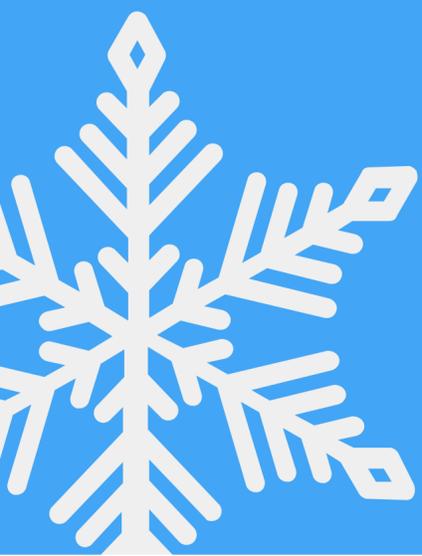


Termly Review

THE THAMES LEARNING TRUST



**Christingles by Year 1 and 2 at
Battle Primary Academy**



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at The Thames Learning Trust, children are at the centre of all our work and we put faith in them as leaders.

2. SPOTLIGHT ON...

This term we are catching up with outgoing principal of Battle Primary Academy, Nathan Butler-Broad

3. NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Exciting stories from each school

4. HOW WE CELEBRATED

This term we celebrated Remembrance Day, Diwali, Children in need and Christmas. . find out more.





Reading Girls' School students enjoying their christmas festivities



OUR STUDENT LEADERS

This term we are proud to introduce student leadership teams from each school. Look out for updates in every issue!

Battle Primary Academy

My name is Lucas Millar and I am a peer coach (the first group ever, though more groups are to come). We are a team that helps every one in the school community . Normally we have younger children but some of us do have year sixes to help. We try our hardest to help them.

We want to make a difference in many students lives. We hope everyone reading this can see the effect we have on the children. It also brings a smile to our faces when we see the pupils progressing. It shapes everyone's opinon on the school and its community.

Peer coaching is based around helping others move forward in life, school and going that extra mile with their confidence

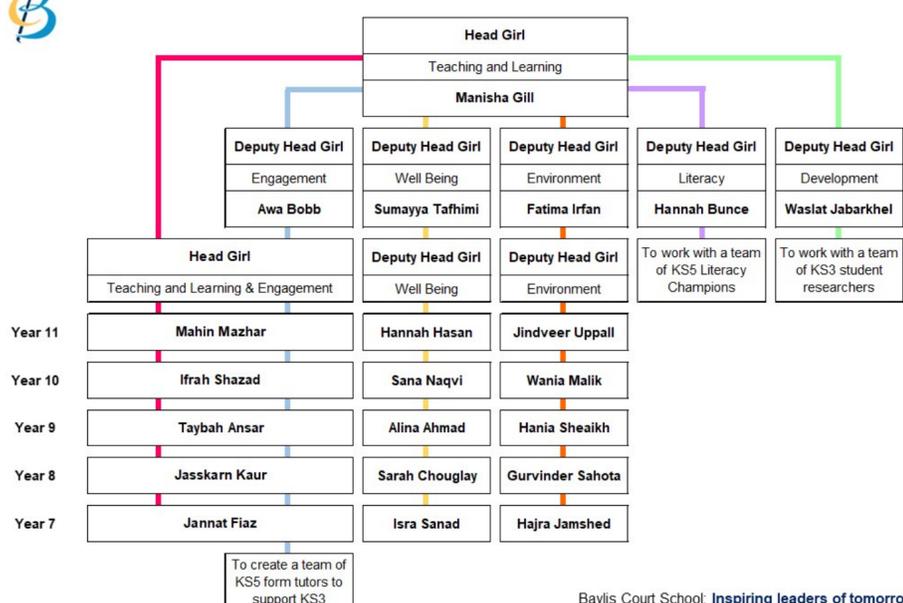
One true experience shows how we help bring a smile to our pupils. A very nervous girl was scared, reluctant to talk about work, as if she was in trouble. Now, however, seeing her smile, when we see her and her growing confidence, really makes us feel better in every aspect of life.



