



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

February Newsletter

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We very much miss all of the children and look forward to seeing you all soon, albeit from a distance.

Our whole school community, in particular the children, need to be congratulated for upholding and demonstrating our school values of endurance, forgiveness, koinonia, creation and friendship during this time. These values guide us and are embedded across the school. Each week we focus on one of them, relating it to stories from the Bible, local and global events and our own experiences. The children have demonstrated these values in abundance and we are very proud of them.

It has been a joy to see so many of the children in their Google Meets. Thank you for your support and dedication which has enabled us to keep united as a school community.

Throughout this year the children and staff have demonstrated great endurance and flexibility as we have needed to transition between face to face and remote learning. We are very pleased with the participation and work produced by the children at home and those attending school, some of which is celebrated in this Newsletter along with other excellent endeavours.

During the partial closure we have been refurbishing the school library and I look forward to sharing photos with you in the coming weeks and to the time when you can come and see it for yourselves.



For now, as we start to see the first signs of Spring, we are hopeful that the safe return to school is in sight. We have been told that it will not be before 8 March and that we will have a two week notice period to prepare. I look forward to writing to you after half term with the necessary arrangements for returning.

In the meantime, have a good half term break and we will continue our learning via Google Classroom.

Best Wishes,



Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher



Charity update - St Michael's Foodbank

It has been difficult for pupils to engage with charities during the lockdowns, but the school community has maintained a sustained effort helping out the St Michael's Food Bank. A number of parents have volunteered to be a food bank collection point during lockdown and the school is very grateful to them for this.

Please do keep donating.

Collection points are officially open every Sunday between 2pm and 4pm, but most of the collection points will leave a box outside for most of the day, and they will be easy to spot. These collection will continue throughout the half term holidays when the need in food banks increase.

Please check the accompanying email or contact the school office for a list of drop-off points.

These collections will be delivered to Ringcross Community Centre, 60 Lough Rd, London N7 8RH.

Ringcross Community Centre post a list of the food that is currently most needed and regularly needed on their website: <https://www.rcfb.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2uigi-zAo-bLp1c31ta7hh62NzpHgEf7-C-Yb3ARJt2m9Kchu-LEffIHOU>

The foodbank have also placed pink collection bins outside Greens of Highgate on the High St and outside Becky's in Whitehall Park.

Should you prefer to donate financially, the PayPal link is always open - <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8nDnySd03r>

This money is transferred straight to the Community Centre funds.

Many thanks to all of you for your donations. The school would like to say a particular thank you to Awen for her hard work over many months organising this.

Many thanks to the local businesses who kindly donated prizes for our staff well-being raffle at Christmas. Thank you!



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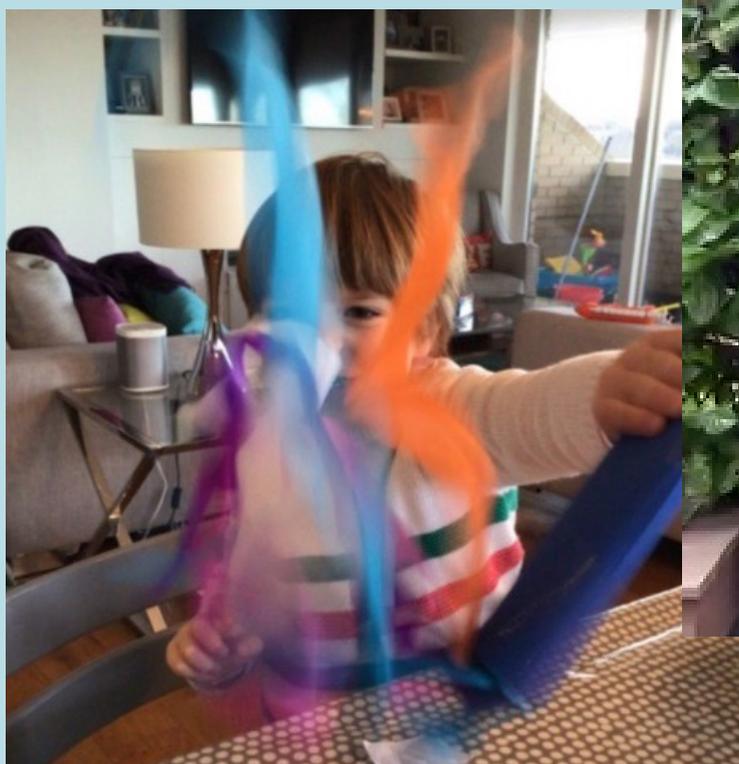
LAVENDER ON THE HILL



