

Robert Wilkinson Round-Up

*A half-termly round up of events and activities
at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy*



Farewell from Sarah Wright



Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic year and my last newsletter as headteacher at Robert Wilkinson! As always, we have much to celebrate and share with you, including news from our year 6 residential and other exciting visits. This half term it has been great to see so many of you at our well-attended Sports Days and Open Doors events as well as our annual Art Exhibition – we hope you enjoyed yourselves!

At the end of each half term we celebrate our school achievements together in assembly and this half term we have had an extra two awards to celebrate. Jake's Treehouse was built to celebrate the life of one of our Nursery children, Jake Smith, and the treehouse is a special memorial to a special little boy. We were therefore delighted to learn from the York Design Awards that Jake's Treehouse has won an award for its design. The judges commented that the collaboration between the community, school and Playscheme Design Company was commendable. The award belongs to the design team at Playscheme and they have generously offered to produce a copy that we can add to Jake's Treehouse. I would therefore like to thank all parents and members of the school community who helped to bring this wonderful idea to life and ensure all our Robert Wilkinson children present and future enjoy access to this wonderful building.

We have also been successful in achieving another prestigious award. This term our school has been awarded the Platinum Award for School Games. This accolade is reserved for schools that have achieved the Gold standard previously and have continued to demonstrate a sustained commitment to excellence and opportunity for all children in school sport. I would like to thank our PE team for the fantastic range and quality of clubs and competition opportunities they continue to provide. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and help in transporting children to and from events.

Finally, as we break for the summer holidays, I would like to thank you for welcoming me into the Robert Wilkinson community. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here as headteacher. It has been wonderful to work with such fantastic children and parents and our fabulous committed staff. I wish you and Robert Wilkinson Primary a very bright and happy future.

Kindest regards, Sarah Wright

Key Academic Dates for 2019 / 2020



Robert Wilkinson
PRIMARY ACADEMY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2019 - 2020

Autumn Term 2019

Term starts	Tuesday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November inclusive
Term ends	Friday 20 th December

Spring Term 2020

Term starts	Monday 6 th January
Half Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February inclusive
Term ends	Friday 3 rd April

Summer Term 2020

Term starts	Monday 20 th April
Mayday	Friday 8 th May (VE Day - 75 Year Anniversary) [instead of Monday 4 th May 2020]
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May inclusive
Term ends	Friday 17 th July

TRAINING DAYS

2nd September, 15th November, 6th March, 26th June, 20th July

We should remind parents there is no entitlement to additional holidays outside of normal holiday times. These should only be arranged after seeking the Head of School's agreement.

Please Note

Year 1 Phonics Screening takes place during June 2020.

Year 6 assessments in English, Maths and Science take place during May 2020.



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West End, Strensall, York YO32 5UH | Principal Sarah Wright | Executive Headteacher and Hub lead: Gail Brown

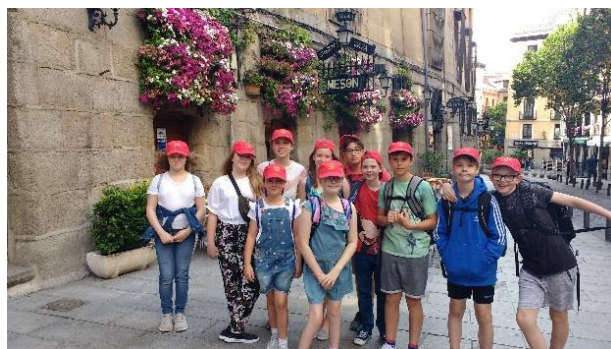
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Spanish - ¡Bienvenidos a Madrid!