Baylis Court School



Baylis Court School Student Leadership Team 2020 – 2021.



At Baylis Court School we instil in every student that leadership is an invaluable skill which will enable them to be leaders of tomorrow.

In our pursuit of excellence, we pride ourselves in giving students a voice which they can exercise in order to have a lasting impact to our school community. The Student Leadership Team (SLT) was formed to enable student leaders to work in partnership with staff towards shared goals and to enable students to be proactive, creative and influential individuals that strive to create a vibrant and happy school.





OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Phoenix Infant Academy



We have a school council made up of 1 child from each class in KS1 (8 children in total). School councillors are elected in the Autumn term by each class. The school council then meet regularly throughout the year and are involved in making decisions about all aspects of school life. They consult with the children in their classes and put forward suggestions to improve the quality of the school environment. At present they are working with our PE leader to purchase new playground equipment to improve lunchtimes.

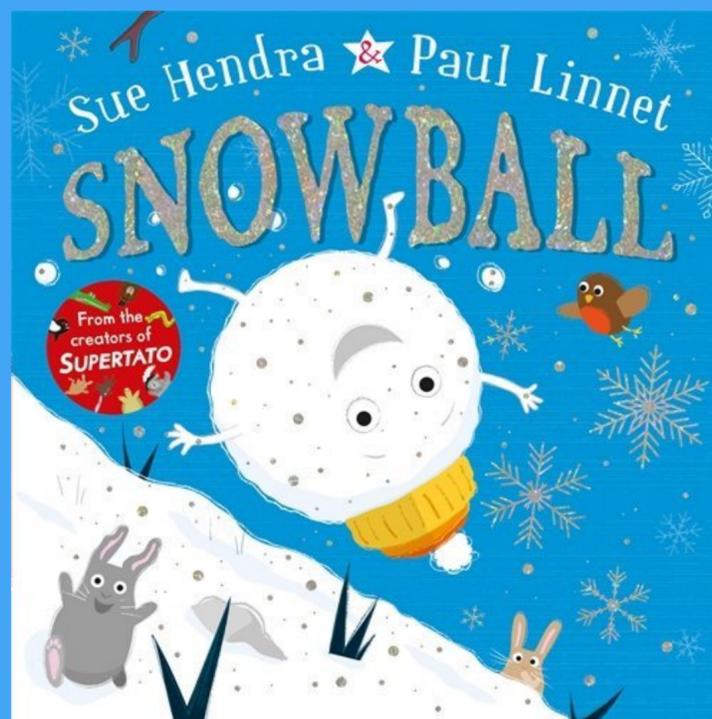
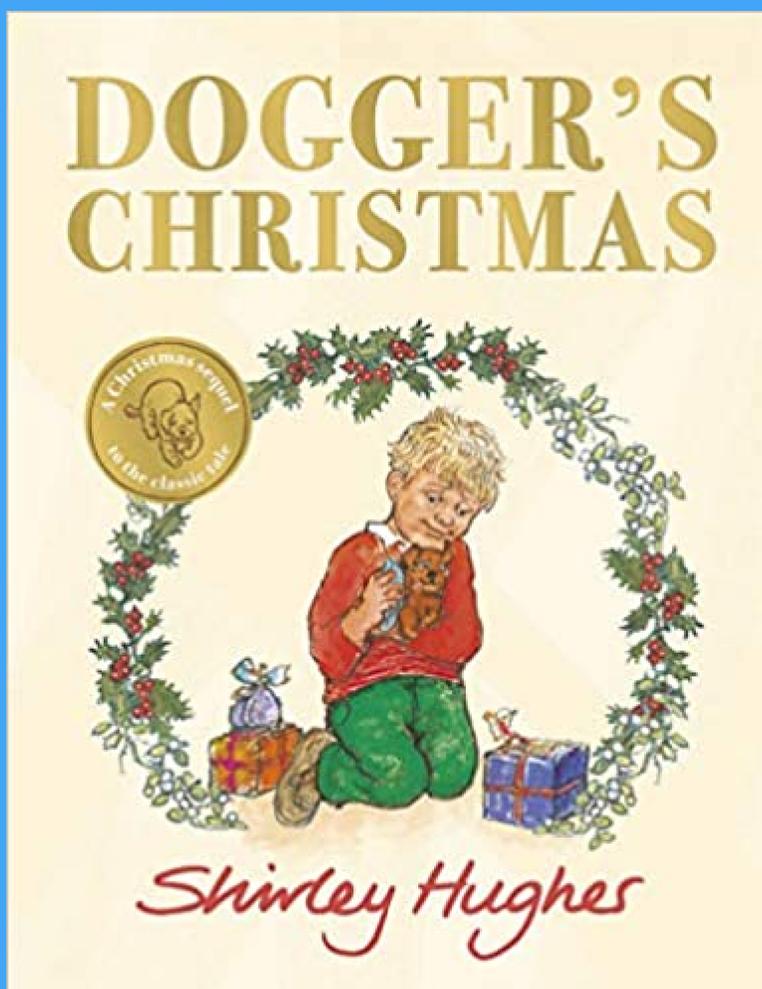
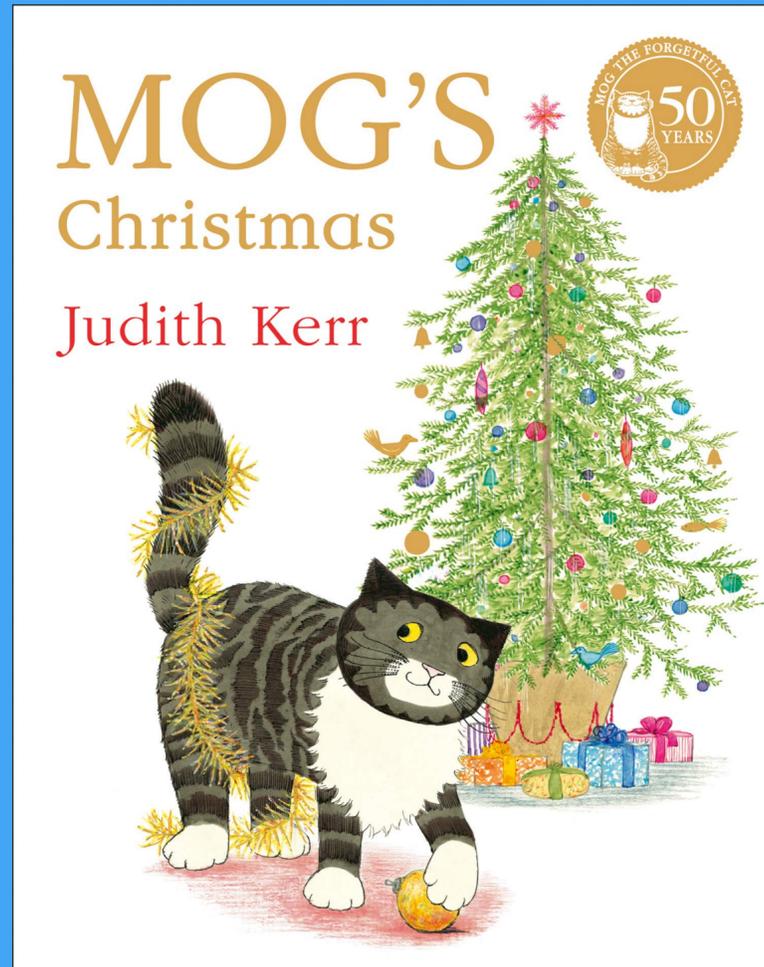
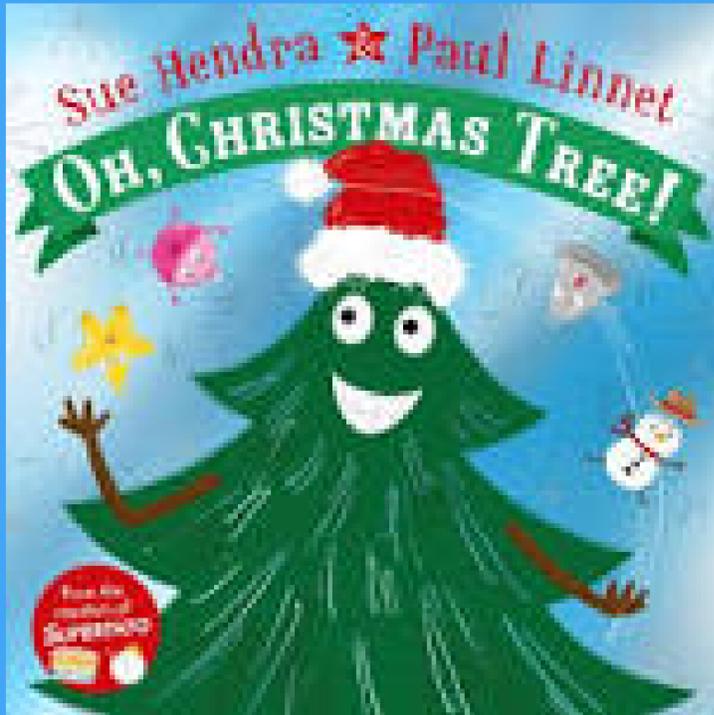
Our School Council are involved in making decisions about all aspects of school life

