

All you need is love...



TO ALL OUR FAMILIES

Welcome to the Spring 1 edition of our newsletter, at the end of another half term that's flown by! It seems appropriate, with Valentines Day upon us, to reflect a little on love and the role that it plays in our school community.

When I sat down with the stakeholders of Bradfield, less than two years ago, to begin carving out a fresh new vision for our wonderful school, the word 'love' was by far the most frequently used. We wanted to be part of a school which children love coming to and which staff love working in. We wanted a parent community who know how much we love their children, who trust us to make the right decisions not only for their education, but also for their wider personal development. We wanted a school where everyone was welcome, no matter their differences and where love allowed us to put firm boundaries and expectations in place for children, in order that they reach their fullest potential.

Today, we are proud to be a school that uses the word 'love' freely and generously - one that makes sure children feel loved and safe, and teaches them to love and care for others by standing up for what is right, even when it's hard.

This term, our pupil led Wellbeing Committee shared a very mature and unexpected observation during one of our meetings, informing me that they had noticed how much time we spend talking about mental health in school and that sometimes it means we focus on our bad feelings instead of the good ones. I challenged them to think of ways we could help combat this, by focusing on the positive and all the things we love about our lives, and the idea of Gratitude Trees was born!

This week, we have delivered a beautiful little tree to each classroom, complete with a set of mini luggage tags. Our plan is that, after half term, the children will have the opportunity to identify something they are grateful for, write it on their luggage tag and hang it on the tree. We even have a Gratitude Tree for the staffroom so that the adults in school can join in!

I hope you enjoy this half term's newsletter and that all our families enjoy a relaxing and peaceful half term break. I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 24th February.

Miss Davies



In school this term...

ARMSTRONG YR

This half term we have spend lots of time exploring our outdoor area with lots of fine and gross motor activities. We have celebrated Luna new year. We hunted for fossils and have learnt all about dinosaurs. We have learnt all our new phase 3 phonics sounds! Our hand writing is amazing and now we are writing sentences!

I wonder what excitement we will get up to next half term!



In school this term...



ANNING Y1

In DT this half term, we have been designing and making our own puppets based on 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We even got to put them to the test by performing our own puppet show. The children worked so hard at making their puppets come to life! In Science we have been using our senses and investigating whether we need our sense of smell in order to taste. It turns out we do! We tried different skittles and attempted to guess the flavour without our sense of smell. It was a lot harder than we thought it would be! We went on an amazing trip to the Story Museum in Oxford as an extension to our English topic - traditional tales. We had the most magical day ever, it was so interactive and we all had the absolute best time developing our knowledge and exploring the museum.

In school this term...

NIGHTINGALE Y2

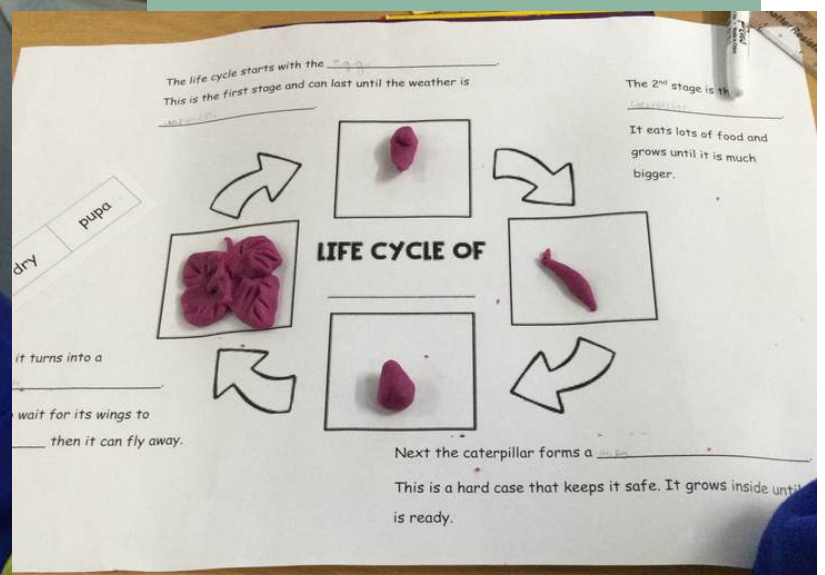
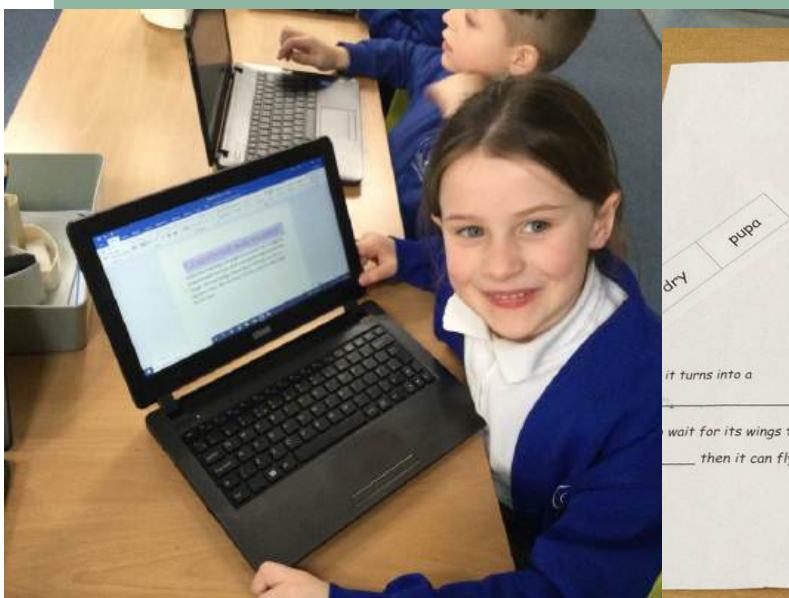
I can't believe we are halfway through the year! Year 2, have been very busy this half term completing lots of exciting new learning.

