



Message from Ms Cooper...

Another year is over. How quickly time flies by. As a new year approaches, we think about all the opportunities that are on the horizon - what's gone well and what we need to improve on. From this we continue to build on the positives, adapting the things we need to change and continue to strive to be the #GreatestSchoolOnEarth.

It's also this time of year that we say goodbye to some colleagues and wish them well in what they are setting out to do and the time we welcome new faces to the John Rankin family.

It's also the time of year we say goodbye to our year 6 children, sending them on their way to secondary, ready for the next chapter of their journeys. We hope that every young person leaving is prepared for the challenges that life throws their way - as part of our mission statement says, 'Our job is not to prepare learners for 'something', our job is to help learners prepare themselves for anything.'

Every year, I write something new for our year 6 children - the words tend to revolve around some key themes that have come from assemblies and various talks, but to end this year, I will leave you with my words.

*Look into your future
What do you see?
It's hard to imagine, isn't it?
We cannot tell what is yet to come
Life changes so quickly – everything moves so fast,
It's why we try to prepare you for anything,
As we do not know what innovations, ideas
Or new challenges we might face.
But remember one thing ;
It's where your element and passions lie,
that your dreams begin and take shape,
You create your reality,
You decide how your story will unfold
I asked you if one person can change the world.
I ask you now, how will you set the world ablaze –
With your words, your actions,
Your compassion, your generosity
What will you do? How will you leave your mark?
As I've reminded you,
People will not usually remember you by what you did, or what you said,
But they will remember how you made them feel.
So - What imprint will you leave?
What values will guide your thoughts and actions?
Courage? To stand strong against the winds?
Compassion? To listen and understand the stories you hear along your journey?
Curiosity? To ask questions and challenge the status-quo?
Creativity? To find new solutions to in solving familiar problems?
Composure? To stay calm and focused no matter how high and rough the waves become?
Will you stand firm? Will you be the voice for others?
Will you be the sea or will you be the lighthouse?
For a sea can choose to be rough or mild – it can cast you out or can help you sail to safety.
But a lighthouse,
Well, a lighthouse is a certainty. The light in the darkness that guides the ships to safety.
It is a beacon.
The world needs both – its lighthouses and its oceans.
And the wonder of it all, is that you get to choose...
Imagine if you were the sea?
Imagine if you were the lighthouse?
Imagine who you will be...who you could be...
And I'll leave you with my final questions –
What will you 'BECOME' so that you can truly transform your future?*

Looking forward to seeing all of our families again in September. A new year and exciting new opportunities!

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Governing Board Bulletin...



As chair of governors, I've been fortunate to be able to enjoy two fantastic events in school as we near the end of another exciting school year.

The Year 6 leavers' celebration was a wonderful occasion, and helping with the presentations gave me a chance to chat briefly with all 90 of our most senior pupils, many of whom started their John Rankin journey back in reception.

Each one of them was given a personalised award that they thoroughly deserved. Parents and carers can be proud of what the children have achieved, and I hope and believe that another John Rankin generation will now go on to fulfil their potential at secondary school.

The other event was Sports Day. I've been to more of these than I can remember, but this may well have been the best. The children of all ages clearly had a great time, as did all of us who were watching. It was a really special occasion and even the weather was good!

Talking of sport, I'd like to congratulate all our teams on their amazing achievements in Quadkids, football, cricket, swimming, dodgeball and other sports (18 in all). Under the coaching of Mr Crane, John Rankin has acquired a reputation as one of the top sporting schools in the district and indeed further afield.

It isn't just about winning. The best thing of all is that nearly all our children – well over 800 – have enjoyed participating in one or more sporting events this year.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the governing board to wish our whole school community a great summer holiday. See you in September!

David Marsh, Chair of Governors

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Nursery News...



We have had another busy and exciting term in Nursery. In Nursery we focus on developing creativity and it has been great to see the children develop their artistic skills over the year. The children are independent in choosing their own materials and resources and using their imagination to come up with lots of wonderful ideas. In the photos above the children used 'puffy paint' (shaving foam, PVA glue and paint mixed together) to make their own ice cream designs!

