

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Spring Term



Together towards success!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible Spring term! We've had a wealth of enrichment activities across both sites at Chaffinch Brook, and it's been fantastic to see the pupils' enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Pupils absolutely loved the African drumming workshops, exploring rhythm and culture with djembe drums and dun duns. The energy and joy in these sessions was infectious! Science Week was a huge hit, with Spark2 delivering exciting hands-on experiments and the amazing Wonderdome Planetarium visiting our site. The children were captivated by their journey through space!

Chaffinch Brook Lower did us proud at the SEND bowling event, competing alongside other schools from across Croydon. It was brilliant to see our pupils showcase their skills and sportsmanship.

Pupils have also enjoyed educational visits including Lingfield Park horse races and an off-site football tournament - real-world learning at its best!

Our KS4 pupils have been busy preparing for their futures with visits to the National Apprenticeship Show and careers fairs at the O2, plus professional interview skills sessions and presentations from Transport for London.

We've got lots more exciting activities planned for the Summer term and can't wait to share them with you. Thank you for your continued support - have a wonderful break and we'll see you next term!

Mr Mark, Miss Abbie, Miss Mwamba, Miss Amanda and Miss Leona



### FOR YOUR DIARY

GCSE revision sessions - 16<sup>th</sup> March -  
7<sup>th</sup> May

GCSE starts 12<sup>th</sup> May - 15<sup>th</sup> June

SATs 11<sup>th</sup> May - 14<sup>th</sup> May

Last day of term - 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Start of Summer two term 1<sup>st</sup> June

### Activities and Support this Easter

Croydon HAF Programme-  
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food>

Dino Eggstravaganza Whitgift Centre-  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 4pm

Easter Saturday storytime Waterstones  
Croydon- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

Croydon Council main line: 020 8726 6000  
Family Information Service: 020 8726 6400  
Citizens Advice: 0808 278 7834  
Croydon Foodbank: 020 8688 4608

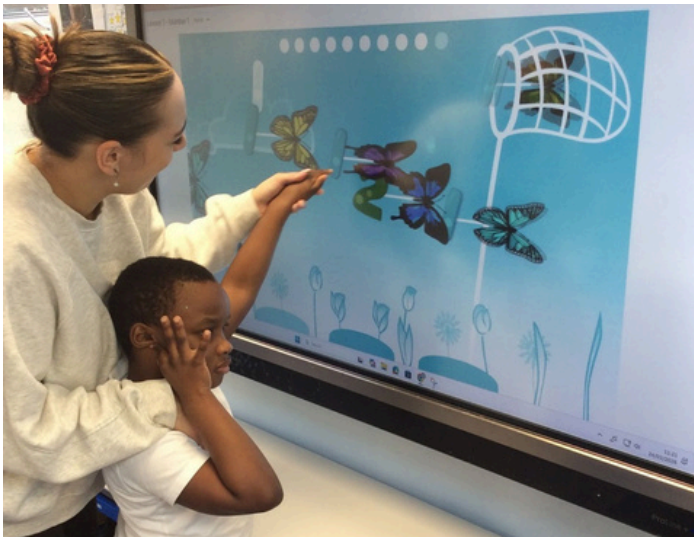


# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Yayoi Kusama Class

We have had another successful and fun term in Yayoi Kusama Class. We have been extremely busy with our learning. In Maths the children have been learning to subtract numbers, practise number bonds to 20, and explore multiplication through arrays and grouping. In English, we have been exploring instructional writing using the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. In Science, the children have been learning about plants and how they grow. In the wider curriculum, pupils have been learning about Africa in Geography and discussing how to stay safe in PSHE.



In PSHE, the class has been learning about road safety through classroom activities and role play, practising how to cross the road safely and even using the zebra crossing outside our school.



We have been taking care of our school environment by weeding and planting flowers in our garden flower box, helping the children develop responsibility and teamwork.

Another highlight this term was our exciting African drumming workshop. The children had the opportunity to listen to traditional rhythms and learn how to play the djembé drums. Everyone enjoyed exploring the different sounds they could make and joining in with the rhythms together, making it a fun and memorable musical experience for the whole class.