What a wonderful welcome we received from our partner school and host families when we visited Madrid in June. We were so proud of our team of children who were wonderful ambassadors for our school and for Yorkshire. There were many highlights from our 6 day visit: robotics workshops and games and craft activities in school, travelling by metro into the beautiful city centre, buying food in a local market and using it to prepare a fiesta, tasting LOTS of delicious Spanish food (including snails!), visits to the Bernabeu stadium, and Madrid's theme park. For the staff, seeing our children blossom and meet the challenges of the visit was a delight. We know that many of the friendships made will last for years to come. *Here's to our Madrid Exchange in 2020!*



It has been a jam-packed final term in Year 6! We have been busy rehearsing for our production of Mary Poppins and we are really excited to perform this to the rest of the school and all the parents. However, we managed to take a quick break to spend a sunny week in Northumberland. We had an absolutely fantastic time and got the chance to take part in a range of activities - bell boating, building rafts, archery, abseiling, bushcraft and the zipwire to name a few. As well as a visit to the Bird of Prey centre where we learnt loads and even got the chance to hold and fly some of the birds. The talent show on the final night was a definite highlight with a variety of acts (including the teachers) followed by some funky dancing at the disco. What a fantastic way to finish off Year 6 and celebrate the end of our time at Robert Wilkinson!

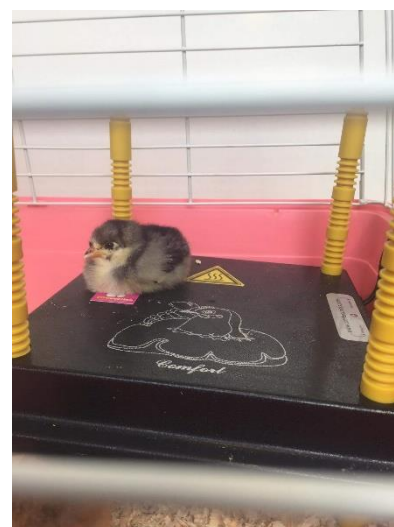


There was lots of fun to be had back at school too! The children enjoyed cook school sessions, extra PE lessons and art workshops with clay. They also had a fantastic trip to Homestead Park on Wednesday and even got to enjoy an ice cream in the glorious sunshine.



What a busy half term we've had in Year 5! With our 'Grow it! Cook it! Eat it!' topic in full swing, our broad bean plants were successfully pollinated and we are now patiently waiting to harvest our crop!

We have also been looking at the life cycles of different animals which has included Project Egg - successful incubation and hatching of our 5 baby chicks; Ange, Wendy, Mustard, Charcoal and Colin! The children (and the adults!) have been fully immersed in the project, have loved watching the chicks hatch and having the opportunity to observe closely their first few weeks of development.

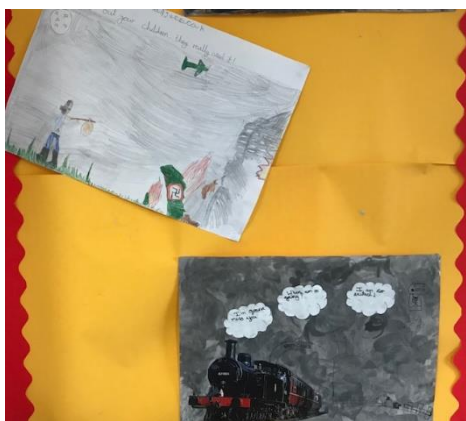
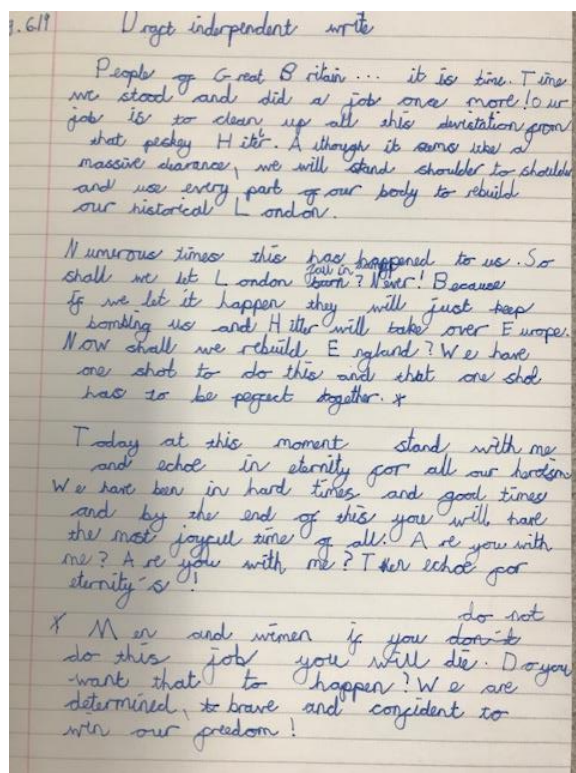