The children joined in with the whole school sports day and they did amazingly-participating enthusiastically with all the races and cheering on their friends. It was a great morning!

They also enjoyed a very informative visit from Buttercup the cow where they learned how to milk a cow!

The children enjoyed their visits to their new classes and have been talking lots about 'big school'! We will miss them very much and we wish them the best of luck as they continue their journey through John Rankin.

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FS2 News...

The children have enjoyed practicing and competing in sports day. We saw some “Astonishing Achievements”. We have done a lot of preparation and talking about emotions and transitioning to year 1. We enjoyed a thrilling trip to Bucklebury Farm park and feeding the deer. We had a very special visit from Buttercup the cow, whom all children enjoyed milking! .



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FS2 Forest School News...

This term we have focused forest school around Zog and his astonishing achievements. The children have made castles, hidden dragons, used tools to make elder necklaces like princess Pearl and enjoyed a fire of nettle crisps (using dragon breath to light the fire!) They also enjoyed a medieval sports day!



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FS2 Allotment News...

From seed to mouths, the FS2 children have worked hard this year to convert the plot of land into a mini allotment. At Easter, they planted potatoes, which are now ready and all children took one home to enjoy the delicious taste. We have sampled carrots, broad beans and peas and are still praying on some more sunshine to help the tomatoes and cucumbers! We think the birds enjoyed the raspberries and strawberries! It has been wonderful watching the life cycles, and knowing the importance of sunshine and watering to help them grow!

We recently showed around judges from Newbury in Bloom, for this and other wonderful growing projects around school. We look forward to the results after the summer holidays.



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FS2 News...

From Chicks to Chickens

As you may remember, FS2 hatched eggs from the Living Egg company earlier on this term. We have nurtured the chicks and now they are growing well and are enjoying their new home in with Mars, Twix and Marmite. We experienced a few days of them working out the “pecking order” but all 6 chickens are now happily living alongside one another. It is hard to believe how quickly they changed from chick to chicken. It is so lovely seeing all year groups coming to look after the chickens and using their eggs in the make it bake it room. .



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Year 1 News...

This term, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Olympic Games 2024. We have found out about Paris, which is where the Olympic games are taking place, and the Eiffel Tower has been a firm favourite to build and write about in our independent learning. We have listened to some National Anthems and then we have composed and played our own Olympic songs. In art, we have designed and then made our own Olympic mascots using clay. We hope everyone enjoys watching some of the Olympic Games this Summer after so much excellent learning!



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Year 1 News...

The Pop Up Play Village visited us in Year 1 last week and they brought with them a whole world of fun! We designed and built Olympic stadiums in the construction area; we looked after the athletes' children in the nursery; we wrote and sent letters from Paris; we looked after injured athletes in the hospital; and went shopping for healthy foods to keep athletes well fed. It was so lovely to see the children happily playing and using their imaginations so well!



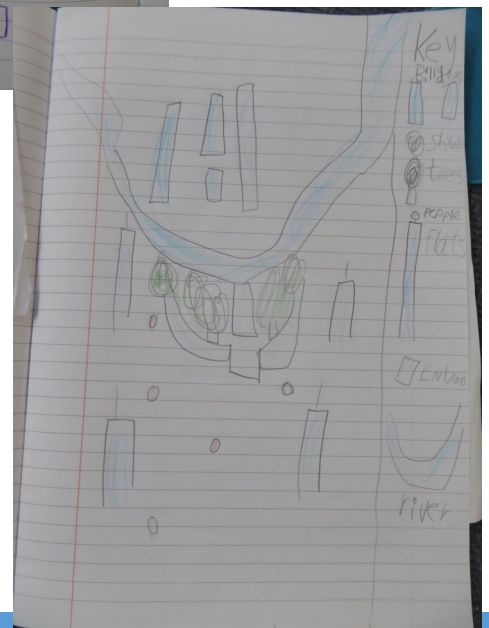
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Year 1 News...

In Geography we have been learning about maps. We looked at different types of maps and the symbols used to represent different things.

We made our own maps using symbols (and keys to decode them) to represent our classrooms, Olympic villages, places local to us and places from our imaginations.



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Year 1 News...