We are very proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to another exciting term of learning together.



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**Miss Hoana, Miss Opal and Miss Laura**

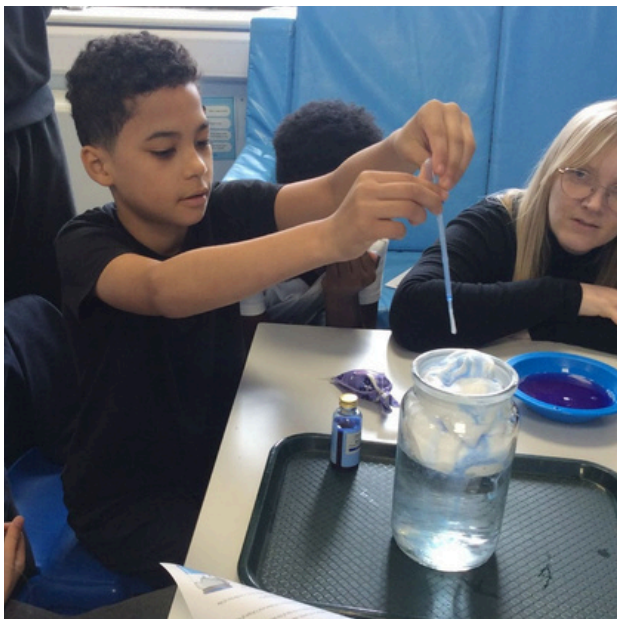


# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Pablo Picasso Class



This term, Picasso class has been learning about the Celts in history, where we learnt about Boudicca and the Celt way of life. We visited the British Museum, in London, as part of our work on The Celts. We got to look at various Celtic artefacts, including coins, gold torcs and shields. The children really engaged in learning about the Celts, and their trip to London.



English has been fun this term, with the children learning about Play Scripts, what dialogue is, how a play script differs from a reading book, how to create a script and perform, as well as writing their own play scripts. Picasso class have also been doing persuasive writing, creating their own adverts, learning about alliteration, emotive language and using powerful vocabulary, rhetorical questions, and various language devices to influence the reader. Teachers have been impressed with the progress made, especially in structuring ideas, in both spoken and written work.



In Maths, we were learning about fractions, improper fractions, and mixed number fractions. More recently we have been looking at units of measurement, such as centimeters, meters and kilometers.

The children enjoyed a visit to the Museum of Croydon, where they currently have an exhibition on the composer and conductor Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. They were able to listen to various pieces of music by him, learnt a lot about his life, and also got to play on a piano.

The highlight of the term was being visited by a musician who brought in Djembe's for the children to play. The children were thoroughly engaged in the activity, and were taught how to play the Djembe, a West African drum.

It's been a wonderful, and enjoyable term, and all the children have been doing so well in their lessons. We are all very proud of the progress they are making throughout their lessons. We hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you all for the start of next term.



*Mr Dan, Mr Omer, Ms Marion and Mr Jon*

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Claude Monet Class



This term we have been learning all about Mr Men and writing reports on our favourite animals. We created our own Mr Men/ Little Miss character using our personality. In maths we have learnt all about money and how to know when we're getting the right pocket money! We are also learning all about measurements, length; width; mass, you name it we know it. In science we have done rocks and soil, we made our own wriggly worms and weeded the garden ready for new flowers to be planted.



We have been doing Africa in Geography and had the pleasure of doing a drumming lesson using the djembe drum. We really enjoyed hearing the different sounds the drum made when we hit it at different places, we think we had a good rhythm going. We have also looked at beautiful african sunsets and animals and tried to create our own.



This term, Claude Monet class led a whole-school assembly for Children's Mental Health Week, exploring ways to look after our mental health at school and at home. We shared fun ideas for relaxing, from baths to naps and snacks, and ended by inviting Chaffinch Lower to join us in a wiggle dance to boost our mood.



