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Millbank Academy Journal



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Greeting from the Head of School

We had another very busy term with a major focus on improving children's attainment in reading and maths. We celebrated World Book Day and World Maths Day with assemblies highlighting the joy of reading and maths, and we have been focusing each day on providing opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their successes in their lessons. You as parents have played your part too by attending parent conferences, sending your children to school prepared to learn and ensuring that they complete homework.

Highlights of the term have included the Year 5 residential visit to Cumbria, the Year 6 visit to the Department of Education for a writing workshop and our pupils being invited to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister! We are surely blessed to live and work in one of the world's most exciting cities!



The many clubs that we have provided this term have been well attended and enjoyed by pupils. Details of clubs for next term will be shared the first week back after the holiday.

Community

Our links with St. Stephen's Church have been further extended as they have offered to provide reading volunteers for our school. The volunteers attended a training session and are now hearing readers from Years 1 and 2 every Tuesday morning. Children love reading to the volunteers, and these reading sessions help to build up our pupils' confidence and reading fluency.

Our PTA has been very active this term by organising cake sale days for each of the year groups and these have been very successful in raising money to benefit our children. Thank you to all the parents who baked the cakes for sale and the PTA for such efficient management of the sale.

Term Dates, Summer 1 2022

Please note that these dates are subject to change and more events & workshops will be added throughout the year. We will be in touch with any additions to our key dates, so do please make sure your contact details are up to date!

Monday 25th April – Police visit for KS2

Tuesday 26th April – Police visit for KS1

Wednesday 27th April – Year 1 Trip

Wednesday 27th April – Year 2 Virtual Author Visit

Friday 29th April – PTA AGM

Wednesday 4th May – Year 1 Trip

Wednesday 4th May – Year 4 Trip

Wednesday 4th May – 10am – Stay and Play for prospective Nursery and Reception families

Monday 9th May – KS2 SATS week

Wednesday 11th May – KS1 Road Safety Performance

Tuesday 17th May – Year 3 Trip

Thursday 19th May – Year 6 Trip

Friday 20th May – Year 5 Trip

Tuesday 24th May – Year 1 Trip

Tuesday 24th May – Year 4 Trip

Friday 27th May – Half-term holiday begins (full school day)

Saturday Sports

I would just like to highlight to parents that there are wonderful opportunities for your children to take part in FREE sporting activities on a Saturday morning.

In addition to our programme of extra-curricular activities that run before and after the school day, we offer FREE sporting clubs for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Saturday mornings. Sessions are delivered by professional, highly-qualified staff in a safe and fun environment at Pimlico Academy.

If your child has not attended before (or has not attended since the beginning of the first Covid lockdown), you are asked to bring them ten minutes before their first session begins. You will be asked to complete a registration form and hand it in to the manager on the registration desk.

Years 3 and 4 Football	10.00am to 11.00am
Years 3 and 4 Street Dance	9.00am to 10.00am
Years 5 and 6 Football	11.00am to 12.00pm
Years 5 and 6 Table Tennis	9.00am to 10.00am
Years 5 and 6 Street Dance	10.00am to 11.00am
Years 5 and 6 Basketball	12.00pm to 1.00pm

The sessions will run on these dates:

Summer 1	Summer 2
23/4/22	11/6/22
30/4/22	18/6/22
7/5/22	25/6/22
14/5/22	2/7/22
21/5/22	9/7/22
	16/7/22

Girls into Coding

Aiza, one of our Year 6 pupils, decided, through her own initiative, to join a national programme aimed at promoting coding to girls. Coding and computing are sometimes seen as an activity for boys, but Aiza and her friends are proving that coding is for everyone.



AIZA'S STORY

I am incredibly grateful for the Girls into Coding events, which have had a hugely positive impact on my life. I started joining the sessions in September 2020 when I was in Year 5. It opened up my eyes to the awesome things that tech can do, so I started joining more frequently. Every session has been highly beneficial to me.

The coding workshops are the most enjoyable part. We do things like 3D design (which is very creative); building and coding using a free robot kit (which is fiddly but fun!); making and coding a keyboard (with cardboard and foil!); and a long list of other fantastic workshops.

