



GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter 2021



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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

“The most resilient people are like playful, curious children.” This wonderful quote from Al Siebert, an American Psychologist, has been born out in reality over the past few months. Resilience is one of the most important characteristics we can help children to develop. This past year has been challenging for everyone, not least for the girls but they have shown remarkable resilience and the unshakable ability to just get on with it, whatever challenges they have faced.

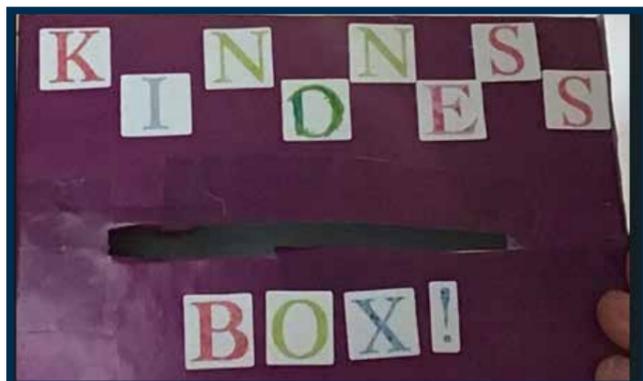
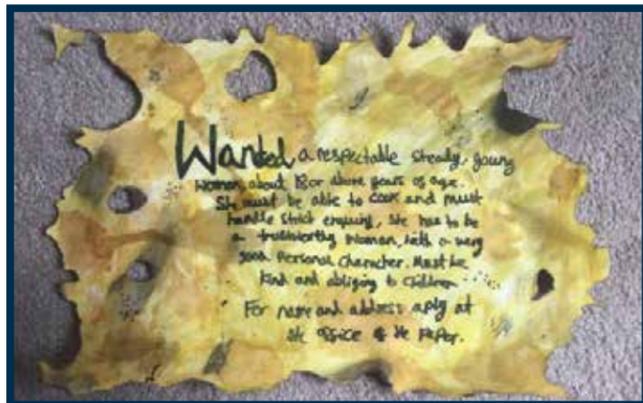
After rather unexpectedly re-entering a period of lockdown on the eve of the first day of term, we quickly switched to remote teaching for all the girls. We were keen to build on the successful provision last Summer, providing more creative opportunities for the girls. We introduced themed weeks to add enrichment to the content which would normally be part of our curriculum. Openbox brought Story Telling Week and World Book Day to life with their excellent tales and brilliant performances, and the girls danced their way through workshops run by the West End in Schools company. Humanities Week provided the pupils with around the world challenges, a look into famous historical women and a chance to interact with Perform Workshops. Modern Languages Week was filled with challenges from our Senior School language ambassadors and engaging extracurricular tasks including baking, dressing up and quizzes.

This was capped off by Well-being Week immediately on our return to school after lockdown. Throughout the week we explored different aspects of our well-being with a range of activities each day. There were lots of exciting tasks and challenges, from connecting with each other, being active, taking notice of the small things around us, learning new skills, or investigating with Science and everything in between. It was certainly a busy week to welcome everyone back, the girls embraced everything which was on offer; it was wonderful to be able to share and celebrate together in our classrooms.

It does feel like this term has seen the beginning of the end of these challenging times. Resilience is one of the positives we can take from our playful, curious, inspiring girls.

Mr Mike Gibb





LENT TERM: A TALE OF TWO HALVES!

The girls made a smooth transition back into remote learning at the beginning of January. Teams calls were organised and Showbie groups were filled with lesson resources and the girls connected and participated enthusiastically from the safety of their homes once more. On Monday 8 March we were able to welcome pupils safely back into the Junior School; very happy, smiling girls arrived at school excited to be back and were met with rainbow balloons and decorations to mark the start of our Well-being Week. The girls' enthusiasm, engagement, and interaction with all tasks both during lockdown and whilst back in school over the last three weeks has been brilliant, and we are incredibly proud of them. It has been marvellous to finish off the term back in the classroom with classmates and teachers.

