

# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Spring 2 2023 – Academic Year 2022-2023

### Introduction from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

As the term comes to an end, we look back and celebrate another fantastic few weeks. Pupils in the lower school have taken part in a wide variety of workshops and learning experiences – including a series of problem-solving workshops, learning through movement by playing detectives bringing mystery stories to life and a visit to Cliffe Pools Nature Reserve where pupils study the formation of rocks. Pupils in the upper school continue to engage well with their work experience placements and life skills programmes.

At the end of term, pupils took part in the belated production of A Christmas Carol and parents of pupils who were in the play attended the performance. Well done to all those pupils who took part. It was fantastic!

We have welcomed two new pupils into our school – Marco and William and they are settling in well.

We look forward to a new and exciting term which will see us taking part in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) Week which will include a week of planned activities and a visit to the Science Museum in London.

We will be sending out our annual parental survey and we would appreciate if you would take some time out of your busy day to complete this. In addition, the school is aiming to achieve the National Autistic Society (NAS) Quality Mark, and we have been working hard to put evidence together to support this. Our assessment week is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Another short questionnaire will be sent out as part of this assessment. We would be very grateful if you would support us to achieve this in recognition of all the work we do with our fantastic pupils and our families.

We are going to nominate staff for the Kent Teacher Awards. Some of our parents have already submitted nominations and we thank you for this. If any of our other parents would like to do so, please follow the link <https://kmcharityteam.co.uk/awards/>. You can nominate any member of staff in school.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the school and for the wonderful supportive messages and comments on social media.

We wish you all a safe, restful and relaxing time with family and friends and we look forward to welcoming our children back to school after the half-term break.

Alicja Emmett  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

**Term 3:**  
04/01/23-  
10/02/23

**Half Term:**  
13/02/23-  
17/02/23

**Term 4:**  
20/02/23-  
30/03/23

**Easter  
Holidays:**  
31/03/23-  
14/04/23

**Term 5:**  
17/04/23-  
25/05/23

**Term 6:**  
05/06/23-  
12/07/23

**Bank Holidays:**  
07/04/23  
10/04/23  
01/05/23  
29/05/23  
08/05/23

**Reports Sent  
Home:**  
10/02/23  
24/03/23

## Curriculum News



### Learning Outside the Classroom Award

I am delighted to announce that City of Rochester School has been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom (LoTC) Gold Quality Mark in recognition of our curriculum and how our love of the outdoors, nature and our experiential curriculum is a fundamental part of our offer.

### *A Christmas Carol*

This term we staged our first ever play- an adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' by Rochester's own, Charles Dickens. Both staff and pupils worked exceptionally hard on the play, rehearsing regularly which helped create a great team spirit and led to a performance that was thoroughly enjoyed. We are very proud of the students and staff that were involved in the production and hope it's the first of many!



### Visit to Canterbury Christchurch University

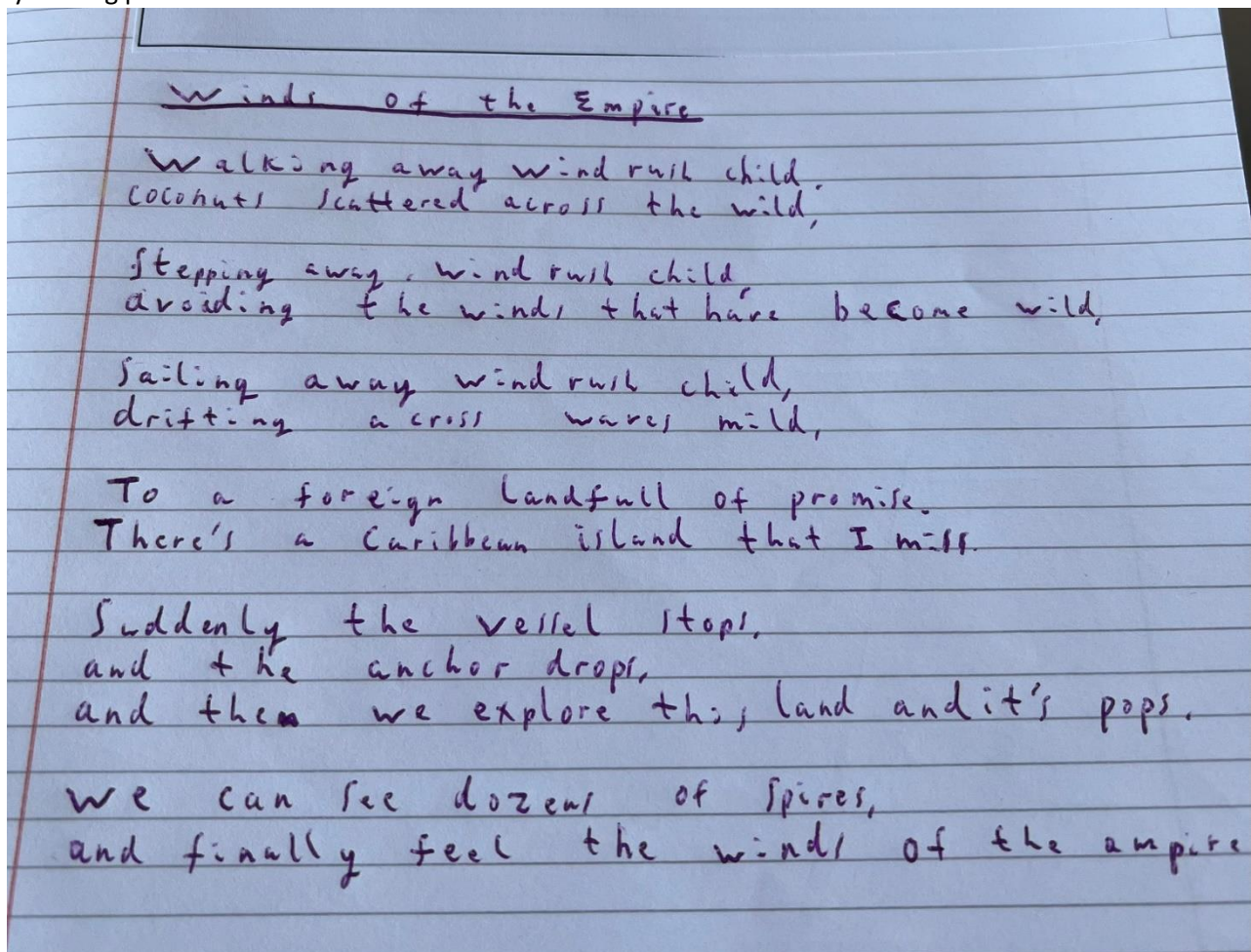
Pupils attended Canterbury Christchurch University to take part in the Ootiboo Imaginary Worlds Competition where pupils learned about filmmaking and were able to turn their drawings into moving animations. Well done to our pupils for taking part.