In English, the children have been learning to write instructions for their own creative sandwich for Paddington. They thought carefully about breaking the instructions down into small steps and using adverbs to support the reader.

In Maths, Year 2 have blown me away, with their knowledge of money. They did a fantastic job of counting coins and making the same amount but in different ways.

The children have loved reading Fantastic Mr Fox this half term. It is so lovely to see their confidence growing in answering inference questions and using intonation to create exciting and scary aspects.

The children have started learning about women who have changed the world in History and they have been hooked by all the different inspirational people they have encountered. In Geography, they have learnt the continents and oceans of the world and they are now frequently reciting the continent song! The children have also enjoyed Art this term whereby they have been making their own masterpieces using what they have learnt about texture and colour. In computing, they have been learning how to type up their work using word processing. They've had great fun experimenting with different fonts, sizes and picture borders.



In school this term...



EARHART Y3

This term, Year 3 have been learning about how to communicate via email and keeping ourselves safe online. We have had lots of fun sending each other kind, interesting messages and have even learnt how to attach a document by pressing the paper clip icon. In our last lesson, we used the interactive white board to test our knowledge of identifying phishing emails and what action to take when faced with a fake message.



In school this term...

ROWLING Y4

Year 4 finished off their rivers topic with a walk down to the River Pang. We spotted human and physical features along the way including: a 'v' shaped valley, meanders, river beaches and bridges. We also saw some evidence of physical processes such as erosion. It was excellent to gain real life experiences of the river, which really brought our learning to life.



In school this term...