Mrs Katy Hughes



WELL-BEING WEEK

As soon as we stepped out of our cars on Monday morning, the array of beautiful balloons for Well-being Week made us all smile! The colourful rainbows were such a cheerful way to welcome us back to school. There were so many wonderful activities planned for us with a different theme for each day. We 'Connected' on Monday, were 'Active' on Tuesday, 'Took Notice' on Wednesday, 'Kept Learning' on Thursday and finished the week with 'Giving' on Friday. We wrote postcards for different classes and created little drawings to put together in a big rainbow. We enjoyed a wonderful yoga session which was very calm and relaxing. We made gifts for Mother's Day, thought about what we can give for free such as a hug, a smile or a compliment, and we were given an ice cream treat on Friday! The rainbows theme was beautiful and made us smile!



Class 4M



SCIENCE WEEK

During Science Week we conducted a number of scientific investigations such as marshmallow and spaghetti towers, egg-nauts and rainbow water. The marshmallow and spaghetti towers were great fun but sadly kept falling over as the spaghetti was not stable! In the egg-naut challenge, we had to create a vehicle that stopped the egg from cracking when it was dropped from the top of the staircase. Some groups were successful whilst others were grateful for Mrs Hughes' tarpaulin on the carpet below! With the rainbow water investigation, we had to put sugar, water and food colouring in a beaker to create different densities so the water would create a rainbow. Overall, Science Week was great fun and continued our rainbow theme from Well-being Week.

Isla, Marion & Freya F, 5S



MODERN LANGUAGES WEEK

Modern Languages Week gave the girls the opportunity to find out more about the culture of different countries. In German, Years 5 and 6 celebrated Karneval where the girls dressed up in fancy dress or in German colours! They celebrated at home by making and eating traditional pastries and biscuits. In Spanish, Year 6 celebrated the life of the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. They studied key moments of her life and character and created their own Fridas either through a personal makeover or a craft project incorporating key elements of her identity. In French, each year group had a different topic: Year 3 discovered interesting facts about popular landmarks; Year 4 dived into the world of Mardi Gras and Carnival; Year 5 investigated traditional sports in France, and Year 6 explored the world of French celebrities such as Edith Piaf, Louis Pasteur and Coco Chanel.

Mrs Carol Igoe, Mrs Donna Jenkins and Mrs Jane Kinch



NOT QUITE GLIVE CONCERT

We were not going to let not being in school get in the way of us enjoying our annual trip to GLive for the Children's Concert. The girls pulled up a comfy seat, snuggled under a fleecy blanket, invited their cuddly toys and pets to join them to watch a 'Not Quite GLive Concert' from the comfort of their homes, or for the key worker girls, the transformed auditorium of the Junior School Hall! With a surprise message from the conductor Mr Willcocks, the girls enjoyed watching various orchestras perform an exciting range of pieces. There was a musical story to listen to about Tubby the Tuba, and some Irish Dancing to join in with for Lord of the Dance. The final song, 'Running Order', gave everyone the chance to sing and add in energetic actions.

Mrs Rachel Wardell



ART ROUND-UP

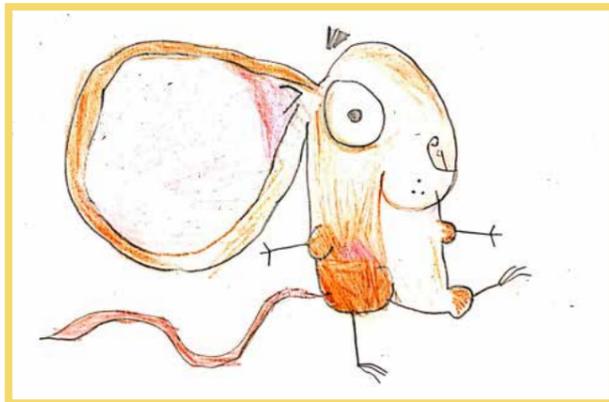
The girls showed great enthusiasm during their lockdown Art lessons. They covered fun characters in Illustration Club, natural Anthony Gormley installations, Pop Art designs, Aboriginal Art, British female designers, Cubism, Portraiture and Surrealism, to name a few topics. Working away from the classroom was hard but the girls' determination and imagination saw no limits.

