

SAXON WAY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue No. 13 | May 2023

Dear Saxon Way Families,

We have reached the final day of term 4 and I am sure you are all ready for a hard-earned break. I know the children and staff are very tired!

As we look back on the term we can understand 'why' as we have achieved so much!

We were part of an amazing choral concert and Instrumental Festival at Central Theatre in Chatham. We took a group of talented singers who represented the school at Voice In a Million at Wembley Arena. The whole school community took part in a fabulous Founders Day.

We learnt so much when the school was filled with wonderful displays full of scientific enquiries to support the annual GST Science Symposium and over the term, so much excellent learning supported by trips and experienced visitors including remarkable Shakespeare performances both in school and in the local community.

Next term brings the daunting reality of Statutory Assessment Tests for Year 6 (SATs). It is really important for Year 6 children to enjoy their break and return fully rested so they can tackle the rigors of SATs in order to achieve to the best of their abilities. I was lucky enough to be part of the recent mock SATs for year 6 and I can say I was just so proud of how they approached them and focused themselves to get the best outcomes they could.

Don't forget to sign up for the Medway Go holiday club being held at Saxon Way in the first 4 days of the holiday. Please see the leaflets and Facebook post for information.

I am very sad to let you know that this half term we are saying goodbye to Ms Padmore. We wish her the very best for the future, she will be missed by the whole Saxon Way family.

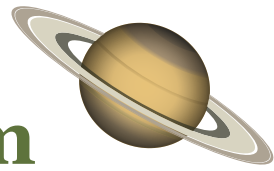
Free school meals vouchers will be issued to eligible families on Monday 3rd April. They are being funded by Medway Local Authority for the half term period at a value of £15 per child per week. Please check your emails and your junk folders for notification, once they have been issued.

It just leaves me to wish you a very Happy Easter and we look forward to your return on Monday 17th April 2023.

Happy Easter!

