



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday!

Southfest Week 1

Well week 1 of Southfest certainly did not disappoint! I hope you have been able to follow the updates either via the Reach More Parents newsfeed or one of our social media channels. There has been so much going on and the excitement around school all week has been tangible!

Southfest at Merrywood...

The week kicked off with an assembly at Merrywood led by Joy Cranham and Ben Van Praag who are from University of Bath and Bath Spa University to launch a project which this week has seen every child in year 1 and 2 thinking of a word that links to one of our school values and creating a piece of word art in a language they are familiar with. Thank you the parents who came along for that assembly. Unfortunately (or impressively, depending on which way you look at it!) the children took to the activity so well that the planned additional afternoon sessions with parents to get them finished weren't needed but thank you for being on stand-by to help.

Ben, an experienced street artist, is now leading a team of helpers from the universities to transfer the outline of many of the words onto one of the walls in the Merrywood hall and next week lots of the children will get chance to paint the words using the techniques they have been learning this week. This project sitting within Southfest has been a great way for the children to have a go their own street art as well as seeing the professionals in action. Once the Merrywood mural is completed, the action will turn to Myrtle and the children there will get the same opportunity.

Elsewhere at Merrywood, Jemma Bursnell (known professionally as Emotional Waterfall) has been painting two sections for us. The first, just inside the children's playground entrance, is a vibrant collection of geometrical shapes, lines and zigzags in the four school colours and beyond that as you go through towards the hall is an abstract forest school-inspired wonderland! She has been wonderful with the children, who on occasions were appearing at both ends of her working space, waving and asking lots and lots of questions!

Southfest at Myrtle...

In my assembly at Myrtle Street on Monday I talked to the children about the overriding idea behind Southfest. Of course, it is about celebrating the art, getting to meet and talk

to artists, being part of the process and seeing the art unfold. That is all so valuable. But broader than that, it is about children seeing the value of knowing who they are, being proud of who they are, and finding a positive way to express that in whatever form feels right to them. That for me is the spirit of the street art community and I believe it is such a valuable and transferable message for the children to take away from this.

Since the assembly we have seen a stunning collage gradually evolve in the Year 5/6 corridor thanks to Tom Hodgkinson who generously took time to interact with every child and member of staff who stopped to ask questions or just go "woooooooooow". Simultaneously, Andy Council was working on the wall next to the stairs. We had to keep children out of his workspace as he has been using aerosols throughout but this created a lovely sense of mystery as the children tried to piece together the snippets they could see through both the upstairs and downstairs doors to work out which creature he was painting for us. The final result is a crocodile which I can only describe as 'spectacular'. As the week went on and the weather improved we were joined by Farrah Fortnam whose mural along the orchard wall, as you may have seen, is truly special. She has been talking to the children throughout and weaving their ideas into her work and several of the details in the mural are only there as a result of conversations she had with them while she was working. Farrah will be moving on to Merrywood next week, where she will be painting the end wall of the school house in the preschool playground. Our final artist this week is Edzo, who has started the two pieces he is doing for the Year 3/ 4 corridor. He is doing this as an artist in his own right, however as he is also a pupil here the children have loved watching him work and being able to ask him questions along the way. He is going to continue in the corridor next week and we will keep you updated as he progresses.