For science week we have done lots of fun experiments, asking questions about why and how things happen. We made bouncy eggs, we made our own cornflour slime, we made rainclouds with shaving cream. We have had lots of fun learning facts about all the cool jobs we could have in the science field, we especially enjoyed the vet job, with crocodiles!

**Miss Rebecca, Miss Becky  
and Miss Sandra**



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

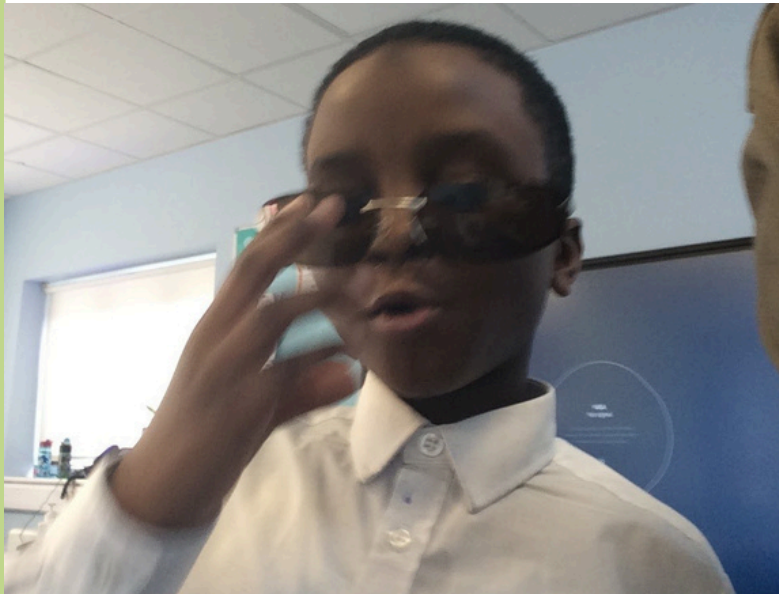


## Jackson Pollock Class

Starting with all new kids, Jackson Pollock class has adapted well with children from different schools and they have excelled in their lessons. The class has been split into two groups; one doing fractions and the other half learning place values. In English, they have been learning how to create non-chronological reports about their chosen animals. Jackson Pollock class have been learning what humans and animals need to have to survive and what they would need to take with them on a deserted island as well as discovering the difference between 'Physical' and 'Human' Geography.



Although they are a new class, Jackson Pollock class represented the school in the Local school bowling competition and had so much fun. Just like the artist they are named after, the class decorated shells and created seashells from Mother's Day and created good beats in the drumming workshop organised by Mr Dan.



*Miss Taiah, Miss Suz and Mr Manny*

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Henri Matisse Class



What a fantastic Spring term we've had! The children in Henri Matisse class have worked incredibly hard, and we are so proud of the progress they have made in both their learning and their classroom behavior. Here is a look at what we've been up to:

In English, we turned tradition on its head! We've been exploring "alternative" fairy tales, using The Three Little Pigs as a model to write our own fantastic stories.



We also stepped into the world of Japanese poetry, writing amazing Tankas and Haikus. The children's creativity has been truly inspiring

Our focus this half-term has been all about Measurement. We've been busy measuring lengths and heights, and exploring the mass and capacity of different objects. Alongside this, the children have been "Maths Champions" in our daily timetable challenges, their speed and accuracy are improving every day!

The Saxons History came to life this term as we studied the Saxons. The classroom was full of excitement as the children reenacted famous battles and learned about the fascinating Saxon way of life. Ask your child what it was like to be a Saxon warrior!



Learning hasn't just happened at our desks! We've enjoyed a variety of wonderful experiences, including:

- Horse Riding: Developing new skills and confidence.
- The Cinema: A well-deserved treat for our hard-working pupils.

World Book Week & Science Week:  
Celebrating our love for reading and our curiosity about the world around us.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful, restful break and we look forward to more adventures in the Summer term!