Angela Sandow

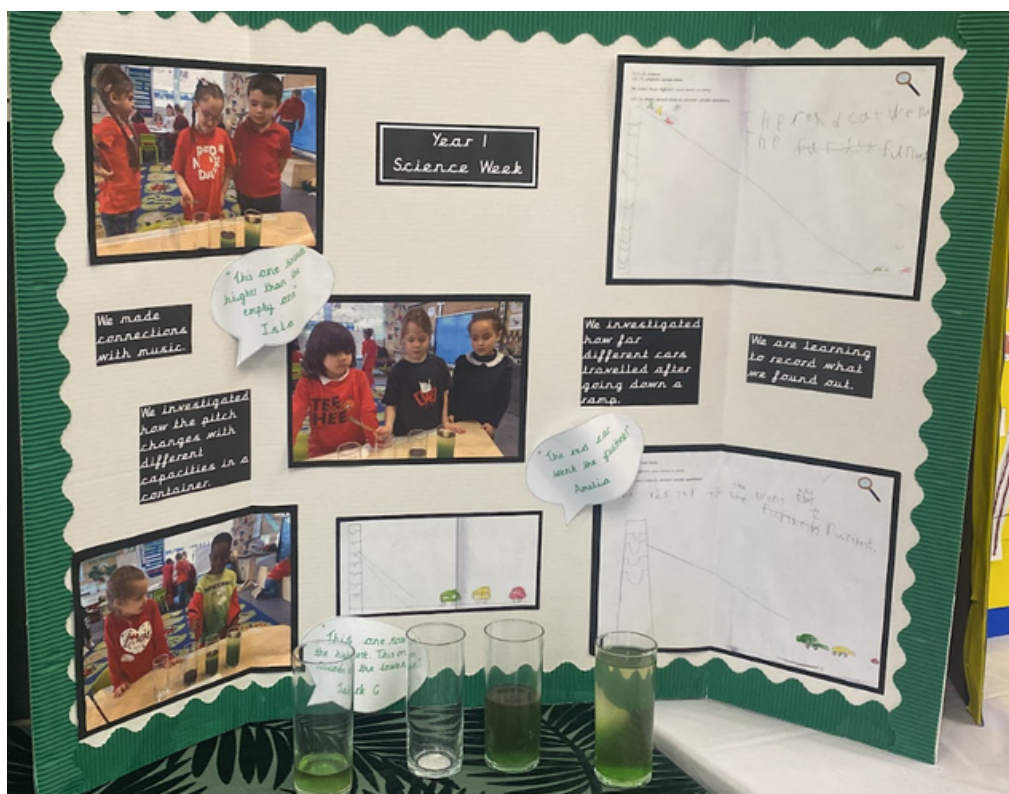




This year's Science week theme was 'Family' with further focus on 'Connections'. We wanted to encourage curiosity and creative thinking in our Saxon Way (Griffin) scientists and to spark children's imagination, enthusiasm and unlock their creativity. During the week children were developing their critical thinking, questioning and debate like real life scientists. Children were working collaboratively on their science projects and building relationships with GST family and externally.



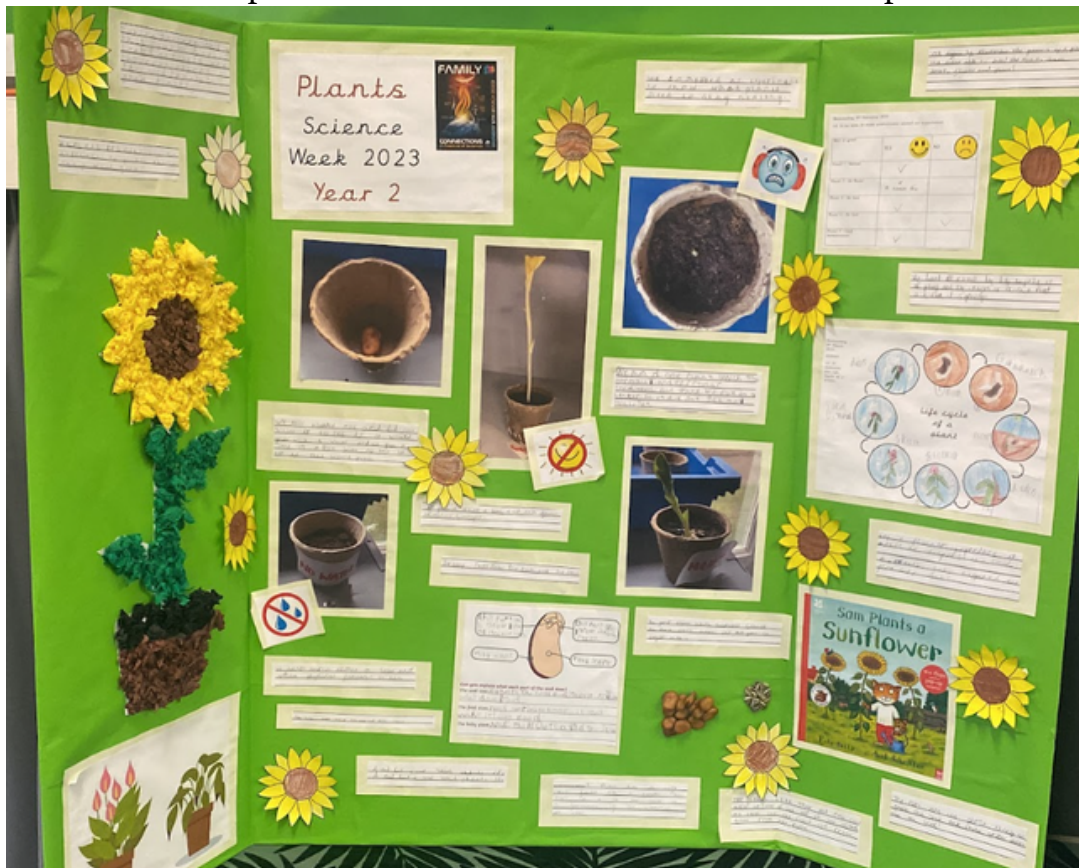
EYFS were finding out about plants. They were looking at different parts of a plant and were discussing what plants need to grow well. Children investigated what could happen if they use food colouring in a vase with flowers. They also took part in biscuit dunking experiment and were finding out which type of biscuit is the best for dunking.



