



## Message from Ms Cooper...

What a fantastic start to the summer term.

First, I must say how impressed I've been with our year 6 pupils. SATS came and went, but through it all our children remained composed and professional. They demonstrated the utmost determination and grit and could not have made us all prouder.

Then, on the last day of term, all the year 6 children, performed a bespoke version of the 'To Be or Not to Be Speech' from Hamlet. The bravery and courage they showed was not only impressive but compelling. For us, the art of communication is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children before they transition to secondary. Oracy and the ability to speak for a range of audiences and purposes, with confidence and conviction can set you up better for the future, than almost any skill. Therefore, having such an incredible opportunity to work alongside Roy Leighton for the entirety of last term was an absolute privilege for both our staff and our children. The work we have been doing will help to build up a framework for oracy across our whole school, so that talk, debate and presentation are all key features in our classrooms.

There has been so much to be excited about in school, especially our move with Opal, to whole school playtimes. The children have been so excited by the new activities, games, and loose parts they now have to play with. We are utilising as much of the space our school has to offer whilst allowing all our children the space to collaborate, team build, problem solve, be

curious and creative! We are so lucky and unique as a school to have such beautiful and expansive grounds in which to provide our children the space to learn and space to grow! We are only in the very early and initial stages of our new Opal playtimes, so there is so much more progress yet to be made.

Finally, I am so impressed with the consistency of children stopping and wishing good morning to the adults across the school. Children will stop, take time, look the adults in the eye and ask them how their day is going. It truly is this, that also sets our school apart from many others. We continue to remain focused on manners, those that go above and beyond. We want to help children develop an awareness of others around them, to understand the notion of service and aim to encourage children to seek out how to help the communities around them. As we tell the children, manners will always set them apart from the rest - it will be what they are always remembered for. This is why manners remain an absolute priority in all that we do at John Rankin Schools.

I am so excited about what's to come this term. The whole team continues to bring the magic each and every day and I look forward to seeing what new magic emerges in the following weeks. Summer term is always full of so much enthusiasm and energy with Sports Day, productions, themed weeks, the welcoming of new families, PTFA events such as the Colour Run and so much more! We are looking forward to seeing you all in school soon.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Onwards and Upwards!

## Governing Board Bulletin...



Happy May Half Term Everyone!

I'm standing in for the 'chair' as he is currently winging off to a distant (and likely sunnier!) land for a well-earned break so be kind!

Where did the time go this term? It's been a (positive) whirlwind and the whole school has been buzzing with excitement in every corner you look.

I've been here almost four and a half years and despite some challenges, which we all need in life to grow, I have personally never felt the school so 'alive'.

Most notable is the hugely positive impact that transitioning towards OPAL has already made to the development, wellbeing and behaviour of the children.

As I go about my duties asking the children how playtimes are now, I am greeted every time with arms raised to the air whilst shouting 'Amazing!'

Other times, I have simply observed play and have seen heartwarming examples of different aged siblings holding hands and older years helping younger students.

Despite some trepidation myself at first and some adjustment to how the site is controlled by 'Grumpy Green'... ('get down you guys...you're not supposed to be in this area....leave those alone you'll hurt yourself') I am converted. Helped enormously by the hundreds of joyful faces and activities I now witness at breaktimes.

John Rankin was always fun at break but now it's a whole new level of fun. And in the words of somebody far smarter than me 'Play is the work of childhood'

Have a good one and see you all soon.

Mr Green

Caretaker and Staff Governor

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## Nursery News...

The Nursery children have been enjoying the warmer weather in the garden. They have been really keen to work together building a variety of obstacle courses each day, challenging themselves both physically and mentally.



They are also taking a keen interest in the world around them and have enjoyed collecting a variety of greenery on our nature walks to add to our class books.

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## FS2 News...



**Free-Flow Discovery Time:** This term, we have begun to tweak our surroundings to create an even more exciting and enabling outdoor and indoor environment for our children. They are so excited by the new furniture and new resources and are well on the way to becoming truly independent, curious and collaborative little learners!



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## FS2 News...



This term at Forest School in FS2 we have been focusing on the theme minibeasts. The children have enjoyed searches, shaking trees, building bug hotels and doing nature art including making their own clay minibeasts. We were delighted with our findings and pleased so many minibeasts enjoying living in our forest.



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## Year 1 News...

Throughout this half term, the children have been learning about different materials in the world around us. After finding out more about materials that we use and their properties, we put our learning to the test by investigating the best materials to create a waterproof shelter for a cuddly toy. Throughout the day, we had to test materials, record and analyse results and then use our findings to create our final structures.

The engagement and enjoyment the teachers saw throughout these sessions was excellent and such a joy to see a love of learning.



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## Year 1 News...

The big idea this half term has been 'Earth Matters'. We chose to really think about how we can protect our planet through reusing old items around our homes. In our technology lessons, we used old socks to create these fantastic puppets.



Before making our final pieces, we learned about different joining techniques including sewing. We practiced gluing and threading materials and then put our new skills to use in making our puppets. We are very proud of them!

