

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 Spring 2 newsletter where we celebrate all the exciting curriculum events and news from this past half term. I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Spanish team and to all the children and families who took part in the first leg of our Madrid exchange. This year's visit was our twelfth successful year and it works so well because we have such a good relationship with our partner school in Madrid, Colegio Asunción Rincón. As a result we had the chance to become TV stars on That's TV York which is great news! I know Team Madrid will now be looking forward to travelling to Madrid in the summer to enjoy spending time in Asunción Rincón school and experiencing what life is like for children in Spain. Here is the link to our TV appearance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T00Fz2uDaHc>

This past half term has also been a very successful sporting period. Lots of our sports teams have been in action and have enjoyed competing in netball, football, swimming, hockey and bowls competitions to name but a few! I would like to say a huge well done to all our children who have competed for school, not just for the success they have enjoyed; but also for the way in which they have represented Robert Wilkinson. Thank you also to those parents and carers who have helped with transportation to and from events - we couldn't do it without you!

Finally, I would like to say a huge well done and thank you to our STEM team for planning the exciting Green and Gorgeous STEM week. The work on display in the White Hall following STEM week was thought provoking and hopefully helped us all understand the need for action to protect our planet. We also have a Green and Gorgeous model vehicle competition running – you will be able to find details on the Robert Wilkinson website and they have been sent via ParentPay. All entries must be submitted by Friday 3rd May, and the winning vehicles will be announced on **Friday 10th May**. There will be winning entries from **KS1** and **KS2**.

I hope you enjoy this half term's curriculum newsletter. We now look forward to an action packed summer term in which we will enjoy sharing with you more exciting Robert Wilkinson news!

Remember to follow our Twitter feed **@robwilkprimary** for more regular daily and weekly updates. You can also see the Twitter feed on the home page of the Robert Wilkinson website.

Kind regards, Mrs Wright

Key Dates for the next half term

MAY		
ALL MAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	SATS testing period (YR2 & YR6)
6 th	WHOLE SCHOOL	Bank Holiday
7 th	Foundation Stage 2	School Trip – The Deep
8 th	Year 1	School Trip – York Chocolate Story
8 th	Year 4	School Trip – Eden Camp
13 th	Group Members	Parent Forum Meeting 2-3pm
w/c 13 th	Key Stage 2	SATS week
20 th – 26 th	Madrid Exchange PROVISIONAL	Provisional Dates for RWPA visit to Madrid (option 1)
20 th	Summer Concert 1.30pm	Ticketed event – more information to follow
21 st	Summer Concert 6pm	Ticketed event – more information to follow
23 rd	Whole School	Active Travel Day
24 th	WHOLE SCHOOL	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

Comic Relief – Crazy Hats and Hair Day

A special event in school this half term, which was helped greatly by support from home, was the Comic Relief day, organised by the School Council. Our Crazy Hats and Hair Day was embraced enthusiastically and creatively by everyone involved. Some of the hairdos were truly inspired - thank you for your support and for helping to raise an incredible £519.55 for good causes in the UK and across the world.





The children have built 2 “Bug Hotels” with Mrs Hopkins. We are now waiting to see which insects and bugs will come and visit and we have our magnifying glasses at the ready!



Pre-School took part in the whole school STEM week. Our theme was “Reuse and Recycle”. Wasteful Walter came to see us and brought us his rubbish. We taught him how to “Reuse and Recycle” his rubbish and showed him how to make paper using old paper, turn plastic bottles into plant pots into which we sowed grass seeds and funnels to play with in the water and sand areas, we created art work from plastic bottle tops and made houses from off cuts of wood.



We went for a walk around the school grounds to look for signs of Spring. We saw daffodils, buds on the trees and daisies growing in the grass.

We loved Pancake Day! We made pancakes in school and enjoyed eating them with strawberries and bananas!



EYFS – STEM Week in the FS2 Unit

As part of the whole school STEM week, the children in the Early Years Unit have been thinking about how to look after their environment. We read the story of “the Messy Magpie” which warns of the bad effects that rubbish or litter can have on wildlife and the countryside.

The children decided that they would collect the litter from the Forest School and looked carefully to decide what could be recycled. The children then made exciting posters to encourage everyone to “not drop their litter.”

You can see all our wonderful work on the display outside our classrooms!



Year 1 – STEM Week

This term the children had a brilliant and exciting time during STEM week. The children received a letter from the RSPB asking them to protect their local birds. First the children went on a bird watch to identify what birds are in their local area. Then they decided what they could do to protect the local birds. The children chose to make bird feeders to help feed the birds. The children carefully followed instructions and made amazing bird feeders. You can now see the children's birdfeeders in our new KS1 outdoor classroom.