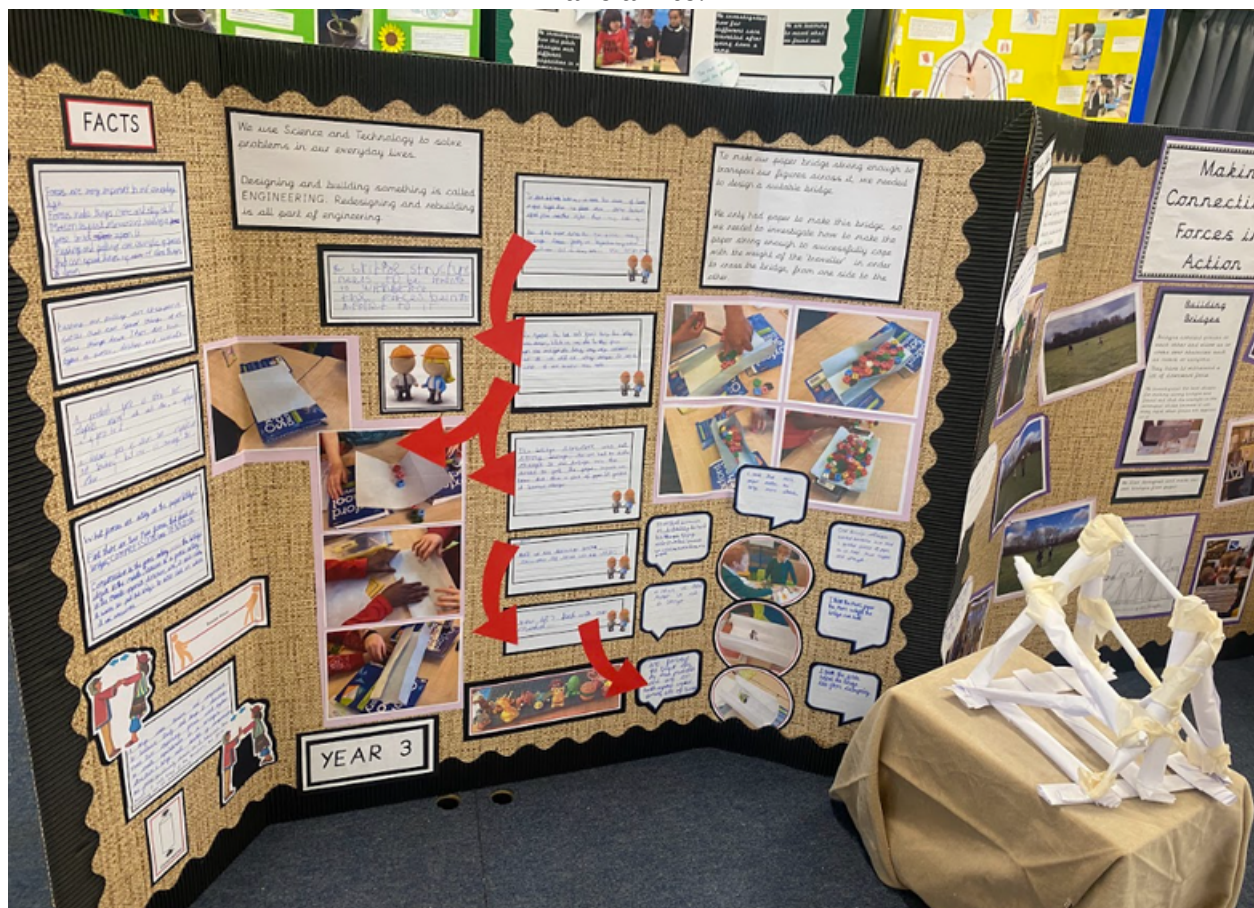
Year 1 children were investigating and finding connections with music. They were looking into how the pitch changes with different capacities in a container.