I'm super excited about my next workshop, which is called The Tilting Maze! I'll be receiving a robot kit in the post for free with a pre-paid envelope to return it after a week. There's **no cost** for me to sign up to these amazing events and that's what makes them accessible to everyone.

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AIZA'S STORY CONTINUED...

Another interesting part of the sessions are the inspirational talks by the speakers. They are useful and I have learnt about many new things including potential jobs that I could do in the future. At the end of each session, we have a quiz against the clock and other participants to see who can come first to win wonderful prizes which include a beginners' guide to coding with Python and even a Microbit!

Of course, this experience wouldn't have been possible without the amazing co-founders of Girls into Coding, Aveye and Helene, and the brilliant mentors, who have taught me most of the coding knowledge I have today. It's breathtaking how they turn something complex into something very simple.

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AIZA'S STORY CONTINUED...

The sessions have also had an impact on my family, especially my six-year old sister. She sits near me to watch and takes her own notes. She enjoys testing out the robot kits once I've built them!

I honestly cannot describe how exceptional Girls Into Coding is. I have only briefly summarised my experiences with tech and I have a lot to thank the team for! From attending the events so far, I have greater technical knowledge, greater confidence in coding and presenting, and a greater love for STEM.



Thank you Aiza!



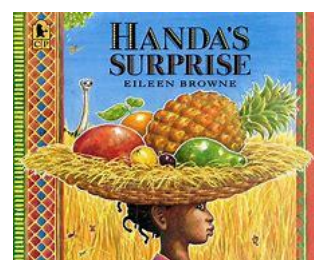
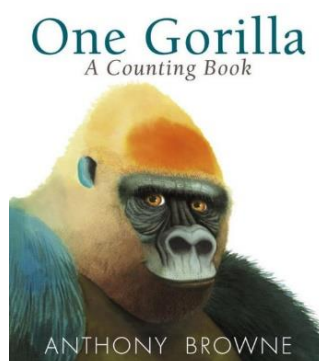
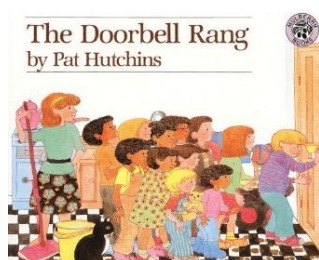
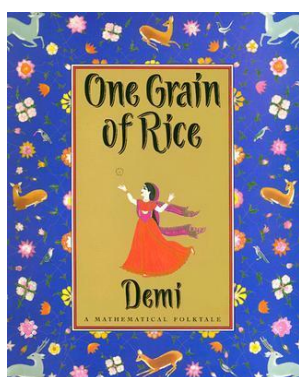
Curriculum Focus – Maths

This term, we have had a strong focus on celebrating and highlighting maths. Miss Field, our lead maths teacher, has demonstrated her love and passion for the subject by providing a number of opportunities for children to discuss and to learn more about maths.

We have introduced a maths medal that is awarded at our fortnightly celebration assembly to a child who has performed particularly well in maths. We also take this opportunity to highlight the pupils in the school have been achieving the highest scores in Mathletics.

On 23rd March, Millbank Academy celebrated World Maths Day. This day saw children exploring how mathematics can be integrated into their daily lives and exploring the creativity that can be found in the subject.

Each form read a story with a mathematical theme, such as counting, subtraction, division and exponential growth.

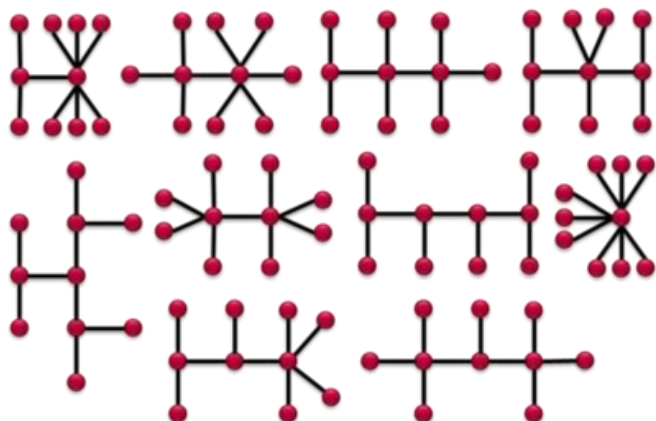


Year 3 explored 3D shapes in the real world by going on a shape hunt in the playground. *Did you know that the PE shed is essentially a giant cuboid?*



Years 5 and 6 delved into their visual and spatial learning by exploring homeomorphically irreducible trees. This problem is based on graph theory and explores 'trees' with set rules to see how many different formations can be made.

