



Lent fundraising project

As you are aware, throughout the season of Lent, the children were actively making efforts to do good for others less fortunate than ourselves, and making personal sacrifices to raise money for the charity ShelterBox.

Having returned from the Easter break, we have now counted up all the money donated and we are delighted to announce that as a school community we raised a fantastic £627.33. Thank you so much for your support with our fundraising project.



Bringing our writing to life!

Year 1 welcomed a little visitor to their classrooms this week. Melanie the tortoise joined the children as an inspirational 'hook' into their most recent unit of work based around the story, *How the Tortoise got his shell*. The children were excited to look closely at the markings on Melanie's shell, as in the story, it describes how the birds of the air put the tortoise's shell back together piece by piece. The year 1 teachers will be building their teaching sequence upon this initial real life experience, making connections between the

text and the children's up close experience of a tortoise.



Thank you to Miss Findlay's sister for letting Melanie join us in school for the morning!

Earth Day

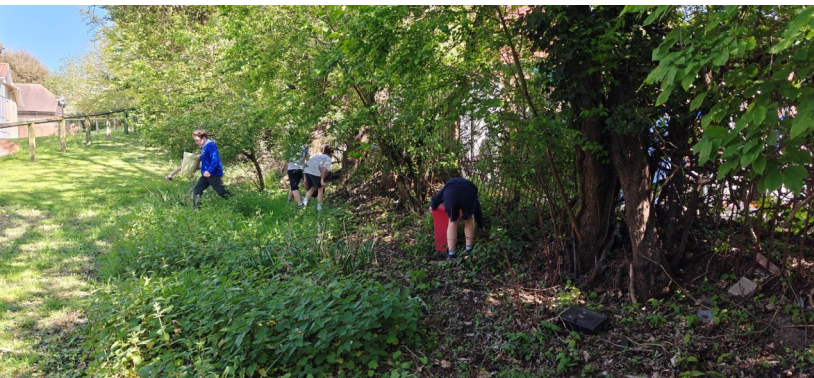
Wednesday this week was Earth Day and the focus in our key stage assemblies was to learn more about this annual event. Earth day is about recognising we only have one planet to call home, and we need to look after it and use its resources wisely.

This also links to Laudate Si Pope Francis' encyclical regarding our responsibility to the gift of life on earth and our Catholic Social Teaching principle of stewardship.

We talked in last week's OPAL play assembly about our responsibility to act as stewards of

God's earth and we discussed the responsibility we all have to look after our school grounds, but also the surrounding areas such as the river and the ground the other side of the perimeter fencing.

To help the children play an active part in being stewards of our school environment all year groups have taken responsibility for tidying and caring for various parts of our school environment.



A group of year 5 and 6 pupils kindly volunteered their time to join me next door so that they could help to take care of and tidy up parts of the surrounding area, retrieving and returning items that belonged in school but that had found their way the other side of our school boundary.



In our ongoing work as a Rights Respecting school, we continue to help the children to better understand the rights they have as a child. Article 19 of the UNCRC reminds the children that they have the right to be protected from harm. We will be using the NSPCC's Speak out Stay safe programme in school in the coming weeks to help reinforce to the children the importance of 'speaking out' and talking to a trusted adult if they are worried or experience a situation whereby they have been upset or hurt.

Diary Dates

Tue 28th April EYs Farm trip
Wed 29th April Class photos
Fri 1st May Yr3 Roman Day
Tue 5th May Annie and Sue from OM Health and Wellbeing leading 'How to support your child to thrive' parent information session 9am
Tue 12th May Yr 1 Banham Zoo trip
Thur 14th May Young Carers group session
Tue 19th May Horstead residential trip meeting 3:30pm
Thur 21st May Yr6 WW2 Day

HALF TERM

Mon 1st June Children return to school
Wk beg 8th June Y5 Activity Week (including Horstead residential trip)



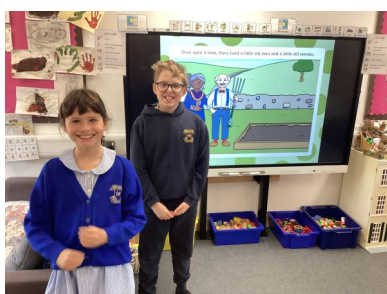
Language Ambassadors

Please meet our new language ambassadors for the Summer Term, whose job it is to support their class in learning French and finding out about other cultures and languages.



Connected with our Earth Day activities this week, the children in Year 2 enjoyed making seed bombs and Bug hotels at Forest School.

Owls Class reenact The Enormous Turnip



The children in Owls class in the Nest have been looking at the story of The Enormous Turnip this week. Having learned about the characters that feature in the story and the events that happen throughout the story, they then each took on the role of a different character and acted out the story as a class.

Save the date!

Some advanced notice about a few events already in the diary for nearer the end of the summer term.
Tue 30th June KS2 Sports day 2pm
Fri 10th July EY/KS1 Sports day 2pm
Wed 8th & Thur 9th July (pm) Yr5/6 Concert
(concert start time TBC nearer the time)

Suffolk Farm Fair



Last Thursday, Year 3 and 4 visited the Suffolk School Farm and Country Fair at Trinity Park, Ipswich. The fair was split into a number of areas exploring different aspects of agricultural life.



The children watched the Sheep Show, which included dancing sheep and it was certainly the first thing that many of the children told the rest of us about on their return to school.



They also visited the STEM zone and discovered how Science influences farming practices.



After lunch, the children visited the Food Hall, and visited numerous exhibitors who explained how various crops are processed from farm to home. Many children expressed how much they loved the day. Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to accompany the trip.



Opal in action!

We have loved seeing plenty of sunshine over the past two weeks since we've been back in school and as you can see, the children have had a great time getting creative with the loose parts on the field and have been relaxing in the hammock. We are looking forward to welcoming a group of staff from another school next week as they begin their OPAL journey.

St Edmunds, get ready to play... OPAL BINGO!

Laundry basket 	Suitcase 	Wooden spoons 	Pans 	Roller deodorant bottles
Sunglasses/glasses (plastic) 	Plastic or metal funnels and bowls 	Blankets/duvet covers 	Doctors kit 	Plastic or metal jugs
Cable spools 	Brooms & paint brushes 	Pogo ball or pogo stick 	Plastic bottle crates 	Tarpaulin or plastic sheeting
Plastic spades 	Buckets 	Trowels 	Magazines/comics 	Cardboard tubes
Guttering & pipes 	Crutches & Zimmers 	Old Electronics 	Baking tins/trays 	Chalk



Thank you for your support with our OPAL bingo challenge throughout the spring term. We announced in last week's play assembly that as a school community we have successfully gathered at least one item from each category on the bingo board. As a result, we're going to enjoy some extra OPAL play time in the coming weeks.

Within OPAL play, we talk with the children about tools and toys and we work with them to identify which category something would be best placed in. We describe tools as things we use to do a job, e.g. litter pickers and toys are things we play with. The photos of the stairs seen above have been used in previous play assemblies and we have talked about the wall and railings being tools to keep us safe when using this space. The children know that when out at play they are not allowed to climb on or over them. We would be really grateful of your support in reinforcing this message when you are on the playground at the beginning and end of the day so that the children hear a consistent message from us all.