It has been wonderful to have lots of smiling faces back in the Art room. We restarted our classroom creativity by participating in a whole school Well-being Week Art Project. As we have been apart for so long, each girl created a 3D self-portrait from recycled card painted in all sorts of rainbow colours which will be displayed as a whole school collage to represent our unity as a community.

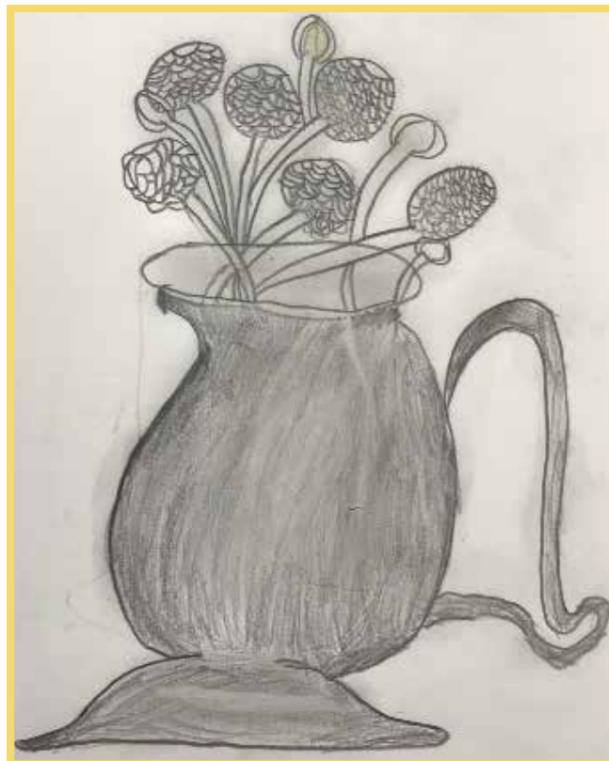
Miss Amy Langfield



Nina, 3K



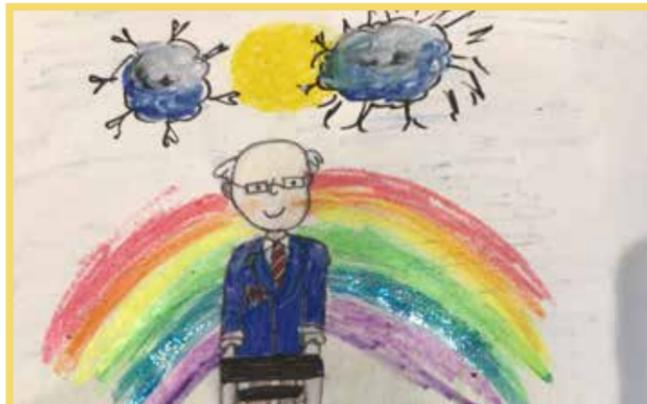
Myla, 1L



Olivia, 2S



Prisha, 5C



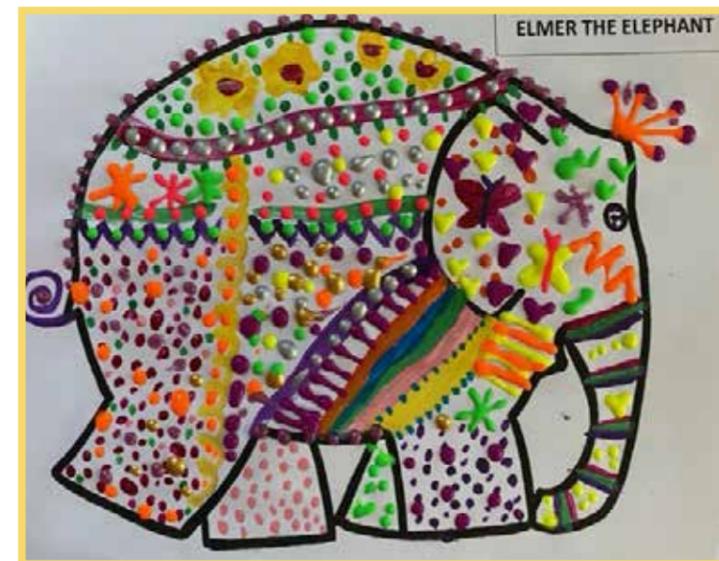
Alex, 4M



Emily, 5C



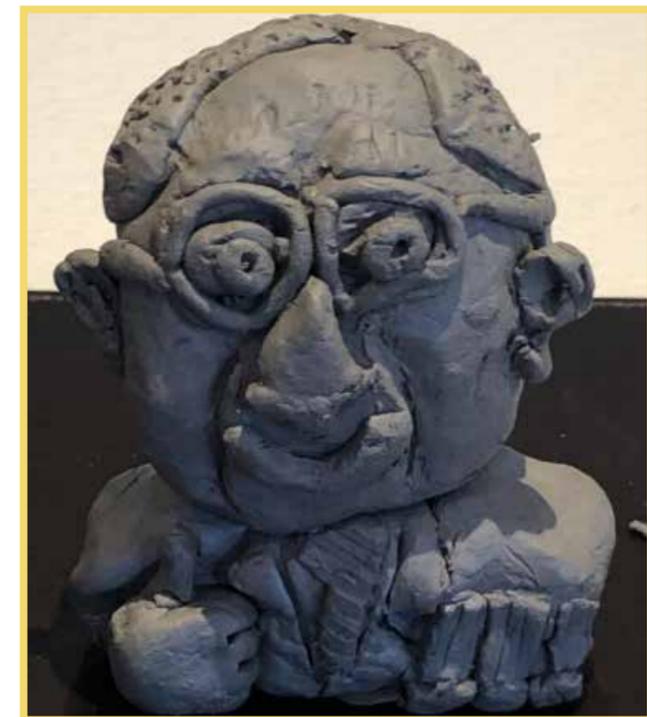
Sophie, 2S



Hattie, RD



Lucy, 1L