We had a visit from the Newbury and District Agricultural Society and the lovely Buttercup the cow!

We learned all about cows and where milk comes from and all the steps involved in getting it to our houses. We even got to see Buttercup's passport that she gets stamped whenever she leaves the farm.

Before she left, Buttercup needed milking, so everyone got to experience what it is like to milk a cow by hand, it was quite tiring!



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Year 2 News...

This term, Year 2 have been learning about the Astonishing Achievement of the invention of the train, looking at both Robert Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The children have enjoyed a trip to the STEAM museum in Swindon, dressing up as some of our key historical characters as well as exploring the museum. It was a great trip, and we are very grateful to all the adults who came along and made it possible.



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Year 2 News...

In Maths, we have enjoyed learning about temperature and capacity. We have been learning how to read a thermometer, as well as scales on jugs and containers. The children enjoyed being outside and trying some challenges, including filling four cups to one quarter, one half, three quarters and one third.



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Year 2 News...

Key Stage One have had a visit from Buttercup the Cow! We listened to our visitor explain how the cows are milked in big milking barns, and the children were able to have a go at milking Buttercup themselves!



Year 2 also had a go at being engineers... we were set the challenge of building a table out of a piece of A4 paper. We could only use the piece of paper, glue and scissors, and had to create a table that could hold the weight of a glue stick for 30 seconds! It was much harder than we thought...



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Year 3 News...

Year 3 had a very busy half term planning and preparing for our Eco-market. The children really enjoyed baking, making, planting and pricing up their wares. They even made cakes with the eggs from our school hens and cookies topped with jam made from strawberries we grew ourselves! Thank you to everyone who supported the market, we raised £145 which will be shared out between their Year 4 classes to spend on enhancing their learning opportunities.

In Maths, we have been revisiting telling the time and learning how to tell the time on an analogue clock. We then moved on to working out durations of time such as “how long is it until playtime?” and “If my TV show lasts 20 minutes, when will it end?” The summer holidays are the perfect time to practice these skills with your children; keeping up the focus on telling the time with your child at home will make a huge difference to their confidence and fluency!

In English, the children have enjoyed researching about amazing people and their astonishing achievements. Inspired by the ‘Little People, Big Dreams’ series, they are applying their research to writing the life stories of their chosen people.

Year 4 News...

Year 4 takes on The Romans!

This term, we have been looking at our Big Idea of 'Astonishing Achievements' and immersing ourselves in Roman life. We have been reading the 'Roman Soldier's handbook' and using this as the basis for our non-chronological reports on Roman life. The children have also been exploring the impact of this period on life in Britain today and how some of their achievements are still central to our communities.

A real highlight was Roman Day! All the children embraced becoming Romans with many dressing up in the most fantastic costumes! We all had a go at Italian bread making (with mixed results!), made up our own Route March and created beautiful mosaic tiles. We were lucky to be loaned Centurion artefacts from the West Berkshire museum, which really gave a sense of the life of a Roman soldier.



Well done to all of Year 4's Astonishing Achievements this term!

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Year 4 News...



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Year 5 News...

Year 5 have had a fantastic half term and have enjoyed exploring the natural world. They have been looking at Rivers in their Big Ideas lessons. The children have been successful in comparing rivers in the UK to the Amazon river, thinking about their features and similarities and differences. The children have worked hard on their brilliant river model projects. They have been able to use a range of different materials to demonstrate their understanding and have shown some excellent collaboration with their peers.