Nursery

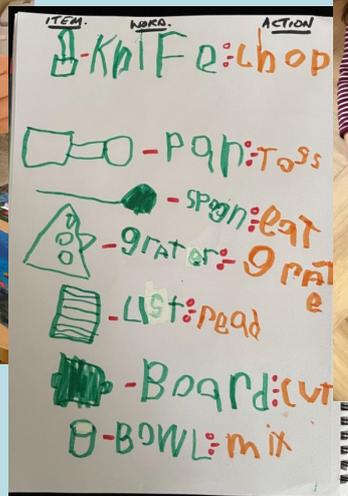
In Nursery we have been learning about People Who Help Us.

After reading about Percy The Park Keeper's stormy day, lots of the children made beautiful windsocks to observe the effects of the wind. Don't they look lovely?

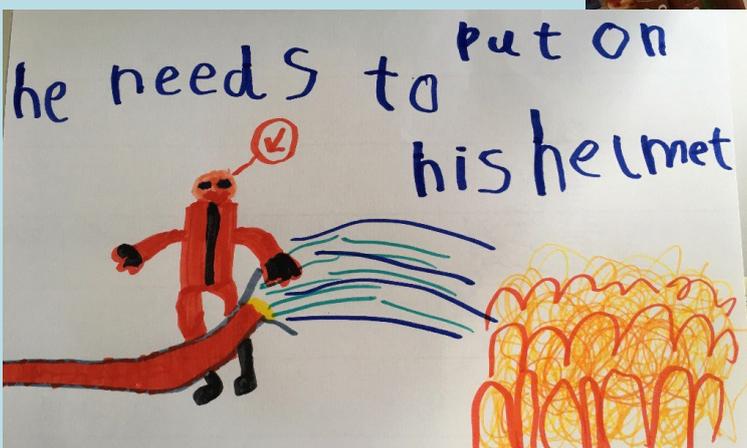
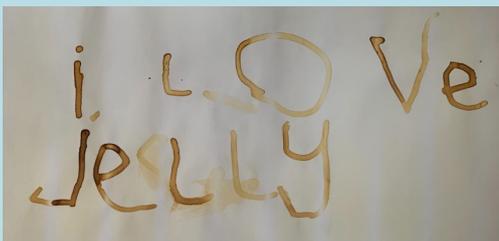


Reception

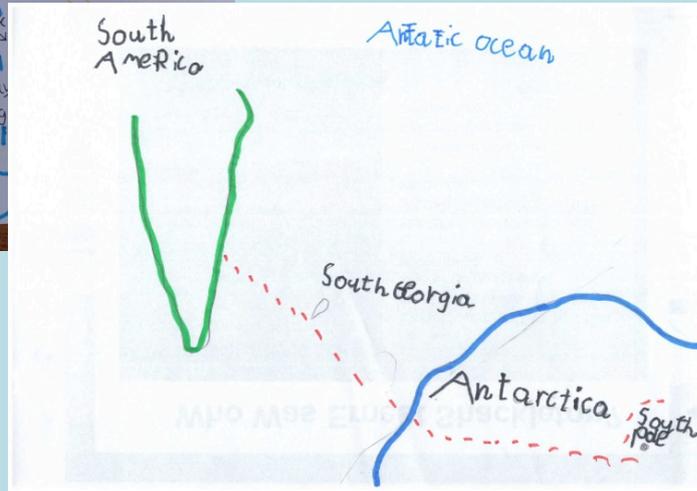
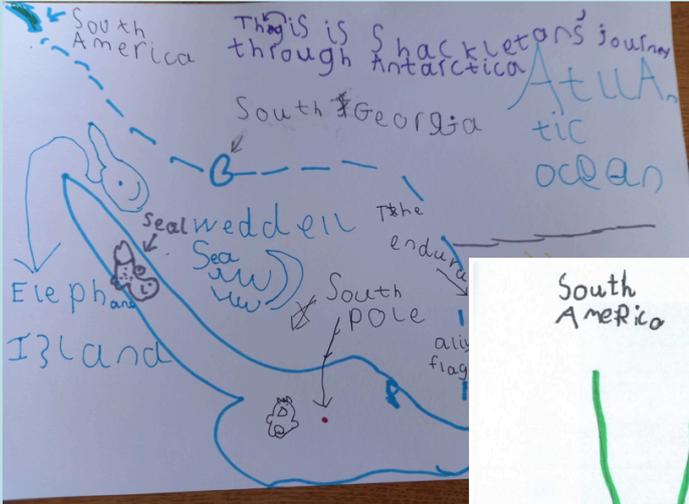
This term in Pele Class we have been learning all about People Who Help Us. We have learnt about Firefighters, Postal Workers, Chefs and Vets! We have been really busy at home and at school learning about what each of these jobs involves. In maths we have been learning numbers to 20, we now know how each of these numbers are made, as well as 1 more and 1 less than a give number to 20.