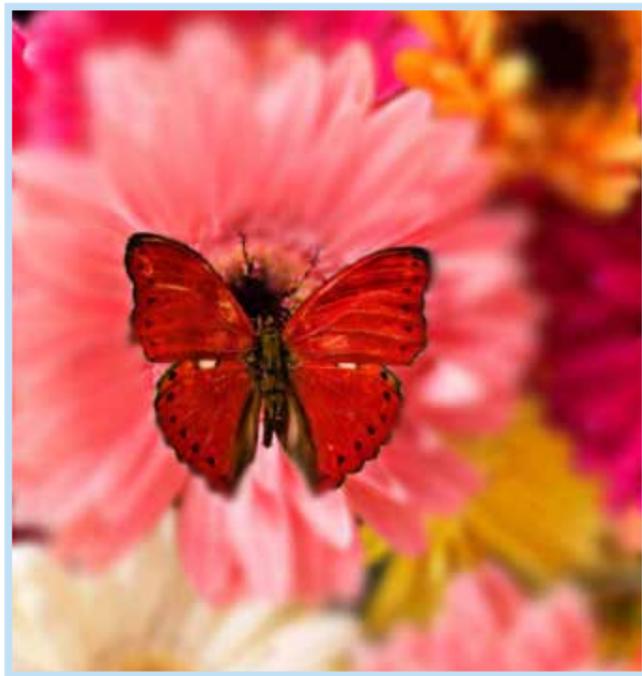


Sophie, 6W

CLUBS DURING LOCKDOWN

We know our pupils benefit hugely from participating in the wide range of activities which are usually available in school so, with the return to online learning, we were keen to provide remote extracurricular clubs. From topical debates to baking, photographic challenges to puzzling and illustration club, learning how to create stop motions to musical stories and so many more, we offered a range of activities to nurture and support the girls varied interests. The virtual clubs were a huge success and the videos and pictures which were uploaded each week were a testament to the girls' creativity and enthusiasm.

