



Roots that Strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that Flourishes.



Spring 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

‘The school vision of Roots that Strengthen, Branches that Reach and Fruit that Flourishes is threaded through everything staff plan for and do at Standlake’.

(Ofsted, 2023).

Overall, we are delighted with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection. It has been wonderful validation for our drive for the children to be strengthened from the knowledge and values we teach them, so they strive to learn and live in a way that leads to them flourishing in all they do!

Ofsted consider 5 key areas during the inspection that inform an Overall Effectiveness judgement. Outlined below are some highlights from the report for each of the areas:

Early Years: “Outstanding”

- The children get an extremely strong start to school life.
- There is a rich and well planned for environment to explore.
- Staff are extremely knowledgeable and really care about the children.



Behaviour and Attitude: “Outstanding”

- Personal development is a real strength of the school.
- Leaders ensure pupils develop a resilience to apply to situations they find tricky.
- Pupils receive a rich personal, social & health offer that goes beyond the classroom.

Personal Development “Outstanding”

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Quality of Education: “Good”

- Pupils are clearly demonstrating the knowledge they are learning and remembering.
- There are well thought out & sequenced plans for subjects which leaders are rightly proud of.
- Rapid catch up supports those pupils at risk of falling behind.

Leadership and Management: “Good”

- Leadership is strong and ambitious for the school and its pupils.
- Leaders have high expectations and want children to excel.
- There is a strong safeguarding culture.

Overall Effectiveness: “Good”

- There are highly positive and warm relationships between pupils and staff.
- This is a very inclusive school.
- Pupils understand differences and accept them openheartedly.
- Pupils support and look after each other.
- Pupils demonstrate respect, tolerance and understanding of each other's differences.
- There are clear systems in place to identify and support pupils.
- There is a positive culture that ensures staff feel well looked after and valued.
- Staff feel there is a real collaborative nature about the school and one member of staff echoed the sentiments of others by saying , 'I love working here!'

What does the school need to do to improve?

Subjects such as computing, music & art should be planned and implemented to the high standards evident in other subjects so that pupils receive a consistent quality of education across all subjects.

Our reflections

It is wonderful to have earned such a positive Ofsted report and to have come so close to receiving 'outstanding' judgements across all areas, but for the depth of knowledge in a few subjects. However, we know that in those few subjects, the children do share in an enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy which is not able to be captured in the limiting nature of an Ofsted framework!

It is testament to the wonderful staff that I have the joy of working alongside every day that we got to where we are today. They are tireless in their passion and commitment to do the very best for the children and work. So it is to them that I say a huge THANK YOU!

GO TEAM STANDLAKE!

Andrew Denham

Achievements in Term 4



Murphy Class, Mrs Harrison writes: This term, we have been learning about lots of traditional stories. We have learnt to retell the main events in a story and join in with the repeating language in stories such as *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Three Little Pigs*. We have explored the different characters in the stories and the children came up with some fantastic descriptions for the Big Bad Wolf! When we were learning about *Little Red Riding Hood* we created some maps to show the deep dark wood. We then had lots of fun using some programmable toys to move across our maps and used positional language to say where they were. When reading *Jack and the Beanstalk* we focused on growing and have learnt about the life cycle of a bean. The children have all planted their own bean and have observed what happened as it started to grow. In PSED we have been finding out about how to keep ourselves healthy. We have learnt about why it is important to brush our teeth and to eat a healthy diet. We have also been busy scientists this term, learning about which objects float and sink, exploring the best materials to build a house out of and how materials can change when they are heated such as ice, eggs and porridge. We have learnt about the Easter story and why the main symbols of Easter remind us of new life.