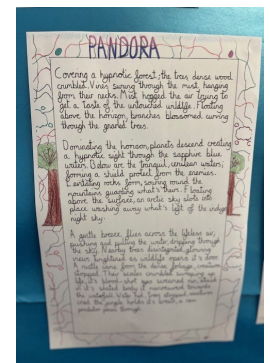
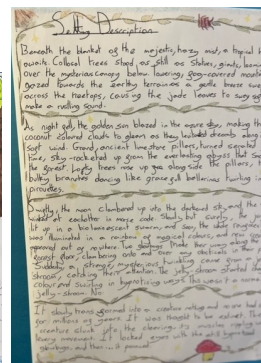
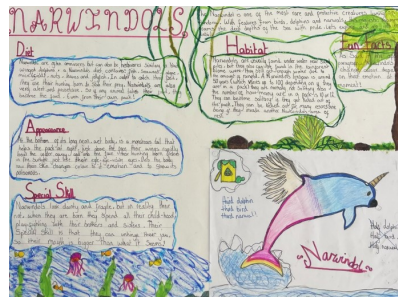
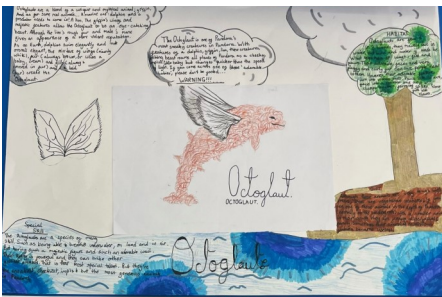


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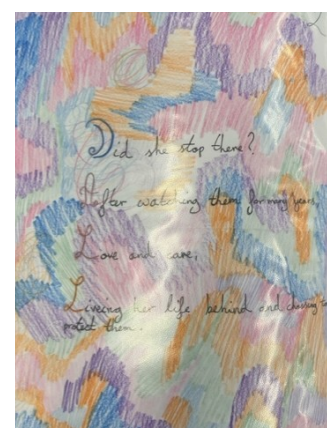
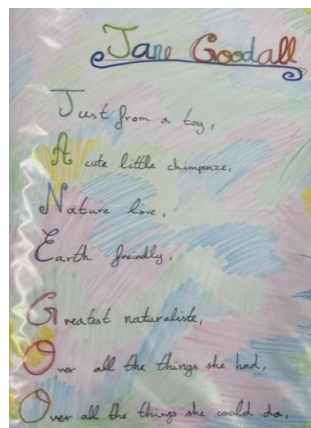
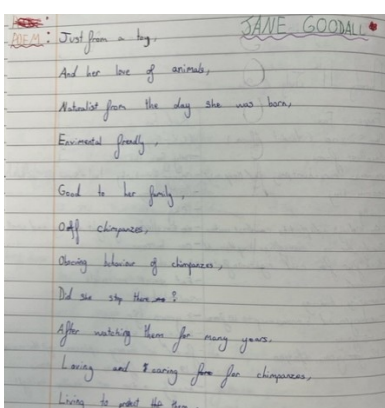
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Year 5 News...

In English, the children have enjoyed writing setting descriptions for their own world. They have used these setting descriptions creatively to imagine an animal that may live there, which is of their own design. The children have produced fantastic fact files about their animals, demonstrating a flexibility in how they write for purpose and use devices appropriately. Some have gone even further and created poetry about their creatures. We are so impressed with how their writing has developed this year!



In Science, the children have loved exploring life cycles and looking at naturalists such as David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. As part of our 'Astonishing Achievements' learning idea, they have produced some fantastic poetry about the work of Jane Goodall and have even prepared questions to interview her!



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Year 6 News...

Fantastic Pantastic!

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term gearing up for their Peter Pan inspired production. They performed at St Barts on Thursday 18th July and wowed the audience with incredible enthusiasm, epic solos and creative performances. A special thanks to Miss Travis (Mrs?) for all of her work in choreographing dances and developing the children's acting skills. All of the teachers are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by all.



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Year 6 News...



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Year 6 News...



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Year 6 News...

Growing a Fiver?

Year 6 were challenged to grow a £5 note! Across the year group, children worked collaboratively to develop their own businesses. They brainstormed ideas, pitched to their peers, created and sold their products and thought carefully about marketing techniques used by big-name brands.

After an initial sale amongst year 6, they used the proceeds to reinvest in their businesses and then did a second, bigger sale. It was great to see some unique ideas and children thinking mathematically to maximise profits and to adapt based on feedback. Final takings are being calculated to see who successfully grew £5. Well done year 6!



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Year 6 News...



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Year 6 News...

Parkway Summer Event

A group of year 6 children WOWed a crowd as they performed a range of songs on the ukulele at Parkway on Saturday. They have received ukulele lessons throughout the year from Good Vibes Music Academy. It was great to see so many children pick up a new skill.