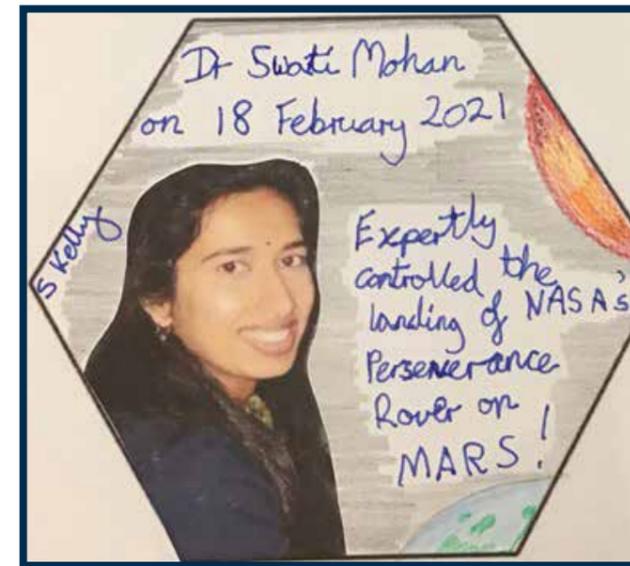
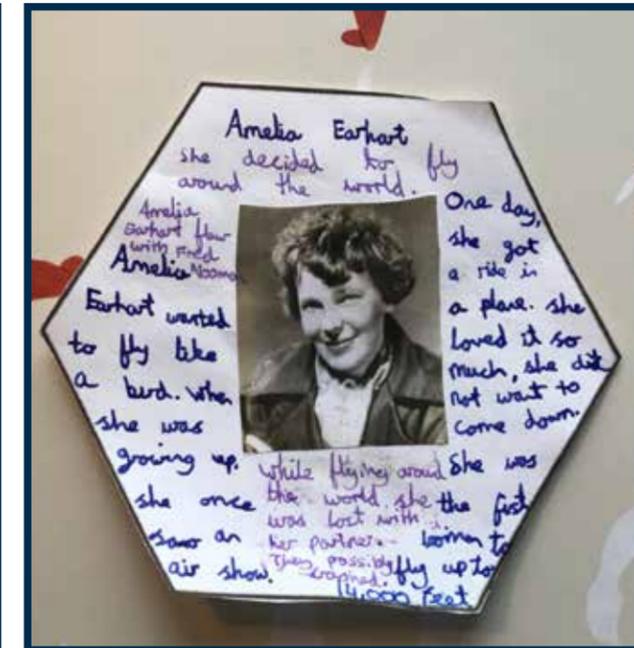
Mrs Katy Hughes



HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS

During Humanities Week, girls attended 'virtual' History or Geography workshops and crafted and created animals from around the world, using plastic milk cartons, paper plates and other materials from their homes. They worked together to complete the 'Guess Who and Where?' challenge, discovering who the mystery historical figure was and the whereabouts of the mystery geographical place every morning. They enjoyed taking part in a whole Junior School challenge on Women's History by drawing and writing about an inspirational woman on a small hexagon.