**Miss Angela, Miss Sally, Mr Sam  
and Miss Jaye-Leigh**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Faith Ringgold Class

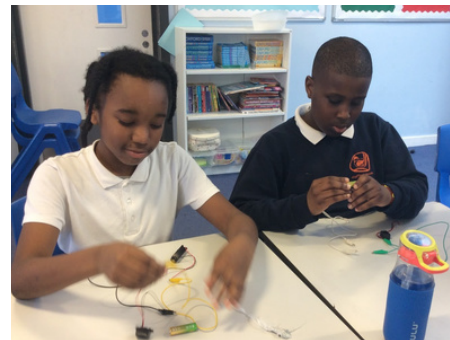
We have had an incredibly busy term in Faith Ringgold class, full of fun and learning! This half term, we have been exploring persuasive and discussion writing, tackling the complex question: "Should zoos exist?" In Maths, we have been mastering fractions, specifically practising the methods for multiplying and dividing them. Meanwhile, in Science, the class has been experimenting with circuits - investigating their components, functions, and how they power everyday appliances. We even became part of the science ourselves by creating a human circuit!



A major highlight of the term was our trip to London Zoo. This linked perfectly back to our previous Science topic on classifying living things.



It was a fantastic experience to see such a wide variety of animals up close and to put our classification grids into practice in a real-world setting.



In Geography, we got hands-on by building our own volcanoes and watching them "erupt" while learning about the power of tectonic plates. In History, we travelled back in time to discover the wonders of Ancient Greece. We explored how the Olympics have evolved over the centuries and discussed the many ways Ancient Greek civilisation continues to influence the world around us today.



To wrap up such a successful term, we want to say how proud we are of the children's hard work and curiosity. As we look ahead to next half term, we will be focusing our efforts on preparing for the upcoming SATs. While we will be working hard to sharpen our skills and build our confidence for the assessments, we have no doubt that the children's determination will lead them to success!

**Miss Hannah, Miss Tiffany, Mr Cian  
and Miss Nadine**



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Frida Kahlo Class

Frida Kahlo recently enjoyed a trip to the Tower of London. This trip brought their learning to life, allowing them to explore a famous historical landmark! They were fascinated by the Crown Jewels, the White Tower and the stories of prisoners and how they were tortured. The interactive elements helped deepen their understanding of the structure of castles and everyone demonstrated excellent curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day.



This year, we celebrated World Book Day with the theme based on the novel *Holes*. We embraced the theme with fantastic costumes inspired by the characters and setting of the book, decorating our classroom and door. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of activities, including themed quizzes, and group discussions exploring the story's key ideas. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for reading, and the effort put into costumes and participation made the day truly special. We also won best immersive experience, which was well deserved as the children guided our guests around for a tour of a desert themed classroom!



Year 7 also had the exciting opportunity to visit Lingfield Racecourse, where they were given a behind-the-scenes tour of this unique venue. Pupils learned about how the racecourse operates, including the care of the horses, the organisation of race days, and the different careers involved in the industry. The visit was both informative and engaging, giving pupils insight into a world many had not experienced before.



**Mr Callum, Miss Nicci, Miss Jesse  
and Mr Ragesh**



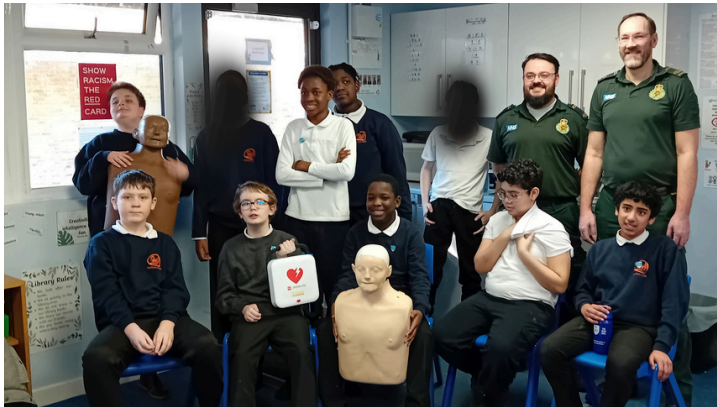
# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Andy Warhol Class

Looking back on a busy Spring Term, we're proud of the children's hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm both in and out of the classroom.

