

Curwen Gets Creative!

Sharing the value of creative and cultural learning

International Week

See pages 2-5 for reports about International Week, including the food competition, Mini-World, the cultural fashion show and Carnival.



Y1 Art Gallery

The Year 1 Art Gallery exhibiting portraiture artworks inspired by artists such as Frida Kahlo and Pablo Picasso, was a huge success. Read more about this on page 5.

Welcome to Issue 2 of our Curwen Gets Creative newsletter. What a wonderfully creative spring term we had!

This issue celebrates has a focus on art, with children enjoying new experiences and opportunities to explore their creative side and develop their artistic skills and knowledge. Staff also had the opportunity to develop their artist skills.

Several of our annual events also took place in the spring term, including one of our firm favourites, International Week. Several pages of this issue have been dedicated to this event, including a few articles written by our intrepid student media team and Drama Ambassadors. We hope you enjoy reading them.

The Curwen Team

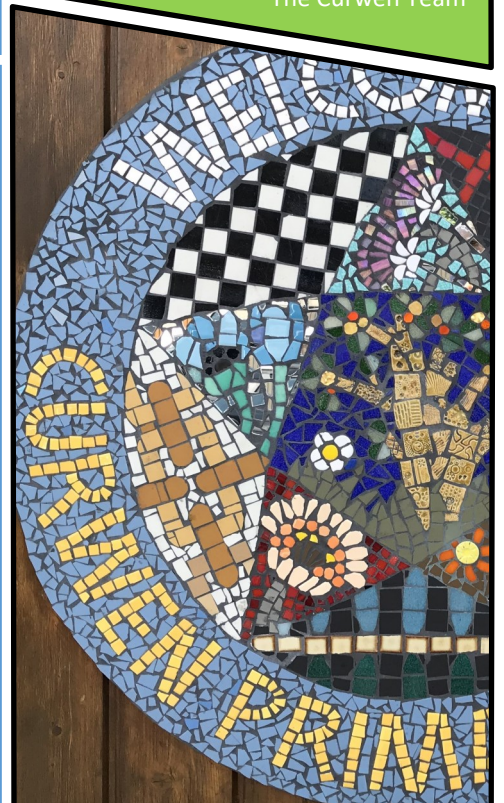
River of Hope

Year 4 children took part in an activity at Cody Dock, having the opportunity to express their concerns about the environment through creative arts. Read the article on page 8.



Poetry at Curwen

Learn more about our whole-school poetry competition, our guest visitor's poetry workshop and how we celebrated the late Benjamin Zephaniah. Take a look at the article on page 9.



Much more inside!



Let's
celebrate
culture
through
creativity.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK

CURWEN'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

What an amazing week! The children, staff and parents outdid themselves again at our annual International Week, our week-long celebration of global culture through creativity. Children and staff worked hard throughout the spring term, learning about the different aspects of culture and heritage of countries across 6 continents. Their learning interlinked through geography, history, languages, art and DT.

The celebrations commenced with a fabulous International Citizenship Assembly, where we cheered the International Champions for each class and delighted in listening to children reciting poems in different languages from around the world. It was wonderful to see our multilingual children sharing their poems in the home language with such pride and confidence.

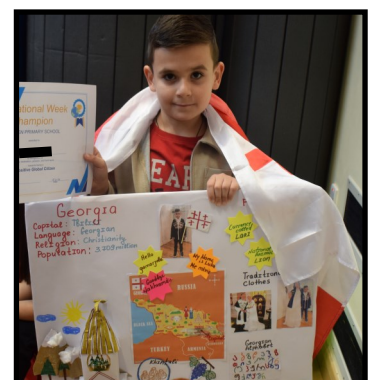
Monday afternoon saw our Food Competition, where families shared the culinary skills, bringing a plethora of sweet and savoury dishes from a multitude of cultures and countries across the world. The judges had the hardest of tasks deciding on the top three winners for each

category. You can read more about this on the next page.

Children 'visited' different countries on Wednesday and enjoyed taking part in the fashion show on Thursday. The week culminated in the fabulous Carnival on Friday - a firm favourite amongst children and staff alike. You can read more about all of these events on the next couple of pages.