Miss Olivia Beeby

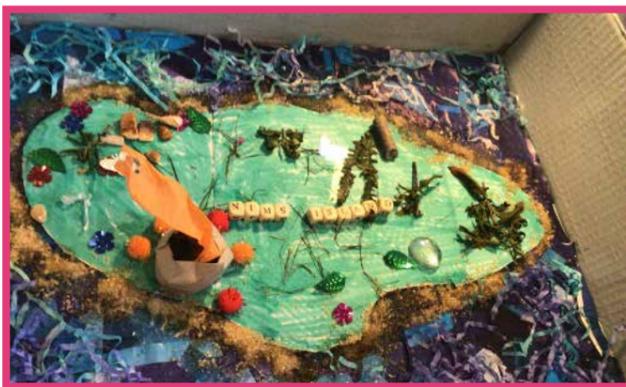


CELEBRATING NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK

We were involved in several exciting events during Story Telling Week. We were asked to 'Big Up Your Book' by writing a review of our favourite book and reading it to the rest of the class to hopefully inspire others to read the book. We then extended the project by choosing a task to explore the characters and the book further, such as creating a game, questioning the choices of the characters or making a diorama (a 3D scene that re-creates a setting). Every day, there was a different mystery reader which turned out to be members of staff. John Row, the storyteller and poet, posted two videos which we watched online and found ourselves transported to a different place. Finally, we were challenged to 'Get Caught Reading!'. We sent in photos of us reading books in strange places and positions and a lot of our pets also appeared in the photos!



Junior School Librarians



STORY TELLING SESSIONS WITH OPENBOX THEATRE

National Story Telling Week was launched by The Openbox Theatre Company with story telling sessions via a live stream to all our girls at home, and a small live audience of key worker girls in school. Being on camera did not stop Kenn and Iain from being as happy and exciting as always! They were joined by a very funny and entertaining puppet called William. William was rather naughty, and we all thought it was very funny when he annoyed Iain! The stories were captivating and inspiring and we particularly liked 'While We Can't Hug'. All the stories were read in a light, cheery and amusing way and it was a great start to our Story Telling Week.

Sophie L, 6S



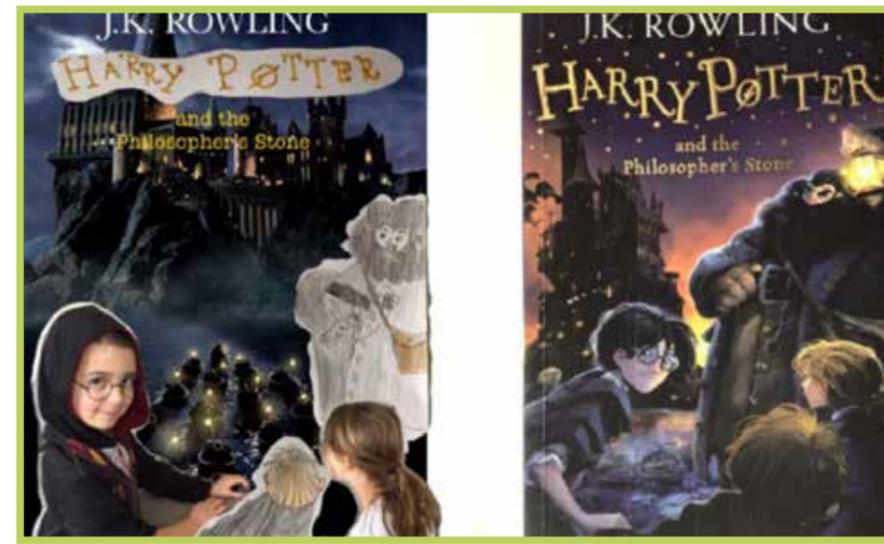
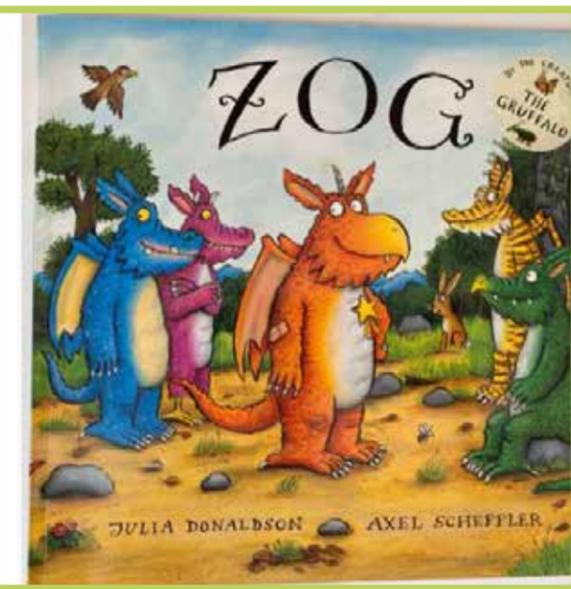
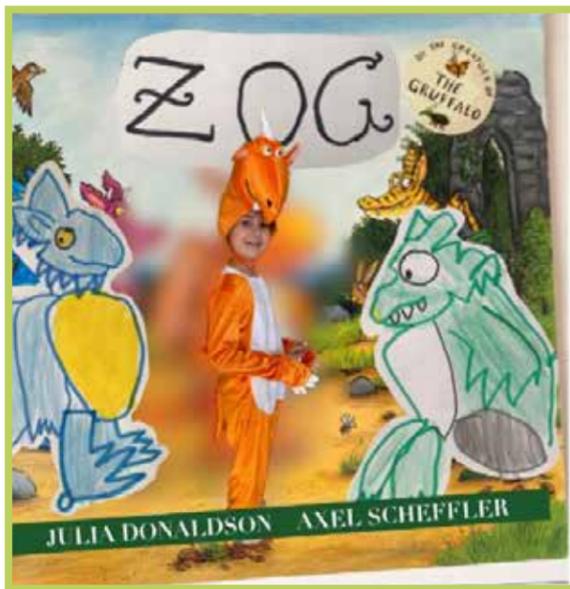
WORLD BOOK DAY(S)

