

# Fort Royal Journal

Play. Learn. Laugh. Succeed.

No. 144 March 2024



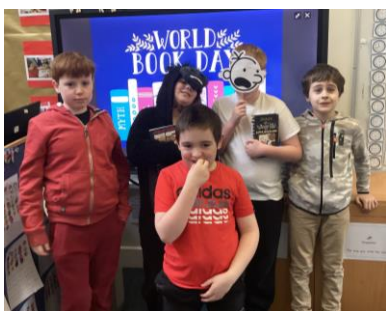
## Red Nose Day

The children had lots of fun wearing red, having discos, making biscuits and decorating school while raising £180.00!

## World Book Day

This half term we celebrated World Book Day. The children enjoyed lots of different activities throughout the day including drawing their favourite characters, exploring props linked to their chosen story and making rainbow coloured rice.

Some of the children in UKS2 also visited KS1 classes to share a story with them. There were some fantastic costumes, very bright and colourful!



## Letter from the Head

Please see other news on the last page

## Friends of Fort Royal

A huge thank you to everyone who helped source prizes for our Spring Raffle this year! We had an incredible array - hopefully something for everyone. The box was generously filled in the school staff room, Beth from the office was busy chasing up prizes and parents offered more than ever before. Amanda Finch contacted so many local businesses and just kept going until they offered prizes! Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. After platform fees, we raised an amazing £562 🥳 We loved all the egg outline decorations we had in from classes. Our new Family Support Worker, Julie Elms had a tough job judging! Photos are on the Friends of Fort Royal social media which also has lots of Easter holiday activity ideas:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/uH3jVJ4UkMudRvkX/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

New Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/friends.of.fortroyal.school?igsh=dXBnMzNvZGE5NGw2>

If you're having a clear out over the holiday, please save up any unwanted clothes for our next Bag2school in April. Any used ink cartridges can also earn us money by sending them in to the box located under the window of the school office. Thank you for your ongoing support, we hope you all have a good break 😊📱 Annie and Kate x

## Governors' Corner

My name is Natalie Ludlow, I currently work within Local Government, I have two young sons Daniel aged 5 and Luke aged 9. I applied to be a School Governor in October 2021 when both the school and local authority were actively seeking and recruiting school governors. At that time my youngest son Daniel had not long started placement in the Fort Royal Nursery and was in the process of obtaining a diagnosis and EHCP. I had little awareness, understanding or knowledge of SEND education until Daniel was coming up to around 2 years old, this was a 'new world to me' and I could not thank Fort Royal enough for the support they had given me and my family in the short time Daniel had been attending the nursery. I decided to help the school and community in any way I could whilst at the same time learning about SEND and Special needs education, so I applied to be a Governor! Being a governor is a good way to volunteer the skills I've developed working in local government and human resources to benefit the governing body and school. Since being appointed as a school governor I've had the opportunity to attend meetings, discuss issues and help at parents' evenings. One of the best things about being a governor is having the privilege of being able to meet the children and spend time in school, most recently attending a Governor Planning Day meeting, when I had the opportunity to spend time in class, see a school council meeting in action and attend a school assembly (which was the highlight of the day!) The children are fantastic and the school is truly a wonderful place. The governing team and senior leadership team within school are an amazing team to be part of and truly have the children at the heart of all they do.

I would encourage anyone thinking of becoming a governor to 'Go for it!' It is a great opportunity to make a big difference. I look forward to meeting more of you around school, best wishes Nat.

If you would like to find out more about being a Parent Governor, please contact me through the school office or Mr Francis and we will happily arrange a time to have a discussion. In the meantime, I hope you all have a lovely break during the holidays. Emma Evans Chair of Governors, Fort Royal School

## Early Years - Reception

### Animals

In EYFS this half term the children had lots of fun learning about wild animals and dinosaurs. The children went on a Lion hunt as part of literacy. The most enjoyable part was exploring the swamp! The children explored big and small animals and counted dinosaurs in maths. In communication and language they listened to animal sounds and songs, selected named animals and made animal sounds. The children explored lots of different media including crushing Weetabix with stomping animals and dinosaurs. They also did mark making with animals in paint and made playdough dinosaurs.



## Key Stage 1

### 'How does your garden grow?'

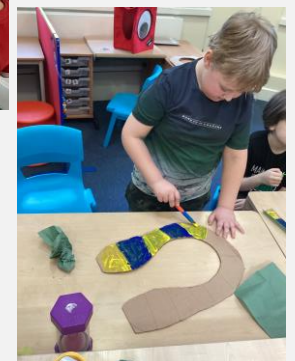
The children have been learning about plants and flowers and what they need to grow. They explored healthy eating, making a range of healthy food and then celebrating their learning through a healthy picnic for the Key Stage theme outcome. Through Expressive Arts, the children have been studying work by Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Orla Kiely, using fruit and vegetables as painting tools. In Literacy, the children have studied the story 'The Enormous Turnip'. They learnt to listen and follow instructions and write instructions through mark making. In Maths, the children explored fractions through sharing and weight by comparing different vegetables. In PSHECC, the children focused on learning about relationships and working as a team.



## Lower Key Stage 2

### Pharaohs and Pyramids

In Literacy the children explored the text 'Temple Cat'. The children discussed the characters behaviour and feelings throughout the story. In writing, they created fact files about Pyramids and Pharaohs. In Maths the children focused on number and shape. They played shape bingo, solved puzzles using 3D shapes and created their own Pyramids using shapes. In Expressive Arts the children made a variety of Ancient Egyptian artefacts including canopic jars, pharaoh masks and jewellery. They moulded clay to make bugs and used clay to scribe messages just like Ancient Egyptians. In Knowledge, Skills and Understanding of the World the children explored pyramids and Pharaohs as well as investigating the lives of ancient Egyptians. The children wrote Hieroglyphics and explored what food they ate with tasting sessions.



## Upper Key Stage 2

### Topic Title: 'Hakuna Matata'

In literacy this half term the children have learnt about the book 'The Hunter' by Paul Geraghty. They have been writing their own newspaper reports and have been exploring stories from different cultures. In maths the focus has been place value and measure. The children have been exploring a range of lengths and have been measuring items around the classroom! Within topic the children have explored African art and have created woven patterns, sunset silhouettes, made African jewellery and even created their own African maps. They have found out lots about Africa and have explored human and physical features of an African settlement.



## Other News

Dear parents and carers,

Yet another term has sped by. A real highlight this term has been our second major collaboration with the C&T (computer and theatre) company [C&T \(candt.org\)](http://candt.org) to develop interactive digital resources to support our pupils learning and creativity. Follow this link to see the outcome from this project <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/uvDHLxtenXi2T2NJ>

I hope you managed to read the letter our governors wrote to the WCC cabinet ahead of their meeting next week to express their concerns about how over prescribed the school is. I am so pleased that at least our class sizes will now begin to reduce to enable us to provide more individualised support and calmer spaces in school. It is unfortunate that this will also mean that more children will not get the place they need in our school in the future. We sincerely hope that a way can be found to develop more specialist provision in our area.

We are already looking forward to the summer and I hope to see many of you at the various events coming up, such as sports days. *Ed Francis*