

Robert Wilkinson Round-Up

*A half-termly round up of events and activities
at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy*



Foreword from Sarah Wright, Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Robert Wilkinson Round Up, which aims to give you a flavour of some of the exciting curriculum events and activities that have taken place across school during the first half of the spring term.

Firstly, it was fantastic to see so many of you at our recent Parents' Evening meetings. I hope the discussions you had with your child/children's class teachers were informative and helpful. Once again, thank you for the continued support you give. It is by working in partnership that we will ensure your children thrive, both academically and socially, in our care.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to bring you up to date with staffing changes going forward. As you will know from our previous Parent Pay communication, Mrs Mould will be leaving Robert Wilkinson at the end of the academic year in order to take up a deputy headteacher role at Osbaldwick Primary School. Mrs Mould has been a teacher and senior leader at Robert Wilkinson for 12 years and during this time has made a huge contribution to the success of the school and the quality of teaching and learning in Early Years specifically. We wish Mrs Mould well with her next steps and will keep you all informed regarding our plans to ensure that our Early Years phase continues to offer an excellent curriculum and the highest standards in teaching and learning.

We have also welcomed Mr Ross Divorty, who joins our Y3 teaching team as Mrs Keaney's replacement this term and next. Mrs Keaney is currently taking adoption leave and will return to school in July this year, in time to say good-bye to her present class and meet her new class for September.

We look forward to working with you this half term when we welcome our Spanish friends from Madrid and come together for an Environmentally Friendly Day on Saturday 30th March. All help will be most gratefully received on the day and we will even provide a hearty soup lunch for our hard working volunteers!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who voted in huge numbers for the Aviva Community Fund project. As a result of this successful bid, you may have seen that our pond area (behind the MUGA) has been recently transformed. Last half term and during the holidays we worked with a local group called The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to revamp this so that our children have access to a fantastic outdoor learning resource. We will be making good use of this area during this year's STEM week and going forward as part of our curriculum.

Mr Divorty



Key Dates

MARCH		
14 th – 21 st	Madrid Exchange	Asuncion Rincon in York
15 th	Red Nose Day	School Council organising In-school events
30 th (SAT)	Whole Community Event 9.30 – 11.30	Environmentally Friendly Day (See ParentPay for further info)
APRIL		
1 st	Foundation Stage 2	Mother's Day / VIP session in FS2
9 th	FS1	Easter Stay and Play 8.30 – 10.00
9 th	Pupil Concert - Orchestra	Invitation Only – More Information to Follow
10 th	Year 1	Celebration Assembly 2.30-3.00pm
12 th	WHOLE SCHOOL	BREAK UP – END OF TERM (EASTER HOLIDAY)
29 th	WHOLE SCHOOL	RETURN TO SCHOOL

EYFS

The children in FS2 learnt all about Shrove Tuesday. We found out why some people eat pancakes to mark the start of Lent, and then we followed a recipe and made our own pancakes! The best part was watching Mrs Henson 'flip' them in the pan, and then getting to eat them afterwards. They were so yummy!



Year 1

This term in year one there has been a lot to celebrate and share as we started our new learning challenge about Shackleton's journey to the Antarctic. Our classrooms turned into the Antarctic as we discovered lots of information about Shackleton. We recreated his journey through drama and role-play. We used atlases and nonfiction text to find out information. There were even ice blocks in the classroom that we used adjectives to describe.

Shackleton had to be very resilient, as his journey did not go to plan. We thought about the values Shackleton had, as he completed his journey. We reflected on our own values and the school's.



Marvellous Magic!

Last half term Year 2 had lots of fun learning all about magic. As part of our exciting topic, we found out all about fantastic beasts...writing information booklets and detailed descriptions of mythical creatures. We also linked our learning into science, finding out how different animals are suited to their habitats, enjoying habitat hunts and finally sketching strange beasts in art. Next, we became potions masters, writing and following instructions for all sorts of magical mixtures - we had lots of adventures finding and mixing our ingredients! We also became authors, writing our own amazing stories all about mysterious and magical hats - what a good job we did! To top it all off, we used our resilience to carefully craft wizard puppets using our sewing skills. I am sure you will agree, a lot of super learning and fun had by all!