Bronze class have also been very busy learning all about People Who Help Us. We wrote letters, built hospitals and vet clinics, turned into chefs and explored new ideas and ways to do things. In maths, we have been learning numbers to 20 and looking at their different representations and relationships.

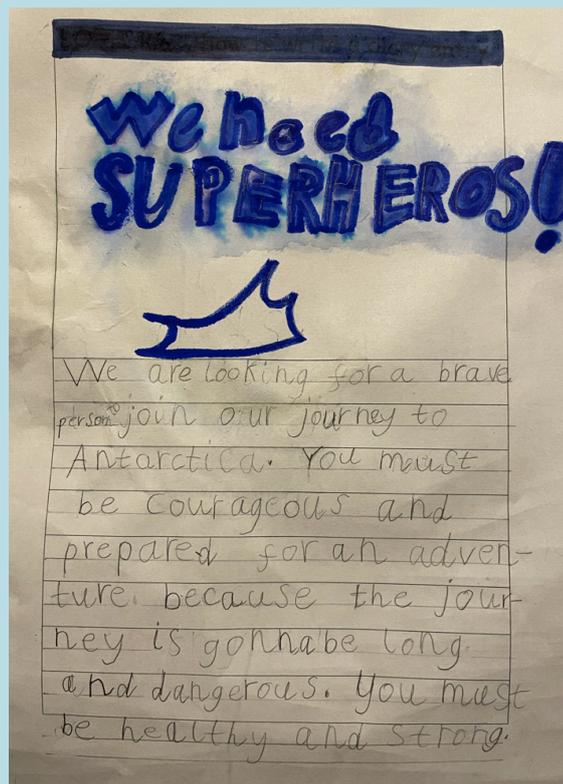
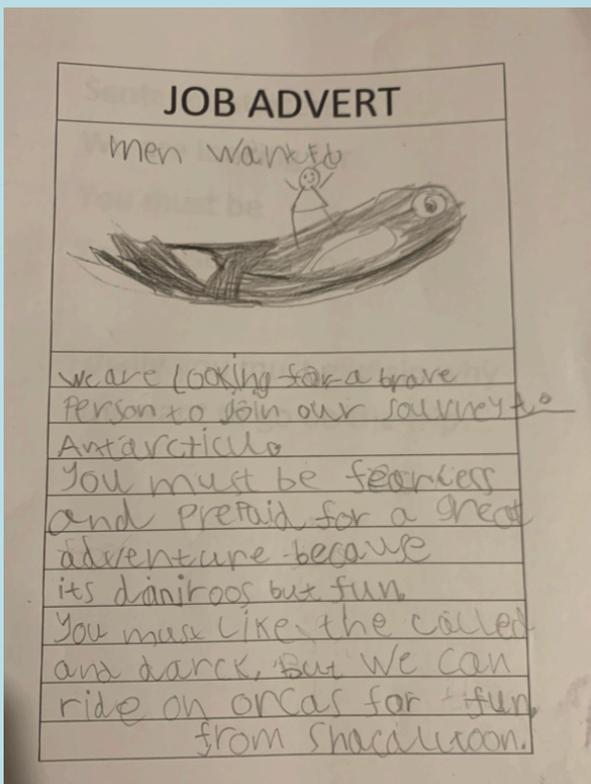


This term in our history lessons, we have been learning all about Antarctic explorers such as Ernest Shackleton and Robert Scott.