Monday's Food Competition - more about this on page 3



A year 1 child shared his project about Georgia

FOOD COMPETITION REPORT

By Laila, 6C

When I strolled in the lunch hall I was mesmerised by all the diverse dishes. My friend accompanied me as we spotted our first interviewee. The smell enticed me over. The dish was from Pakistan and the lady answered our exciting questions. The food was a classic Asian cuisine. Chicken Biryani, its sight looked very flavourful. There were so many aromatic dishes from around the world, all the way from Russia to Thailand. The desserts were bright and eye-catching . Overall, from my point of view, the dishes were all unique in their own individual way. I would describe my experience as exotic!



Based on this wonderful experience, I say everyone should have won!

By Emmanuel, 6C

On Monday of International Week, I went to see the Parent Food Competition in the afternoon. When I arrived there were loads of parents—over 50 entries —and the food they had brought smelt amazing! It was nice to have so many different cultural foods all in one place. There were dishes ranging from the Chicken Biryani from Pakistan to the Chocolate Coconut Cake from Brazil and the Lemon Cake from Ghana.



By The Curwen Team

The Parent Food Competition really was a delight for the senses! With friends and family using their creative talents to make over 20 sweet dishes and even more savoury, the judges had an extremely difficult decision to make. There were awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for sweet and savoury dishes.

Savoury

- 1st = Alina with Papanasi with sweet cheese
- 2nd = Seda with Turkish Baklava
- 3rd = Iara with a Brazilian Chocolate Coconut Cake

Sweet

- 1st = Dianna with a Bulgarian Pogacha
- 2nd = Farhia with Somali Rice and lamb
- 3rd = Sumera & Ahfan with samosas and kebab from Pakistan



The winning cooks with their certificates and awards



The winning sweet entry: Bulgarian Pogacha

MINI WORLD REPORT

By Laila, 6C

Classes from Nursery to Year 6 literally transformed the school into a mini world, with children teaching visitors about their country's culture, geography, history and cuisine. It was great to learn more about the traditional foods from different countries - this was enjoyed very much by visiting children and adults!

The competition for phase winner was a very difficult decision for the judges. The victorious classes were: RMC, 2SA, 3O and 6C. RMC transformed into Bangladesh with activities including exploring wildlife and creating clay bowls. 2SA took visitors on a tour of the USA state of Hawaii, with fantastic map activities and the chance of a photo with a famous Hawaiian. In 3O, visitors were exported to the culture and traditions of Nigeria, with music and art activities to name a few. Jamaica was the destination for anyone visiting 6C. Adults and children went through passport control and were encouraged to spend their Jamaican currency through activities that gave them an authentic Jamaican experience.

All of the classes were brilliant in their own unique way. Mini World seems to get better and better each year!



Children visiting 3O learnt all about Nigeria. Here, children are teaching about the geographical features and landmarks of the country.



Visitors to Hawaii in the USA had great fun completing a quiz about the geography and culture of 'The Big Island', as it is called by locals.



Visitors to RMC learnt about the culture, geography and history of Bangladesh. The children here are using BeeBots to navigate a map of the country.



'Visitors' 'shopped' at a number of stalls in 6C to learn about life in Jamaica, after going through 'passport control' and getting their 'currency'.

Visitors very much enjoyed being taught by children in different classes, learning all about the geography, history and culture of a variety of countries.

CARNIVAL!!!

By The Curwen Team

Ask any teacher or child what their favourite part of International Week is and they're very likely to say carnival! It is the culmination of a week full of creativity and celebration of our cultural identities. Throughout the spring term, children had learnt, practised and perfected the dance routines put together by our amazing PE staff. The music and dance was inspired by the countries that the children presented in the 'mini worlds'.

The Friday of International Week is always Carnival Day, and we were thrilled to be able to have visitors in to see the children perform. The fabulous comments that were left at the end of the afternoon show that you were all as thrilled by the performances as we were.



Year 5 represented Greece and Spain and were victorious in this year's Carnival dance competition. Well done Year 5!



Year 3 (above) performed a fabulous dance routine, inspired by the music and culture of Egypt and Nigeria.



Year 1 (right) were spectacular representing the 4 nations of the United Kingdom.

Our guest judges had the job of deciding on the winning year group. With so many wonderful performances, I think they had a particularly difficult task. The winning teams, in reverse order, were: third place Year 3, second place Year 1, and first place Year 5!