Children practiced Maths by graphing social media usage for Safer Internet Day. In English, they explored mystery and character development through The Escape Room. Science lessons focused on the history of fossils and the elements of the periodic table.



The London Ambulance Service led a first aid workshop for the children, teaching them life-saving emergency responses and CPR basics.

The children visited the Design Museum to explore the evolution of everyday innovation and creative design.



The children visited the SEA LIFE London Aquarium to bring their Science studies to life, exploring marine animals and habitats firsthand.



The children visited Lingfield Park Racecourse for a Maths Day, applying their skills through fun activities and the excitement of live horse racing.

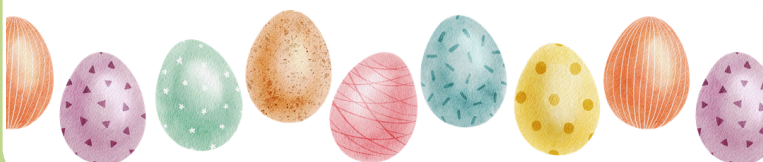


The CBL children hosted a heartwarming reading breakfast for us. It was a wonderful opportunity for children to share their favorite stories.



For World Book Week, our classroom was transformed into the magical Land of Oz with a dual Wizard of Oz and Wicked theme. The children showcased their creativity by crafting the iconic "WICKED" letters and working together to build a spectacular Emerald City.

**Miss Jaini, Miss Louise,  
Miss Uzma & Miss Lucy**



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Leonora Carrington Class

The Spring term has been a busy and enjoyable time for Leonora Carrington class, filled with engaging lessons, exciting activities and opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and knowledge across the curriculum.



In Maths, pupils have been preparing for their Entry Level 3 exams by practising fractions and using Mr Manny's fantastic methods to support their understanding. In English, pupils have been studying *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and discussing its characters and themes. In Science, pupils have been learning about organ systems, where they even created their own digestive system to see how the body processes food! Across the foundation subjects, the class has taken part in a range of engaging and creative activities, such as writing their own short stories for a school competition, where some were proudly read aloud in front of the whole school.



This term, the class enjoyed a trip to HMS Belfast, where they explored the ship and learned about life at sea during wartime. Pupils have also been enjoying their swimming lessons every Friday, developing their confidence in the water and improving their swimming skills. The class has also been trying something new in their free time by using a push-up board, which has been a fun way to build strength and try different exercises.



It has been wonderful to see everyone building confidence in their learning and taking part enthusiastically in both classroom activities and wider experiences.



**Miss Yeti, Miss Thalia, Miss Michelle  
and Mr Colin**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Kara Walker Class

As we progress through the Spring Term, we are pleased to share with you some of the engaging activities and valuable learning experiences that have taken place in the Year 9 Kara Walker class.



During the Spring term, our class had the wonderful opportunity to visit HMS Belfast as part of our history studies. This educational trip allowed pupils to explore one of the most famous historic warships in Britain and gain a deeper understanding of life at sea during wartime. Throughout the visit, the children explored many areas of the ship, including the crew's living quarters, the engine rooms, and the command centre. They were particularly interested in learning how sailors lived and worked on board, as well as the important role HMS Belfast played during the Second World War.



In Food Technology, the pupils have had a fantastic opportunity to develop their practical cooking skills and learn more about healthy eating. The pupils have worked very well together and have shown great enthusiasm when preparing their dishes. They have also learned about food hygiene, kitchen safety, and the importance of maintaining a balanced diet. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence in the kitchen and taking pride in the meals they have prepared. Food technology continues to be an enjoyable and engaging subject with food.

This term, we had great fun celebrating World Book Day. Pupils enthusiastically took part in creative activities, including decorating the classroom with colourful drawings inspired by their favourite books and characters, transforming it into a bright and inspiring space.

