



RHS Garden Show

By Libby, Ruby and Scarlett

Earlier this month, Class 3 went to Hampton Court in London to see our Common Blue Butterfly which we had made for the Henri Le Worm Show Garden. We went and saw the garden and found our butterfly on the edible shed. After that we met up with Chris Collins and he showed us round the garden. We saw the chickens and the kitchen. We went to lots of other show gardens including one shaped like a cake. Everyone that went really enjoyed this amazing opportunity and we are looking forward to seeing the butterfly back at school next term.

Access all Areas

Grabbit and Billy the Narrator (aka Arran and Chloe) report from behind the scenes at the opening night of the Year 6 Play *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*

You could feel the tension in the air backstage for last Tuesday's performance. We were all petrified. Some of us were giggling hysterically; others said they felt sick. Lucy was the worst – she was shaking. But we were really excited, too!

When the curtain finally went up and the lights dimmed, nerves were forgotten and we really got into the performance. Everyone helped each other and we all pulled together.

In the hall, everything probably seemed calm, but backstage was buzzing with lightning costume changes, finding props and trying to remember lines. Mrs Huckerby and Mrs Porter spent the whole time hissing, 'Sshhhhhhhhhh – will you *please* be quiet!!'

There were no major disasters. The best bit was when Molly missed her cue. There was a stony silence – it felt like it went on for minutes. Everyone on stage was muttering under their breath, 'Where's Robin? Where's Robin?' Suddenly, she was shoved through the curtain onto the stage. Luckily, everyone laughed.

The audience was really good. They laughed a lot; especially Ben Hayes's dad – you could hear him all the way backstage.

It was a huge relief when it was all over. There were lots of high fives – it felt really good to have done it. And then Big Ollie, cool as anything, said: 'Well, that was great. I'm off to Malvern now to play football'.



So long, farewell...

... to our fabulous Year 6: Lilly, Millie, Molly, Lucy, Sophie, Chloe, Ben, Arran, Jack, Ollie, James, Connor and Gabrielle (who arrived too late to appear in our photo). You have great things ahead of you. Just remember: work hard, have fun, treat people with kindness – and you'll move mountains! In fact, we couldn't put it any better than the great Dr Seuss himself when he wrote:



*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.*

*So... be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray,
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So... get on your way!*

* This is just a very small extract from *Oh, The Places You'll Go*: dig out the rest to inspire you on your journey!



CHATTER!

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CRADLEY PUPILS' END-OF-TERM MAGAZINE

FREE



It's the end of term and we're all looking forward to a long, hot summer. Six weeks of mucking about, late nights and lie-ins!

But perhaps not for much longer... Some head-teachers and education experts have suggested that the summer break is too long and it should be shortened to perhaps just two or three weeks.

When we put this idea to some Year 5s it stirred up some very strong opinions. Zofia Blood explored the arguments and chaired a heated discussion.

The case for a shorter holiday

It's claimed that, during the long break, children forget a lot of what they've learnt. When they arrive back in class in September they're very rusty and a lot of time is spent going over stuff they already knew. If the holidays were spread out, learning would be a more gradual process and pupils would get into a better routine of learning.

Another issue is that there is always a big wind down to the summer holidays. Hours of teaching time is spent on trips, plays, pass-up days, sports days and preparing classrooms for the new academic year. If we had shorter breaks they wouldn't be so disruptive.

Some people argue that six weeks is just too long. Two weeks into the holiday and children are bored stiff; they then spend the rest of their time glued to their iPads.

It has also been suggested that it would be more environmentally friendly if holidays were spread throughout the year and schools were closed for longer periods during the winter months. Just imagine how much fuel could be saved!

Should the summer holidays be shorter?



Families wouldn't be able to go to faraway places – like Australia. Theo
There would be lots of unauthorised absences. Katie

I love the summer holidays because we can be outside. It's no good being stuck inside in the winter. Zac

In the summer holidays I don't have to think of school at all. We need to rest our brains. Sophie

The summer holiday can be boring because it's so long. Joe

I love having the summer holidays to look forward to. It wouldn't be the same if it was only two weeks. Alice



THE VOTE:

Not surprisingly, it was a unanimous six votes to nil (seven if I count myself!) to keep things just the way they are. And, by the way, before you have a panic attack that we have plans to introduce short summer holidays at Cradley, rest assured there are none!

On top of all this, we have to remember what a nightmare it can be for working parents to arrange

childcare for six-weeks.

The case for the long holiday

It would be a mammoth task to reorganise the school year. Before a decision could be made there would have to be consultation with head teachers, staff, school governors and parents. There would also need to be talks with the whole community: transport companies who provide school buses, support staff who keep school buildings open by doing maintenance or major building projects during the holidays, and local businesses who would have to rethink their plans for leave for their employees. Not to mention the damage it would do to the tourist industry which makes most of its profits in the summer months. Take a seaside caravan park: who wants to be beside the seaside when it's below zero?

Besides, it's lovely to have a long break. It sort of marks the end of one year and means you can look forward to the next. It makes it special. Everyone loves getting ready for the new term – buying a new pencil case or pair of shoes – and it's exciting to move up to a new classroom with a new teacher.

Also, children need a chance to relax because they work hard all year. They're worn out by July!

Another important factor is that we don't want to be cooped up in the classroom in the good weather. Our weather can be lousy at times, so it's cruel to keep us in a classroom when the sun shines. Besides, it's hard to concentrate on lessons when it's hot. Children should be outside – it's healthier. What's the point of longer holidays in winter? We'd just spend hours watching TV while it pours with rain outside.



Class 3 has travelled to a magical place in their writing this term. Inspired by the story *Leon and the Place Between*, by Grahame Baker-Smith - in which a young boy is taken on a fantastic journey when he visits a travelling circus - our young writers opened the door of a magician's box, into a weird and wonderful world...

Jessie's Journey by Lilly Collop



Inside the box was not a box. It was a world of doorways leading to somewhere else. Looking straight ahead, Jessie

saw a rustic-looking door with a sign which read: *Where Magic Sends You*. Cautiously, she turned the handle, stepped inside and fell down, down, down, landing softly on a candy unicorn. Beside her was a young boy wearing bright red shorts.

'Hello there,' he said, cheerfully. 'I'm Tommy.'

'Where on earth am I?' replied Jessie, confused.

Tommy spread his arms wide: 'You are in The Place Between. Can I show you around?'

Jessie simply nodded her head as Tommy climbed onto the unicorn behind her. With a tap of his leg, whoosh, they were flying! Jessie saw white doves soaring in the sky, silver suits of armour which clanked noisily as they marched, rabbits popped in and out of magicians' hats, and a tiny hamster scurried about frantically.

'Poor thing...' Tommy muttered. 'He has never been called back.'

Jessie scooped up the creature and

stowed him safely in her pocket.

'My dad's a magician,' Tommy continued. 'If I help him he teaches me his tricks.'

'Wow!' Jessie mouthed silently as the unicorn landed. They jumped off and Tommy began to float up.

'He's calling me!' Tommy yelled, his voice becoming fainter as he disappeared. Jessie was left alone.

At first, they were faint, but slowly, the words grew louder: 'Jessie, come back! Jessie come back!'

Grasping a shimmering mane she mounted the unicorn and together they flew back to the doorway. Jessie dropped gently to her feet and then remembered the hamster nestled in her pocket.

'I will call you Tommy,' she told him quietly as she stroked his soft fur. 'To remind me of all this.'

Suddenly, a gust of wind pushed her through the doorway and she tumbled into the light where her family was applauding wildly.

'What was it like in the box?' her brother yelled above the noise as the magician took a deep bow. 'I wish he'd picked me.'

'Perhaps you can go there one day,' Jessie replied.

'Where?' her brother frowned.

'The Place Between,' Jessie smiled secretly to herself.



The Magical Fridge by Jake Robb

David was ravenous. His mum would probably tell him not to snack

and ruin his tea, but just a little nibble wouldn't do any harm... Furtively, he

opened the fridge door and reached for a spicy chicken leg. How odd, he couldn't feel the back! His hand had gone right through the fridge wall and now he felt his whole body pulled into the chilly interior and down into an inky blackness. Landing softly, he looked around at lots of doors, all numbered from 1 to, well... they were never ending.

