

# Fort Royal Journal

Play. Learn. Laugh. Succeed.

No. 142 February 2024



## Children's Mental Health Week

The children have had opportunities to dance and move, explore feelings and talk about them linked to our Zones of Regulation, have pamper sessions and dress up Friday. On Tuesday it was Safer Internet Day and the children learnt about safety whilst using technology and who to go to if they are worried.




## Letter from the Head

This has been a short half term and seems to have flown by. Highlights have included appointing Julie Elms as our new family support worker, who will start after the holidays. Julie has worked in the school in other roles for many years and has also been the local coordinator for Malvern Special families, so some of you may know her already. She will soon be inviting parents to a coffee morning, which will include a show case of our sensory lending library. The Friends' Valentine's disco last Friday was a great success and was very well attended, many thanks to those parents who organised this. Collar and Tie [C&T \(candt.org\)](http://C&T(candt.org)) who worked with us on a lottery funded project to develop technology in the classroom have returned to work with us again this term. They have been supporting a small group of our pupils preparing for a digitally enhanced performance on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. The eco council have been meeting and this term they participated in the Great Big Bird watch. This week pupils and staff have been celebrating mental health week and safer internet day. We have been telling the pupils that if they see anything that worries them on the internet, they should **STOP, CLOSE** the device and **TELL** an adult. Next half term the parents evening is on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter Church service is at 1.30 on 21<sup>st</sup> March, where parents of pupils in Lower KS2 are invited (details of these events are to follow). As you know we are having a greater focus on school attendance, this has been identified as a priority by the government for all schools. I would like to thank parents for your attention to this as our average attendance has risen by 1% to 90%. We still have some work to do, however, as before covid our average was 93% and we have been set a target to get it up to 94% by the end of the school year. *Ed Francis*




## Friends of Fort Royal

A short one from us this half term...

It was great to see so many at the Valentine's disco last Friday!  The new DJ played some terrific tunes and we loved seeing happy faces and all the moves! We raised £80 profit so thank you to everyone who supported it.

It's been Children's Mental Health Week and as part of 'my voice matters' we have purchased bubbles and hand lotion for classes to be used during sensory play, encouraging expression and enjoyment.

We are in search of super Spring Raffle prizes, if you have anything please let us know either on our Facebook 'Friends of Fort Royal' page or e-mail [friendsoffr@fortroyal.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:friendsoffr@fortroyal.worcs.sch.uk)

Our next meeting is Monday 19th February at 7.30pm online  . More details nearer the time 

Annie and Kate x

## Governors' Corner

There's been plenty of Governor activity this half term with visits to school and our scheduled meetings which has resulted in a number of investment decisions including some in IT which will help our children and staff alike and the current work which is underway to rebuild the balconies of some of our classrooms to ensure we have safe space for children when needed. This is something we have been waiting to get done and I am really pleased that this is now well underway, and we hope will be completed just after Easter. We have recently received this year's training programme from Worcestershire County Council and a number of the governors including me will be attending various courses over the coming months to make sure we are up to date with our responsibilities. As always if any parents would like to have a chat about joining the Governing Body, I would be happy to have a conversation and you can contact me via the school office team. **Emma Evans Chair of Governors, Fort Royal School**



## Early Years - Reception

### Transport

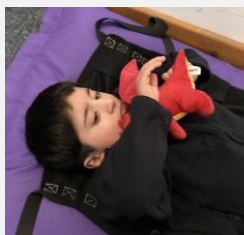
During our topic of 'Transport' the children have enjoyed sharing a range of 'That's Not My...' transport books, The Train Ride and a sensory transport story. The children have taken part in mark making activities, making tracks and creating collages linked to different vehicles. In communication and language, they have been responding to adult interaction during activities and single words when finding the correct vehicle from a choice. In maths they have enjoyed exploring big and small vehicles as well as counting cars. The children have also explored cars with ramps and washing vehicles.



## Key Stage 1

### Through The Keyhole

In Literacy the children have been looking at the story 'Dragon on the doorstep' by Stella Blackstone. They have been exploring the characters and settings as well as the language to retell the story. In Maths they have been solving problems involving addition and subtraction and exploring money. The children have enjoyed taking turns being a shopkeeper! In Knowledge and Understanding of the World they have been focussing on geographical vocabulary and houses and homes from the past and present as well as different types of houses. The children have enjoyed walking around the local area looking for landmarks such as the church. In Expressive Arts the children have been designing the inside of houses using a range of materials. In PSHECC they have been learning about adults who help us and keep us safe around school and at home.



## Lower Key Stage 2

### Frozen planet

In Literacy the children explored the text 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. Our focus was stories with dilemmas, and the children learnt about settings around the world and how to solve real life problems. In Maths they focused on number alongside statistics and data. The children played lots of fun matching games as well as sorting by different criteria. In Expressive Arts the children explored the work of Edward Wilson and Claude Monet. This involved painting skills, experimenting with colour and creating pieces of art based on the works of the artists. In Knowledge, Skills and Understanding of the World the children have investigated the Polar Circles including the physical geography and climate. The pupils enjoyed exploring ice through sensory play as well as sorting hot and cold and building igloos.

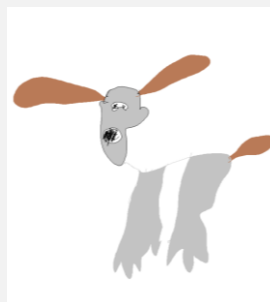


## Upper Key Stage 2



### Rise of the Robots

Within this topic the children have enjoyed learning about the inventors of the telephone, lightbulb, and the electric car. They have also explored electricity and the children made simple circuits. The topic was linked to our key text Wallace and Gromit: A Grand Day Out much to the pupils' delight! The children focused on film narrative and rewriting their own version of the story. They have had great fun exploring the props, making rockets and having a picnic on the moon! In maths the children continued to develop their number skills through songs, games, challenges and written tasks and they also explored time.





## Other News

### Fire Engine

Early Years were very lucky to have a visit from the fire service with their fire engine. This supported their transport topic. The children had the opportunity to dress up and use the fire hose as well as look around the fire engine. As you can see from the photos, they absolutely loved it.

A huge THANK YOU to our local fire service!