**Mr Emmanuel, Mr Curtis and Mr Jaden**



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Salvador Dali Class

In Dali class, it's been a jampacked term filled with fun, creativity and learning. In English the pupils have been exploring different writing styles from writing news reports to creating informative leaflets practising using different language techniques and literary devices.

In the world of science, the Dali scientists have been learning about their bodies and the changes that will be happening in the near future. On to the numbers, Dali class have been immersing themselves in the world of 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.



The class has been open to experiencing different cultural foods from afro caribbean cuisines to eastern european. They've sampled food and listened to different music even celebrating Ghana's 69th independence day.

The main memorable achievements highlighted in Dali class is that 90% of the class received maths and science special awards for their constant enthusiasm and hard work towards their lessons. Another highlight was that as a class we celebrated our Jack Petchy winners Mia and Youssef who generously catered to their class by ordering Wingstop and KFC.



For British Science week the pupils participated and completed intervention work sheets to learn more about Science, with the theme this year being curiosity.

For National reading week, Salvador Dali's theme was Alice in Wonderland. We hosted a Madhatter tea party on Friday, where SLT were invited to join the class for tea, games and biscuits. This was a fun day.



We love sharing the achievements of our pupils in Dali class and can not wait to make many more!



**Miss Joy, Miss Ruta, Mr Jordan, Miss Olivia and Miss Tamara**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Vincent Van Gogh Class



Wow! What a jam packed term for Vincent Van Gogh class. The class dived straight into their functional skills exams, completing these in both Maths and English. To say we are proud of the classes dedication would be an understatement. They have knuckled down and applied themselves like never before, showing the maturity they have gained. Regardless of nerves, the class tried their best and should be exponentially pleased with what they have achieved.

A massive highlight of our term was visiting the Wonderlab at the Science museum. The pupils got to enjoy first hand science experiments with electricity and dry ice. It's safe to say they were simply enthralled. They even got to test out the giant slides which were a hit for all. Their attendance at the TfL workshop proved invaluable as they were able to put these skills to the test, travelling on the underground and navigating the busy London cityscape. As always, they displayed beautiful manners throughout, representing the school well.

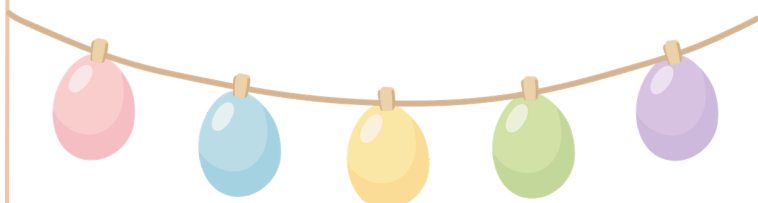
The fun didn't stop there. They have been ardently preparing for their future. As well as in school workshops, the class were able to attend the National Apprenticeship show. This gave the pupils exposure to all the different apprenticeships available to them and a taste of the careers they could one day have. They came back enthused about all the endless opportunities.



To round off such a productive term, we made sure to round off with some fun, going to the cinema to watch The Bad Guys 2. The pupils were glued, start to finish, and enjoyed discussing the film when we got home. It truly has been a term full of laughter, which myself, Miss Clara and Mr Stephen are so grateful for.



We look forward to a fun filled summer term, where we will keep pushing our pupils to reach their full potential. Thank you for your continued support in achieving this. Wishing you all a wonderful Easter Break.



**Miss Keisha, Miss Sabrina, Miss Clara  
and Mr Stephen**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Damien Hirst Class



In Maths, the pupils have continued to cover GCSE topics through the study of Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry. In English, we have begun the Speaking and Listening component of their GCSE, for which the pupils must present on a topic of their choice. In Physics, the pupils continue to prepare for their exams and are currently studying speed and velocity.

The pupils had their BTECH Home Cooking Assessment, for which they have been preparing diligently. Throughout the course, the pupils have demonstrated their skills in the kitchen and are now ready to present their final dish!



