

23rd June 2023

On Monday morning we were delighted to welcome so many father and father figures to school for a light breakfast and time in the classroom with their child. It really was a lovely way to start the week for everyone involved. Next Monday we are looking forward to hosting our second event to mark the significant impact father s have on our lives for the class in our Bilingual stream who had a French focus week this week.



On Wednesday, we acknowledged Thank a Teacher Day and I was lovely to see so many teachers receive a little thank you note or gift from pupils. Sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness.

I was very fortunate to be asked to write a blog for the [DfE](#) to mark this day – you can click on the link or read it below.

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ENGAGEMENT

- exciting first hand experiences and enquiry approaches
- varied, structured learning opportunities that are purposeful and appropriate



Many of our classes were fortunate to attend free events offered for the Barnes Literature Festival last week. Year 2 had a magical time using their imagination with Kristina Stephenson, who took them on an adventure in the Museum of Wonderful Things.

Year 3 enjoyed an inspirational talk by Serena Patel, who wrote the 'Anisha, Accidental Detective' series, in which she spoke about her journey from schoolgirl to award-winning author.

Year 4 attended a fun-filled session led by Joshua Seigal, poet extraordinaire and Year 5 enjoyed a talk by Piers Torday, award-winning author of The Last Wild Trilogy, who explained how his passion for nature inspires his writing.

Year 6 and 6B were very excited to hear author award-winning Caroline Lawrence share her top tips for plotting stories as creating characters as fun as hers in her Roman Mysteries series.

There are still lots of amazing family events this weekend happening in Barnes which you can find out about here: <https://www.barneskidslitfest.org/>



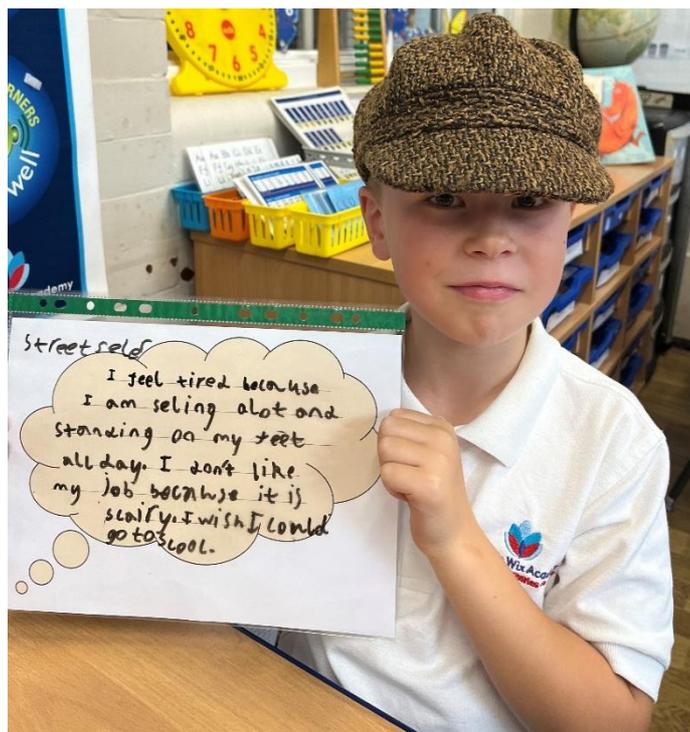


This week pupils in our Nursery have been doing more exploring of jungle animals. Every time I was in their class this week they were on safari – it was magical. They have thought carefully about the pattern on each animal and discussed whether the patterns were stripy, spotty or plain. Pupils used their fantastic creative skills to collage the matching pattern onto their chosen animal.

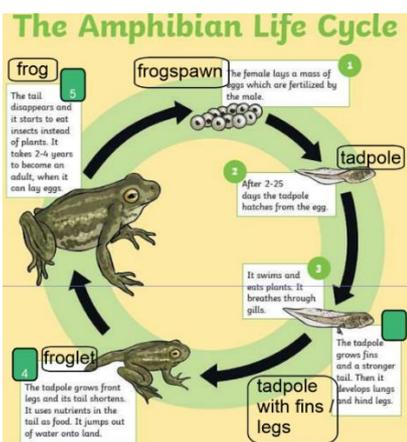
In RW pupils have been exploring the life cycle of plants. They planted some seeds in the garden and predicted what they would look like later on in the life cycle. Pupils explored the different trees around school and then created their own life cycle of a tree using photographs, drawings and labels.

Pupils in our Year 1 class have been building on their knowledge of how the Victorian era was different to our lives now. They considered why many children from poor families went to work instead of school and explored some of the jobs they did. Pupils then chose one job and stepped into the shoes of a working Victorian child, considering their feelings and worries. Their outcomes were brilliant and very insightful.

This week, pupils in 1B have been looking at physical and human features in their Geography lesson. They explored different physical features on Clapham Common and human features along Clapham Old Town, using Google Earth.