We created our own maps of the journey Shackleton and his crew took onboard the Endurance, in attempt to cross South Pole. We labelled the key points of the journey. In English we also wrote our job adverts looking for crew members to join the expedition. We thought about lots of adjectives to describe the journey and the characteristics of a crew member. Year 1 have learnt a lot about the value of endurance and have been tremendously determined in their efforts in all their live lessons.

Year 1



Recently in year 2 we have been doing some art where the children were inspired by the famous painting by Hokusai of The Great Wave to create their own seascapes. This is connected to our topic of Explorers this term where we learn about Frances Drake and the use of ships for exploring and trade.



"Many years ago humans began exploring the world. People became more ambitious and began travelling across the seas and then across the oceans to investigate places unknown to them. The Great Wave shows a scene of the sea so it is a seascape and it shows us just how dangerous travelling across seas can be."

In-year places available from Years 3 to 6

Due to world events, we have experienced more families than usual moving away from London. As a result we have a few places available in Key Stage 2

If you know of anyone moving to the area, or just looking to move schools, please ask them to contact the school office to enquire:

0208 340 7441

admin@stmichaelsn6.com

e-Safety Day

Each class enjoyed learning and understanding more about internet safety. In KS1 we discussed how to stay safe and who to speak to when we see something that doesn't feel right. Year 2 wrote letters and learned that not everything online is true.



Year 6 and 5 learned about online advertising. They also completed an online reliability checklist. They were interested to find out that people online can promote a product that they don't like and get paid for it! They learned how it is important to fact check and use reliable sources of information. They understood that they need to consider who has created and shared certain information and whether it is a trustworthy source.

"Think about what the creators of 'merch' want you to do, will they profit and where did it come from? Don't enter your details in giveaways or generally enter ones that involve liking, subscribing and giving details."

A top tip from Holly, Year 5

Year Three

Year Three have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra and how composers portray animals through music by listening to The Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saëns and Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. We used Chrome Music Lab to create our own animal compositions. You can copy and paste the links into your browser if clicking on them does not work.

Hetty:

"This composition is a mouse, scurrying around. Listen out for the mousetrap, that the clever mouse avoids."

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker/song/5747528985739264>

Phoenix:

"This is a penguin, waddling down the road."

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker/song/5452836259758080>

Florence:

"A Panda. Slow and repetitive."

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker/song/6527426662760448>

Emma:

"A woodpecker pecking and then flying from tree to tree before pecking again."

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker/song/5868349100130304>

Diana:

"An elephant. Slow moving but with a loud trumpet."

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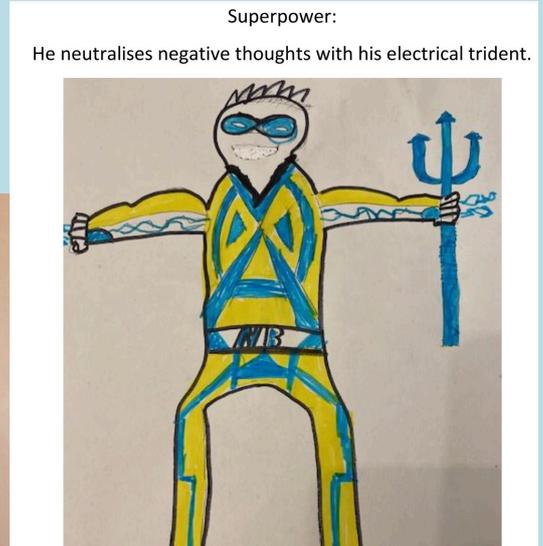
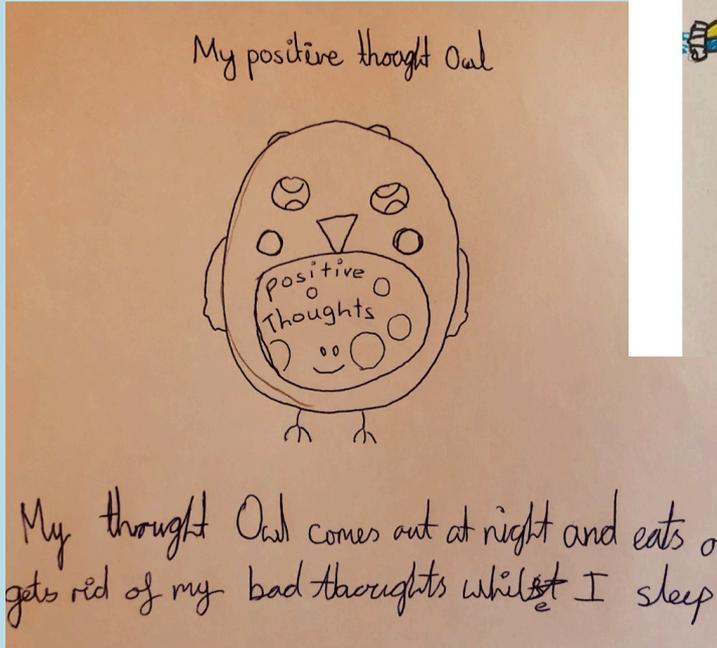
Lukas:

