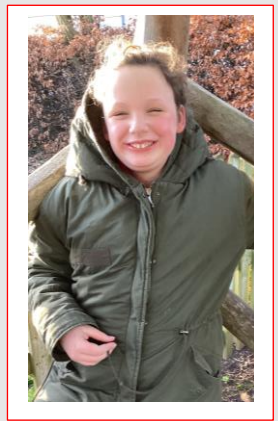
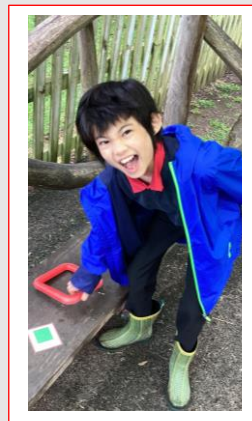
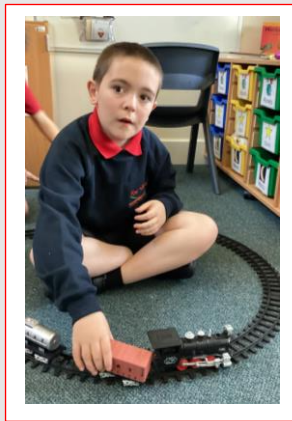


# Fort Royal Journal

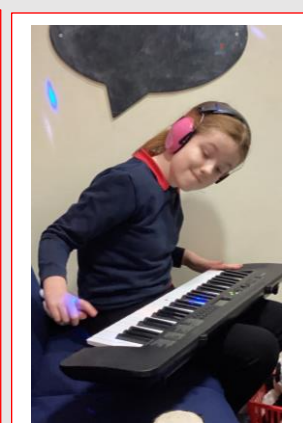
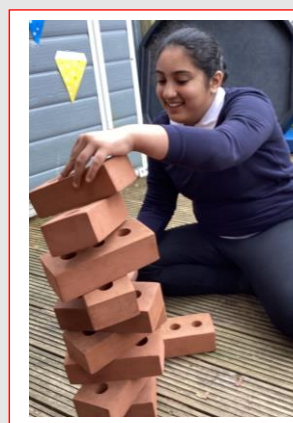
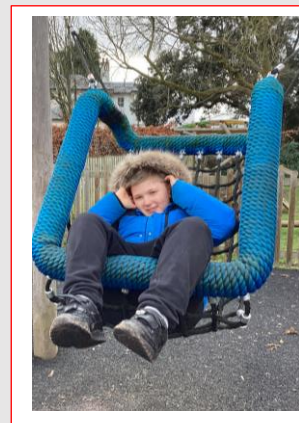
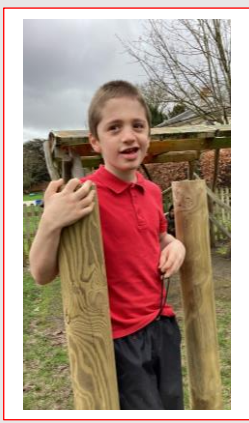
Play. Learn. Laugh. Succeed.