Did you know that this is actually the problem that is featured in the film Good Will Hunting? Our students managed to find at least 2 solutions!



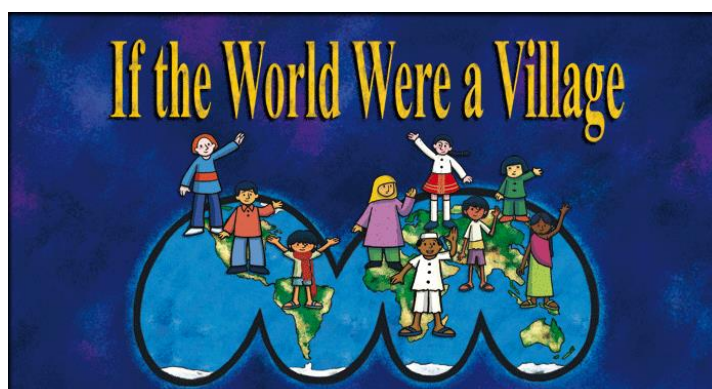
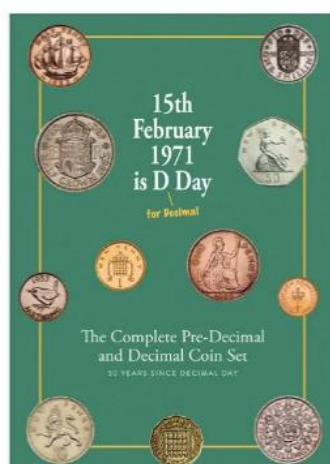
Year 6 also learned about Decimal Day by investigating old coins, and by learning about half-pennies and crowns.

Did you know that the faces on the coins changed when the monarch changed? Some of the coins the children examined featured King George!

Year 6 concluded that the previous system had some very confusing conversions and that switching to decimals and a base 10 system was much more straight forward.

Years 4, 5 and 6 learned about scaling and ratio through the story 'If the World were a Village', which explores social issues and demographics by asking children to imagine that the global population is scaled down to a village of just 100 people.

Did you know that if the world were a village of 100 people, 15 people would not have electricity in their homes?

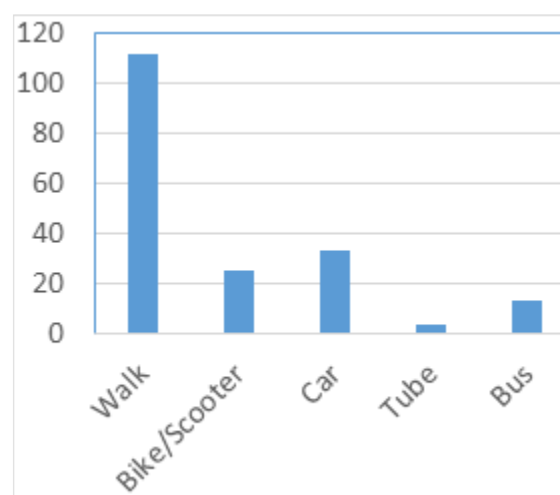


Millbank also took part in an online Mathematics tournament. Students from around the world had to complete a number of questions and score points in a 24-hour window. See the table below for our positions in the UK and the top scoring pupil in each year group.



Year Group	Year Group National Ranking	Top Scorer in Year Group
Year 2	495 th	Joshua
Year 3	157 th	Ridwan
Year 4	88 th	Adele
Year 5	243 rd	Bethel
Year 6	683 rd	Aiza

Finally, we ended our day by sharing what we had learned about mathematics in an assembly. The Year 6 prefects took this opportunity to share some data about how students at Millbank travel to school.



Many thanks to the teachers, parents and children for their enthusiasm in taking part in this day. We already can't wait for the next one!

