

Northwold Primary Magazine

Spring 2024

Music – Enriching Our Curriculum!

At Northwold, we pride ourselves on our broad music curriculum. We offer a music curriculum that inspires and engages pupils to develop a love for music and their talents as musicians and so increase their self-confidence and creativity. As the children critically engage with the music curriculum, so they increase their skills in composition, singing, performing and listening.

All children have a minimum of one hour of music a week – this is broken into two sessions - one led by the class teachers and another led by a music specialist. From Y3, all children take part in whole - class instrumental lessons. They learn an instrument through the course of their KS2 career. Y6 are learning the recorder, Y5 and Y4 are learning violin and Y3 is playing the ukulele. Within class led sessions, children learn about the music of key musicians, both modern and classic, and use this knowledge to inform their own composition.

Through the music curriculum, children analyse, improvise and compose melodies and have the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.



Y6 Recorder lessons in action

We are also extremely privileged to have Helen Shapiro visit the school. She attended Northwold many years ago and spoke fondly of her time here. She has a broad repertoire of music spanning many decades. Her story inspired our future musicians.

Last term, the choir performed in a singing competition along with the other schools in Arbor Trust – they did themselves proud, bringing home the second place trophy.

Members of Arbor Academy Choir performed in the Stratford and East London Music Festival. The children were delighted to be announced the winners of the competition. They competed against five local primary school choirs and gave a very bold performance indeed. The adjudicator commented that they created a 'lovely atmosphere', had a very unified sound and presented 'stylish work' that was well-tuned and confident. We are very pleased this choir has started out so well; we have 15 members from across the four trust schools and will be holding auditions on the first rehearsal of each new term for other interested pupils.



The Arbor Academy Trust Choir at the Stratford and East London Music Festival.

Reading

Reading underpins all that we do here at Northwold. We believe that building a strong foundation and a love for reading enables children to get so much more from their learning. Our novel studies have continued to be a huge success in developing language acquisition through the Power of Words and bringing a 'reader's style' to the children's writing.

Over the spring term, the children have had the opportunity to study and analyse the following books during shared reading sessions:

Year 1: Traction Man, Grace and Family, The Diary of A Killer Cat, Gregory Cool.

Year 2: The Hodgeheg, Zerraffa Giraffa, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, The Lost Happy Endings.

Year 3: The Worst Witch, Gangsta Granny, Bill's New Frock.

Year 4: How to Train your Dragon, Journey to Jo'burg, Varjak Paw.

Year 5: A Monster Calls, The Highwayman, Animal Farm.

Year 6: Skellig, Shakespeare Stories, Treasure Island.

Reading opportunities within Northwold have been exciting and have improved children's reading fluency, comprehension and writing skills.

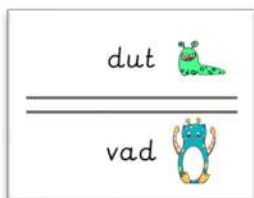


There is clear evidence across the school that children are being exposed to high quality literature and are being taught how to comprehend the text they are reading.

Evidence in books shows how they have implemented new skills into their own writing; showing creativity, author intent and imaginative vocabulary. Reading this year has shown clear progress throughout the school and we look forward to developing it further over the next term.



Phonics



At Northwold, we believe that synthetic phonics is an effective method of ensuring children learn to read quickly and proficiently. During the autumn and first half of the spring term, the children made significant progress in their journey to becoming fluent readers.

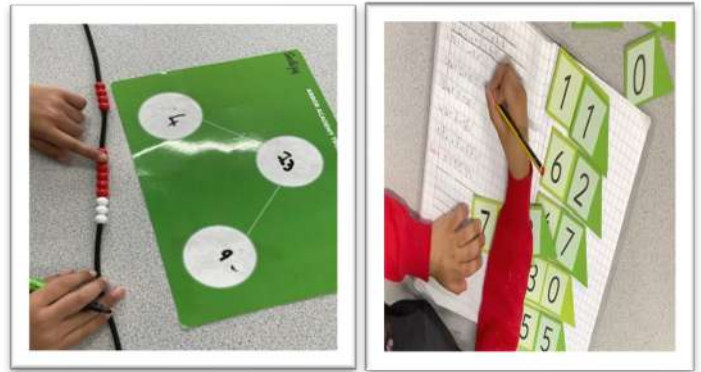
Children and teachers have been working extremely hard in revising and consolidating phonics sounds. Using a range of multi-sensory methods, for example phoneme fingers, sound buttons, magnetic letter and flashcards, children have been encouraged to become more confident at reading real and pseudo words. A variety of interactive resources are used to support the children in decoding, blending and segmenting unfamiliar words. The sessions are also a great way of teaching the children how to form and write letters correctly. Thank you to all the parents who have been reading regularly with their children. We appreciate your support in consolidating their learning and encouraging our children's love for reading.

Mathematics

At Northwold we strive to create confident and enthusiastic mathematicians by providing our pupils with a learning environment that promotes a varied and diverse application of mathematics skills.