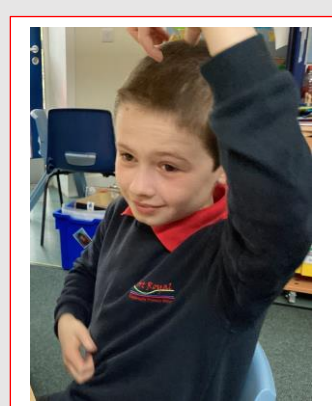
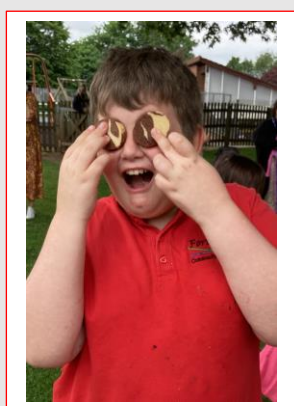
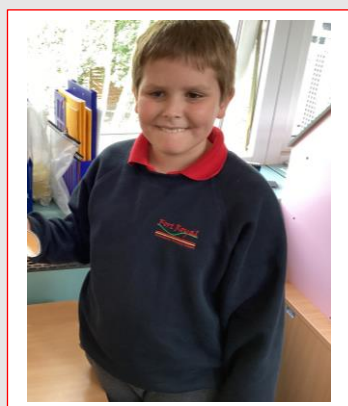
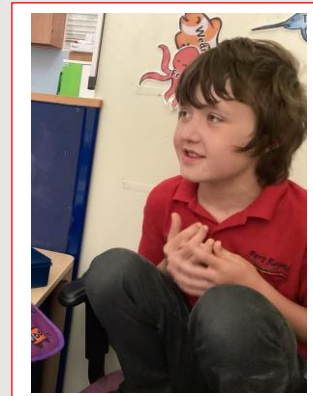
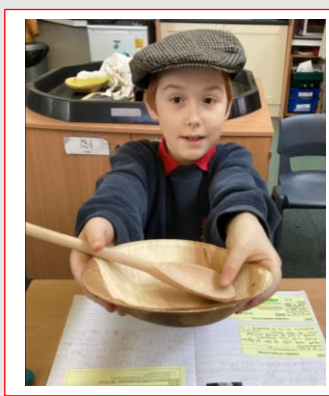
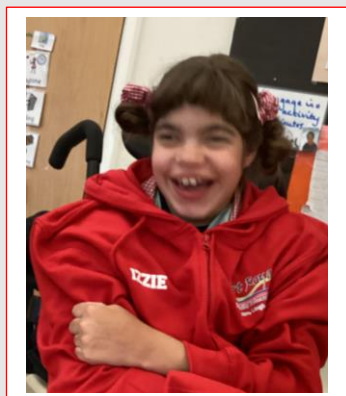
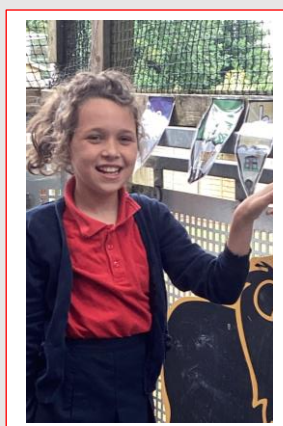
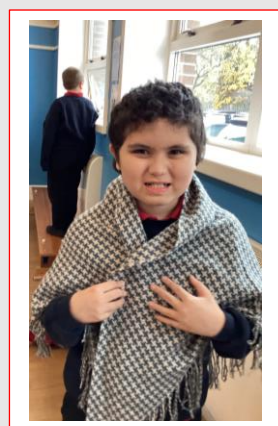
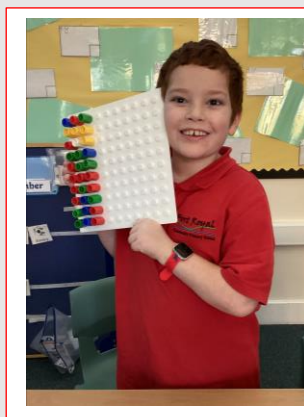
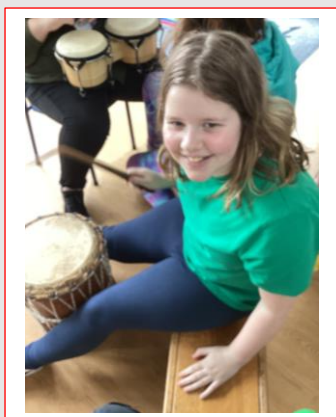
No. 146 July 2024



## YEAR 6 LEAVERS

Everyone at Fort Royal wishes you well for the next stage of your journey





## Letter from the Head

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the meet the new teacher evening. When I see the pupils moving up and as I write my comments on the reports it makes me feel so proud of their achievements. They have all made great progress from their relative starting points and I have been so pleased to see such maturity, tolerance and independence develop in so many of them. This also makes me feel proud and thankful of the staff who work so hard and with such dedication in less-than-ideal conditions. I also appreciate the close partnership we have been able to form with parents to ensure we are all pulling in the same direction so our children's progress is maximized. After repeated appeals WCC have now finally agreed that the numbers in school are too many and we have agreed to gradually reduce class sizes by limiting new entrants. Unfortunately, this means we are turning away many children who really need a specialist setting and I am continuing to urge the Authority to build more local capacity. Our lobbying will continue next year and also with the new government who have made some encouraging statements. I would finally like to express my gratitude and appreciation for our AHT Sue Richards, who is retiring. Sue has made an outstanding contribution to the school since it was formed. Her expertise is so vast and valuable that we have needed to distribute her responsibilities widely amongst several of her colleagues and invest in more training to fill some skills gaps. After an initial well-deserved break, we hope Sue will return to the school to support us in some informal capacity in the future. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday, the children's first day back in school is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. *Ed Francis*