We also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Stockbridge Technology Centre to compliment our learning in class, where the children harvested their own fruit and vegetables; created their own healthy pizzas and got a chance to look around the glasshouses where lots of important scientific research was taking place. I think we all need a well-earned rest!



Year 4 have enjoyed a very varied final half term. We continued our World War 2 theme with links to speech writing. We used speeches by William Wallace and a Viking Chieftain to inspire our own speeches, initially imagining we were Winston Churchill trying to rally our troops and then later pleading for support in clearing up the country!

We have also been designers and makers of photograph frames, World War 2 artists capturing the mood of evacuees and finally we held a VE celebration day last Friday to bring our topic to a close. Here are some photos:



Year 3 – Vikings in Town

On Friday 12th July, a group of feisty and fierce Vikings and their leaders descended upon York. Armed with plenty of enthusiasm and knowledge of Vikings they embarked on the long and windy journey in their chariot of choice...double decker buses! Eventually we arrived, had a quick snack before marching through the city towards the Jorvik and Dig. On arrival our young Vikings uncovered some amazing findings in the Dig, explored some interesting objects and wowed our guides with their knowledge. Whilst at the Jorvik we were treated to a trip around the Viking settlement, taking in the sights and unusual, pungent smells. The highlight of the day has to be finding the eagerly awaited enormous poo, which was riddled with worms and certainly proved to be a sight for sore eyes, 'Urgh,' I hear you cry!

A great day was had by all and a great end to a fun packed year. A big thank you to our helpers who joined us.



Year 2

This half term has been a busy one in Year 2! We enjoyed welcoming lots of grown ups to our pirate performance.....we made such a great crew of pirates and enjoyed sharing our learning. Our work on 'The Pirate Cruncher' has been a lot of fun, involving drama, artwork and lots of discussion. We realised that the pictures in a story can tell you as much as the words.

Our school trip to The Yorkshire Arboretum was a roaring success and the children all loved pond dipping, orienteering and exploring the great outdoors. The behaviour was excellent and the children were a credit to our school.



Year 1

What an amazing term we have had in year one! The children were brilliant detectives when Goldilocks 'broke into' our school leaving some clues behind. They made 'missing' posters, interviewed Goldilocks and wrote instructions on how to find a porridge thief!

In geography, the children created messy maps with labels and created keys. They spoke confidently and clearly using positional language to describe and identify landmarks in the school grounds.

This term, the children have especially enjoyed creating wonderful art pieces. They were displayed during open doors. We would like to thank all the children, parents and carers for their hard work and enthusiasm this year.



EYFS - Reception Children

The FS2 children had a fun morning working in the forest school area, learning all about dinosaurs and the work of palaeontologists! We made observational drawings of fossils and replica dinosaurs which made us look closely at the details and what they might have looked like. We learnt about some different types of dinosaurs such as the Archaeopteryx which was the first dinosaur to begin to transition into what we know today as birds.

We also used natural resources such as leaves and branches to create a collage of a dinosaur skeleton. We had a fantastic time and can't wait to get back to learning outside again.



Goodbye from Mrs Bramwell.

To the lovely community of Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy:
After five incredibly happy years at this school, I move on to a new adventure in Kuala Lumpur. It is with sadness and a heavy heart that I must leave behind all the wonderful pupils, parents, carers, volunteers, governors and staff of RWPA. But let me assure you: I have had the time of my life! Working with you all has been the happiest I have ever been in my working career. What a fabulous asset you all are to the Strensall community and the wider community of York.



It has been my absolute pleasure and privilege to get to know you all, I have felt so at home here and it is difficult to leave. But fly the nest I must, but I do so knowing that you will continue to thrive within your caring and loving values.