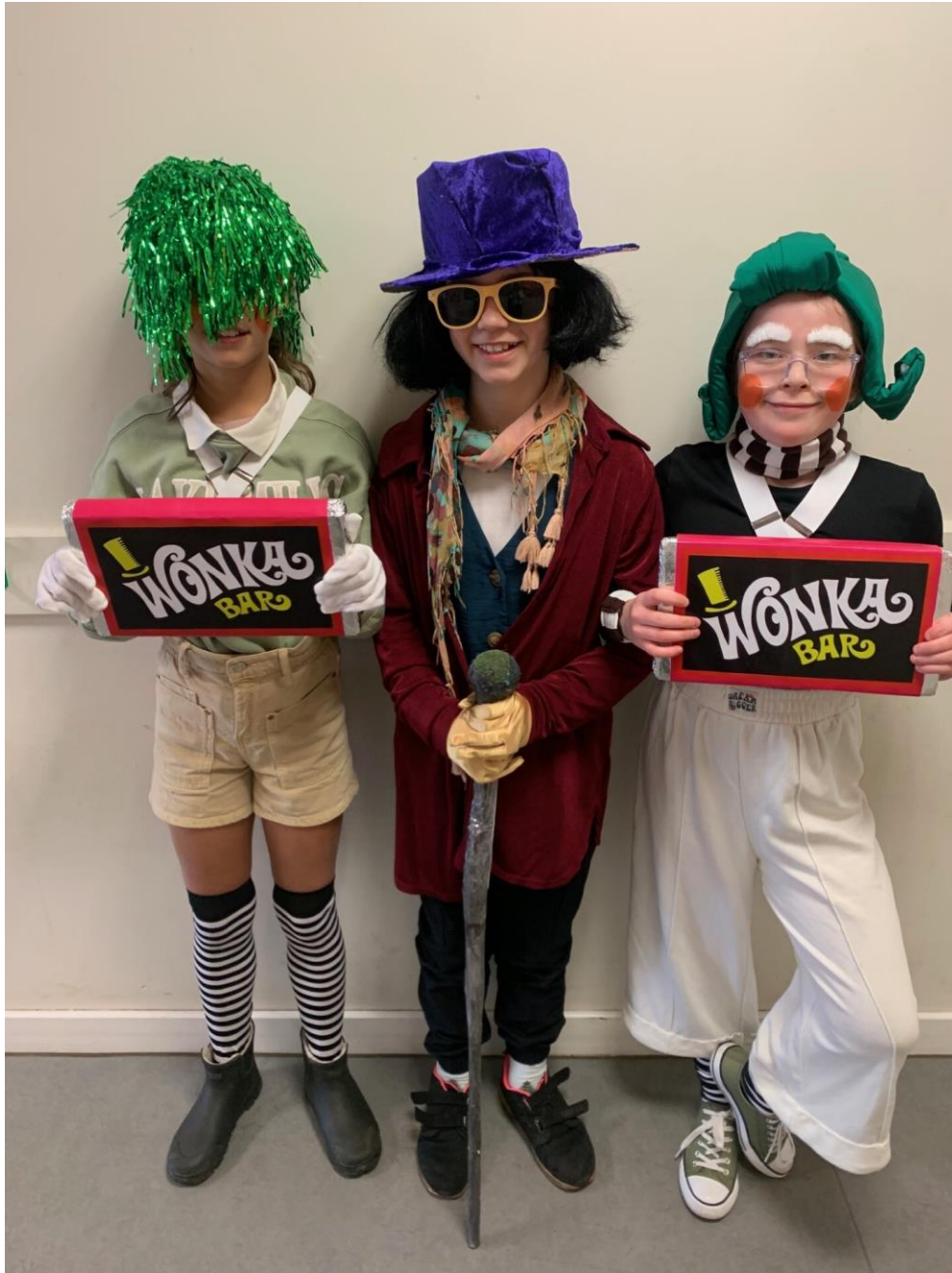
Next week we have more to come so please keep an eye on the newsfeed and/or our social media accounts. And remember the open afternoon on 27th March so you can come and see the results for yourself.

Funding for Southfest

We have gratefully received a donation from the Arts Council to help with the cost of Southfest, and we are also very grateful to the artists connected to the school who have generously given their time for free. However, Southfest has only been possible thanks to the generous support of our amazing PTA. With lots more action in store on both sites next week, you are giving us all a truly unique experience and leaving a lasting legacy so thank you!

World Book Day

And in case there wasn't already enough going on, yesterday was World Book Day! With the option of dressing as any word, as well as a book character, the costumes were varied and ranged from cool to hilarious with everything in between. Thank you for your support in helping your child to get ready for this annual celebration!





In addition to the usual World Book Day fun, at Myrtle the Eco-Club, with Miss Murphy's support, created a Book Swap! The children absolutely loved it and we saw lots of them eagerly finding a quiet space to sit and start reading their new book. Thank you for helping the donations pile grow over the last few weeks and thank you so much to the Eco Club for making it all happen. I think Miss Murphy may have just started a new Southville tradition!





Ramadan

With Ramadan expected to begin on Monday or Tuesday of next week, I would like to wish Ramadan Mubarak to everyone within our community who will be celebrating.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman