

February 2022 | Issue 3



# Millbank Academy Journal



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## A message from Mrs Gamon

Dear all,

I hope you are well and you are looking forward to a peaceful and relaxing half term with your families. Although we continue to face challenges, both at school and in our daily lives, with COVID-19, I am very proud that Millbank Academy, Pimlico Primary and Churchill Gardens have continued to give our children the very best education possible: I am incredibly lucky to lead such a dedicated and resilient community of teaching staff and parents. Since January, our teachers have worked tirelessly to support our pupils, and the attitude of each child has been exemplary and a credit to you as parents and carers. Whether it is in English lessons on Shakespeare, history lessons on the path to women's suffrage or science lessons on the evolution of life, it has been a joy to see how engaged our pupils are in their learning and how much progress each child has made. As we approach spring and the days start to get longer and warmer, I look forward seeing our teachers continuing to teach compelling and well-paced lessons which challenge our pupils.

I wish you all a safe, peaceful and relaxing half term with your families, and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 21st February.

Best wishes,

Mrs Gamon  
Executive Principal

## A message from Mr Ryan

This has been a very busy and exciting term. Our children have continued to work with focus and resilience, and it has been a delight to see some of the wonderful work they have produced. I have shared some examples from science later in this journal. In addition, I am pleased that we have been able to recruit several new members of staff to allow us to give our children even more individual attention and support.

This term, we have been encouraging our children to read widely and ambitiously. Some of our younger children have visited Pimlico Library, while others will be visiting soon after half-term. It is great to hear them talking cheerfully about their favourite books and sharing recommendations with each other. We have more trips focusing on reading planned for the coming months, and we are looking forward to World Book Day too!

As COVID restrictions lift, we have been able to put a greater focus on our enrichment programme, and we have been able to welcome a number of visitors to our school. Perhaps the most exciting was a visit from our local police officers to Nursery and Reception – the children learned about what police officers do, saw some of their equipment and were even allowed to set off the siren in their van! In addition, as you know, we have a number of extra-curricular activities, ranging from music and art to coding and cooking. Many of our clubs are run by Greenhouse Sports, who also arranged for our football team to take part in a competitive tournament – they played wonderfully, and we were so proud of how well they did.

We have had a particular focus this term on drama: Year 2 had a wonderful interactive session from Drama 4 All; Mr Howard has launched a drama club; and Years 3 and 4 attended professional performances of the Shakespeare plays they have been studying in their English lessons and took part in accompanying workshops. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to be invited to a special preview of Pimlico Academy's performance of Romeo and Juliet.

We have exciting plans for the coming months. Some of the trips and events we have arranged for next half-term are included towards the end of this journal, but many more are being planned. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, and to wish you and your families a restful half-term break.

## Pastoral Update

We are committed to supporting children to remain healthy, both physically and mentally. Throughout the year and in recent assemblies, we have been discussing with the children what we can do to look after our mental health, how to recognise when we need to ask for help and how to ask for help.

The children celebrated Children's Mental Health Week from 7th-11th February. The theme was 'growing together'. Each class had dedicated PSHE lessons and focused assemblies to encourage children to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. 'Growing together' is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt, and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential.

## Community

We have run a number of parent information meetings this term, and we hope that you have found these useful and informative. We have arranged more for next term, on topics ranging from supporting children who are new to English to handwriting. Details of these are given in the dates at the end of this journal. We hope that we shall be able to hold these in person, and we shall keep you updated on the arrangements.

Last term, we were able to invite the parents of children in many year groups into school for coffee mornings. Unfortunately, we had to cancel a few because of Covid, but we hope to be in a position to reschedule these for early next term. We shall send you dates as soon as we are able to. These meetings will include an update from Mr Ryan and a visit to observe part of a lesson in your child's classroom.