As the pupils in Damien Hirst class prepare for their next steps, the class attended an apprenticeship fair at Sandown Park Racecourse. There was a wide range of companies and organisations present at the fair, each presenting their apprenticeship schemes to the pupils. The pupils engaged brilliantly - discovering and discussing the opportunities available to them and accessing resources to find out more about application processes.



The pupils in Damien Hirst class also participated in an interview-preparation workshop, where they learnt about how to prepare for and succeed in an interview. This workshop provided brilliant advice on both entry to the world of work and further education. The class staff team were incredibly pleased with the pupils' engagement during this workshop.



**Mr Jermaine, Miss D'Jate, Mr Sylvan  
and Miss Umme**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## CBL World Book Week

Together towards success!

Chaffinch Brook Lower certainly had a very busy and exciting World Book Week! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many wonderful books were read along the way.

We kicked off the week by beginning our whole-school story and creating fabulous door displays inspired by our favourite book characters. The creativity across the school was fantastic!

On Tuesday, the children took part in *Stop, Drop & Read*. Throughout the day, they were prompted to stop what they were doing and enjoy a book. We certainly spotted some very funny and unusual reading positions!

On Wednesday, the staff room was transformed into a cosy reading café. Pupils enjoyed a sweet treat while sharing stories together – a perfect way to celebrate the joy of reading.

Thursday brought the now famous **staff World Book Day panto**, which had everyone laughing from start to finish.

Finally, on Friday, we held our whole-school breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many fabulous costumes and to celebrate the love of reading together. A huge thank you to all the wonderful staff at Chaffinch Brook for making this one of the best World Book Weeks yet. We can't wait to see what next year brings!



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



Together towards success!

## CBU World Book Week

World Book Week at Chaffinch Upper was a whirlwind of imagination, inspired by the theme "Go all in!" Pupils and staff fully immersed themselves in the magic of storytelling, creating a vibrant and exciting atmosphere across the school.

A key focus was the power of shared narratives, highlighted in our Lunchtime Nurture sessions, where pupils listened to entries from the Creative Writing Competition. We also introduced our Drop and Read initiative, bringing the whole school to a calm pause as everyone stopped to enjoy their books together.

Perhaps the most "delicious" highlight was our Reading Breakfast. We mixed classes across the school, allowing older and younger pupils to sit together and enjoy a full cooked breakfast. The morning was packed with a variety of fun reading activities and quizzes.

Finally, the school was awash with colour for our dress-up day. From classic literary icons to modern-day heroes, the effort put in by both pupils and adults was a pleasure to see. The hallways truly felt like a living library. Thank you to everyone who helped make this week a success. We've certainly proven that at Chaffinch Upper, we know exactly how to "Go all in!"



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## CBL British Science Week



Together towards success!

At Chaffinch Lower, our corridors have been buzzing with excitement this week as we celebrated British Science Week! Embracing this year's theme of curiosity, our scientists spent every day investigating the "whys" and "hows" of the world with hands-on experiments in every classroom.

The highlight of the week was definitely the visit from Spark2, who brought science to life in the most spectacular way. We weren't just watching; we were part of the action! Our pupils became master scientists as they practiced the art of bouncing bubbles, worked together to form a massive human electrical circuit, and were blown away as they took turns standing inside a gigantic bubble! It's been a week of messy hands, big smiles, and even bigger questions. We couldn't be prouder of how our pupils explored, tested, and discovered just how much fun science can be.



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## CBU British Science Week



Together towards success!

British Science Week was an absolute blast as we challenged ourselves to think like real explorers. Our primary focus was shattering stereotypes, as the children spent the week learning about diverse scientists who prove that anyone, regardless of background or appearance, can change the world. Through scavenger hunts and curiosity-driven experiments, the pupils moved beyond the "lab coat" cliché to see science as a living, breathing part of their everyday lives.

The highlight of the week was a visit from the Wonderdome Planetarium. The school hall was transformed into a gateway to the cosmos, allowing the children to explore the wonders of the universe from the comfort of their own school. It was a truly immersive experience that sparked fantastic questions about space, physics, and our place in the stars.