The selection of photos below give you a taste of the fantastic routines. You can see more images on the [school website](#).



Year 1 children delighted visitors in with their annual Big Outcome Art Gallery . The KS1 Heartspace was transformed into a walk-through gallery, showcasing the talents and skills of all year 1 children. The theme of the exhibition was Self Portraits, and showcased art works inspired by Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Hum Nguyen. Children explored portraiture using a variety of mediums, and developing their art knowledge and skills alongside their creativity and imagination.



1K Kings and Queens portraits

As part of the art curriculum for spring term, children visited the National Portrait Gallery. Back in school they used their experience of the visit to create their own portraits of Kings and Queens - see the image of portraits from 1K to the left.

As part of the Big Outcome event, visitors were invited to join children in class to explore their own talents in portraiture, and learn from their children the different techniques they had used to create their pieces of art. Year 1 received many lovely visitor comments about the afternoon.



Visitors explored the art gallery with the children before taking part in art activities in the classrooms.

Spotlight on...

ART



By The Curwen Team

We're sure most people are familiar with the way that art can help to develop creativity and be used as a way for children to share their thoughts and ideas. However, there's more to art than drawing or painting pictures.

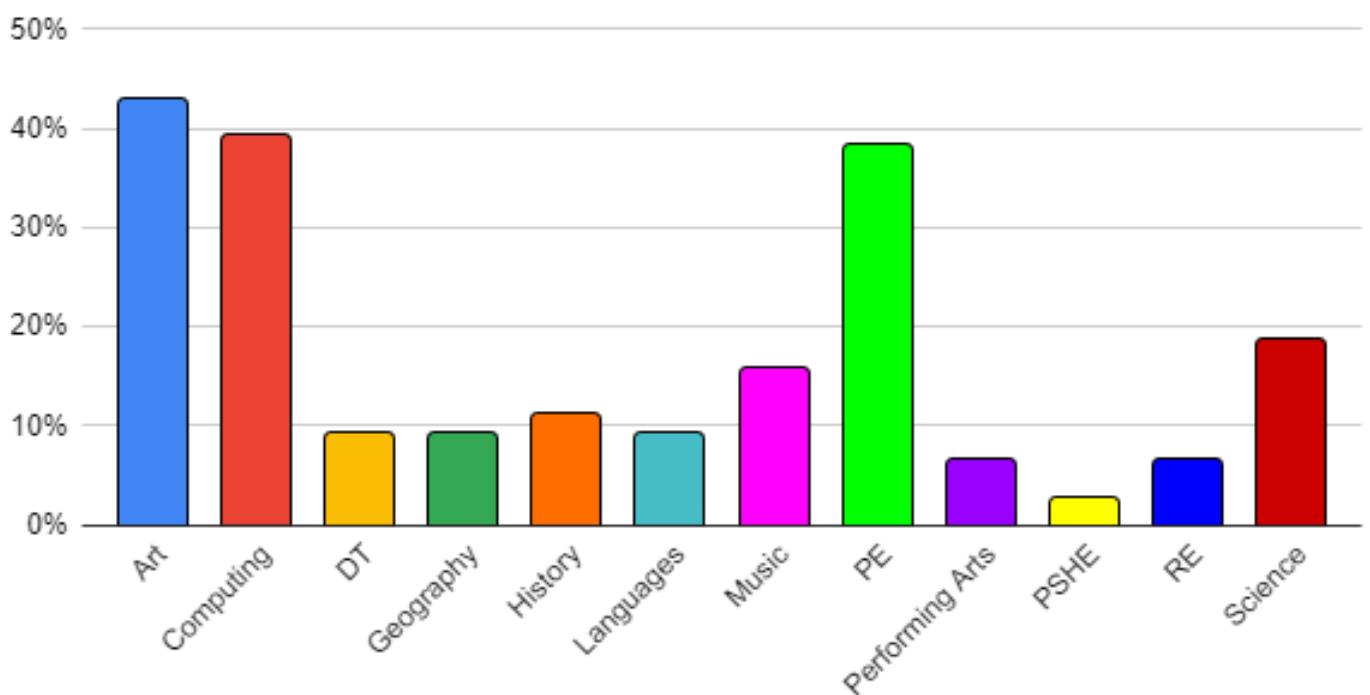
Where children are encouraged to engage in imaginative activities, supports the development of better social skills, positive interactions with others and better emotional regulation. Hands-on exploration leads to empowerment and experimentation, where children can use their imagination, investigate their own ideas and develop new techniques. Giving children the freedom to be creative promotes a greater sense of ownership over their learning. It boosts their motivation and helps nurture creative thinkers and problem solvers. Creativity through art is helping to shape the creativity and innovation of the next generation.