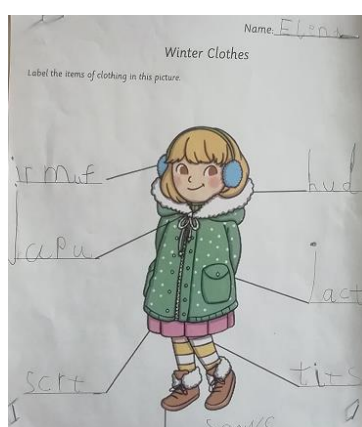
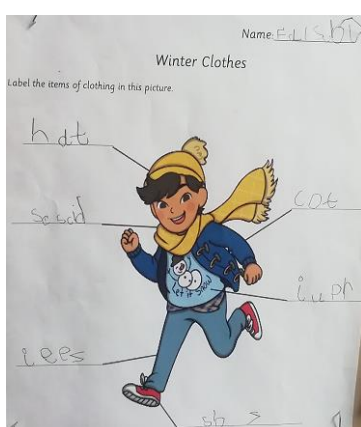
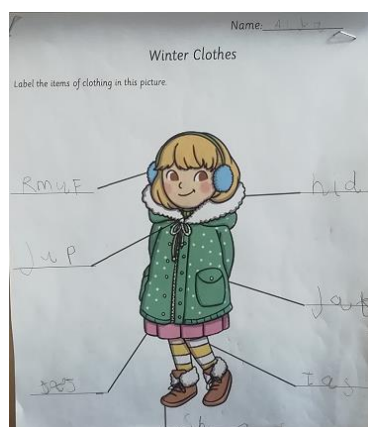


## Curriculum Focus: Science

This term, Nursery has been learning about space and about superheroes! We have been creating a spaceship in our role-play area. We have learned the names of the planets and facts about them, written superhero words (like zoom!) and created planets out of cardboard. This display shows some of our hard work!








Reception has been exploring the season of winter and making observations about their changing environment in all areas of their learning. The children enjoyed creating winter paintings and were able to name various items of clothing by labelling the items that we wear in winter.



The children in Key Stage 1 have been exploring a range of different topics while developing their ability to work scientifically. For example, as part of their work on materials and their properties, our Year 2 children have been investigating the ways that the shape of a solid can be changed. We discovered that materials can be transparent, smooth, strong and flexible:

LO: To describe the properties of everyday materials

Material	Properties
	bumpy ✓
	delicate ✓
	soft ✓
	shiny ✓
	transparent ✓

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January

LO: To investigate the ways that the shape of a solid can be changed.

1. Glass is transparent and smooth. ✓
2. Plastic is strong and flexible. ✓
3. A solid object is something that keeps its shape when you put it in a container. It does not fill the shape of a container. ✓



Children in Year 5 have been studying physics, and have been applying their mathematical knowledge to help them to calculate turning forces. They will be able to use this to make predictions about what will happen in real-life situations as well as to understand how levers work.

Thursday, 3rd February, 2022

Turning Forces  
Knowledge Check

- 1) Push or a pull. ✓
- 2) Newtons. ✓
- 3) Matter. ✓
- 4) Kg. ✓
- 5) less. ✓
- 6) Upthrust. ✓

Turning force = force  $\times$  perpendicular distance from the pivot.

- 1) Turning force =  $8\text{ N} \times 3\text{ m}$ . ✓  
Turning force =  $24\text{ Nm}$ . ✓  
A turning force of  $24\text{ Nm}$  acts anticlockwise. ✓
- 2) Turning force =  $12\text{ N} \times 6\text{ m}$ . ✓  
Turning force =  $72\text{ Nm}$ . ✓  
A turning force of  $72\text{ Nm}$  acts anticlockwise. ✓
- 3) Turning force =  $6\text{ N} \times 4\text{ m}$ . ✓  
Turning force =  $24\text{ Nm}$ . ✓  
A turning force of  $24\text{ Nm}$  acts clockwise. ✓
- 4) Turning force =  $2\text{ N} \times 8\text{ m}$ . ✓  
Turning force =  $16\text{ Nm}$ . ✓  
A turning force of  $16\text{ Nm}$  acts clockwise. ✓
- 5) Turning force =  $6\text{ N} \times 4.5\text{ m}$ . ✓  
Turning force =  $27\text{ Nm}$ . ✓  
A turning force of  $27\text{ Nm}$  acts anticlockwise. ✓

Alongside developing their scientific knowledge and their understanding of the scientific method, children also learn how to communicate scientifically using subject-specific vocabulary and an appropriately formal register. This can be seen in the work below from a Year 6 child, as part of their study of the human body:

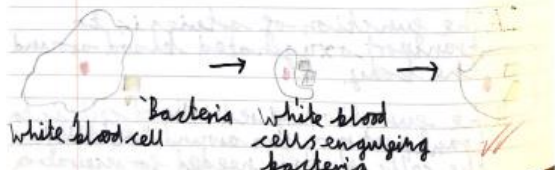
A Plasma has three main functions. The first is to transport waste products around the body. Second is to transport dissolved good substances from the small intestine to the cells of the body. Finally, the third is to transport dissolved hormones around the body.