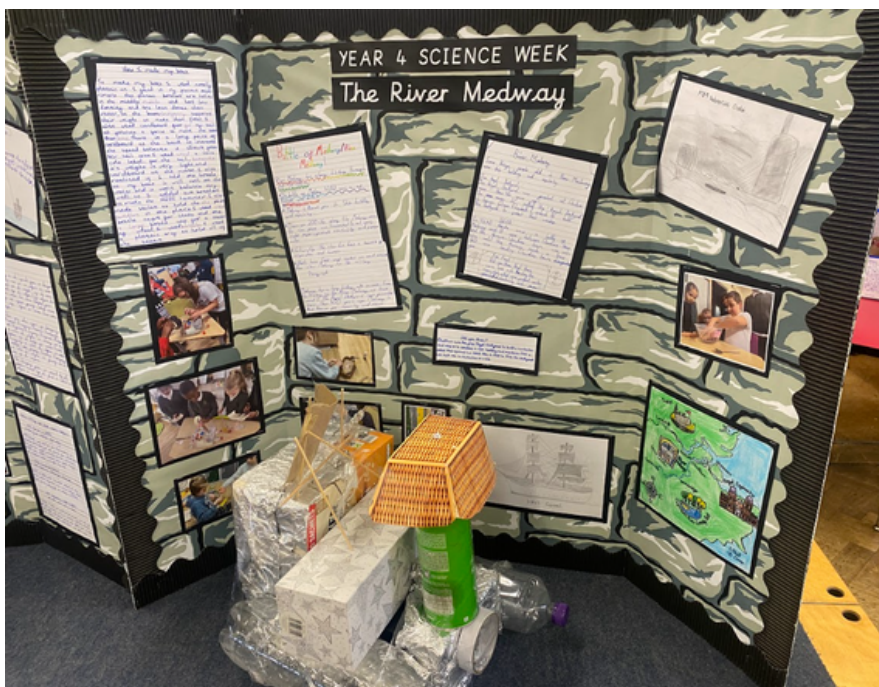
They also were investigating how far different cars travel after going down the ramp and learning to record findings.

Year 2 were investigating plants and finding out how different conditions affect plants growth. They chose to plant seeds and create different conditions: no water, no sun, no soil, low temperature. They also decided to plant one seed in 'normal' conditions for comparison.



Year 3's topic was forces and chose work on bridges and kites. They had to glue paper only to build a strong enough bridge to hold the weight of the 'traveller'. Another challenge-build a kite- was to find out forces that act upon a kite when it is taking off and flying then use the knowledge to design and make a kite.