"A Cheetah running after its prey."

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker/song/6097047518707712>

Mr Hoskins-Holt

In Comaneci class we looked at how to deal with negative thoughts. It is normal to have bad thoughts pop into our head but it is important to try our best not to let them turn into negative feelings like sadness, anger and anxiety. We looked at ways we can turn negative (unhelpful thoughts) into helpful thoughts. We designed 'Thought Superheroes' to chase the unhelpful thoughts away!



Covid 19 - Communicating with the School

Even while children are learning remotely, and over half term, we still require you to let us know about any positive cases in your household.

This is so that we can monitor children's learning.

If anyone in your child's household tests positive for Covid 19, or if your child has symptoms of Covid 19 and is unable to take part in remote learning, please let the school know.

Please email us on admin@stmichaelsn6.com with any information or updates.

When a positive test result has been received, please complete the report form on the school website.

Covid-19 Reminders:

Face coverings for drop off and collection

Adults collecting or dropping off children need to wear a face covering in the top playground. In addition, we politely request that you now also wear a face covering on the pavement outside the school, as it is often quite congested.

Self-isolating

If any member of a household shows ANY symptom of Covid-19, the entire household, including siblings, parents and relatives living with them, must all self-isolate until a negative test result is received.

For example, if a child is collected from school with a raised temperature, their siblings will also need to be collected, and none of the children will be able to return to school until negative test results have been received. This is because the whole household needs to self isolate.

We have had a couple of occurrences recently where we have had to send siblings of children with symptoms home. Please make sure your whole household self-isolates if ANY person in the household has ANY symptom.

Raised temperatures and coughs are common

Although it is common for children to have a raised temperature or a cough at this time of year we cannot assume it is not Covid related, and therefore that child's entire household must self-isolate and the child must get tested.