Year 2 – Rumble in the Jungle

This half term Year 2 have enjoyed learning all about the rainforest. We launched this topic with a brilliant visit by some rainforest animals. Freya H (2NC) had this to report: “What an exciting day it was! Firstly, Zoe told us all about the rainforest layers. Then she got the first animal out. What could it be? It was a millipede and it has 250 legs! I couldn’t believe it. I felt nervous but I did touch the tickly legs.” The children loved meeting so many different and interesting animals...the highlight being when the frogs leapt onto some unsuspecting (but very sensible) children! Towards the end of the half term, Year 2 have also enjoyed getting out and about around school, planting some bulbs and seeds around the new pond area and learning about saving our environment during our STEM week work on deforestation. The children have become very passionate about saving the planet and spreading the word on the part that we play in stopping deforestation around the world. What a lot of fantastic learning!



This half term we have been exploring newspapers. We have been looking at a range of weird and wonderful reports and then had a go of taking on the role of a journalist to write our own reports.

We have used a range of stimulus to engage the children's interest and imagination, including a real life crime scene and real footage from the school security cameras of a dragon wreaking havoc around the school! The children have enjoyed writing them and tried hard to report a story using language and phrases a journalist would.

In topic we have been looking at the water cycle. As part of the project the children their own moving pictures to demonstrate the cycle. It was lovely to see so many children engaging in their own research at home too.

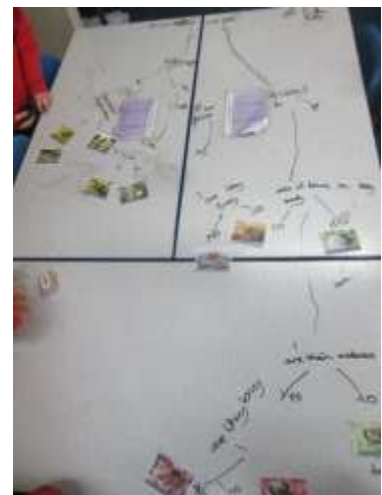
Another exciting term planned with Vikings!



We have had a brilliant half term learning about animals, plants and electricity. The children enjoyed sharing their knowledge of what they already knew about animals and this helped them to sort and classify them. We used our problem solving skills to create classification keys for different types of frogs. Although this was a challenge, it was rewarding when we succeeded!

Electricity is always an engaging science topic...especially when you let the children add buzzers into the circuits! We created a variety of different circuits and also carried out an experiment to see which materials conduct electricity. Our biggest challenge was creating a switch for a circuit to catch our chocolate thief! You will be pleased to hear that the children successfully caught Mr Clark after 4EG set a trap and hid in the classroom. Once the buzzer went off, there was no mistaking the criminal!

We had a great week with our 'save the bees' campaign where the children tried honey, wrote balanced arguments, created classification keys about bees and drew the life cycle of a plant.



Year 5

Year 5 had a very creative half term! The theatrical theme from the previous half term spilled into writing as children used their fine acting skills to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood from either the perspective of Little Red or the Wolf.

In art, children created their own Ancient Greek clay pots which were finely sculpted and painted with precision. Unfortunately, there was the odd chip or breakage. However, children quickly understood that this is typical of genuine artefacts - it added to the authenticity!

During STEM Week, children discovered the harmful use of plastics. To try to convince people to think of alternatives, the week ended in a protest / campaign consisting of posters and flyers – the marble art work was AMAZING!



During our Poles Apart topic, the children in Year 6 have been exploring the artist Francis Hatch and the art exhibition she created after her journey to Antarctica. We have been focussing on using paint and mixed media such as modroc, tissue paper and sand, to create our abstract landscapes. We practised using these materials to create different effects and then selected which ones we wanted to include in our final pieces of artwork. As you can see from the photos, the children have produced some fantastic Antarctic landscapes!



With competitions in athletics, football, hockey, netball and swimming, alongside regular PE lessons and a number of sporting after school clubs, the children were kept extremely busy during the 6 weeks of the Spring half term.

As a school we got off to the best possible start on the 1st week back, as our Year 5/6 Athletics team travelled to the North Yorkshire Finals of the Indoor Athletics. Not only did Mr Dyson retain his title in the teachers' javelin, but the children managed to excel in their events. Winning a number of the team races, and also having scored some of the top scores in the field events for the day, the children had done themselves and the school proud. When the results came out, we found out we had come in an astonishing 2nd place out of approximately 400 schools. This was a fantastic result and really showed the hard work and effort all the children had put in on the day and is also Robert Wilkinson's highest ever placing at the event.