## Poetry

Pupils in the middle and upper school have been reading poetry written by John Agard and William Blake. Pupils have had an opportunity to write their own poems. One pupil wrote a poem entitled Winds of the Empire. It is a very moving piece.



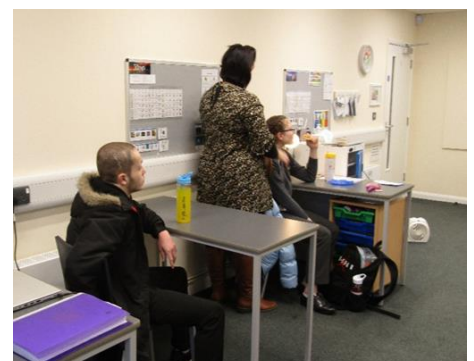
## Equality and Diversity Calendar

Pupils marked Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> January. Pupils listened to stories from survivors to help them understand the horrors of war.

Bailey: I found it upsetting that so many people lost their loved ones for no reason.

Charli: I found the film really moving really moving. How they had so little to eat and how at first, they were excited to see the soldiers as they didn't know what was going to happen to them.

Kian: We should remember it because it was such a horrible, horrible, thing and it must never happen again.



## Community Links

In construction, pupils have been making signage for Cliffe Pools Nature Reserve. Well done to our pupils for all their hard work. The signage looks fantastic and the owner is very pleased with the outcome.



Parish of St Francis of Assisi,  
Strood, Galahad Avenue, ME2 2YS

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023-  
Sarah Richards from Child Health Project Officer,  
Public Health – The Importance of Sleep

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023-  
PC Dave Brett from Kent Police,  
Safety in the community

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023-  
Caroline Parfitt, Occupational Therapist (Via  
Zoom)

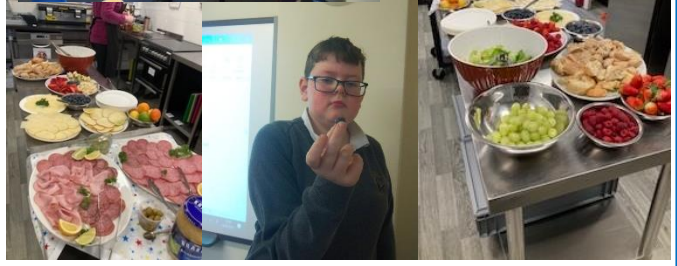
**Refreshments on sale**

(All proceeds donated to Magic (UK) Ltd)

## Breakfast Week: Around the world



Pupils enjoyed tasting different breakfast foods from countries including Greece, Germany & England. The pupils really enjoyed tasting new foods. Cody & Josh especially enjoyed the German Breakfast. The pupils also had activities to follow up with in class and have learnt some new breakfast facts including 'What the word Breakfast means'; the fact that Europeans tend to have a lighter breakfast and the Chinese always have rice as part of their breakfast. And that having eggs for breakfast was actually started in 1620 with poached eggs.



## Staffing Update



We welcome Billie Rice - Learning Support Specialist to Jupiter Class and Hannah Saunders - Learning Support Specialist to Venus Class.

Sadly we say goodbye to Fiona Hansen from Venus, we wish all the best in your new role!