From our Parent's Evening survey, we can clearly see that our children love art. It was wonderful to see so many children picking it as one of their top three favourite subjects at school!

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Children: Which of these subjects do you enjoy the most?
(Choose 3)



Linking Geography and The Arts

CODY DOCK



RIVER OF HOPE

*Art inspired by
concern for the environment*

USE CREATIVE ARTS TO EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

The River of Hope is an art-based learning project linking schools around the world through the study of rivers, using environmental learning and creative arts practice to help young people express their concerns about the environment. Through the programme, young people have been encouraged to think about the looking after their own natural environment for the future

Our year 4 classes were able to link their geography learning with their creative arts practice. They visited Cody Dock to learn about the natural environment of the River Lea before using their new knowledge to take part in a workshop. Under the guidance of

professional artist Fiona Grady, they created art pieces resembling stained glass windows. The children's completed work will be produced as flag installations for a gallery installation later this year.

Following the creative element of the programme, Year 4 will also be connecting through Zoom with children from Ethiopia who also completed the same art project in their school too.

Professional artist, Fiona Grady, also led a CPD session for members of staff, the aim being to inspire teachers to try out some new creative techniques with their pupils. Fiona demonstrated creative techniques that can be applied in

a cross-curricular way in the classroom. Staff were able to practise and hone techniques under Fiona's expert guidance. It was a very fun and creative session!



Staff enjoyed learning about cross-curricular creative arts



Children learnt about the River Lea's natural environment at Cody Dock

POETRY AT CURWEN

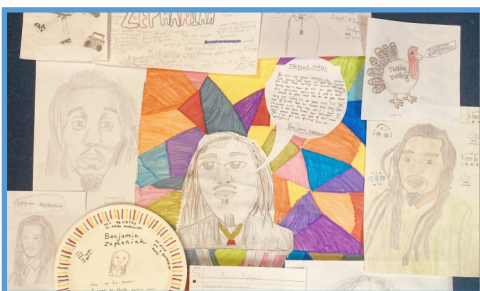
Spring term started in wonderful fashion with the whole school focusing on poetry, alongside this year's theme: EMPATHY. It was a great opportunity for cross curricular learning, as poetry really lends itself to the teaching of reading skills e.g. authorial intent, inference, use of figurative language, as well exposing the children to new vocabulary and giving them opportunities to read with fluency and expression.



Pupils in Years 3 to 6 wrote and performed their own poems, while pupils in Reception to Year 2 picked poems to learn and recite. Everyone was given the opportunity to perform their poems to their class, which was a great chance for the children to improve their oracy skills, build self-confidence and perform in front of an audience.



Poet and motivational speaker Yvonne Murray ran a workshop with the poetry winners



The Poetry Assembly was dedicated to the life and work of the late Benjamin Zephaniah

Each class chose a winning poet based on their courage and confidence in memorising and performing, their effort and hard work in writing the poem, and/or their engagement in the topic as a whole. All winners performed in phase assemblies, with their teachers choosing an overall winner from each year group to perform in our whole school poetry assembly.

The winning poets took part in a fun poetry workshop with our very own Ms Bryan and the poet and motivational speaker Yvonne Murray. The aim of the workshop was to further inspire their love of poetry whilst supporting the pupils with skills and techniques to further enhance their poetry performances.

As well as celebrating our winning poets, this year's assembly was dedicated to the life and work of Benjamin Zephaniah. Pupils from Year 6 performed a number of his poems and we also displayed some art work inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah that was created by our pupils.

