced a Maths focused morning exploring the concept of

'economic wellbeing' which saw children completing budget setting, and practical money centred maths problems.

The Friday morning culminated in a STEAM showcase where families shared their STEAM related industries with the children and inspired them to want to know more about STEAM subjects. The Kingsway School also shared experiences of these subjects at KS3 and KS4 as former pupils showcased their achievements. In total, the week was a huge success and has certainly paved way for future STEAM enthusiasts to join these careers and industries in the future.



## Welcome

### Dear Families

Although it has been a relatively short term, we have managed to achieve so much together!

Our staff team continue to work in the most creative of ways to provide wonderful experiences and opportunities for the children in order to bring the curriculum to life. This term has seen us provide a 'Kick Start to Forest School' as Mrs Knighton returned to work with us to support this provision within our curriculum. We have seen many wonderful trips take place including our Year 6 children taking a 'Walking Tour' of the hidden sights in Manchester, our Year 2 children visiting the Gauntlet Birds of Prey Sanctuary to support their understanding of the question: 'Does the animal kingdom have a ruler?' and

Year 4 visiting the Manchester Museum to consolidate their knowledge of Ancient Egypt. We have also had an author visit from Sara Khan to share her celebration and festivals text 'Ramadan and Eid al-fitr' and we have worked with Mrs Buchanan to create some beautiful art work to represent the 6Cs of our classroom areas following our whole school homework on this. All of this is on top of the wonderful opportunities our staff provide through a vast range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. A huge thank you to the staff for providing this ambition in our curriculum for the children.

All of these wonderful opportunities are not possible without the continued support from our families. This was particularly evident in our STEAM event where families shared and showcased their STEAM careers and

inspired the children. We thank all our families for their unwavering support for the school in every way, from supporting and attending PTA events to ensuring that the children are ready to learn by arriving to school every day wearing their uniform with pride. The school recently gained an exceptional attendance award for being in the top 25% of schools nationally for attendance in the Autumn Term and we really do see this award as a recognition of the strong partnership between home and school.

Of course there is much to celebrate for our children and their achievements. We hope you have enjoyed seeing the children's work over this term and celebrating their success across all subject areas.

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## Welcome...

For Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 this term this was showcased beautifully in their productions, as the knowledge they gained across the children was brought to life through drama. Sporting achievements have been significant this term as our children have participated in many competitions including winning The Kingsway Inter-schools Lacrosse

Tournament and successfully gaining a place in the Greater Manchester Dodgeball finals - well done children! All of these wonderful achievements take place whilst our children continue to achieve highly across English and Maths and, once again, our children's outcomes have been recognised as being in the top 10% of schools nationally!

After all of these achievements this term, everybody really does deserve a lovely rest and a break over the coming weeks and we look forward to seeing you on Monday, 15 April!

**Mrs Norman**, Headteacher

## Year Groups

### Nursery

## How do things change?

### What a busy spring term we have had!

It has been lovely to see the children's independence grow and develop as they have enjoyed exploring our learning environment. From learning our new phonetic sounds and their formation and applying them when retelling the Supertato story, to learning about why coins exist and where we might use them, the children have really excelled!

The children have also enjoyed their life skill sessions in the forest including an Easter egg hunt along with some very delicious baking when we looked at how things change. We are very much looking forward to more exciting learning after the Spring break!



### Reception

## What can we discover about the world around us?

We have loved watching the children blossom as the Spring Term has progressed and we considered our new overarching question 'What can we discover about the world around us?'

We have enjoyed making observations as our caterpillars have turned into chrysalis and are looking forward to returning in the summer term to set them free as butterflies! The children have blown us away with their ability to articulate the life cycle of a butterfly.



We have also been exploring different places and celebrations in the world recently, beginning the term by looking at the rituals of Chinese New Year and then going on to 'discover' the continent of Africa. Our African Drumming Workshop was enjoyed by all - the children have such a fantastic rhythm!

This term, we have explored how living things change - learning about different spring plants as part of our



Science learning, naming the basic structures and investigating what helps them to grow. Linking this to our knowledge of the past, we were able to discuss how things in our environment change over time.

We are beyond proud of all that the children have achieved and cannot wait to see them shine in the Summer Term!

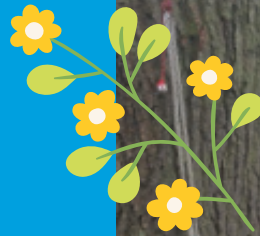
Year 1

# What is there to explore across the Atlantic?

We began the term by reflecting back on our learning from Autumn Term. We then began Geography, learning the 7 continents in the world and where these were located. We then looked closer at North America in particular, as it is across the Atlantic Ocean.

Focusing on North America, we looked at the history of Mayan art and how it is special to their culture. A significant figure we looked at was Rosa Parks when we delved into the impact she had on society. Consolidating all of our learning from Autumn Term and Spring 1, we designed an OUTSTANDING production. We were so proud of the commitment shown by all of our children, as well as their dedication and enthusiasm when performing in front of a live audience. If you came to watch, we are sure you all agree that this was a huge success!

Throughout the term there has been a lot of exciting enrichment opportunities which have included swimming and Forest School! The children have showcased their wonderful life skills in these sessions, showing how mature and responsible they are. The children even took part in the creative STEAM week where we had the chance to work with Year 4 children and had the opportunity to learn about an array of jobs from parents and visitors.