## Friends of Fort Royal

PLEASE SEE OTHER NEWS

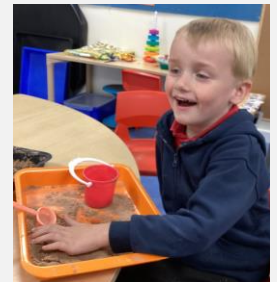
## Governors' Corner

This last half term has flown by and we had our last meeting of the academic year on Monday 1st July where we discussed the progress against the school plan, hearing about the things that matter to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children. Along with our busy agenda we also said farewell and celebrated the huge contribution Rob Ewels has made to the school during his time as Parent Governor and Chair of the Curriculum Committee. Rob has been such an active member of the Governing Body and been vital in our work to raise the profile of the issues we need the local authority to address in terms of capacity and funding. We also took the opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Sue Richards who has been such a vital part of the senior leadership team and has shared her wealth of knowledge with the governing body over the years so that we have been able to develop our various areas of responsibility and better serve the school. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer holidays and we look forward to sharing more of our work next year. Best wishes Emma

## Early Years - Reception

### At the Seaside

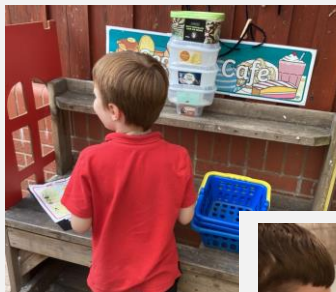
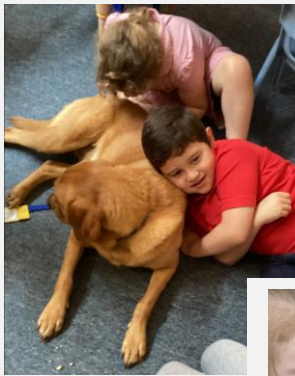
The children have had a great time exploring all things related to the seaside through stories, art and craft and messy play. In maths the children counted fish, matched shapes through puzzles and toy picnic foods, and explored big and small buckets and spades. The children explored what different objects can do in water, moving water and explored wet and dry sand. They really enjoyed making ice creams with sand and magic foam as well as role play in the Seaside Café and Ice Cream Parlour.



## Key Stage 1

### Splish, Splash, Splish!

In Literacy, our focus has been Julia Donaldson's story, *Sharing A Shell*. The children have worked on listening and responding to the story through answering questions, sequencing the story, and writing a story with a different character/setting. In Maths, the children have explored counting, addition and subtraction and geometry through position and direction. In Knowledge and Understanding of the World, they explored features of a familiar area and properties of materials through floating and sinking. The children particularly enjoyed water play in the hot weather! In Expressive Arts, they developed art techniques and studied famous artists. In Music, the children used vocalisations through song, chants and rhymes. In PSHECC the children have enjoyed exploring living things by watering the plants in Planters Patch and had visits from Scrumpy the dog.



## Lower Key Stage 2

### From Source To Sea

In Literacy the pupils have been exploring the story 'The River: an epic Journey to the Sea' by Hanako Clulow, focusing on adventure stories. We have also looked at newspapers and produced our own class newspaper reports. In Maths the children learnt about place value and capacity. They have continued to develop their number skills through songs, games, challenges and written tasks. In Expressive Arts the children explored and recreated the work of Barbara Hepworth and Andy Goldsworthy using natural materials to create artwork and sculptures. The children explored and investigated a coastal region and the journey of a river from its source to the sea in Knowledge, Skills and Understanding of the World .



## Upper Key Stage 2

### Grand Designs

Upper key stage 2 have been reading "The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig" this half term. The children enjoyed exploring the differences to a familiar text, they role played the story, developed understanding of the characters and settings through descriptions, and asked and answered questions. They also made their own version of the story. In topic lessons the children were busy sketching and designing houses to build and evaluate while researching architects of familiar buildings. They looked at different types of materials that might be helpful to use to build houses and explored the properties of these materials.

Our Year 6 pupils have also been busy with their transition days and getting ready for high school. We wish them all the best for their new schools!