During the autumn term, there was a strong focus on deepening understanding of the value of number and mathematical fluency, developing problem solving and building mathematical reasoning skills through a balanced mix of independent work, partner tasks, group and whole class tuition.

Teachers supported and guided the children through the crucial stages of mathematical development by using our 18:12 approach; this maximises learning time through differentiated input and ensures that our children are not just busy, but busy learning.



The arithmetic skills and understanding of place value that underpin reasoning and problem solving are also practised on a daily basis using our bespoke speed maths programme to increase number fluency and the soft start sessions where children use manipulatives to build fluency and understanding of the value of number.

EYFS

Our early years curriculum is based around the 7 areas of learning. It aims to build a solid foundation, ensuring children are ready for key stage one. We have planned for the learning and development of each individual child, with tasks adapted to suit individual needs and children's interests.

It focusses on:

- playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
- creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

Working in partnership with parents and external agencies is key. Thank you for your continued support, reading with your children daily and carrying out the homework tasks that have been set.



Science

We recognise the importance of experiencing the awe and wonder of science and understanding its application in every aspect of daily life. Learning prioritises children's knowledge and understanding of the world. Scientific skills and concepts are developed through a process of enquiry and observation. The curriculum is designed to ensure that children are able to acquire key scientific knowledge through practical experiences such as using equipment, conducting experiments, building arguments and explaining concepts confidently.

We encourage pupils to use a range of methods to communicate their scientific information and present it in a systematic manner. Throughout, we endeavour to ensure that the science curriculum is exciting and innovative as well as building core skills and knowledge.

Within the forest school sessions at Northwold Primary, the children are provided with the



unique opportunity to experience science in action. This can be taught through both specific activities and incidental observations or experiences. As such, this allows our children to investigate scientific theories, pose questions in the context of a situation and highlights the role that science plays in our everyday lives.

Art and Design

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. Our Art curriculum underpins a high-quality art and design education which engages, inspires and challenges pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

This term children have had the opportunity to study different artists and explore a wide range of techniques which they used to inspire their own art work, using shapes, colour, clay, paint and sketch pencils.



Influenced by Jami Porter Lara and Magdalene Odundo, Y3 explored coil pottery and created their own pots.



Above: Y1 explored shape and colour, learning from Henri Matisse.

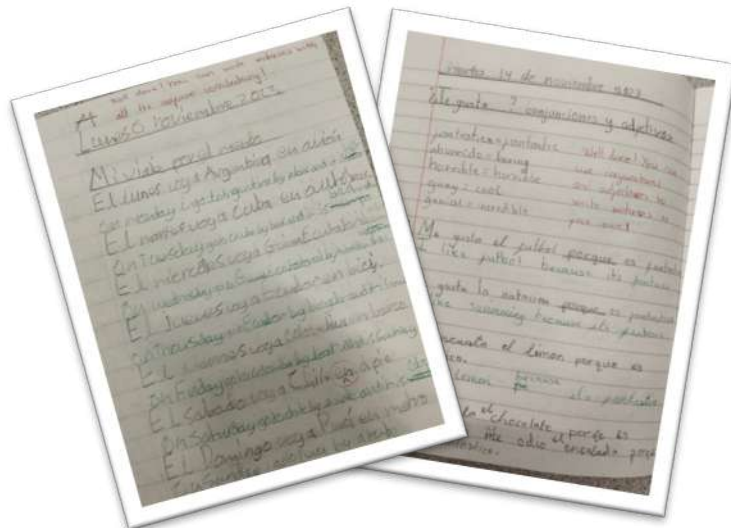
Right: Y4 has learned about Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Inspired by his rose design, Y4 created their own design which inspired their stain glass windows.



Spanish

At Northwold we provide children with a wide range of opportunities. Our high-quality language curriculum fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. We ensure that teaching enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language, understanding and responding to speakers, both in speech and in writing. We provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes and learn new ways of thinking.

Over the autumn term, we covered a broad range of topics from numbers and colours in Y3 to transport in Y4, food and basic phonics



in Y5 and reading, writing and presenting the Weather Forecast in Spanish in Y6.

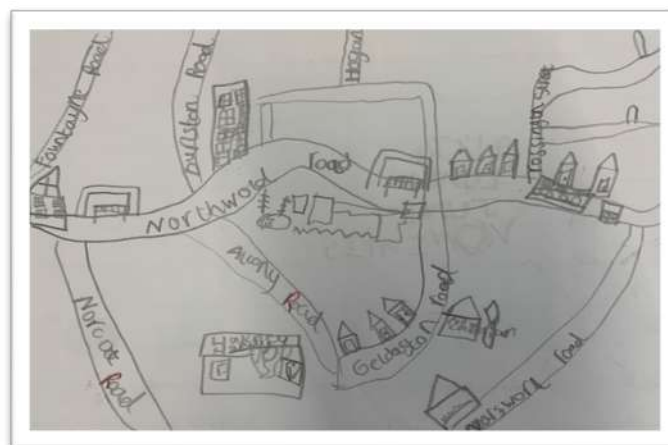
History and Geography

History

At Northwold we provide an excellent history education which will help encourage pupils to develop interest and enthusiasm in the past which can link to current events and issues. Our History curriculum develops a sense of chronology and an appreciation of how things have changed over time. It encourages pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement. We aim to teach pupils about the complex nature of the world we live in, the process of change and the diversity of society. It will inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the world we live in as well as develop their ability to question and interpret sources, formulating their own opinions.