D The function of white blood cells is to destroy diseases.

E The function of veins is to transport deoxygenated blood around the body.

2 The difference between oxygenated and deoxygenated blood is that oxygenated blood is blood with oxygen whereas deoxygenated blood is blood with no oxygen.

3 Phagocytes and lymphocytes differ in their role. Phagocytes destroy pathogens. By contrast, lymphocytes produce antibodies to destroy pathogens.



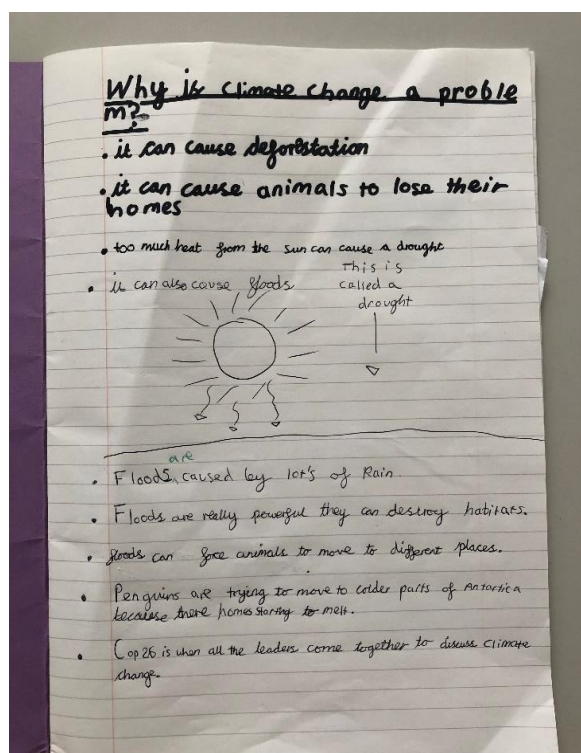
White blood cell → Bacteria → White blood cells engulfing bacteria

## School Council

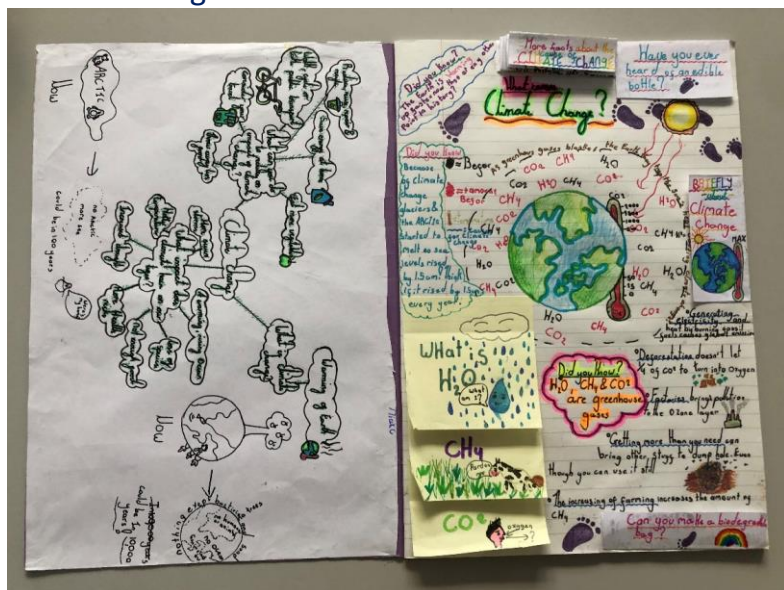
This term, the School Council has been discussing ideas for fundraising opportunities in school. Together, they have come up with some fantastic ideas for events that will raise money for good causes and bring our community together. They are excited to help deliver those ideas in the coming terms. Watch this space!