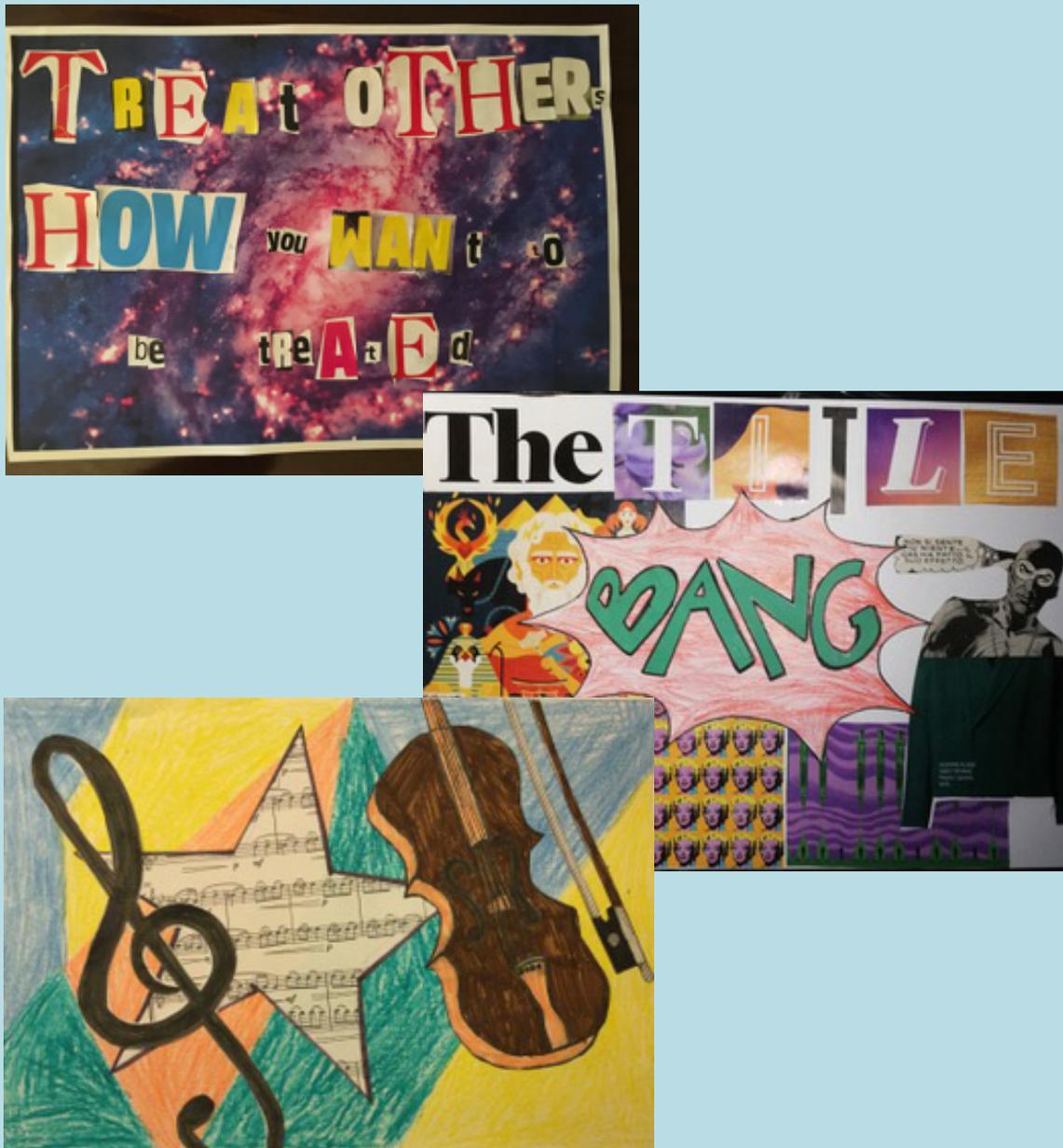
When a negative test result is received the child (and their siblings) can return to school, as long as they are well enough to do so.

The school will provide advice if you receive a positive test result.

In Art Year 5 Adams have been using collage as our medium to create artworks of different styles. We chose collage because in English we are writing persuasive speeches about protecting the rainforest and collage allowed us to reuse and recycle paper we already had.

We were inspired by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Takashi Murakami to create our own POP ART pieces out of collage.

These artworks are by Nye, Joseph and Matteo.