A Viking longship by Year 4.



A map of the local area drawn by Year 1.

Geography

We provide a high-quality geography curriculum which inspires curiosity in pupils and a lifelong fascination about the world and its people. Teaching equips pupils with knowledge about diverse human and natural environments. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world will help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and of the formation and use of landscapes and environment. The curriculum develops the skills and vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry. Pupils will have a secure understanding of how the Earth has changed over time and recognise the issues concerning the environment currently, including sustainable development.

Pupil Voice

School Council

Over the autumn term, the school council has made strides in fulfilling its objectives. Emphasis has been placed on encouraging healthier and safer lifestyles, fostering good relationships, and promoting respect for diversity among students. The school council has provided a platform for children to voice their opinions and ideas, allowing them to actively participate in the organisation of the school. This engagement has given students a valuable experience of democratic processes and instilled a sense of responsibility in them.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch representatives met and discussed healthy foods and the favourite lunches for their classes. In each class, Friday's lunch of Fish and Chips was the favourite. The representatives from Years 3 to 6 carry out duties alongside the prefects at lunchtime to support the children during their lunch break.

Eco Warriors

The eco-warriors met to agree on some tasks they would complete in their classes on a daily/weekly basis. These include turning the lights off when no one is in the room, reminding the adults to turn off the interactive whiteboard when not in use and the encouragement to use the recycling bins correctly in each room and to dispose of the recycling accordingly. We discussed why we need to do these things and the impact it could have on the environment.

Playground Advocates

The playground advocates support during break times, both inside the lunch hall and outside on the playgrounds. The children actively play with other children, they know how to spot children that may need some extra support with making friends, making them feel included and encouraging them to make good choices. New children are helped by the advocates to settle into school life.

We have also discussed how to support the local community by litter picking.

Trips and Visitors

The autumn term was marked by a series of successful educational trips, providing enriching experiences that align with the curriculum. The Y6 watched 'The Secret Garden', centered around World War 2. The visual aspect of historical events made the learning experience memorable. On their PSHE trip, Y6 participated in activities that promoted teamwork and a sense of responsibility towards their community.



Y6 learning about road safety.

The Y5 DT trip to the Brunel Museum focussed on engineering. Exploring the engineering marvels of the tunnel shaft creations, pupils gained valuable insights into the principles of design, construction and problem-solving.

The Y4 Science trip to Walthamstow Wetland immersed students in the natural environment. Pupils applied scientific concepts, reinforcing their understanding of biology and ecology.



The Y2 History trip to St Paul's Cathedral focussed on the Great Fire of London. Exploring historical landmarks and understanding the significance of events like the Great Fire deepened pupils' historical awareness.

Y1 went to the Museum of the Home. It provided a unique opportunity to explore changes in homes from the Victorian era to modern day. Pupils walked through various rooms, gaining an understanding of historical living conditions and identifying features of different types of homes.

The autumn term's trips not only reinforced classroom teaching but also fostered a holistic understanding of the subjects, making education more engaging and memorable for the students.

Physical Education (PE) and Sport

PE and sport play an important role in supporting our children to learn to develop the essential qualities of discipline, resilience, communication, teamwork and ambition. This, we believe will lead to children making better lifestyle choices and lead to improved concentration, attitude and academic achievement.



We regularly take part in competitions with schools across the trust and proudly came home with the Football and the Athletics trophies after winning the inter-school competitions in the Autumn term.



Clubs

Through our extended provision, we promote healthy life styles and build self-confidence through sports and enrichment clubs. Clubs are delivered by members of staff as well as external service providers.

We have a range of sports clubs running after school such as football, basketball, gymnastics, dance and racket skills.

We also have had clubs such as forest school, chess and art running over the year.



Inclusion

All children have equal access to the curriculum at Northwold. Our dedicated team of teachers and learning support assistants ensure that all lessons are accessible for all children with the correct availability to relevant resources. Ensuring that lessons are appropriately resourced means that all children are able to access the learning in each lesson. Using the appropriate resources enables students to have better access and outcomes in their learning and ensures that they meet the lesson composites (outcomes). Children with special educational needs have additional support from a range of professionals from both the school team or from external professionals who come into school to work with children. The staff have worked tirelessly over the term to support all children who need extra support in their phonics and reading and we are seeing some amazing progress.