Eventually, a door swung open and David tumbled through it into a warm sea of shimmering red glitter.

'Hello,' called a friendly voice.

'Where am I?' replied David, looking around wildly to see who had spoken.

'You're in The Place Between,' said a boy stepping into the light.

'Between where?'

'Between there and back again!'

The young boy laughed and hopped onto the back of a pink-tinged jellyfish that was floating by.

'Fancy a tour? Climb on.'

Nervously, David took the boy's hand and they flew off. He saw guitars playing without a hand on them, striped candy canes and lakes of shimmering blue. Suddenly, David felt something hard hit his leg.

'Ouch!' he yelled, rubbing an angry red mark. Looking around he spotted a large green shell that had dropped by his feet. As he stooped to pick it up, a little green head, no bigger than a man's thumb, popped out of the shell. David jumped back, startled.

'Wha..?' he started to say.

'Oh, don't mind him,' said the boy.

'He's always here.'

As David knelt to examine the tortoise, the boy began to float away.

'I have to go. My father is calling.'

David was left all alone, stroking the tortoise who had grumpily retreated back into his shell.

All of a sudden, David felt his body become weightless. 'David, where are you?' he heard as, first his arms were gently lifted above his head, and then slowly his whole body began to float in the air - and then evaporated. Bit by bit, his body came back together inside the chilly fridge.

Casualty, he pushed open the door and stumbled back into the kitchen where his brother stood, open mouthed, scoffing the left-over chicken leg.

'Where have you been?' he asked, wiping his mouth on his sleeve.

'In the fridge,' David replied.

'Really?'

'No... I went to The Place Between!'

A Picture of us

As part of their Summer topic, '*We are Britain*', the children in Class 2 have explored our differences and similarities through the medium of self portrait.

'As humans, we all have two eyes, two ears, a nose and a mouth,' explained student teacher Mrs Wilkes. 'And yet we all look very different. By experimenting with self portrait we celebrated those unique features that make us special.'

Over several lively sessions the children used different materials – plasticine, crayons, paints, pastels and collage – and a wide range of art and design techniques, to experiment with the different ways you can portray people's faces. The children were encouraged to be bold and daring, especially when they created their own Picasso-style pictures.

'As we worked, we discussed our ideas and feelings about our differences and similarities and how we can respect them in modern, multi-cultural Britain,' adds Mrs Wilkes. 'As you can see, the results are spectacular!'

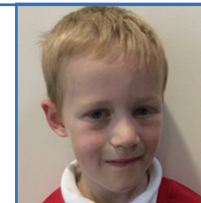


Bella Hughes

'We realised that we all look very different. Our faces are different shapes and colours. Some skin is very pale and others much darker. We all have the same things on our face but we don't look the same.'

Emil Meager

'I liked doing the Picasso self portrait best. It took a long time – and it didn't matter if it was a bit messy. I like Picasso's paintings – he put things in funny places and used lots of colour.'



Hugh Norbury

'We had to do grown-up pictures! Children do circle faces, but we learnt to draw an oval shape.'

Eve Vipond

'I loved doing these pictures. I want to be an artist when I grow up. It was fun looking in the mirror to examine our faces. We drew a faint line on our paintings to make sure we put the eyes in the middle of the face. For the collage, we could use lots of colour and different shapes and materials.'



Tilly Wilson

'We looked at ourselves in the mirror. It was strange when we really looked hard at ourselves. We look kind of weird!'



Oliver Burton

'When I looked in the mirror I realised that my eyes are in the middle of my face – I always thought it was my nose!'

Bo Brett

'When we examined our faces, we could see there are lots of different shapes. Some are round, some oval, some – like mine – are more squarish. I'd never noticed before!'



Amelia Alcott

'We had a lot of fun doing our portraits. It was really busy and noisy in the class. But we learnt lots, too. We had to remember to use up the whole page. Lots of children just do a tiny picture right in the middle of the paper. We were trying to do more grown-up pictures.'