Pre School children enjoyed the Fire Crew visit! We listened to the Fireman tell us about his uniform and he showed us some of his equipment. We also got to sit in the fire engine!



Pre School children have been busy picking lots of yummy things that we have grown in our garden! So far we have picked and tasted strawberries and potatoes and our beans, peas and tomatoes are nearly ready!

We sorted the potatoes into big ones, middle sized ones and little ones. We have been reading about The Three Bears and so shared them out between the bears. We then counted to see who had the most.



We washed and cooked our potatoes and had them for snack! We added some mint from our garden too and everyone agreed that they were very tasty!



Another fond farewell

So, after 12 extremely happy years at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy, it is time for me to head off to pastures new in September!

This school is so special to me, having had my own 3 children go through and having taught so many children and been involved with so many families over the years. It has been a real privilege to be part of the school community and its journey over the years and I have been so blessed by the opportunities that have been given to me along the way.



I will greatly miss everyone - my wonderful teaching and non-teaching colleagues, the fantastic children who make every day so bright and cheerful and the families who support them so well.

However, I am very excited for my new adventure as Deputy Head over at Osbaldwick. The time is right to move on and I am looking forward to becoming part of that school community.

I wish everyone at Robert Wilkinson every best wish for the future and if you see me around the village, please give me a wave and say hello!

Best wishes, Jo Mould

Cook School News

Whole class sessions have taken place this half term with Cook School in the classrooms. Year 6 prepared their own afternoon tea, which they enjoyed in their classrooms together as the weather wasn't kind enough to have it outside. Everyone worked together as a team to produce the food and it was well and truly enjoyed by all.

Year 5 enjoyed the Cook It, Eat It! part of their topic, the Grow It! part is still ongoing. Year 5 prepared a broad bean dip which was really delicious, we tasted a super quick vegetable minestrone and made a lovely carrot tray bake too.

Year 4 went back in time for a WW2 tea - we had vegetable peeling soup (not really, it was vegetable soup) but we looked at some very frugal foods and recipes that were eaten during the war, and we made jam sandwiches using ration amounts of butter and jam. We also tasted a genuine WW2 recipe for chocolate biscuits that didn't have any chocolate in (there was some cocoa) and a surprising ingredient to make them look more chocolatey than they actually were. All in all the children were more appreciative of our modern day foods and choices!

Year 3 also had a time travel experience with their Viking Feast. We ate some of the foods that the Vikings would have eaten and there were quite a few children who discovered they liked some new ingredients and foods. The favourite was honey and apples, but smoked mackerel was tasted and enjoyed by many. We also made our own butter which was great fun!

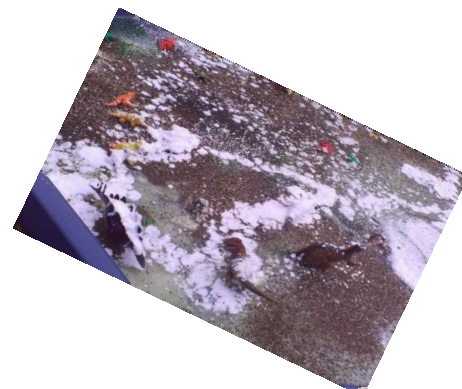
Year 1 have enjoyed thinking about healthy food choices with a few items on their menu including strawberry smoothies, hummus, couscous salad and wholemeal bread rolls. It was great to hear so many of the children enjoying tasting their food and enjoying some new and different flavours.

Principal's afternoon tea was a huge success as always, the children all enjoyed preparing it and eating it even more. It was lovely to hear so many children saying how much they enjoy it and there were some amazing outfits too.

Year 2 will be last but not least, we have managed to squeeze in their whole class sessions before the end of term - we will be looking at what pirates ate, what was available to them and why a pirate didn't always have a healthy balanced diet.



Wrap Around Care (Breakfast and After School Club)



After School Club have been enjoying the sunny weather with outdoor games, sensory play with dinosaurs and making fruit kebabs!