Reading Girls' School

Our mantra is that Reading Girls' School is a school for our girls and by our girls.

We value the importance of developing leadership in young people and to that end, we have just appointed and introduced to the school, this year's Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT).





A selection of the books being enjoyed by students at Phoenix Infant Academy this term

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Nathan Butler-Broad, who is sadly leaving as Principal of Battle Primary Academy at the end of this week.

Mr Butler-Broad joined Battle Primary Academy in September 2017, when the school was rated by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' and was, in the Principal's own words, 'a little broken'.

Within that time he has shown wonderful leadership. With his colleagues at Battle, the school came together and achieved it's first ever 'Good' Ofsted less than two years later.

Mr Butler-Broad is moving on in January 2021, to become Principal of Whitley Park Primary School.

What is your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement to date is leading Battle Academy to a first Good Ofsted within two years. The school was a little broken when I started and I am proud of how we came together.

Have you read any brilliant books recently?

My favourite recent read is the Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. It is about slavery in America and brings the idea of the underground railroad to life with a real life train. I like historical fiction and this is one I recommend highly.

What's your favourite movie and TV show?

My favourite movie is a tough one. Probably a toss-up between Goodfellas and Gladiator.

My favourite TV show is Breaking Bad.

What's your favourite memory from your own school days?

Probably playing football in the rain - in my memory it seemed to rain a lot!

What's your favourite thing about Battle Primary academy?

Definitely the diversity. It creates a special atmosphere.



What has been your favourite memory?

Probably coming back in September. Seeing everyone's faces on the gate was a moving experience. There was real joy and appreciation.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

Always seeing the children make progress, especially when those that lack belief in themselves start to demonstrate more confidence.

If you didn't teach, what would you have done?

Not sure. I had a phase when I fancied being a ski instructor but I think that might have been a pipe dream!

If you can leave a message for the children and staff at Battle Primary Academy, what would it be?

Flip it. We talk about this a lot in assembly and being able to find the positive in a tough situation. It's all about how you think about it.



Kipling Class' Christmas Tree at Battle Primary Academy



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Battle Primary Academy

Battle Primary Academy hosted their

Open day via Facebook Live



Due to Coronavirus restrictions, Battle Primary Academy as well as hundreds of other primary schools were sadly unable to welcome prospective parents to a conventional school open day. These are very important for the parents of three and four year olds who are making a decision about their child's future. Knowing this, Principal Nathan Butler-Broad thought outside of the box and hosted a virtual tour of the school via Facebook Live alongside Deputy Principal Amy Donnelly.

The Video was very well received, gaining an incredible 1200 views, 45 reactions and 38 comments.