## Climate Change Club

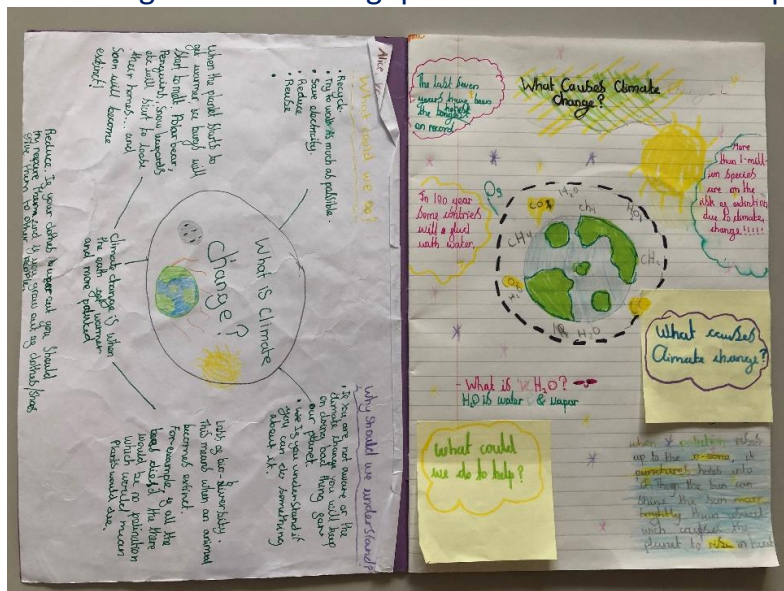
Members of our Climate Change Club have been busy learning about what climate change is, what causes it and how it affects our lives. We began by researching and gathering information, and by presenting it in a way that we would help to organise our ideas:



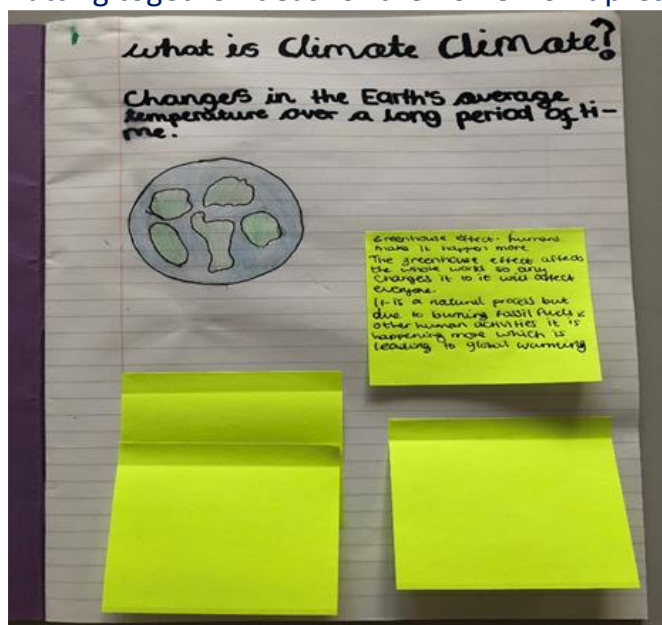
## Brainstorming sustainable ideas.