We are incredibly proud of the many achievements and successes this year in year 6 and wish all of the children good luck as they venture on to secondary school. We know you will be brilliant!



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Sports News...

The children from Year 3 to Year 6 enjoyed the outdoor archery this Summer term. They were able to try cloud shooting and target shooting as well as setting their own range successfully. This year we have added some new bows and some of the children felt amazing shooting with bows taller than them. They had their own end of term competition and finished on a high. Well done to all of you!



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Sports News...

Another incredibly busy term started off with the swimming gala heats. We took 28 children down to Northcroft to compete in a variety of races and this talented bunch pictured below all qualified for the finals. We had some individual race winners and JRS even won the best relay team trophy!

We finished 3rd overall in the schools category which is a big improvement from last year! Well done to all involved!



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Sports News...

We took 70 children to Braywick Leisure Centre in Maidenhead to take part in the Berkshire Summer games festival. We had groups participate in Fencing, Cricket, Footgolf, Touch Rugby, Invictus Games and County Quadkids. Alongside those events they all got to take part in fun activities in the 60 minute zones such as cycling, skipping, football, wrestling and much more! The day is all about having fun in sport but the Quadkids event is a county championship and our Year 5/6 team came away as Berkshire champions for the second year in a row! An amazing achievement with Tilly C once again winning top girl in Berkshire! Well done to all involved.



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Sports News...



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Sports News...

We also had the boys and girls dodgeball tournaments this term. Dodgeball is one of our most popular sports at JRS and it showed. Our two girls teams both won their groups and came away with gold medals and the boys teams came 1st and 2nd which meant we had a clean sweep across both days! Another amazing achievement by all involved!



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Sports News...

We also had the boys and girls cricket events this term. Our boys performed really well in the Newbury district event but unfortunately didn't get out the group stages. Our girls managed to win every game and qualify for the county finals! The same set of girls travelled to Maidenhead and had a great time winning two and losing three games by one run and two runs! A great effort competing at the highest level in the county!



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Sports News...

The Year 5/6 girls had their Berkshire County Cup final this term. It is the second year in a row they have made the final which in itself is an outstanding achievement. Unfortunately, this time they came up short, losing 4-2, to an excellent Dedworth team full of academy players. Another great season for girls football! With two finals being made and winners of the Newbury District association 6 a side tournament.



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Sports News...

The season long Adnams Cup came to a close this term with John Rankin finishing top of the league and winning the inaugural trophy! Over 90 different children have taken part in the competition throughout the year! Well done to all involved!

| Team | G | W-D-L | + | - | ± | P |
|-------------------|---|-------|----|----|-----|----|
| John Rankin | 9 | 5-1-3 | 43 | 33 | 10 | 16 |
| Kintbury | 5 | 3-1-1 | 23 | 16 | 7 | 10 |
| Francis Baily | 7 | 3-1-3 | 17 | 28 | -11 | 10 |
| Basildon | 3 | 3-0-0 | 30 | 4 | 26 | 9 |
| Falkland | 4 | 3-0-1 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| Robert Sandilands | 5 | 2-0-3 | 7 | 17 | -10 | 6 |
| St Finians | 6 | 2-0-4 | 12 | 26 | -14 | 6 |
| Hermitage | 4 | 1-1-2 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 4 |
| Spurcroft | 2 | 1-0-1 | 3 | 6 | -3 | 3 |
| Compton | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Winchcombe | 2 | 0-0-2 | 2 | 9 | -7 | 0 |
| Speenhamland | 3 | 0-0-3 | 5 | 16 | -11 | 0 |

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Sports News...

House Championship!

We have also concluded the first house championship with all events being completed. This has been a year long event in which the children have taken part in numerous activities during their PE lessons and the final standings are below:

4th Place with 6026 points is Donnington

3rd Place with 6102 points is Enborne

2nd Place with 6275 points is Craven

HOUSE CHAMPIONS WITH 6363 points is

Kennet!

Sports News...

Sports Day!

Another amazing sports day is in the books and this year was bigger than ever! Over two days the children took part in numerous events and races and had a great time! The standings are below:

Craven with 7602 Points

Kennet with 7848 Points

Donnington with 8072 Points

Enborne with 8207 Points