Mr Butler Broad said "It was actually surprisingly effective and the feedback was positive, even if sadly Reception and Year 1 were not able to be part of it because they are still isolating at home."

if you'd like to watch the video, please head to <https://www.facebook.com/387557321429724/videos/2709434052700492>



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Baylis Court School student artwork

displayed in London gallery

Baylis Court School

Baylis Court School is proud to reveal that talented year 8 student, Dhanushika's work was selected to be exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

13 year old Dhanushika Muralikrishnan's painting, named My Family Portrait, is being shown at the Young Artists' Summer Show 2020.

The young artist worked for over 6 weeks on the piece, which is an oil on canvas acrylic portrait of a scene at her uncle's wedding.

Dhanu, or Dee to her friends, wanted to create something that she could give to her grandparents as a gift as they have missed out on special family memories due to COVID19. She said: "The reason which inspired me to paint was my maternal uncle's wedding photo as that would be a good fit for a nice family portrait."



She added: "It was a pleasant surprise when we were informed that the artwork was shortlisted. I realised how tough it was to even qualify, particularly when each year several thousands of artists submit their artwork across the globe."

There were almost 18,000 applicants globally and only 390 pieces were selected for the exhibit.

Dhanushika's work can be viewed online at <https://tinyurl.com/yyaak79v>



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Year one and Year two win prizes

at the Berkshire School Games

This Term, Phoenix Infant Academy's Year 1 and 2 class both did really well in The Berkshire School Games! they both came in first place, which is fantastic when you consider that 61 Schools and over 10,000 students that took part!

Due to current restrictions, this year The Berkshire School Games were held virtually To support all Berkshire schools keep their pupils active despite lockdowns and local teir restrictions.

Phoenix Infant pupils took part in the Pirate Adventure Challenges which included 3 tasks-

Desert Island Dash- an agility challenge where pupils have to run between cones or 'islands' to score points.

Land Ahoy- a balance challenge where pupils have to use stepping stones to make their way from the pirate ship to the Island and back as many times as possible.

Sink the Ship- a coordination challenge where pupils are tasked with hitting 3 targets by kicking a football at them!

Everyone who participated did really well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done Year 1 and 2! They certainly 'arrrrrrrr' amazing!



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Reading Girls' School nominated for
international Covid award

Reading Girls' School

Due to the hard work and dedication of the Leadership, staff and students at Reading Girls' School since March this year, we are absolutely delighted to announce that they have been nominated for a 'COVID Champion' Award, which is for educational provision during the coronavirus pandemic.

The award is described by The Learning Performance Institute (LPI) as a special new award presented to those that have shown great strength and a deep passion for helping others during the COVID-19 crisis.

Principal Jon Gargan said: "We are overwhelmed because this is not a reward exclusive to schools.

"Rather, we are the only school in a category with multi-million pound national and international corporate organisations and large Trusts. "Given the gulf in difference in resources available, I'm sure it will be extremely challenging to win in that category but we are so proud of pupils, parents and of course staff who worked so hard to ensure that the pandemic does not disturb learning."

The School is up against 7 other organisations, including household names such as Kelloggs and Lidl



Since the beginning of lockdown, Reading Girls' School has delivered thousands of live online lessons.

Teachers have been live-streaming from the classroom to self-isolating pupils at home, which the school are calling 'Hybrid lessons'. This also works well in reverse, i.e. teachers in isolation live-streaming from home to the classroom.

Some students who are unable to travel home from abroad have been remotely joining their classmates in lessons since September.

Reading Girls' has been able to carry on with planned assessments, parents evenings, school counsellor sessions and even held a talent show, all online. They also successfully hosted coffee mornings with year six parents.

53 students have benefitted from the loan of laptops to help them access their timetabled lessons while self isolating.

The whole of Reading Girls' School and The Thames Learning Trust are eagerly awaiting the awards ceremony which is taking place on February 18, 2021.



**Reading Girls' School's
Christmas Tree Decorated by
Year 9 Student Leadership Team**

How We Celebrated...

