

# Year 5 Weekly News Round-up

## Important Information



To help engage with P4C at home, spend some time thinking about our weekly wonder:

**“What is kindness?”**

You could ask your family this question and record their answers

## Important Dates:

**Spring 2 Term**  
**Monday 19th February**

**Founders Day**  
**Friday 1st March**

**Griffin Science Week**  
**Monday 4th March**

## **Dear Willow Brook families,**

As we bid farewell to another term, we reflect on a week filled with enriching experiences and memorable moments. After two weeks of intensive swimming lessons, it was wonderful to see our students back in the classroom full time.

On Tuesday, Birkbeck class had the privilege of being the first in the Year 5 cohort to visit the Guildhall Library. This remarkable institution houses a collection that delves into all aspects of life in London, past and present. Our visit focused on revisiting our History topic from last term—The Stuarts. Immersing ourselves in the era of The Great Plague, the children uncovered the devastating impact of this historical event on London. They explored various remedies used during the plague, such as garlic milk and lavender, and critically examined 300-year-old books documenting the disease. The highlight of the visit was seeing a full replica of the city of London, which provided a visual perspective on the vastness of our vibrant city.

In our Science lesson, we embarked on an exploration of plant reproduction. Students investigated the various ways plants create seeds for dispersal and growth elsewhere. Through hands-on exploration, they dissected different types of fruit, examining seeds of varying sizes, shapes, and colors. Opening a pomegranate sparked particular fascination as students observed the formation of seeds. A question to ponder at home: How do we get seedless fruit such as grapes and oranges? We encourage students to bring their answers to school next term for a chance to receive an award!

### *Reading for Pleasure Challenge*

Check out our weekly 'Reading for Pleasure' challenges below:

Read out loud to someone at home.

Read a book that teaches you a new skill – for example, a recipe book, or a book of magic tricks.

Read a Harry Potter book (or if you know every Hogwarts story, try a book that other Harry Potter fans love).

**LGBT+ History Month** is all about promoting fairness, equality and diversity and raising awareness of LGBT+ people and culture, now and in the past. It aims to give voice to LGBT+ experiences, celebrate achievements and highlight the challenges people still face today. It is also about helping everyone to learn more about LGBT+ culture and history.

The theme for this year, along with more information about the month, can be found [here](#).

Many articles are relevant to explore when celebrating LGBT+ History Month but this week we will focus on the following:

- **Article 2: (non-discrimination)** The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.
- **Article 13: (freedom of expression)** Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information if it is within the law.
- **Article 17 – access to reliable information** Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

And remember, at the heart of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are the values of dignity, equality and non-discrimination.

To help us think more critically about these articles, try one or more of the activities below:

#### Activity 1

Read the story *Elmer the Elephant*, you can also watch it [here](#). Elmer didn't feel that he wanted to be the same as the other elephants. Think of ways that we can celebrate our differences like the elephants do on 'Elmer Day' – talk about your ideas with an adult.

#### Activity 2

It is important to be proud of who we are. Make a 'Proud To Be Me' fact sheet or poster. You might want to include your favourite foods, colours, activities, or places you like to go. Think about what things you've included that make you unique and proud to be you.

#### Activity 3

Watch this story about the history of the Pride Flag. The Pride Flag is a symbol of inclusion and diversity. Look up these two words and think about the link with rights such as Article 2 – non-discrimination. Write a poem about all these ideas called Rainbows and Rights or design a rights respecting inclusive flag, explaining what each colour and symbol means to you.

#### Activity 4

Watch this trailer for the film *Happily Ever After* based on the story 'King and 'King'.

How was this story different and similar to stories you have seen or read before. Discuss with a friend why it's important to read stories that explore the diversity of people that exist in our world.

#### Activity 5

We often hear the phrase, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." What do you think about this idea? Are there times, when perhaps we should treat people as they would like to be treated? Can we really know what it is like to be in someone else's shoes when our experiences are often so very different? Can you write a reflection to share with your class?



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# Science Wonder

A monthly science challenge.

Scan me to  
learn about  
WATER!



Have you ever wondered... Where Did Earth's Water Come From?



We couldn't live at all if we didn't have water to drink! It's easy to forget how lucky we are to have access to water. But have you ever WONDERed, where did all of our water come from? Is Earth the only planet with so much water?

Ask a trusted adult to take you on a trip to the library or online. Do some research to find out: **Where Did Earth's Water Come From? Ways to use less and conserve water?** Use art materials you have or a Canva template and create a display on **Earth's Water!**

**Up for a challenge?** Hydrogen and oxygen atoms combine to form water. It can be hard to visualize something as small as an atom! Let's use our creativity. Can you draw, paint, sculpt, or build a model of a hydrogen or oxygen atom?



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# Art Gallery

A monthly arts challenge.



Find us on Instagram:  
@willowbrookartgst



**Takashi Murakami** is a Japanese contemporary artist. He works in fine arts as well as commercial media and is known for blurring the line between high and low arts. His work is inspired by manga and anime, he calls it SuperFlat. His art can be seen in music videos and on designer clothing! Can you create some interesting characters or a fun doodle picture inspired by Takashi Murakami?

Show your artwork to your teacher to have your work featured in our online Instagram gallery!

## Mathematician of the Month



# Florence Nightingale

1820-1910



Have you or your family ever been poorly and had to go to hospital? Did you notice all the hard work the nurses were doing to care for the patients and help them get better? Today, nurses are recognised as **important, super-skilled professionals**. But that hasn't always been the case. Believe it or not, at the start of the 19th century, nurses usually had no training at all, and they weren't even paid for the 'menial' work they did! But one woman changed all that... meet the amazing **Florence Nightingale**.



*"How very little can be done under the spirit of fear"* - **Florence Nightingale**

Florence Nightingale - also known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' - was the founder of modern nursing. She was also a statistician and social reformer who helped care for soldiers during the Crimean War. After the war, she set up the Nightingale School of Nursing, which aimed to formalise the education of nurses.

### MATHS CHALLENGE

1. How many circles can you spot on the way to school each morning? Is it the same everyday?
2. How fast can you write the numbers 1-100 clearly? Get an adult to time you and compare to your friends.
3. Create a single page poster on the amazing life of Florence Nightingale.