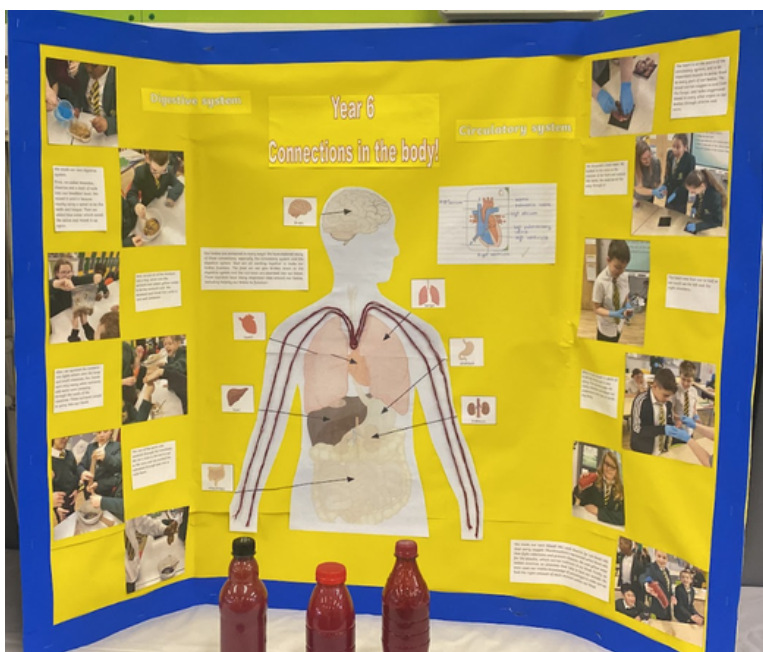
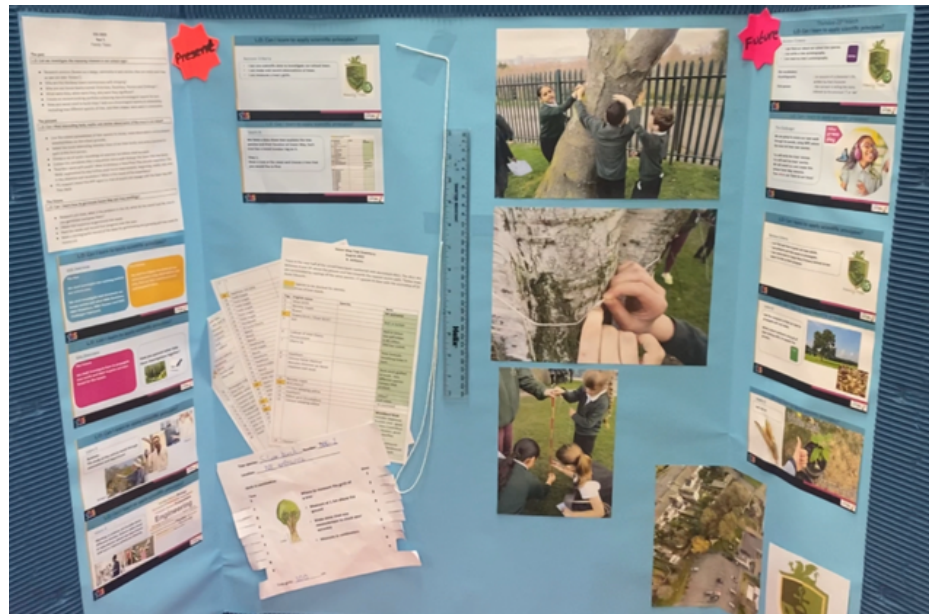
Y4 were looking for connections with local community and found out that the Royal Dockyard was used for building and repairing ships. It was the 1st dockyard to build a submarine!

They were finding out why steel ships float on water. Their challenge was to investigate the buoyancy of different materials and build a ship.

Y5 were given opportunity to find out more about our Houses ships: Victorious, Challenger, Pioneer, Illustrious.

As Chatham Dockyard was not far away it was suggested to find out if trees growing around the school had been used for shipbuilding.

Y5 came up with idea to create trees stories using Now Press Play and share their work on iPlayer.



They Y6 took part in an experiment linked to their topic this term on 'Animals, including humans'. As part of this Y6 studied the cardiovascular system, creating 'blood' and performing a dissection of a lamb's heart.

This was actually the week before 'Science Week' but was for the purposes of ensuring the children were able to enjoy as many activities as possible. They also created a digestive system, where the children could follow the processes of their food from the mouth all the way through the body.



FS2



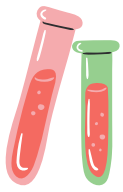
Donaldson and Attenborough

This term our topic is all about Come Outside and all the wonderful things that we can see in Spring. This term the children have been growing different plants such as, daffodils, sunflowers and bean stalks. We are also taking part in the Big Seed Sow at the end of term.

The children have celebrated Mother's Day, Red Nose day and really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day, the costumes were great! We have shared lots of books this term and have really enjoyed our stories! We have had lots of fun bringing our stories to life through, vegetable tasting, creating traps in the forest area to capture the evil pea.