PE Team News

Competitions in cricket, rugby and netball, along with the North Yorkshire Finals in Tennis and Tri-Golf as well as Sports Day kept the PE Team busy throughout the final half term of this year.



The half term started with the York round of the cricket competition for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. A day out saw the two teams pitted against three other schools in the group stages and both teams started the day strongly. Remaining unbeaten; the Year 5/6 team progressed through to the top group fairly comfortably to give them a chance to qualify for the North Yorkshire Finals while the Year 3/4 had to battle significantly harder to qualify, with much closer games, yet still managed to get into the top group with aims of reaching the North Yorkshire Finals. With much tougher

opposition the going was always going to get tougher, and unfortunately losing only one game in their finals group was enough for the Year 3/4 team to not qualify for the next round, however Mr Evans said how immensely proud he was of each child who represented the school. The Year 5/6 team also started their group with a loss. Bouncing back from this saw them win their remaining two games and results going our way in other matches left us tied on points with two other teams at the top of our group, meaning the winners would be decided on total runs scored. 14 runs separated 3rd from 1st and thanks to great efforts with the bat and ball we managed to win our group leaving us as York champions. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather on the date of the next round, the organisers had to draw names out of a hat to decide who would qualify from North Yorkshire to go into the Yorkshire Finals and this wasn't us, however the whole team did the school and themselves extremely proud and hopefully better weather next year will allow us to progress even further.



Next up was a Touch Rugby tournament for a Year 3/4 team and a Year 5/6 team. Whilst both competitions weren't scored and were more about practising skills and techniques, the children competed against other schools in tasks and really showed how much they have taken on board from their PE lessons and from the coaches on the day. An exciting day showed some great skills and hopefully built up some enthusiasm for those children selected to continue to pursue their rugby careers.

A Year 5/6 netball tournament came next and the team competed against four schools in their group. Some fantastic displays of netball that were some of the best seen by the PE Team from children at Robert Wilkinson saw us progress through to the top group, giving us a chance of winning the overall tournament. Unfortunately, a team that we had beaten in the group stages managed to bounce back and win in the finals group meaning we just missed out on being the overall winners, however the children were very proud of their performance and will only benefit from the experience as they continue to play netball in the future.

Next up for the PE Team was Sports Day. After a change of date due to bad weather, the rearranged date saw the sun come out and thankfully the day could go ahead. There was much anticipation for the races from the children and teachers alike. Every child competed brilliantly, giving absolutely everything they had in all of their races to try to earn their team some valuable points to go towards their teams' total. Of course, someone must end the day victorious and this year, the 1st place sport went to the VIKINGS! A huge well done to not only the winning children but every single child that raced throughout the day. As well, the PE Team would like to extend a huge thank you to the Young Sports Leaders and the Year 4 children that were helpers on the day and made everything run as smooth as possible, the day would not have been so successful without them.

The final event for the PE Team for the half term was the North Yorkshire Finals day where we had 2 teams representing the school; one in the Year 3/4 Tri-Golf and one in the Year 3/4 Tennis. The tennis team played some fantastic tennis and really grew into the tournament, winning some fantastic points and being part of some exciting rallies. Unfortunately, much tougher opponents than the qualifiers meant we struggled to get ahead in the matches and weren't able to reach the semi-finals, however all the children can be so proud of how well they performed and represented the school.



The tri-golfers fared much better however, and after a silver medal last year, had the gold medal in their sights. Good technique and high energy saw the team score a huge number of points and they managed to reverse last year's placings to snatch the gold medal back from Lakeside and be crowned North Yorkshire Champions in Tri-Golf once again!

Music

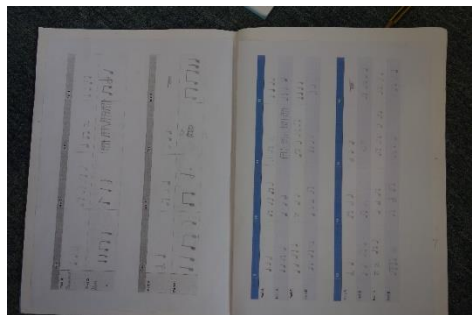
A fabulous end of year concert was held by our RWPA orchestra. The orchestra performed a concert of music they had learned and practiced over the year. Their commitment and dedication to the team is fantastic. Mrs McCartney is very proud of all the players. They all put in a lot of effort, time and focus in every week. Our concert on Monday 8th July to parents was superb. Thank you everyone.