Reception Winner
Tanzila - RMC



Year 2 Winner
Marcel - 2L



Year 4 Winner
Hessa - 4G



Year 1 Winner
Nathaniel - 1K



Year 3 Winner
Patrick - 3B



Year 5 Winner
Klaudija - 5PB



Year 6 Winner
Rafin - 6A



Scan the QR codes to see the winning poems perform by their authors

PARENTS' EVENING SUBJECT SURVEY

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

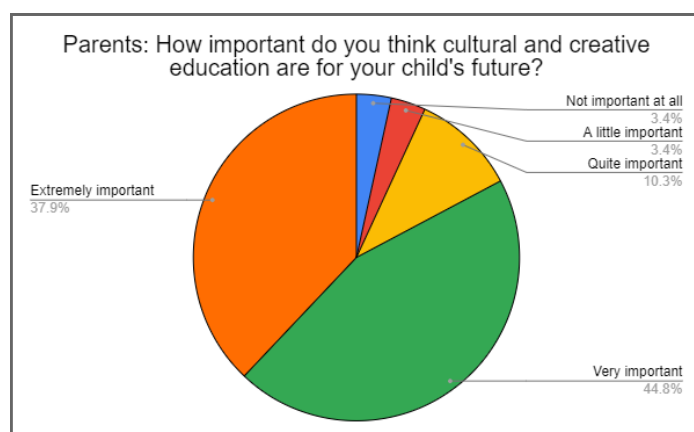
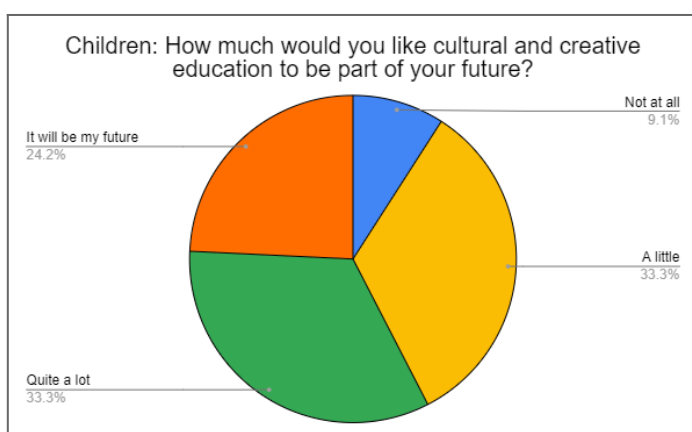
Thank you to the children and parents that shared thoughts about their favourite or most important foundation subjects and how important they think creativity and cultural learning is for their/their child's future.



Parents and children sharing their thoughts at Parents' Evening

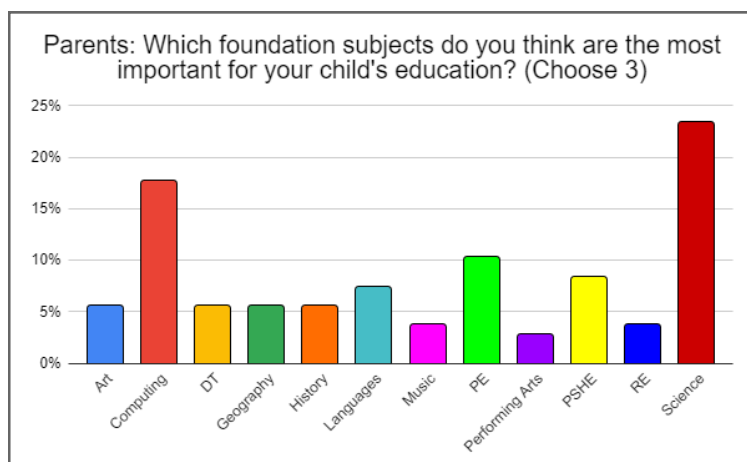
The future looks creative

Children were very positive about the arts with nearly 58% of them saying that the arts would be part of their future in some way. Parents too value the arts, with 83% agreeing that creativity and the arts would be important for their child's future.



Foundation subjects - your top picks!

In contrast, despite the importance of the arts for children's futures coming through in the survey, adults did not think that arts subjects are the most important for their child's education, with no arts subjects featuring in the top 3 when results were collated.



What does your child think about the arts subjects - art, music, drama, dance - and learning through creativity? Are any of their favourite lessons arts-related? Do they want to pursue a dream job or have career in the arts? Do we have any professional musicians, actors, screenwriters, dancers or artists in our midst?