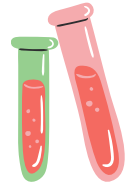
We also had a go at painting our own Van Gogh Sunflowers, we worked really hard on these and they turned out amazing! Thank you to the parents for their continued support and we look forward to seeing what next term brings.





Year 1

Curie and Kahlo



Our topic for this term has been 'Tell Me a Tale'.

The children have been reading and learning about a wonderful selection of traditional tales and have even begun to innovate their own!



As it was science week during term 4, the children took part in many different experiments. We discovered that when hitting glasses with different capacities, the pitch changes. The children had fun experimenting this. The children enjoyed walking around the science exhibition and finding out what the other children in the school have been learning about.



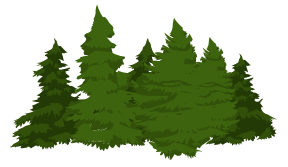
In maths, the children have been learning about mass. They have compared the mass of different objects in the classroom and even found some things that are equal.



The children have been very enthusiastic about making their own mini-movies using stop motion.



Year 2



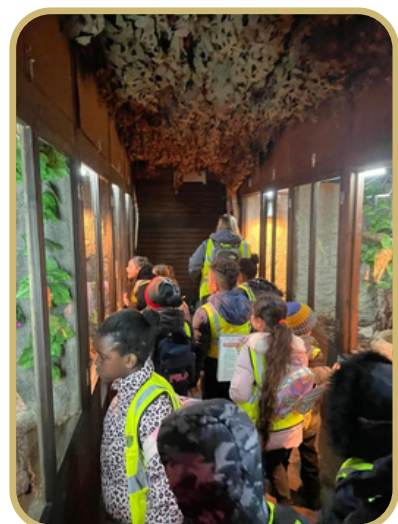
Nightingale and Shackleton

Year 2 have been working incredibly hard this term! In Science, we planted our own sunflowers and beans and have watched them grow over the weeks. We learnt all about what makes up a seed and the function of each part.

We had fun learning all about money and how to find change and make different amounts. We also learned how to measure height, length, mass and capacity and their different units of measurement.

In English, we created our own creatures and wrote fantastic character descriptions and we also wrote persuasive letters to try and stop deforestation and save the orangutan based on our key text 'There's a Rang-tan in my bedroom'. We even took part in our own debate and used persuasive language to argue our points.

Finally, we had a wonderful school trip to Wildwood and wrote a recount of the day to finish the term





Year 3

Darwin and Pankhurst



This term the children have been exploring the Stone Age and making comparisons with life today. They really enjoyed learning about prehistoric cave art, including the amazing examples found in Lascaux France. Their own creations showed some of what they had learned about life in the Stone Age and they had fun transferring these ideas onto pinch pots as well.



In English, the children have been learning to use similes and metaphors to enhance their writing and also discovered that rhetorical questions are really useful when trying to persuade someone to read a book.



This term has also been full of fun moments with lots of opportunities to dress up and celebrate key events.

It was lovely to see so many children dressed as favourite book characters and enjoying all things book related on World Book Day.

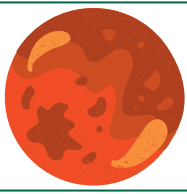


We had two science weeks in which the children explored forces in action. They investigated different forces acting on kites and learned that the best shape for building a strong structure is the triangle.

In Maths, they have been solving a variety of different problems linked to the four operations and recapped how to solve division problems when there are remainders. They have been busy learning their times tables and become very keen to gain bronze, silver and gold awards for doing so. Some children have even been learning the 13 times table!



Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to another fun filled term after the break with, hopefully, a lot more sunshine.