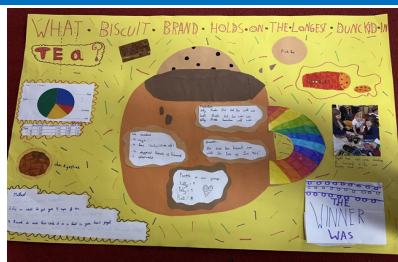


Donaldson class, Miss Morton writes: This term, we have been learning about extreme weather. We've been able to watch real life clips of lightning, flooding and ask geographical questions about this. We even got to watch Miss Morton frying an egg on her car last summer in the extreme heat! During these Geography lessons we have used our knowledge of ever-changing weather to discuss climate change and what it means. We enjoyed listening to the story *Greta and the Giants* and made the link that the giants were not helping fight climate change! Every morning, we have been keeping up to date with the weather in Standlake by watching the news as part of our morning routine. We have learnt about different weather symbols and how Carol and Stav present the weather using a clever clicker! We have made fantastic progress in Phonics and Reading this term. We have been using our phonics to produce some wonderful writing. Because we read *Jack and the Beanstalk* in Murphy Class, we decided to read *Jack and the Baked Beanstalk* – an alternative version of the traditional tale. We really enjoyed comparing the two stories, writing character descriptions, and building on vocabulary. We have been amazing scientists this term! All of us have been working in small teams to come up with a scientific question which is important to ask, from *Is branded soap or cheaper soap better to kill germs?* To *Can you taste flavour blindfolded?* There were lots of scientific learning happening in Donaldson and for some of us, it was our first time making a poster about our investigation. Well done Donaldson Class! In DT, we linked our learning with our PSHE; Healthy Me! With Mrs Mitchell, we have been learning about different food groups and the importance of staying healthy. We have then designed our own lunchbox to show we have understood our learning. We were very lucky to also discuss the art of *Giuseppe Arcimboldo* who created portraits out of fruit... it was interesting and strange...

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Dahl Class, Mrs Conroy and Mrs Fleet write: This term, our topic this term has been 'Europe'. We learned about how Europe fits within the continents of the world. We then learned about European countries, flags, mountains, rivers, cities and landmarks. We particularly enjoyed exploring different options for a travel itinerary around Europe.

As a class, we have read 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. From the perspective of Bertie, we wrote a diary entry about the first time he saw a white lion cub from his compound. We then had some very interesting discussions about whether animals should be used in circuses and we wrote our own balanced arguments.

In Maths, we have been developing our multiplication skills, plus rising to the challenge of working out fractions of amounts and exploring equivalent fractions. We have also learned about properties of shape, including angles and symmetry.

Our Science lessons this term have been lively and fun. Mrs Conroy was very brave letting us plan and carry out our own experiments. We have made good progress with our understanding of the concept of a fair test and have loved creating our posters to show our results, including graphs created using google sheets.

In RE we learned about the story of the calling of the first disciples. Reverend Jo was impressed with our knowledge and understanding of how this story helps us to understand the kind of world that Jesus wanted. We asked Reverend Jo lots of questions about her job.

In art, linked with our Europe topic we have been looking at architecture from different countries. We created our own collages of Spanish buildings and created pointillism for the Eiffel Tower.



Morpurgo class, Miss Bridgeman writes: This term, we have been studying the topic of 'Europe'. We have researched the countries of Europe and practiced our atlas skills to mark these on the map, as well as looking at the topographical features.

In English, we have loved reading our class book, 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. We have created setting descriptions from Sophie's point of view as she looks out over the city of Paris from her rooftop. To finish off the unit, we have written persuasive leaflets about Paris, encouraging people to visit the city.

We have been very busy in Maths this term - we have looked at calculating area and perimeter of shapes, adding and subtracting with money and converting between units of measure, before rounding off with a review of our fractions work.

Our science lessons this term have been devoted to 'The Big Science Event'. The children were very excited to get stuck in and investigate their own questions – interestingly, we had a lot of food related questions! The class have produced some amazing posters and have shown that they have been able use their 'working scientifically' skills.

In RE, we have been learning about the story of 'The Calling of the First Disciples'. We have thought about what kind of world Jesus would have wanted and the actions we can take to make the world a better place. We also thought about the role of the church and church leaders. We very much enjoyed our visit from Reverend Jo and we had lots of questions to ask her!

In art with Mrs Lee, the children have created their own Gaudi inspired buildings from cardboard and mod rock. The creativity we have seen is incredible and the children have certainly enjoyed getting their hands messy with the mod rock!

We have also had a special visit from Oreo and Ginger this term! Everyone got to try holding one of the guinea pigs and some children had a go at feeding them. We discovered Oreo is a greedy little piggy!

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Shakespeare class, Mr Brown and Mrs Abraham write: This term, we have enjoyed learning about the Shang Dynasty – one of the earliest periods of history from which we have written records, thanks to the discovery of the Oracle Bones. We have learnt about the lives, beliefs and hierarchical system of governance of the people who lives in China at this time.

Philip Pullman’s imaginative ‘Firework Maker’s Daughter’ has been our inspiration for our creative writing – we have written diaries and added a chapter to the text, giving the main character Lila another obstacle to overcome.

For Year 6, our Yenworthy residential was undoubtedly the highlight. Coastal climbing, dune-surfing and a stunning scramble at Valley of the Rocks will live long in the memory for us all.

Back in the classroom, the Big Science Event has allowed us to plan, carry out and report findings of experiments that were of particular interest to us – many of which involved food, sweets or sugary drinks!

Mrs Abraham has inspired our Chinese artwork, as we have created kites and salt dough dragons, while ‘What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?’ has been the thought-provoking question in our RE learning. Our cricket and clarinet skills have continued to progress, thanks to cricket coach Joe and Miss Bridgeman respectively.