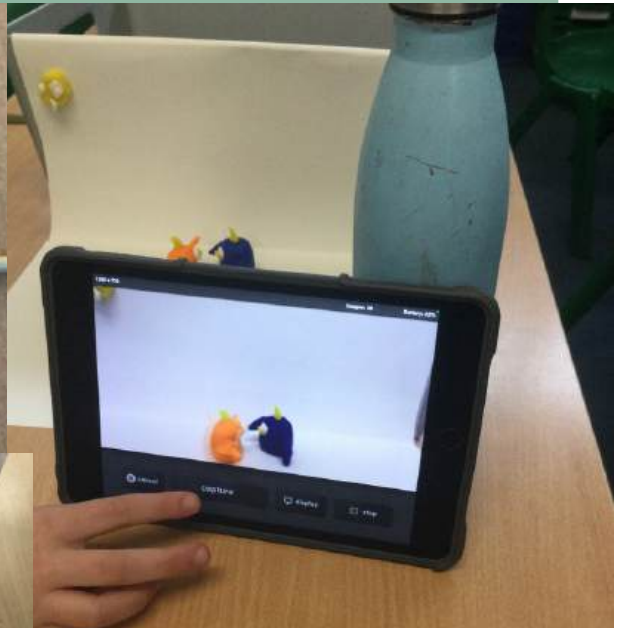
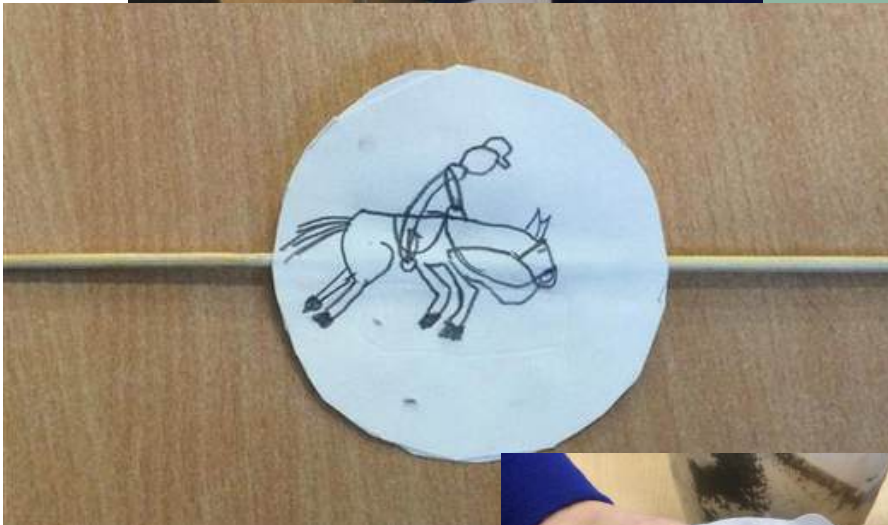


ELIZABETH Y5

It's been another busy and enjoyable half term in Year 5! The children have particularly enjoyed their Computing unit, creating stop-motion animation!

Science has been focused on separating materials, exploring solutions and learning about irreversible and reversible changes.

In DT the children have enjoyed creating their own pop-up books.



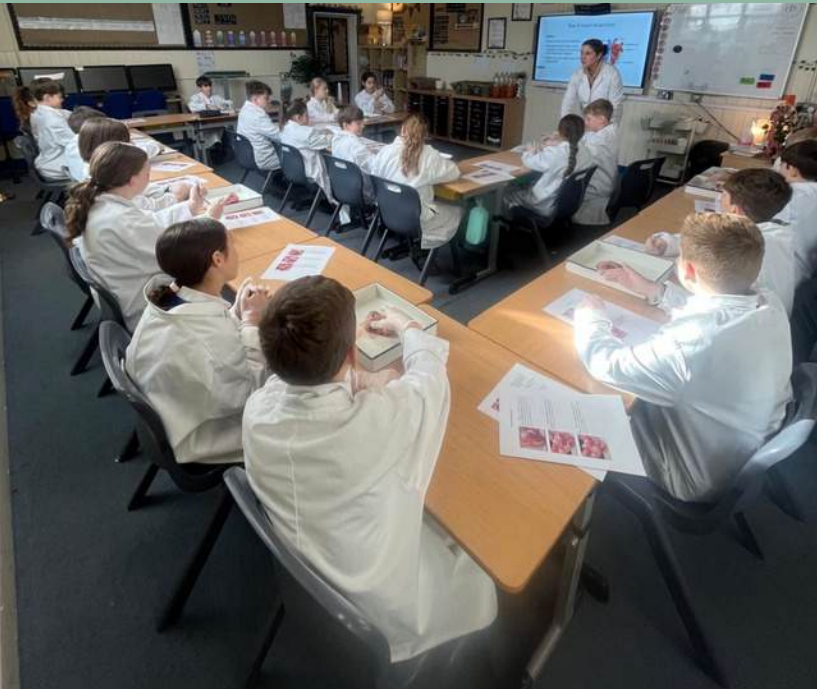
In school this term...

LUTHER KING JNR Y6

We've had a busy half term in year 6 and have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum! We really enjoyed learning about the circulatory system in Science, and finished the unit by dissecting a heart with the help of some special visitors from Bradfield College.

In Geography, we have enjoyed learning about coasts and cannot wait for our visit to Bournemouth coming up next term.

We also visited Pangbourne College to watch their production of *Around The World in 80 Days*, which was very inspiring and entertaining!