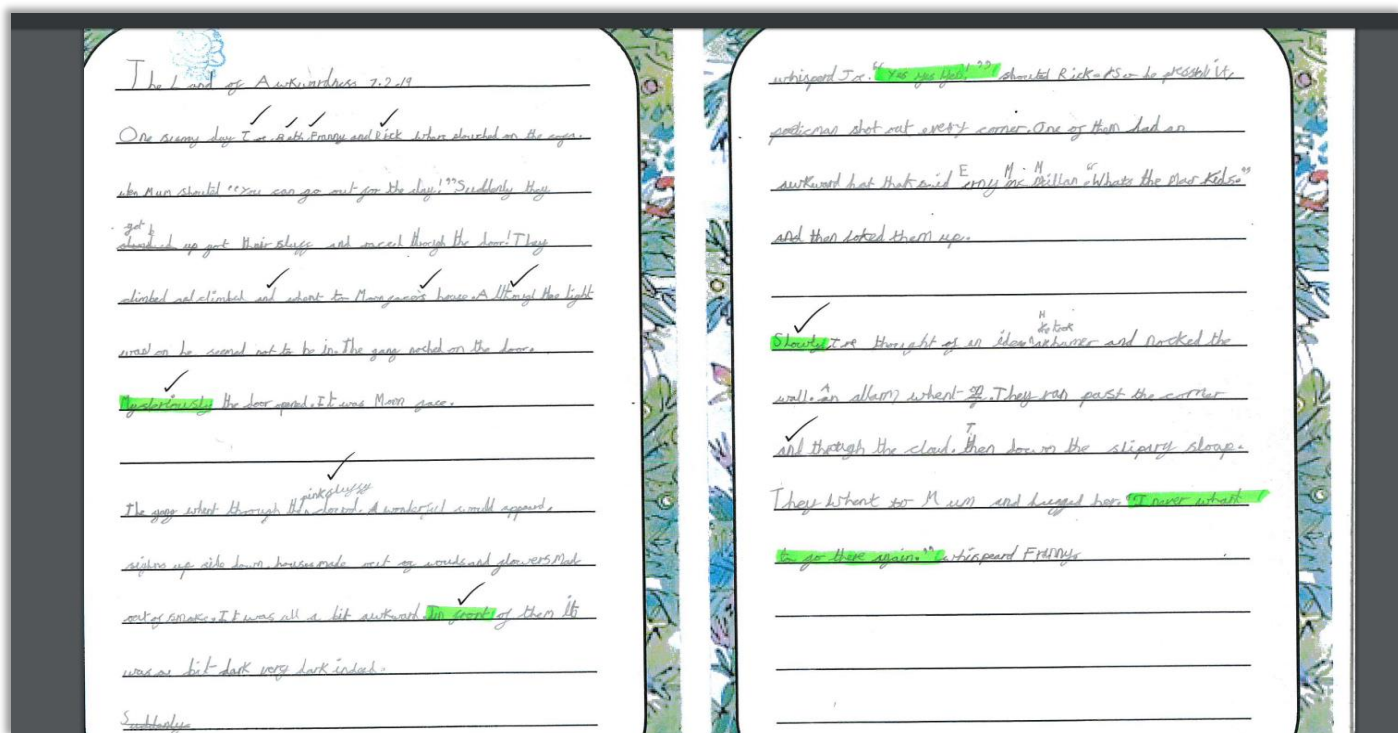


Year 3

Year 3 have had fun this half term finding out about plants and what they need to grow healthily. To start our topic we each made a yogurt pot cress head. We left them on a sunny window sill, watered them regularly and waited patiently for our cress hair to grow. We also found out that you can over water plants !



Another exciting topic we covered was writing our own adventure stories based on the Enid Blyton story The Magic Faraway Tree. We invented our own lands that arrived at the top of the tree. The children's imaginations were amazing: The Land of Doughnuts, Speed, Boys and The Land of Strength were amongst some of them. Here is Molly's brilliant adventure story The Land of Awkwardness.

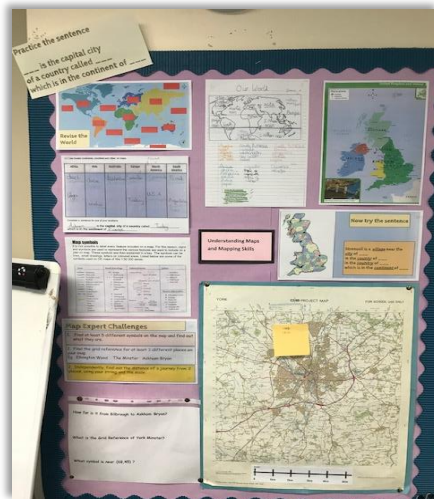
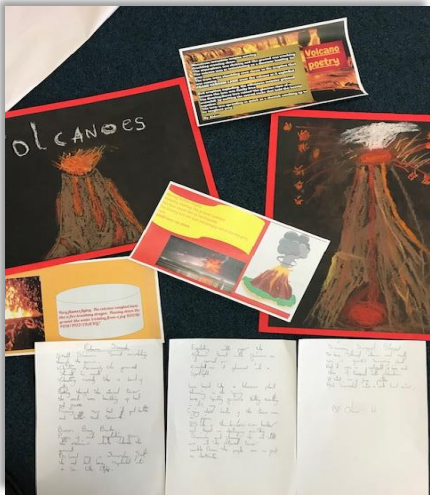


Year 4

The Year 4's have gone geography mad this half term.