Wonder Wednesday

Our weekly Wonder Wednesday assemblies focus on local, national or international topical events that are taking place at the time. Each week we ask ‘The Power of 3’ questions to help children focus on the topic and come away knowing more, remembering more and doing more as an outcome of the new learning.

International Women’s Day



Fairtrade Fortnight



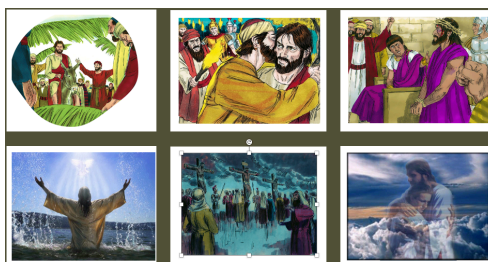
World Thinking Day & Girl Scouts



The Meaning of Lent



The Easter Story



People who Inspire Us: Farmers



IROCK Concert

The school hall was rocking to the sound of music from our IRock bands! We were really impressed by the courage it took to step up and perform in front of everyone, especially from some of the very young band members. Perhaps it is only a matter of time before they are playing to sell-out crowds at Wembley!



EPA Tennis Tournament

Well done to the children who took part in the EPA Tennis Tournament, especially those who had not played a competitive game of tennis before. Well done to Beth who won all of her matches - maybe we will see you at Wimbledon one day!



Science Investigations

This term all of the children have been carrying out scientific investigations of their choice. There were a wide range of ideas from, 'Which brand of soap kills the most germs?' to 'What material makes the best goalkeeper gloves?' to 'Which is the best biscuit to dunk in your tea?' Selected teams then presented to the school and a panel of staff judges. The winning team were from Morpurgo Class who wanted to see which material protected eggs the best (when dropped from a height!) to try and prevent the food waste of cracked eggs being thrown away.



EPA Netball Tournament

Well done to our netball team who took part in the Eynsham Partnership Academy tournament. The team got a bit of a thrashing in most of their matches but the courage and resilience they showed to keep going and still enjoy themselves was so impressive. We are VERY proud of you...and the one goal we scored!



Jubilee Tree Planting

Our School Council joined in the planting of a Jubilee tree with members of St Giles church. Trees are mentioned many times in the Bible. They were often planted at places of worship or places where loved ones were buried. They symbolised strength, wisdom, longevity, and righteousness. We can think of nothing better than planting a tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.



World Book Day 2023

The staff dressed up as Mr Men and Little Miss characters and the children came in as their favourite book character. Well done to all the parents who joined in as well!





School Garden: Phase 1

Thank you to some of the parents, staff and children who helped out with Phase 1 of the garden project. The plan is for the garden to have a raised bed for each class where they will plant, grow, tend and then (hopefully!) eat their produce. We will also be creating a new pond and a small wild area for insects and wildlife to flourish.

People Who Inspire Us: Farmers

This term we invited Mr Florey in for our 'People Who Inspire Us' assembly. He shared with us the joys and challenges he has with being a farmer and the sorts of things he does on his farm. The children loved meeting the 4-week-old calf!



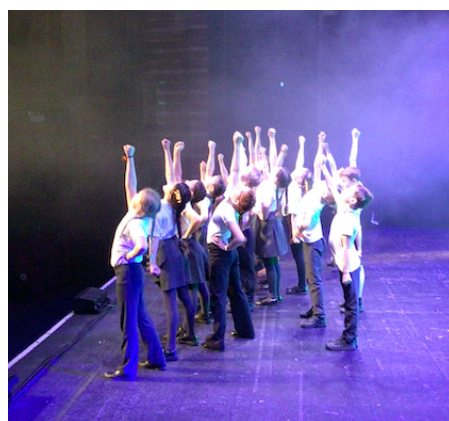
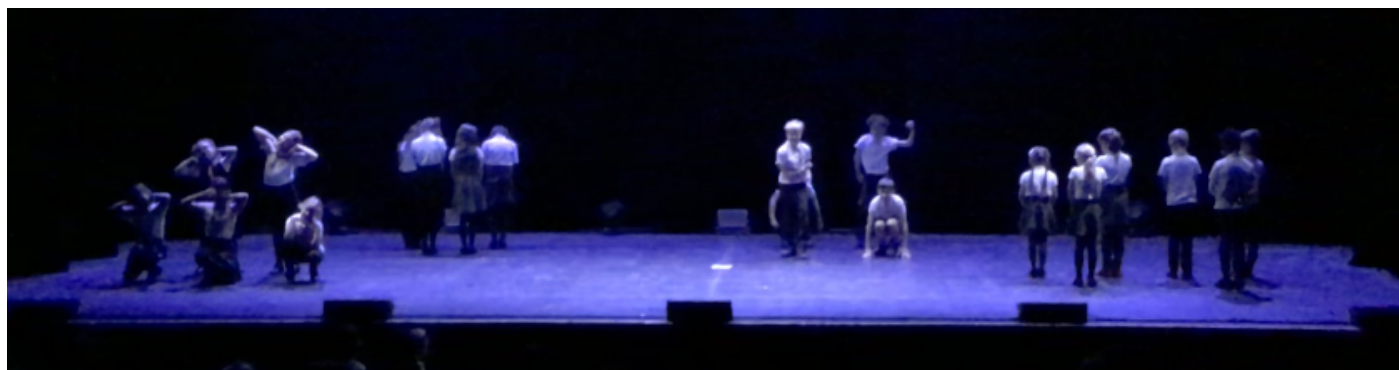
Thank you, Lincoln Farm Park