Year 2

# What makes an effective ruler?

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed a busy Spring Term! We have been looking at the question 'What makes an effective ruler?', from studying Kings and Queens of the past, to looking at being a leader of change ourselves. We have reflected on what makes a good and powerful leader.

Linking to this, we have also studied rulers in the animal kingdom through learning about food chains. We had so much fun on our school trip to Gauntlet Birds of Prey to explore this learning in real life!

We are so proud of what the children have achieved so far and cannot wait for the Summer Term!



Year 3

# What's under the umbrella?

We have had a wonderful second term in Year 3 exploring our learning question 'What's under the umbrella?'

We began our journey through the rainforest by exploring the life cycle of a plant before considering how plants may adapt to the conditions of the rainforest. We then looked at skeletons and identified the types of animals that we might find in the rainforest and how their skeletons make them suited to their habitat. Next, we travelled back in time to the Mayas and learnt about how they capitalised upon the natural resources of the rainforest.

The children consolidated their knowledge by writing their own script for the Year 3 Production. The children were absolutely amazing and we could not have been prouder of them throughout the entire creative process.

Next, we dived deeper into the rainforest environment to analyse the water cycle from evaporation to precipitation. We then used our knowledge of levers and linkages to create a working model of the water cycle. Following this, we moved to an abstract appreciation of the rainforest exploring Henri



Rousseau's artwork. The children created some beautiful pieces of art including a background, mid-ground and foreground.

Overall, we have been so proud of the children this term. Each and every one of them has had shone with such a mature and dedicated attitude to school life. We ended the term with our Global Citizenship Sponsored Walk where we raised a fantastic amount of money thanks to the generosity of families and we are so excited to adopt our animals!

Year 4

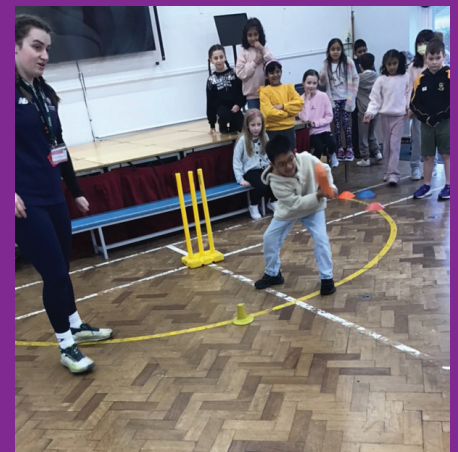
# How has Technology affected our lives?

We began the term by reflecting back on our learning from Autumn and visiting the Manchester Museum in the first week of the new term. We had a wonderful time and continued to develop our understanding of Ancient Egypt, studying the materials and artifacts that are on display in the Egyptology Collection.

We then continued to showcase our learning during the rehearsals and performance of our class production and, if you were able to watch, I'm sure you'd agree that it was a huge success! For the remainder of Spring Term, we have learned all about the Industrial Revolution and the positive



and negative impacts that this brought to Manchester, as well as on a national scale. We then thought about light and sound and how they travel and used this to design and build our very own torches! We finished the term by looking at artwork inspired by the Manchester Bee and used a range of different materials to inspire us create our own images.



Throughout the term we have had many other wonderful experiences: we have enjoyed swimming sessions- both at school and at The Forum - and we enjoyed a visit from Lancashire Cricket Club who taught the children some great new cricketing skills. We enjoyed a Forest School session with Mrs Knighton and a brilliant week for us all was our STEAM week, where children visited other teachers and other classrooms to enjoy an array of amazing lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths!



Year 5

# How has diversity influenced our society?

**This term has introduced Year 5 to an understanding of how society has changed over time, with a particular focus upon the experiences of the Windrush Generation and how they have influenced society today.**

Through the lenses of History and Art, we have explored how Black History and Black Culture is celebrated in the UK, studying the artist Sonia Boyce and demonstrating a true creative flair when producing a 'carnival themed' collage.

In Geography, we considered the global significance of Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, using physical geography and locational knowledge to understand where Jamaica is in relation to the equator by drawing upon our understanding of lines of longitude and latitude.

This led to the children comparing Jamaica to the UK, considering how Jamaica's climate zone can support trade and their economy. In Science, we conducted our own experiment to measure the forces acting upon a moving object. We demonstrated our disciplinary knowledge when considering the different variables for our experiment, to ensure our findings were valid and reliable.



Year 6



# Has Manchester made an impression on the World?'

**This term, Year 6 have really enjoyed developing their knowledge of our local area and have gained an appreciation for the cultural and historical significance of Manchester.**

We have enjoyed learning about how Manchester shaped the democracy of the UK through exploration of the Peterloo Massacre and Emmeline Pankhurst. In Music, we compared the music of Manchester icons Oasis and Take That. Additionally, we developed our techniques in Art inspired by the portraits of Stanley Chow and Baiba Auria and the landscapes of Simone

Ridyard - all Mancunian artists. In Geography, we also learned all about how land use patterns have changed over time in Greater Manchester.

Our walking tour of Manchester city centre was a highlight for all of Year 6, where they were immersed in the history and culture they had learned so much about in the classroom!