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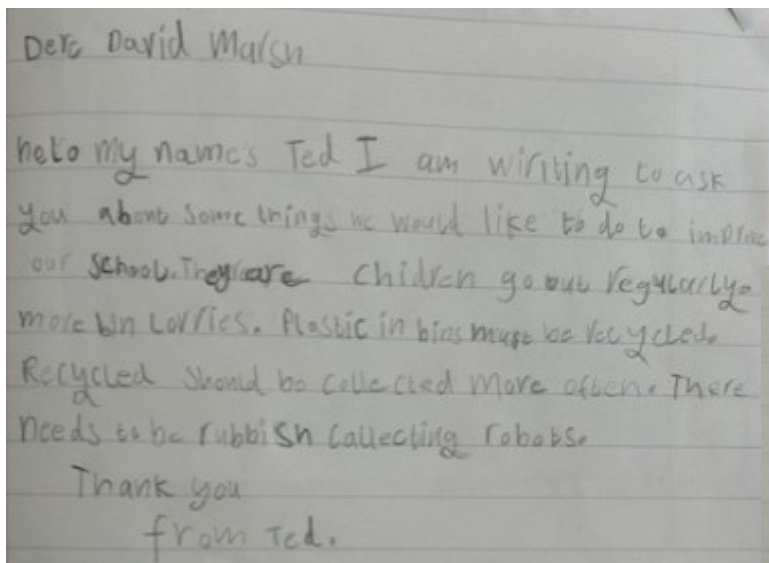
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## Year 1 News...

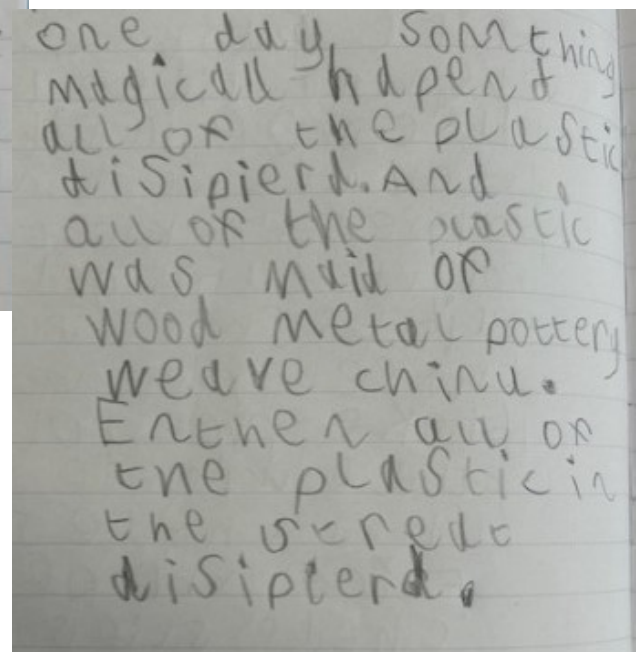
We have chosen to do a lot of excellent writing this half term. In year 1, we have become passionate about looking after our planet and really thinking about how we can do our bit to make a difference. During English lessons, we have been writing...

... our thoughts on different topics...



... letters to our school governors...

... and stories imagining a world where all plastic has disappeared.



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## Year 2 News...



All three Year 2 classes have now spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Argyles Care Home. The residents were entertained with singing, reading and interesting conversation. The children were beautifully behaved and were a credit to John Rankin. It was a positive experience for young and old alike.



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## Year 2 News...

The Hodgheg was our Guided Reading book and Year 2 decided to use the Make It, Bake It room to make their own edible versions of the Hodgheg! The children had to work as part of a team and follow instructions carefully. As well as making their own creations, all the children had to make sure all the utensils and bowls used were properly washed up, ready for the next group.



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# Year 2 News...

## On the hunt for mini-beasts and bug hotels!

As part of this term's Big Idea of **Earth Matters**, all the children took part in a mini-beast hunt. They searched a number of different areas of the school grounds, and once correctly identified, kept a tally of the number of each type of mini-beast that they found. Back in the classroom, they produced a pictogram of their results.

They were able to use the information about where large numbers of mini-beasts were found to help identify where the bug hotels that they made during Forest School should be located.

Forest School has been a lot of fun this term. The children have been making pictures of houses from natural resources as well as lots of bug hunting!

During our last Forest School session, we made bug hotels, the results of you can see below. Thank you to all adults who provided the resources to allow us to make them.



BEFORE



AFTER



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## Year 3 News...

Year 3 had a wonderful, productive time on our research trip into Newbury Town. We split into three mixed class groups and headed to three parts of the town centre.

The first group headed into the Market place where the market was set up. The children asked customers about their shopping experiences and preferences and then spoke to market-stall holders about their stalls and produce.

The second group spent some time on Northbrook street looking at the shops, stalls and entertainment. They spoke to shoppers about where they have been and what they had brought that day.



The third group headed to Parkway to ask shoppers about their ideal market. They also visited Artisans shop where they got to see some of the handmade items and ask the shop-keeper about their sales.

We all collected our data in tallies and questionnaires and once back at school we collected this data together and presented it in graphs. This will help us make choices for our own market stalls.