Pupils in 2B have been reading Hansel and Gretel to inspire their own twisted fairy tale. They have started to plan an alternate setting to write our own version of Hansel and Gretel.



Year 2 had a fun-filled Science lesson this week as they carried out a SOLE lesson using chromebooks to answer the Key Question: 'Do toads and frogs have the same life cycle?' Pupils got themselves organised in groups and allocated 'roles' to each other before carrying out research independently which they will present to the class next week. Year 2 were truly excellent learners as they showed they could work very responsibly in small groups.

This week in English, pupils in 3M have enjoyed learning and doing research about Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Greece and Croatia in preparation for writing their own Lonely Planet style travel guides. It has definitely put everyone in the mood for a holiday!



Year 4 had a fantastic afternoon on Wednesday exploring the wide variety of nature that is right on our doorstep in Clapham Common. Pupils used their Scientific Enquiry Skills to observe and identify different species of tree based on their leaves and branches, using keys to help them. They have been able to classify the trees in our local area.

Year 5's highlight this week was also during a science lesson. Pupils discussed changes in the human life cycle. They started by taking part in a teacher-edition baby photo quiz. Pupils loved this activity. They then explored the rate of baby growth, both prenatal and postnatal, and collected data to plot an accurate graph of baby development.

This week, Year 6 have been writing a narrative based around the short film, The Lucky Dip. It tells the tale of a young girl with a curious and arguably reckless mind who ventures into an abandoned arcade. It is what she finds there that is the biggest surprise of all!



During our staff meeting this week, Mr Butler held a training session for teachers in preparation for our Sports Days – doesn't it look like they had fun from the photograph above? Teachers tried out the events that pupils will be competing in on their Sports Days. This had helped the teachers learn the rules and how to record scores on the day. Mr. Butler thinks they all really came because they wanted to train for the teacher's race which will be at the end of Sports Day!

Excellent Learners

Congratulations to all our Excellent Learners this week.

<u>Excellent Learners</u>			
Emma	RW	Ruben	3S
Majd	1B	Karson	4A
Otterley	Y1	David	4W
Freya	Y2	James	5B
Louis S	2B	Dominic	Y5
Raffy	3M	Sienna	Y6



Dates to Remember

End of term

- Bilingual Stream – Tuesday 18th July
- English Stream – Friday 21st July at 1:45pm

Parent Teacher Meetings

- **English Stream** – 11th & 13th July



Sports Days – both streams

- Nursery – Wednesday 12th July at 9am
- Rec, Year 1 – Tuesday 4th July at 9am
- Year 3 & 3 - Tuesday 4th July at 12:30pm
- Year 4, 5 & 6 – Monday 3rd July at 9am

School Photos

We will have school photos on next Wednesday and Thursday. A letter is going home to inform you of the specific days for each class and uniform expectations.



Strike Action

You will have been alerted to the news last weekend that the NEU have announced two strike dates – the 5th and 7th July. We will keep you informed of the impact this will have at BWA. I would advise that you consider alternate arrangements should the school close or be partially closed.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy weekend. I hope you enjoy reading my blog below.

Miss Henry

Thank you, teachers, for all of your hard work and determination!

Posted by: [Seana Henry](#) and [Matthew Shanks](#), Posted on: 21 June 2023 - Categories: [Inspiring teachers](#), [Primary schools](#), [Pupil wellbeing](#) and [behaviour](#), [Secondary schools](#), [Teacher wellbeing](#), [Uncategorized](#)



Seana Henry, headteacher at Belleville Wix Academy talks about how she grew up admiring teachers, and then became one herself.

Generations of amazing teachers

My mum was a teacher at the primary school I went to as a child, I remember going to her classroom after the school day whilst she marked work, attended meetings or put up a display. I was always mesmerised by her stories about what happened in her and her colleagues' classrooms, but what really stood out was how much they cared for their pupils, especially those facing the most challenges.

Inspiration

Teachers continuously go above and beyond to meet the needs of the pupils in their care. We are very aware of the fact that the relationships we form with the children we teach impacts each pupil's individual outcome. My team and I are fans of a Ted Talk by the late Rita Pearson. Every time I watch it, I hear something new, but this is truly memorable:

"Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

Hearing parents and carers talk about how much they value their child's teacher is a very special part of my job. I know how happy teachers are when they hear how much the families value them. I also know that families genuinely value a great teacher who does all they can to ensure their child is happy and does whatever it takes to make sure the child is supported to develop a deep love of learning.

Thank you

Recently, we have been reflecting on Dylan William's words during a Spectator talk:

"Teaching is such a complex craft that one lifetime is not enough to master it, but by rigorously focusing on practice, teachers can continue to improve throughout their career."

Personally, I think teaching is the best job in the world and would like to thank not only the staff at my school, Belleville Wix Academy, but all teachers, for making such a difference to the children they teach.