Year 4

Brunel and Fitzgerald



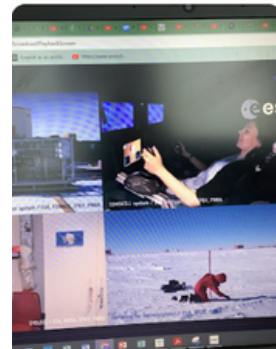
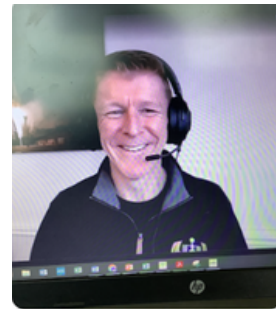
Year 4 have had a fantastic term 4 with 'science week', 'Mars Day', Biscuit dunking experiment and of course our reading book *The Demon Dentist*. In science week we have been learning about the ships in our community, namely *Illustrious*, *Challenger*, *Pioneer*, and *Victorious* from our very own Chatham Dockyard. We have looked carefully at what makes ships float, buoyancy, and then we researched what ships we could design that would float the best. We used junk modelling to make our very own ships.



Mars day was very interesting. We saw Tim Peaks live on a video link talking about his trip to space, and his thoughts on a project to visit Mars. We completed some activities to get us thinking like astronauts, and what we would need and do on Mars.

In Maths, we have been working hard learning all about fractions and decimals, and lots of us feel confident now!

The biscuit dunking experiment was very interesting, and yummy of course! We tested different biscuit types by dunking them into warm milk and seeing how long it took for the biscuit to break. We recorded our findings, then joined both Kingfisher and Lordswood school on video link to discuss our findings.



Our guided reading book, '*The Demon Dentist*', has been a fun, imaginative and crazy story that has got us thinking all about teeth and the digestive system! We can't wait for our trip to the theatre to see the show live and in action. It is such a wonderful opportunity for our year group to experience.

We are looking forward to term 5! Have a wonderful Easter break.

Year 5

Mercury and Shakespeare

Bravo Zulu! Year 5 have been learning about the amazing variety of trees at our school as part of the Griffin Science Symposium. We live in a unique place: the world's best-preserved historic dockyard. In an epic adventure, we all walked to Chatham Historic Dockyard and discovered how mighty oak ships, including the HMS Victory were built right here, from thousands of trees and through three centuries.

We considered design and technology across the ages by investigating the square-rigged ship HMS Gannet, the WWII Destroyer Memorial HMS Cavalier, the Cold War submarine HMS Ocelot and going aboard a Royal National Lifeboat Institution rescue vessel from Torbay. We showed considerable fitness and some courage, hiking around the site, crossing gangways to board ships, climbing steep ship's ladders and all the while answering some challenging questions on our worksheets. It was a bit cold, wet and windy but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and the Dockyard staff complemented us on our excellent curiosity and wonderful behaviour. In the traditions of the Royal Navy, the Year 5 staff have to say: "Bravo Zulu!", which means "very well done all."





Year 6

Hawking and Williams



This term Year 6 have been focusing heavily on Science. We investigated the connections in the body, and as part of this created our own digestive systems. We also studied the circulatory system, and the components of blood, performing a dissection of a lamb's heart and ending this topic with making our own blood!



This term also saw the end of our text, *The Hunger Games*, where the children wrote non-chronological reports about their own 'Muttation'- genetically engineered creatures.

We have also been learning about the geographical and historical features of our local area.





Book Buddies



We would like to introduce to you Saxon way's first ever book buddies! These children have all been nominated by their class teachers and have successfully completed book buddy training. Their role will be vital in helping younger children develop their reading skills and grow a love for reading. They are passionate about reading and helping others and we are so lucky to have such inspiring pupils!

Mini Youth Games

Well done to our Mini Youth Team who played Tag Rugby at this weeks event. They battled through the rain and made Saxon Way proud! The star players were Samuel, Zainab and Liyanna who all showed determination and resilience throughout the day.