This year we decided to have three days of World Book Day fun workshops and activities to celebrate our love of reading. We were treated to a hilariously funny live-streamed workshop with the brilliant Kenn and Iain from Openbox. They read imaginative stories, entertaining us with their quick wit and laugh out loud comedy. We found it very funny when Kenn promised to listen and then kept asking Iain to repeat everything as he had not listened properly. The fun continued into the afternoon with a fantastic production of Handsome and Grotty. The best part was when Grotty (Iain) transformed into a Unicorn complete with rainbow sparkles and Handsome (Kenn) became a rock and roll star with a small maroon leather jacket and sunglasses. They brought the characters to life fantastically.

We were thrilled to welcome “West End in Schools” Dance Company into school to deliver live workshops to the girls. Their professional dancer Ollie taught them how to bring a range of story books to life by using the power of movement. Books included Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland and The Jungle Book. It was wonderful to unite our key worker pods and online learners for a final virtual performance!

The girls were invited to enter a Book Cover Competition to replicate the front cover of a children’s book and they created some fantastic images. They were also encouraged to keep up the tradition of dressing up as a book character, which many of the girls did at home.

Ella 4S, Miss Georgie Dustin and Miss Claire Scott



A ROUND-UP OF SPORT THIS TERM

It was a shame to miss out on our annual Gym & Dance Display this year due to lockdown. However, during our penultimate week of online school, the girls were given lots of opportunities to express themselves through creative activities. Each girl was encouraged to learn some basic dance moves to accompany the chorus of the High School Musical song - *We're All in This Together*. Girls recorded their dances and the videos have been collated into a whole school performance for everyone to enjoy. Our Gym Squad have been continuing to refine their skills at home and it was a joy to see their efforts collated into their Gym Squad lockdown video.

The girls came back to school excited and eager to get active again. Netball skills were refreshed, and the girls had the opportunity to get into the pool for some swimming and an introduction to water polo! Time was spent recapping striking and fielding skills which will give us a head start when we embark on our Cricket season next term.

The last week of term was Activities Week! All girls took part in a wide range of different activities including dodgeball, bench-ball, football, tri-golf, badminton, tag rugby, rounders and bucket ball. It was great to see the girls learning new skills and trying out new games beyond those usually taught as part of the curriculum.

Miss Georgie Dustin





Inspiring Girls

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