



# Orchard Park Community Primary School Newsletter May 2022

Friday 27th May 2022



## Royal Celebrations



We finished the half term with our platinum jubilee celebrations. Staff and pupils came together for a royal picnic on the playground, with bunting and flags aplenty. This was followed by plethora of royal themed games including a treasure hunt, corgi relay races, musical thrones and lawn croquet.

Yesterday, the school's artwork was put on display on Unwin Square. Thank you to all the pupils and their families who managed to join us for the unveiling. If you have not had chance to have a look, then please find some time over half term to view our work. It will be on display for approximately three weeks.



*1 - Picnic on the playground*



2 - Art Display on Unwin Square

## Educational Visits and Visitors



Thank you to all the parents/carers who have supported our programme of educational visits and visitors. These experiences sit at the heart of our curriculum, providing sense and meaning beyond learning in the classroom. Our year fours were the first out of the school doors this month, with a trip to [Wicken Fen](#). Here the children explored ecosystems with activities such as pond dipping and a walk along the boardwalk. The children also completed a history of the fens lesson.

Grasshoppers followed this with a visit from 'History off the Page', who delivered a whole day workshop based on life in Roman Britain. The children explored artefacts belonging to soldiers, civilians, Britons and slaves. They had to determine who the people were, what their role in the rebellion might have been, and whether one of them may have been a Boudican spy. This finished with a feast of food, music, mimes, dances and plays.

One of the highlights of our school year occurred on Thursday 5th May. After two years of waiting, we were able to attend our [Young Voices](#) concert to celebrate their 25 year anniversary. 43 pupils from year 4,5 and 6 travelled to the O2 to join a choir of 7000 primary aged children. They performed a wide range of songs including some that involved harmonising with professional singers such as Rebecca Ferguson.

Caterpillars welcomed Monarch Farm Education unit for the morning. As the children were learning about animals and their young, this was a perfect opportunity to meet lambs, miniature ponies and goats. The children were able to feed the animals and ask questions about their life on the farm.

On Monday 16th May, the playground was awash with squeals of delight, as Mike from the BMX Academy performed a range of stunts in front of the whole school. The highlight was his aerial jump over 5 members of staff. Mike's key messages were simple and effective and ones that we reinforce on a daily basis at Orchard Park. The first being 'I can't do it YET!' focusing on the importance of resilience when mastering a new skill. The second message was 'rise above'. With this, we referenced the fear that can be felt when trying something new, and how it is important to take a deep breath and rise above that fear, as we move through our learning journey. We thank Mike for inspiring us all and we shall continue to remind the children of his very important messages.

Grasshoppers finalised their topic on 'Captivating Cambridge' with a tour of the city on foot and via punt. We know that there is no better way to see our glorious city then from the seat of a punt. The children were provided with a tour of the backs and learnt that not only is their home city internationally renowned, but it is steeped in hundreds of years of history.



3 - Orchard Park as BMX stunt school with @mikeBMXAcademy





*4 - 6 brave teachers creating a jump challenge for Mike.*



*5 - Discovering wildlife at Wicken Fen*



*6 - Another brilliant visit to nursery Monarch Farm.*



*7 - Young Voices*



*8 - Learning how Roman soldiers protected themselves during battle.*



*9 - History of the page workshop*

## Hilltop Highlights



Dragonflies had a fantastic 3 days up on the North Norfolk coast at [Hilltop Outdoor Centre](#) this week. From building camp fires, treetop trails and rock pool investigations, they were challenged in ways that are just not possible within the classroom. The super swing challenge was a popular activity, where the children challenged themselves to swing to 12 metres high. Other undertakings included exploring the enchanted forest, bush craft and exploring the local coast line.





*10 - Hilltop Assault Course*



*11 - Tree Top Challenge*





*12 - Exploring rock pool life.*



*13 - Memories that will last forever!*

## OFSTED



We have been told by OFSTED that our report will be with us very soon. Due to staffing and training complications within the OFSTED team, there has been a delay. I hope to share it with you all after the half term break.

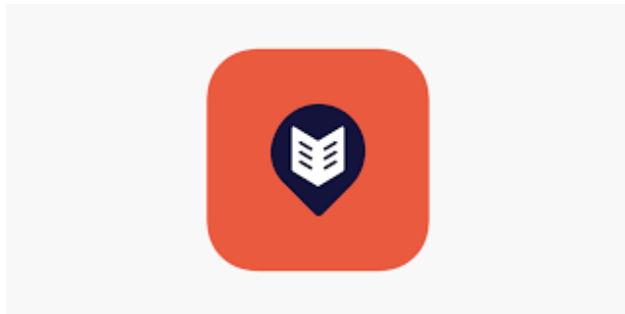
## Big Smiles



Thank you to Mrs Taylor in Caterpillar class for leading on the Big Smiles Initiative. Big Smiles is an in-school dental program designed to support children with their dental hygiene. Children in our nursery learnt how to brush their teeth effectively and understood the importance of doing this regularly. The children have all completed the course and have been given a free tooth brush to take home for their efforts.



Bookmark Reading - can you help?



### **Volunteer in school to help Orchard Park pupils improve their reading skills**

Bookmark are still looking to recruit a Session Coordinator to take on an organisational role and help to manage the reading sessions at Orchard Park. This is a voluntary role and will involve being present at the school twice a week for 30 minutes while the children take part.

If you'd like to find out more about the role, have questions, or would like to put yourself forward please get in touch via the office email on [office@orchardpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@orchardpark.cambs.sch.uk).

You can find out more about volunteering with Bookmark, [here](#).

## Dates for the diary



- **Tuesday 7th June** - Return to school
- **Tuesday 21st June** - Dragonflies and Fireflies visit to London
- **Monday 27th June** - Bumblebees visit to Rockingham Castle
- **Thursday 30th June 3.30pm** - Summer Fayre
- **Wednesday 6th July and Thursday 7th July** - KS2 Production - Shakespeare Rocks
- **Monday 18th July am** - Sports Day
- **Thursday 21st July** - Last day of term - 2.30pm



And finally



I wish you all a happy half term.

*S Harper*