Ms Delekat





The Arts

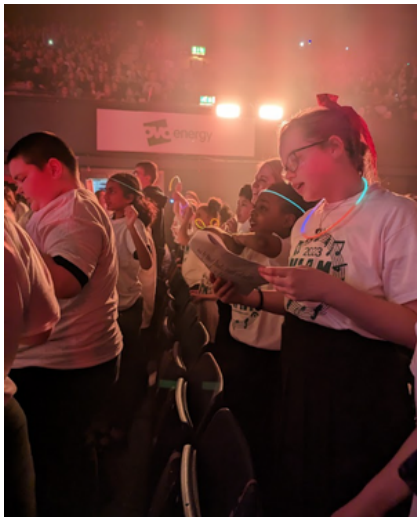


Ukulele Ensemble

On Monday 13th March, a group of year 4 children took part in Medway Music's Ukulele Ensemble at the Central Theatre. Many of children had never played ukulele before the event; however, all of the children involved worked really hard to learn the songs in a relatively short space of time. Despite some nerves, the children performed brilliantly and had a really great time.

Voice in a Million

The Saxon Way School Choir was lucky enough to take part in Voice in a Million at Wembley Arena on Wednesday 15th March. Singing as part of the mass choir made up of approximately 100 schools and led by the Voice in a Million stage choir, the children had an amazing and exciting evening at one of the country's biggest music and comedy venues. Singing their hearts out to friends and family in a packed music venue and meeting celebrity presenter Johnny Meah from Heart Radio; many of the children had an evening they will never forget.



Key Stage 1 Choral Festival

As part of Medway Music's Spring Festival, our year 2 children took part in the Key Stage 1 Choral Festival. After weeks of hard work by the children and their teachers to learn a selection of songs all about animals and nature, they performed at the Central Theatre. With over twenty schools taking part across the week, year 2 performed on Friday to top off a busy and exciting week of music for Saxon Way. The children even had the opportunity to perform on the stage at the theatre, singing their individual piece, 'I Love the Mountains'.

Celebrations

A huge well done to the following children that have been celebrated in celebration assembly this term.

| <u>Year 1</u> | <u>Year 2</u> | <u>Year 3</u> | <u>Year 4</u> | <u>Year 5</u> | <u>Year 6</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grace | Zara | Laura | Edvardus | Akintayo | Lewis |
| Kenny | David M | George | Abrahm | Emmanuel | Frankie |
| Mara | Erin | Scarlett | Liyana | Fikayo | Mason |
| Daisy | Ny'Asia | Amiera | Ronan | Jacob | Daniela |
| Ivy-May | Chloe | Dharshay | Jasmine | Keoghn | Archie |
| Jack | Harrison | Abdulgaffar | Summer | Sapphire | Odin |
| Joni | | | | Fazeeh | George |
| Isla | | | | Eric | Richard |
| Aarvi | | | | Scarlett | Timas |
| Ronnie | | | | Oliver | El-Amin |
| Harleigh | | | | Elbie | Taim |
| Lara | | | | Chinaza | Emmy-Shai |

Key Dates

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday 17th April | Start of Term 5 - Clubs start |
| Wednesday 19th April | Year 6 Parent meeting - SATs 2.30pm |
| Thursday 20th April | BAE Roadshow for Year 4, 5 and 6 |
| Tuesday 25th April | Mini Youth Games Netball |
| Wednesday 26th April | EYFS/Year 1 and Year 2 Parent's Evening |
| Thursday 27th April | Year 3, 4, 5, 6, Parent's Evening |
| Wednesday 3rd May | Year 5 trip to Horton Kirby |
| Thursday 4th May | Nightingale Class Sharing Assembly* |
| Friday 5th May | Year 1 Reading Morning |
| | Year 4 'Demon Dentist' Theatre trip |
| Monday 8th May | <u>SCHOOL CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY</u> |
| Tuesday 9th - 13th May | Year 6 SATs |
| Thursday 11th May | Mercury Class Sharing Assembly* |
| Friday 12th May | Year 2 Reading Morning |
| Thursday 18th May | Class Photos |
| | Kahlo Class Sharing Assembly* |
| Thursday 25th May | MYG Kwik Cricket |
| Friday 26th May | Year 1 and Year 2 Reading Morning |
| | End of term |

(*parents are invited to the sharing assemblies and they will each start at 2.40pm)