## Answering some of the big questions we have been exploring.

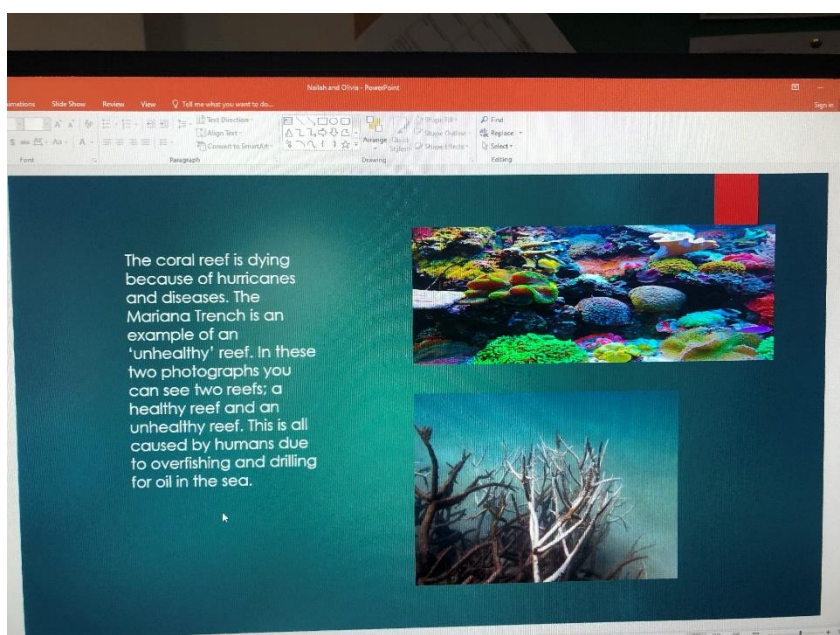
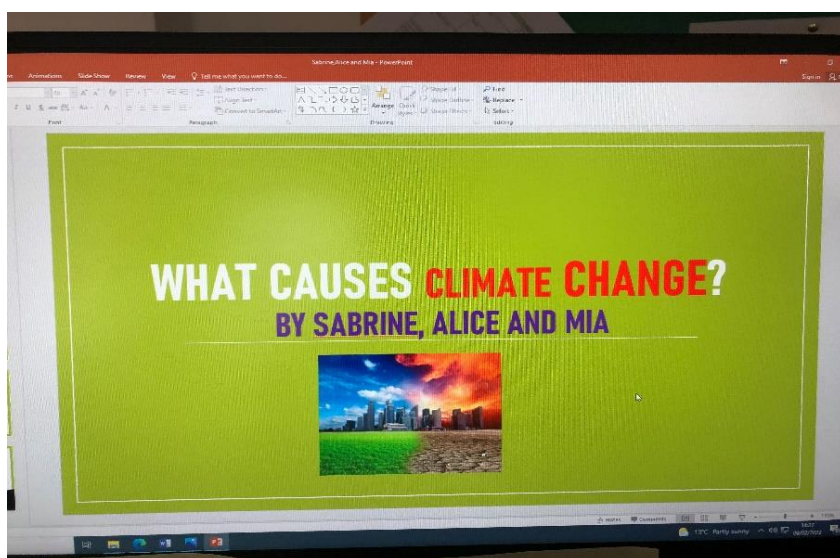
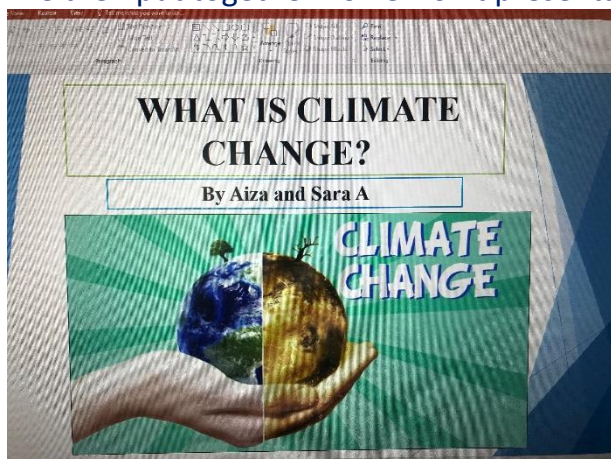


## Putting together ideas for the PowerPoint presentation.





We then put together PowerPoint presentations setting out what we had learned:



By the time you read this, we shall have delivered our presentations to a special assembly in Key Stage 2 featuring an exciting quiz. After half-term, Mr Ryan will award Millbank's first ever Climate Change Trophy to the class who answered the most questions correctly!

## Get into Teaching

Future Academies is home to Future Teacher Training, a school-centred initial teacher training provider. They are holding recruitment webinars next half-term for those interested in joining the teaching profession. The link to sign up can be found [here](#).



FUTURE  
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## GET INTO TEACHING

### with Future Teacher Training

Join us at our next webinar to find out how you can start your teaching journey with us.

Thursday 24 February 16:00-17:00

Tuesday 8 March 10:30-11:30

Thursday 24 March 16:00-17:00

Monday 4 April 10:30-11:30

Find out more and register your interest to attend at:  
[scitt.futureacademies.org/about-us/news-and-events](https://scitt.futureacademies.org/about-us/news-and-events)

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