School Development

PEDAGOGY EVENING

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our Pedagogy evening last Thursday. It was a brilliant evening of discussion about our school development work, latest educational research and the ways that we implement this as we teach the children here at Bradfield. We have received a great deal of positive feedback about the evening and plan to run a repeat session in the summer term for those who weren't able to join us this time round. We will release a date for the repeat of this evening early next term, and below is some feedback from the parents who attended last week.

"Wow! It is amazing to see all the hard work and strategy that goes on behind the scenes and even more amazing to see the changes in the children..."

"Totally enjoyed our VERY INFORMATIVE evening learning about pedagogy and we are under no illusion that our son is in the right school."

"A brilliant evening learning about the 'how'. I feel so privileged that my child has such passionate teachers. Thank you."

DIOCESAN FEEDBACK

This week, we had a pre-Ofsted visit from our Diocesan school improvement partner, Katie Dickens. Katie spent a full morning in school, touring classrooms, exploring our curriculum and achievements. I am delighted to say that the visit went very well indeed and that Katie has some incredibly positive things to say about our school and our wonderful children. We were particularly pleased with her judgement that we have "created the most incredible research-based environment and implemented innovative pedagogy techniques".

Pta Update



PTA NEWS

We would like to say a huge thank you to Charlotte Peacock, our PTA chair, and the rest of the committee for all their hard work again this term. Thanks to their events and fundraising, and the generosity of all our families, we have seen some fantastic additions to our school environment. These have included new tables in Year 1, year 6 and the dining hall, the redecoration of our school hall and some fantastic new equipment in our Reception outdoor area, including a new climbing wall and a shop!

PTA EVENTS

The PTA have more exciting events planned for next term - please do add these your diary and look out for further information:

28th March: Mothers Day Tea

4th/5th April: Spruce Up Days

13th June: Fathers Day Event

5th July: Bradfest (summer fayre)



Community Info



BOOK A FREE CLASS

WE HAVE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

MINI STREETZ
3 TO 6 YEARS

JUNIOR STREETZ
7 TO 11 YEARS

TEEN STREETZ
12 YEARS +

"My daughter has been attending MF Dance for three years, her confidence has grown and she has loved every minute of every class! I cannot recommend MF Dance enough!"
Lottie's mum

"Harry loves coming to his classes, he has really found his confidence and his behaviour has noticeably improved since finding an outlet for all his energy!"
Harry's mum

ALL OF OUR INSTRUCTORS ARE DBS CHECKED


SCAN ME

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK IN

Or visit
www.mfdance.co.uk

[@MattFiddesUK](https://twitter.com/MattFiddesUK) [OfficialMattFiddes](https://facebook.com/OfficialMattFiddes) [mattfiddesoofficial](https://instagram.com/mattfiddesoofficial)

Community Info



**FAMILY DAY
AT THE BASE!**



Thursday 20 February, 10am - 5pm

Join our first ever Family Day this half-term! We are welcoming families with children of all ages to experience our vibrant exhibition from the inspirational and globally celebrated artist, Yinka Shonibare CBE.

We know the positive impact creative experiences can have on young people's futures, and also recognise that introducing children to the wonders of art galleries can feel a bit daunting. So we've got some ways to help you explore the space together...

What's On

In the Gallery:

- Explore our colourful exhibition **Yinka Shonibare CBE: Ritual Ecstasy of the Modern**
- Listen to a podcast about Shonibare's work and watch the TV to understand about how he makes his prints
- Get creative with our **free craft activities**- make masks or crowns and pose for a framed photo wearing your creation, or build a simple mobile to hang at home
- Find out about Shonibare's journey to becoming an artist and explore the world map

Around the building:

- Have a go at some of the free art activities in our new **Community Art Trolley**
- Follow an **art trail** around the building, inspired by Shonibare's artwork
- Peek inside our studios and watch our resident artists get creative
- Take a break, and have a bite to eat and a hot drink, in Honesty Café

Tickets to the Gallery

(Pre-booking recommended)

- **Under-12s enter for FREE**
- Full price adults: £8.25 (£7.25 concs)

Alternatively, take a look at our **Family Base Pass** which entitles a family of four unlimited entry to our Gallery for 12 months for just £45 - as well as 10% off in Honesty cafes! **Find out more here**



THE BASE