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## Year 3 News...

Year 3 have been so lucky to start Forest School this term. We have loved being outside and exploring our school grounds. We created journey sticks using natural items we foraged in our school ground. On each stick, children found interesting items such as leaves, sticks, feathers, etc. and bound them to a stick with string to tell a story. Each stick was beautiful and different.

We also have been learning a selection of knots such as the butterfly knot, the clove hitch and the timber hitch. The children spent some time practising these and joining materials together. We will then use these skills for den building in later sessions.



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## Year 4 News...

Year 4 had an absolutely fantastic time at The Story Museum in Oxford. We went on a Guided Tour around the city and learned about places that inspired different authors. We explored the museum and felt transported into different stories. We also learned lots about our current English topic: Quest Stories and gained inspiration for ideas to use in our writing. Year 4 are also very grateful to the adults who volunteered to come with us on our trip!



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## Year 4 News...

Year 4 took their learning outside this term with visitors from HSBC.

Together, we explored the habitats of our woodland wildlife and then discussed our 'needs' and 'wants' as people.

This enabled us to look at budgets and how much things cost. The children discussed their ideas on the things they think are essential to spend money on and what extras may make their own 'habitats' more comfortable!

A massive thank you to HSBC!



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## Year 5 News...

In Year 5, we have had a fantastic visit from our local fire brigade this half-term. We have learned all about fire safety procedures and got to explore a real fire engine! Our visit started with an informative talk with some of the firefighters, who told us about the differences between a smoke and fire detector. We learnt what information we had to give when calling 999 for a fire emergency and practised our stop, drop and roll. One of our teachers dressed up in a fire suit and we even got to have a go with the hose! After this amazing experience, we have created fire safety posters for the school and written our own set of detailed and accurate instructions for the fire safety procedure at John Rankin. What an experience!



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## Year 6 News...



Year Six are really enjoying learning Ukulele every Monday with Mr Christmas. Having already learnt three different chords, the children have demonstrated finger strumming along with different strumming patterns. The children have played a range of songs including Hey Ho by The Lumineers and Thunder by Imagine Dragons. They are excited to continue furthering their ukulele knowledge next half term! Children will have the opportunity to take part in a performance at Parkway at the end of term to show their new talents. More information to follow shortly.



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## Year 6 News...



As a well done for all their hard work, and an opportunity to 'let their hair down' after SATs, all classes thoroughly enjoyed their morning at Fifth Road park - playing and eating ice lollies. Mr Crane organised a game of Capture the Flag and Miss Knowles headed a game of rounders. Well done Year 6!



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# Sports News...

## JOHN RANKIN ARE GOLD AGAIN!



We are delighted to announce that we, have achieved the School Games GOLD LEVEL Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

- By the end of the school year over 900 participants will have taken part in a sporting event with John Rankin.
- By the end of the school year around 300 DIFFERENT children participating in a sporting event with John Rankin.
- A succesful introduction to school house events with varying sporting activities which every child has got involved with.
- By the end of the school year, over 60 school events would have taken place which John Rankin has had representatives.
- Sports leaders who have helped run clubs, house events and sports day.
- Year 3/4 Quadkid champions and our year 5/6 team will represent at county level. Our year 5/6 girls currentl yin the semi finals of the Schools county cup and winning the Newbury District association tournament.
- Various individuals representing high level sport outside of the school at district, county and regional levels.
- And so much more!

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to:  
Everyone for making it possible!



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# Sports News...

It's been a really busy term for our girls footballers. The 3/4 team took part in a festival at Park House and performed amazingly finishing in second place!

Our year 5/6 girls have made it to the semi finals of the county cup after beating Francis Bailey 6-1 in the quarter finals.

They also played Falkland in the Tony Mosson final. It was an absolutely thrilling game in which it finished 5-5! There was still no separating them after extra time and it took 8 penalties to unfortunately decide that Falkland were the winners. Huge credit to all the girls involved and for making back to back finals in consecutive years! However.....



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## Sports News...

You cant keep good champions down and our girls played in the first ever Newbury district association 6 a side tournament this week. There were 11 schools that entered and we emerged victorious winning the brand new trophy! We managed to get revenge on Falkland winning 2-0 in the semi finals and then won a thrilling final against Downsway after extra time 4-1!



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## Sports News...

### Quadkids!

It was another amazing year at Quadkids for John Rankin. We took 40 children to participate in the athletics event and everyone done so well. One of our year 3/4 teams won the whole competition beating off all the other schools in the district to claim the shield. A special shout out to Harvey B for coming 3rd overall boy and Emily B for coming 2nd overall girl! Our year 5/6 teams were just as amazing and one team narrowly missed out on top spot finishing 2nd overall but still qualifying for county Quadkids! A shout out to Tilly C for getting the best score of the day out of every participant!



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## Sports News...

We took a group of year 3/4s to Falkland cricket club to take part in a cricket festival. This consisted of 6 different events the children round and participated in and had great fun! Watch this space for cricket as we have a busy summer term 2 filled with cricket adventures!



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