

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we carried on from where we left off last week, thinking about the beauty and goodness of creation and how we can make our world a better place.

We went on to think about our Values Tree, but we decided that a tree was not going to change our community, what we needed was fruity people!



Together we read the passage in Galatians 5 and thought about the Values that we can show in our lives and that will really change our community at school and at home.

Living these Values will make us into fruity people.

We then had a wonderful time thinking about the importance of being explicit in telling people when we see the Values at work in their lives. To demonstrate that communication can be tricky, and people don't always hear what you hope they will, we played the whispers game. Mr Walker started the whisper off saying 'An alligator in a vest is an investigator'. By the time it reached the end of the line it had turned into 'The cat licks his lips'!! Clearly it is important to be careful in what we say...

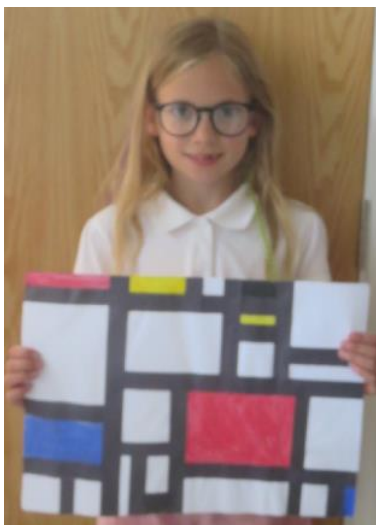
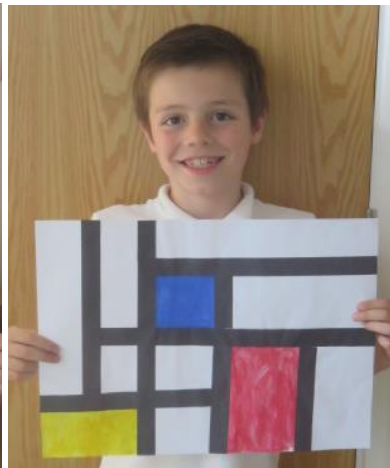
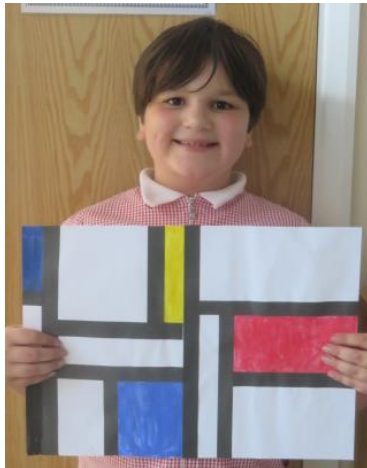
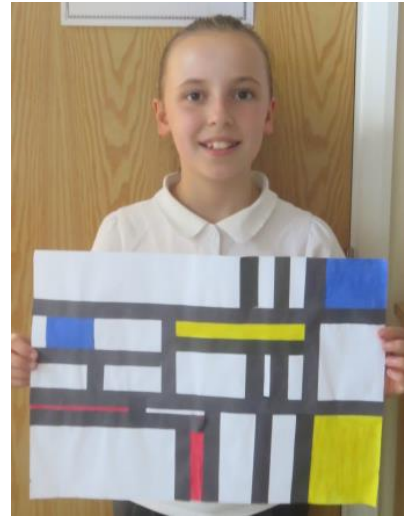
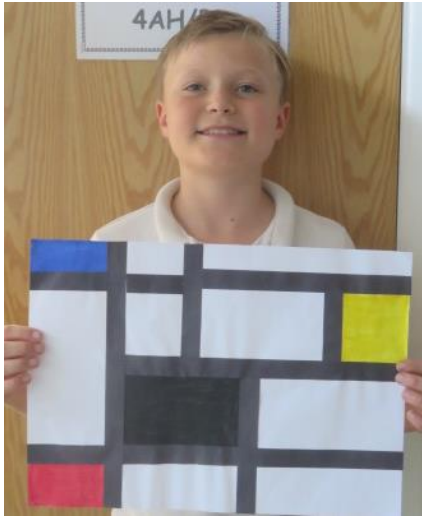
We agreed that it is really important to be intentional in what we share with one another, to celebrate the Goodness that we see in one another. It is no good relying on whispers for people to hear what we really want them to hear.

This week I have therefore challenged children and staff alike to, each day, to say to someone a sentence that starts 'What I like about you is...'. I call it 'naming the brilliant!' The impact of saying those few words, genuinely, can be transformational. We may imagine that our friend who is always so organised and efficient knows that we like the fact that they help us to feel calm, but chances are they have no idea. The person on the playground at drop off or pick up who always says hello and smiles at you, may have no idea what that small act each day means to you – unless you tell them. So, this weekend and next week, I extend my challenge to you as parents, each day 'name the brilliant'!

As I begin to group the feedback from the parent survey into areas for us to look at as part of our school development planning for next year, I am deeply thankful to all of you who took the opportunity to 'name the brilliant'. Your feedback has been (and continues to be) enormously encouraging to us. Your constructive comments have been equally valuable and will help us as we strive to improve what we do each day. Thank-you!

News from Around the School

The children in Year 4 have been learning about the artist, Piet Mondrian. We love the artwork that they have produced that is in the style that he made famous. Well done everyone!



Come and join our team

We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant to join our team in September 2023.

The role can be part or full-time to suit the right candidate. As part of their role the successful candidate will be responsible for supporting a child with lifelong movement and co-ordination difficulties; some intimate care will be required.

If you are interested in the role, or know someone who might be, please direct them to our [school website](#) where they can find all the information.

Values Award

Well done to all the children who received a Values Award this week.

Awards were given for kindness, perseverance, courage, responsibility, thoughtfulness and humility.

Well done everyone for being fruity people!



Keeping children safe online

From time to time parents make us aware of online behaviour that their children have become engaged in and that is a cause of concern.

National data shows that despite the recommended age limits for social media platforms being a minimum of 13 years old, 3 in 5 8-11 year olds have a social media profile.

If your child has a mobile phone, or uses a computer or tablet to communicate with their friends, we advise checking their accounts and having regular conversations with them about staying safe online. As part of your conversation with your children, we suggest discussing the following:

- what it is appropriate to share and send and the language used (i.e. swearing/bad language being as inappropriate online as it is face to face). Please do flag up to your children that anything that they send is not private, including voice notes, images and videos,
- the time the 'chat' ends in the evening and begins again the next day,
- the number of messages/exchanges that individual children are engaged in,
- the amount of information children are sharing in their bios (particularly on Instagram and TikTok) which can be seen by anyone even if the account is private,
- having multiple accounts for the same social media app. (i.e. children having two separate accounts where they show their parents one account but use another).

When talking to children about what they see and post online we recommend saying that if your child is not willing to sit and watch something that they are looking at or posting, with you and their teacher sitting alongside them, they should not be either looking at it, or posting it! If your child would not want to read out loud to their teacher, or you, a message they are sending, then they should not send it. It is a very easy mental check for them to bear in mind when they are online.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community