Spread throughout the half term were 6 football fixtures for the Year 5/6 football team, as well as 2 girl's tournaments and a Year 3/4 football tournament. Again, the children involved with all of these fixtures and tournaments played with great enthusiasm, never gave up and really enjoyed their chance to represent the school in football. We had 2 teams in Year 5/6 entered into an A and a B team league. Both leagues were extremely tough with some great games being battled out between some strong footballing sides. In the end, the A team came 3rd in an extremely strong league that contained the North Yorkshire Champions, although we did manage to take points off them in one of the games. As a mostly Year 6 team, they showed great resilience to keep going, especially against the other strong teams, just unfortunately couldn't quite grasp that top spot. The B team managed to go the entire season undefeated which was a fantastic achievement; winning 4 games and drawing 2, meaning we managed to come in 1st place.

Next came our girls' football tournament and again we showed what a strong school we are in terms of our footballing ability. On a cold, and extremely wet night, the girls put 100% effort in for every game that saw us come third in our group, winning 1, drawing 3 and only losing 1 game. A much more impressive feat was the fact that our team managed to only concede 1 goal through all 5 games, but our attack just couldn't quite score enough to get us through to the next round. This set us up for a fantastic day run by York City Football that included skills workshops followed by a little tournament. Again, the girls performed brilliantly, giving their all throughout the whole day, and we managed to not lose a single match during the day which was another fantastic achievement.

Our last football event saw a Year 3/4 team take part in a one off tournament. The footballing future of our school looks bright based on what was seen that day. The boys played some excellent, flowing football, and got the results that their football deserved. In a day full of thrilling matches and entertaining football, the team were very proud to win the tournament and come away as York champions.

Moving on from football, our Year 5/6 hockey club boasted 3 teams at the first round of the Peter Feasby Hockey Tournament. Some unlucky results matched with a slow start to the tournament meant that 2 of our teams couldn't qualify for the next round, however, all the children that played enjoyed the experience and gave their all which made the PE team extremely proud. One team managed to get a better start and enjoyed better results, meaning they qualified for the York finals. Unfortunately, the step up proved a bit too much and the children were unable to replicate their success from the previous round, however all children played in high spirits and enjoyed the chance to represent Robert Wilkinson despite the results.

Netball came next for our Year 5/6 children, with 3 teams representing the school. Once again, everyone who took part in the tournament did themselves proud as they used what was practiced in netball club, with one of our teams managing to qualify for the York finals of the tournament. Qualifying in top spot and unbeaten gave the children great confidence going into the final round of games, however losing out to a team we had beaten in the group stages meant we weren't able to clinch top spot, but Mr Dyson claimed the team played some of the best netball he's seen from a junior team in his time at the school.

Our last competition of the half term saw us travel to take part in the North Yorkshire Swimming Finals. This is a competition that as a school we have done very well in in the past and this year was no different. Out of the 10 races we took part in, 8 individual and 2 relay, we managed to claim 1st place in 7 of them and finished the day with 55 points out of a possible 60, meaning we claimed 1st place across North Yorkshire once again, a fantastic achievement for the children involved.





Spanish

The sound of Spanish chatter in the playground and corridors of our school is a regular annual highlight. It was wonderful to welcome a group of 14 children and their two teachers from our partner school, Colegio Asunción Rincón in Madrid this March. Our Robert Wilkinson children and their families did a brilliant job of hosting their Spanish guests and making them feel at home.

What did they get up to?

Highlights in school included forest school, an art workshop, cook school, a golf workshop, outdoor learning in the copse, a games workshop and a ceilidh. We're looking forward to our visit to Madrid in June when we'll see our Spanish friends again.



Wrap Around Care (Breakfast and After School Club)

After school club have been growing sunflowers, making Easter cards and building Lego houses.



Music

This half-term we created a group choreography for a pop song. We did basic training using Just Dance videos, then used the lyrics to draw ideas for the moves and actions. Working on an idea or a pattern proved to be challenging, but at the end we managed to pull out a great performance!



Cook School

Cook school has been busy once again!

We have had not only our own children in here, but also our Madrid visitors. The Spanish children helped, along with their partners, to prepare a farewell afternoon tea for everyone and it was also a lovely way for them to say thank you to their host families. We had a few impressed Spanish children with their own baking results as some of them had never baked before. They all enjoyed their sessions in here.

Year 4 have been making some flavoured bread. The Moroccan flavours in the stuffing mixture proved to be very popular and quite a number of the children were converted to the lovely spice flavours, peppers and the raisins.

Cook School always encourages trying new flavours and ingredients and we happily have a good success rate!

Swimming

Please note that due to an increase in unit prices and postage costs applied by the suppliers, Swimming Badges will now be £3.20 each.

With regards to verrucas in school – we have had reports of several instances of verrucas. Please ensure that if your child suffers with verrucas that they are adequately treated or that a verruca sock is worn. If not, they will be unable to swim.

Thank you for your support, Mrs Feetenby.

Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy

West End, Strensall, York, YO32 5UH



robertwilkinsonacademy@robwilk.co.uk



01904 555160



Follow us on Twitter @robwilkprimary



www.robertwilkinson.ebor.academy