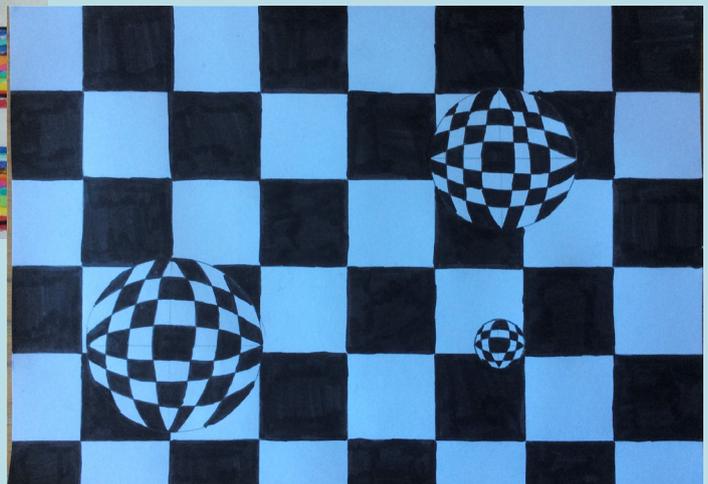
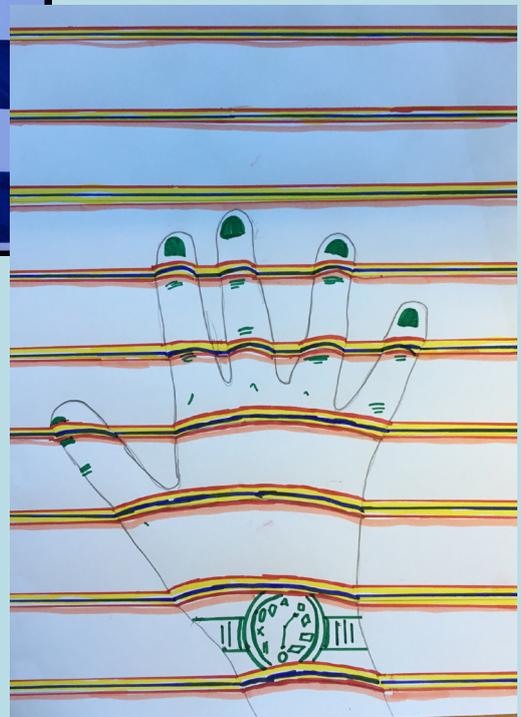
In Pilkington-Mills, we have been looking at the rainforest in several lessons, and are reading a novel (Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson) set in the Amazon.

In English, we are crafting persuasive speeches about protecting the Amazon, and in Geography we are studying rainforests' structure, ecosystem and issues affecting them - in particular the rainforests of the Amazon Basin, which will take us into our Spring 2 topic of rivers.

Year 6 have been studying Op Art. This is short for 'optical art'. The word optical is used to describe things that relate to how we see. Have you seen an optical Illusion before?

Op art works in a similar way. Artists use shapes, colours and patterns in special ways to create images that look as if they are moving or blurring. They need to look carefully at lines and shapes. Their pieces make us look at something that is 2D and imagine it is 3D.

Year 6 were provided with Opt Art challenges at home and as you can see they produced some brilliant work. Well done Year 6.



Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

When I wrote to you for the last newsletter, we did not know that most children across the country would be learning at home this term. I hope that you are all staying well and the children are settled in their new routines. We have received very positive feedback from you on the school's remote learning provision. Thank you for letting us know this, and for your support at home.

On behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank all of our staff for their incredibly hard work in preparing and delivering their online lessons, our staff who are working with the children who need to attend school, our premises team and our Office and Nursery staff.

We look forward to everyone being able to come back to school once the current lockdown is eased.

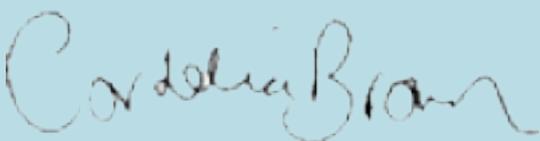
Update on your Governing Board

The school governors met on 3rd February for a meeting by Zoom. We said goodbye and thank you to Vidhi Gupta, who has served as our Local Authority Governor since 2018. We look forward to appointing a new LA Governor in the coming weeks, and I am working with Haringey to find a candidate who will enhance the diversity of our board, bring a range of skills and experience and support us in fulfilling our school's vision and mission.

We welcome Valerie Doulton, a new PCC Governor appointed in conjunction with St Michael's Church. Valerie has had a long career in theatre and the Arts, and is very interested in children's reading and language development. We look forward to Valerie being able to watch some of the children's fantastic school productions in the future. Finally, we welcome back Alexandra Economides, who we appointed as LDBS Governor in September, and who re-joins us following her maternity leave. Alexandra brings a great deal of experience in the financial sector to our Board.

At our meeting we were very pleased to hear about the progress of the new School Library. I would like to say thank you once again to all of our families who have so generously donated to the Governors' Fund, which has financed this work.

Our children's progress in reading is consistently above the national average. The school has prioritised reading in its Learning Improvement Plan, and we look forward to fostering an even greater love of literature once the new library is open later this term.



Cordelia Brown
Chair of Governors