Thank you to our year 6 musicians for their excellent commitment to music in the school. Good luck with your music in KS3. We look forward to hearing about your musical adventures. Good luck and keep up the music.

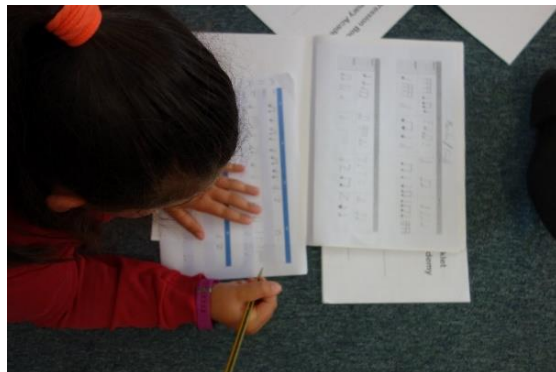
Year 6 continued to work on their topic of Folk & Traditional Music for the first half of the summer term, creating ceilidh dance sequences. They worked with 8 beat phrases combining known patterns and movements with their own creative ideas. Great composing, great cooperation, great collaboration and some absolutely fabulous completed dances. Well done everyone.





The last half term has been all about composition again, this time composing a 16 bar rhythm, joining up with a friend to create and perform their duet. Each pair then joined another pair to create a quartet with each person reading and performing their own rhythm from a score. Again this required great teamwork for the 4 part compositions to be performed successfully. The year 6 was so focussed and on-task - it required them

to use much of their learning knowledge and skills from KS2 music lessons: internalising pulse, rhythm notation recognition, the relationship between pulse and rhythm, fractions, rhythm reading, hearing, listening, practice and performance. York's KS3 schools are very lucky to have you. Fantastic work year 6. Keep up the music, I look forward to seeing you all in future concerts.



After Mr Castro left at the end of June; Mrs Oldfield has been teaching Music in Year 5. The children have been composing pieces of music in groups and then performing their pieces together to create a whole class composition. They used tuned and untuned percussion for their compositions as well as body percussion. The first piece was inspired by Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky and depicted the blooming of flowers and the vibrant colours of summer. They then created dramatic compositions based around different types of weather which they performed as a musical weather forecast. The Year 5 classes have also learnt some new 'call and response' warm up songs and have been singing songs they already know beautifully in rounds.

COMMUNITY NEWS

You might have heard about the Summer Reading Challenge or Space Chase from your little ones! The Library team visited Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy last Tuesday for a very special assembly about this years' reading challenge. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing, the theme is Space Chase!

You can SIGN UP your children from Saturday 13th July & the challenge is completely FREE.

Children aged 5-12yrs can join the full challenge where we ask them to read 6 books over the holidays, for each book they read (and tell us a little bit about) they receive a prize, including wrist bands/book marks/stickers etc - when they complete the challenge they will receive a certificate & medal which they can then take into School in September!

There is also a Schools Cup, the school with the most finishers will win the cup, let's see if we can win it for Robert Wilkinson this year!



For the littler ones (under 5s) there is the Mini Challenge where they read 6 books & collect stickers in their Space Chase mini folder.

It's a great way to keep them reading over the summer holidays & keep literacy levels up until they return to school in September but it's also lots of fun!

Alongside the challenge, there are special story times & activities (some free & some with a small charge to cover materials) - pick up a brochure when you next visit us!

It's sure to be out of this world 🚀🌍

Here are the opening times for Strensall Library:

Sunday	CLOSED
Monday	14:00 - 17:00
Tuesday	10:30 - 12:30, 14:00 - 17:00
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	09:30 - 12:30, 14:00 - 16:00
Friday	14:00 - 17:00
Saturday	10:00 - 12:30

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