We are very grateful to Lincoln Park Farm who presented us with £67. They have had a collection tin on their reception counter and raised some money through a few stalls at their end of season party. Thank you to Andrea Keeling and all the staff!



Standlake take to the Stage

A WONDERFUL well done to our dancers who performed on stage at The New Theatre, Oxford for the Oxfordshire Dance Festival. We are so proud of the courage they all showed to perform so brilliantly in front of hundreds of people. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Isard who choreographed the piece and coached the children - we could not have done it without her.



FOSS & Easter Event

We are delighted that there is a new FOSS committee to continue the great support for the school. Jessica Lewis (Chair), Gemma Godfrey (Vice-Chair), Rebecca Costar (Secretary) and Louise Weldon (Treasurer) wasted no time in rallying the troops and putting together an Easter event to ensure we finished the term fuelled by chocolate!



Easter Service

All of the classes got to share an Easter themed song or poem in our Easter Service. The whole school rendition of 'I'm a Spring Chicken' (with Shakespeare class in their rapping outfits) was a sight that will not be easily forgotten! Peter and John also popped in to try their best at explaining the Christian Easter message.



Friday!

A lazy last day of term films and colouring? Not for us at Standlake School! Instead, we braved the rain and did team games that focused on good communication between teammates, encouragement of each other and including everyone.



Notices

School Clubs

There won't be any staff led clubs in the first week back of term. A letter will go out that week for parents to sign up for Summer Term clubs that will start week beginning 24th April and finish week beginning 3rd July (10 weeks)

Vicky's After School Club

Vicky's After School Club will be running from Monday to Thursday 3.15-5.15pm. Please contact Vicky directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07887 711454 or vickyhickman1@gmail.com.

Morning Club

John Andrews **Morning Club** is also available to parents who need to drop off their child a little earlier in the morning. It runs from 7.45-8.45am. Please contact John directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07917 444498

Parent Governors

Congratulations to Amy Prior and Simon Tuohy who have been elected to the governing body.

Tuck Shop

Please complete the payment item that will have come through to ParentMail for your child's Friday Treat Tuck Shop

School Lunches

Please make sure all outstanding payments for school lunches are paid before the start of term.

Free School Meals

You can get Free School Meals for your child if you or your partner gets either: Universal Credit, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. If you think you might be entitled to free school meals please contact the school office for a Free School Meal form. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and 2 they will receive the universal free school meals. However please still let the office know if you think you are entitled to free school meals because it will provide the school with additional funding.

Summer term for Mr Denham

Just for the summer term, Mr Denham will not be working on a Wednesday. His roles and responsibilities will be covered by Mrs Conroy as Deputy Head, who does not teach in the classroom on this day. Following an intense build up to the successful Oftsed, Mr Denham has asked for, and been given permission by the Governors and EPA, to work for 4 days a week so that he can give a little more time to his family and train for a sporting event taking place abroad later in the year. Due to the strength and depth of the teaching and support staff, the governors are confident that this will not have any significant impact on the the teaching and learning across the school.

Key Dates for Term 5

- 17th April:** Term Starts
- 19th April (9.30am-2.00pm):** Year 6 Bartholomew Transition
- 26th April (2.00-4.00pm):** Year 5 Cricket Festival at Cokethorpe School
- 28th April (9.00-12.00am):** Year 3 & 4 Dance Festival at Bartholomew School
- 1st May and 8th May:** Bank Holidays
- w/b 9th May:** Year 6 SATs Week
- w/b 15th May:** Year 2 SATs Week
- 18th May (9.00am):** Little Loaves Service (Whole School)
- 22nd-24th May:** Year 4 & 5 Residential
- 23rd May (3.45pm):** EPA Cricket Tournament (Y5&6)
- 25th May:** Year 1-3 Overnight camp on the school field
- 26th May (am&pm):** It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 3.15pm)
- Whole School Triathlon at Sailing Lake
- 27th-4th June:** Half Term
- 11th June: Summer Fete**

Note: The whole school triathlon has needed to be moved to Term 6, date to be confirmed.

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