We began with maps and mapping skills, gradually moving from working with world maps to local Ordnance Survey maps and finally culminating in creating our own maps of Strensall!

In addition, we have focused on mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes around the world. A very interesting topic indeed, rounded off with some artwork and fantastic poetry which used much of the vocabulary from the topic (e.g. earth's crust, magma, lava and even tectonic plates) as well as onomatopoeia and alliteration: Boom, Boom Blast, up into the air flew hot steaming ash and lava.



In Year 5, the children have enjoyed learning and researching about Ancient Greek theatre. Each child was set a challenge, which was to make an Ancient Greek mask using only two pieces of card! They had to listen carefully and follow specific instructions in order to complete the challenge. The task included using a variety of skills including designing, cutting, sticking, folding and measuring. Each child had to decide whether they wanted to make a mask with a comic or tragic face. Once they had made their basic face, they then decorated it by adding curled paper for the hair. Some children chose to add crowns of leaves, beards and even the odd moustache!



Year 6

During our Poles Apart topic, the children in Year 6 have been fascinated to find out all about Ernest Shackleton and his expedition in Antarctica. We created timelines to document his extraordinary journey and then wrote some drama sketches to represent different parts of the trip. We were delighted when he won the explorer category on BBC 2's Icons!

We would also like to say a huge congratulations and good luck to Hollie Graham, one of our Year 6 pupils, who is taking part in the 10,000 steps a day challenge for the month of March as part of Walk All Over Cancer - a project which is raising money to support Cancer Research. This is a fantastic cause and we are all very proud of her!

PE

Spring 1 was a quiet term for the PE Team in terms of competitions. However, the 1 competition that we went to was a huge success. We took 2 teams to a swimming gala to compete against 14 other schools from across York. An outstanding performance from every single child that took part saw our teams finish 1st and 2nd in their groups, meaning the group that finished 1st have progressed through to the North Yorkshire swimming finals.

In other PE news, the York City Knights came in to deliver the Year 3 PE lessons, which was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed being taught by a member of the York City Knights squad despite the rain and quite often snow!

With Mr Dyson and Mr Clark, the whole of Key Stage 2 danced the 7 weeks away with a fantastic routine choreographed by the PE Team with some help from the children to a mix of Tom Jones and The Greatest Showman. The highlight of the term was when it was clear that the children had been home, practised the routine, and then showed excellent progression with their moves and timings. In the end, a very good routine that was enjoyed by Mr Evans whenever he passed through our rehearsals.

Although Key Stage 1 were not dancing, they still enjoyed the half term, as they were able to practise their ball skills. Through a number of games and challenges, they worked on their different rolling, throwing and controlling techniques with a variety of balls of different sizes and shapes.

Next half term we are looking extra busy on the competition front, with Athletics finals at North Yorkshire level, A netball competition a little more local, six football fixtures, cross country finals, hockey fixtures and hopefully a few more opportunities to come!

Spanish

A team of 14 children is excitedly preparing for the visit of our Spanish twin school, Colegio Asunción Rincón, in March. As well as practising their Spanish skills, the team has been getting to know their partners via email and Skype. However, we can't wait to meet them all face to face, introduce them to our family and friends and show them round our school.



After School Club

We have really been enjoying using cook school where we made noodles for Chinese New Year. We have also been making some lovely models with the building straws.

This term we are looking forward to doing some baking in cook school, using the brown hall for just dance and having visits to the library.



Music

Last half term Y4 completed a topic on Taiko (Japanese) drumming. As we don't have nagado and shime drums we improvised with boxes and chairs. Y4 learned Japanese phrases and used them as they played. Y2 came to watch a performance and were then allowed to try the instruments.

Otsukare samedesita. Sayonara!



Year 6 has been looking at form and structure this term. They composed group pieces in Binary, Ternary and Rondo form. These were recorded on graphic scores and also in conventional rhythmic notation.



Our Orchestra has been working very hard after school and we are always pleased when Mr Evans pops in to hear us. Sometimes he even joins in. The Austrian students came to play our pieces with us at our rehearsal. Music is a universal language so it was easy for us all to play together. Every child in KS2 at our school is able to read the rhythm patterns we use in RWPA orchestra and would be very welcome to join the orchestra and play percussion instruments.



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