## Other News

As my last news entry (I'm still in denial that I even have a child in year 6 already...if no one's told you yet, the time goes so fast! 😊) I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to **Wendy Leese** who has supported me as secretary and **Kerry Hughes** as treasurer over the past few years. Also, everyone else who has been on the Friends over the past 7 years - I really couldn't have done it without you! I'm so happy to be leaving you with the capable new Chair Kate Bishop and terrific Treasurer Lee Rogers. Please continue to support as much as you can as many hands really do make light work and we have the best interests of your children at heart. Please give us a social media follow to stay up to date or use our e-mail: [friendsoffr@fortroyal.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:friendsoffr@fortroyal.worcs.sch.uk)

Please also check out our section on the school website: <https://www.fortroyal.co.uk/friends-of-fort-royal/> where there are links to add **easyfundraising** and also chance to sign up to **Worcester Community Lottery** which gives you the chance of winning big prizes for an amount you set each month and we get 50% back - so it really helps! If you would like to borrow from the **sensory library**: <https://www.fortroyal.co.uk/sensory-library/> we help to keep lots of lovely equipment available so please do use it.

The next **Bags2school** collection is booked for 25th September so please keep the clothes you clear out over the summer. Any good, preloved uniform is gladly taken at school and is available for anyone who would like 📖📚 It was great to see everyone at **the sports afternoons** under the great gazebo loaned to us from **Kings School Worcester**. Thank you to parents and staff who donated cakes and treats 🍰🍪 and both **Malvern and Droitwich Morrisons, Tesco Warndon and Waitrose Worcester** made generous edible donations. We made £250 from these events and £150 from the recent summer disco. The new DJ, Callum White from **White's Electrical, CCTV and Home Security**, did it for free for us 😊

It was great to see children in sports wear supporting our 'Get Your Sport On' day on Friday 15th June where we raised £150 and the children had lots of fun. Thank you to **Julie Elms FSW and Natalie Sheldon** who helped with the organising 🏀. The new **Soccer Aid** event at Droitwich Rugby Club went well! We were working with **Snoezelen and Droitwich Lions**. Watch this space for an update on how much we all raised. Thank you to **Droitwich Lions** who continually donate and support us. It will be sad to see our Year 6s go but they do so in style with their **Leavers Hoodies** ❤️ half of the cost was contributed by Friends of Fort Royal. Don't forget there is a **Family Fun Day** with SEN focus on **Sunday 18th August** at St George's Park Kidderminster. I hope to see lots of you around in the future 🤝. Thank you all, Annie Bird x

We would like to say a big thank you to Annie for all her hard work as Chair for Friends of Fort Royal.



Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (HWHCT)

We provide a Special School Nursing service within Worcestershire Special Schools.

We operate an all-year-round service between the hours of 09.00 – 17.00hrs excluding Bank Holidays.

Special School Nursing is not an emergency service. If your child is ill, please contact your GP or 111.

The Special school nursing team can be contacted via email on [whcnhs.ssn@nhs.net](mailto:whcnhs.ssn@nhs.net) or by telephoning 01527 488446.

There is not always someone to answer the phone so a message can be left; we review messages daily when on duty and will respond appropriately.

## Other News

### Sue Richards Interview

Some members of the School Council met to discuss some questions to ask Sue Richards regarding her upcoming retirement. The children had enjoyed interviewing her and had some great answers to their questions.

**How old are you?** 58

**What is your favourite thing about Fort Royal?** All the children

**What is your favourite school dinner?** Broccoli and tomato tart

**What will you miss about school?** The children and staff

**What are you going to do when you leave?** I will be looking after my Grandson on a Monday and doing lots of tidying and decorating as my husband and I are hoping to downsize.

**Have you got any hobbies to do?** I have got a pile of books to start reading and am hoping to get a new puppy.

**Do you have a favourite memory about Fort Royal?**  
There was a time in class when a boy called Jamie read a book to a girl called Rosie on her birthday, he changed the name in the book to hers and it really made her laugh, that was a moment that just really stood out.

**How long have you been working at Fort Royal?** I have been teaching for 36 years and have been at Fort Royal for 17 years.



To Sue Richards,  
**BEST WISHES!**

The children and staff  
wish you a very happy  
retirement!

We will miss you but look  
forward to seeing you  
when you visit us at  
school.



**Year 5 Leavers**  
Good luck at your  
new schools