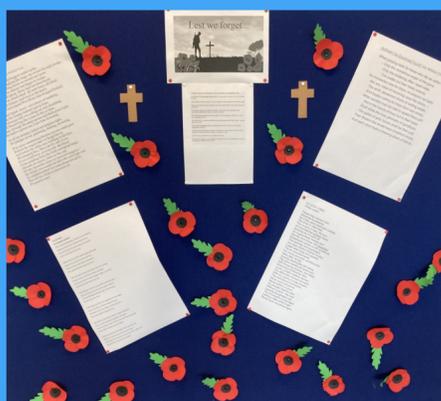
• Remembrance Day



Pupils at Phoenix Infant Academy created beautiful poppy paintings



Baylis Court School encouraged members of guiding, scouting and other organisations to wear their uniform



Reading Girls' School created this display of World War 1 poetry in the canteen area

• Children in Need



Everyone looked fabulously spotty at Phoenix Infant Academy



Baylis Court School students set up a Pudsey the bear hunt with mental wellbeing quotes for competitors to spot around the school



Miss Bardsley at Battle Primary Academy was very pleased to raise £305.50 for Children in Need

How We Celebrated...

• Diwali



Battle Primary Academy was a colourful place as staff and pupils learned about Diwali. Wishing everyone joy and light.



The Performing Arts Department at Reading Girls' School partnered with Reading Museum, The Museum of English Rural Life and Kala the Arts to produce a performance in celebration of the Diwali Festival

• Christmas



Children at Phoenix Infant Academy enjoyed learning to play 'Walking in a winter wonderland' during their ukelele lesson

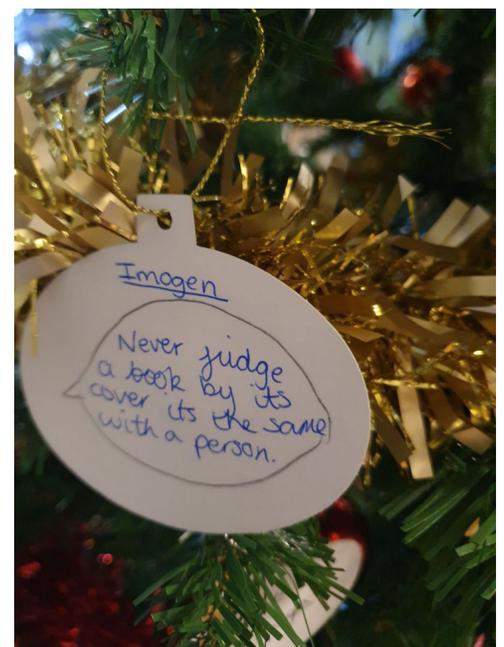
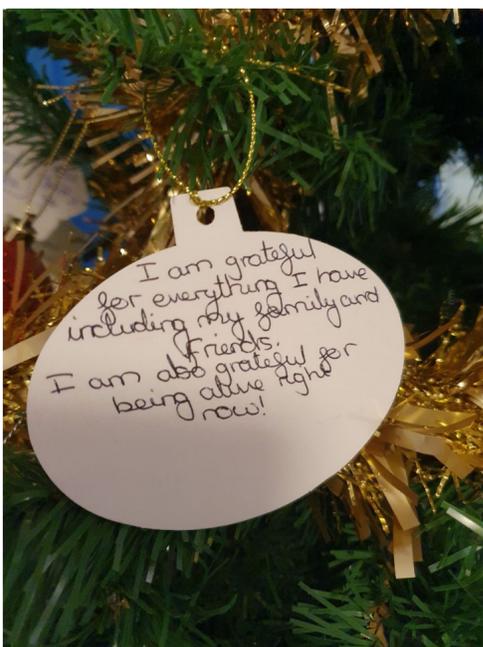


Students in year 8 at Reading Girls' School built Christmas trees out of pyramids, forming equilateral tetrahedrons



Year 7 students at Baylis Court School decorated these two beautiful christmas trees with messages of hope and good wishes

Christmas thoughts by Year 7 students at Baylis Court School



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