



# THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish



## Headline

I write this headline from a slightly drizzly woodland where I've joined the Year 6 school journey to Sayers Croft. After a busy morning tunnelling and climbing ropes, the children are now creating natural art surrounded by trees and forest paths.

What a wonderful opportunity for our city children to enjoy a completely different environment and experience.

Back at the ranch, I know the other classes have been busy completing assessments this week, including a piece of writing inspired by some explosive potion making on the theme of 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

What a varied life we live 'in all its fullness' at Soho Parish!

*Louise*

## Diary Dates

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Last day of term

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** – First day of term

**18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 4 Residential (Dalesdown)

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Soho Food Feast

The CYP team at CYMCA can offer free places for 40 children who are on free school meals and live in the borough of Camden.

It will run for 4 days 4-7th April, 10am -1pm and lunch will be provided by the YMCA.

The link has gone live and is ready for booking.

<https://ymca-coordinate.cloud/project/28378>

📅 04/04/2022 to 07/04/2022

● Availability - Good

Join YMCA's holiday playscheme for a brilliant 4 day camp, with a hot nutritious lunch each day.

Free to book for children in Camden eligible for free school meals

Session days & time :  
Monday 4th - Thursday 7th  
10am-1pm  
Age 4 - 12years

What's on :  
Swimming  
Cooking  
Doughlite

**WEEK 1**  
YMCA  
📍 112 Great Russell Street, London, London, WC1B 3NQ  
📅 04/04/2022 to 07/04/2022 👤 Age Range: 4-12  
● Availability - Good

[Book Now](#)



### An update from...

Class 6 have been having a brilliant time at Sayers Croft, which is a beautiful outdoor learning activities site in Surrey with 56 acres of woodlands, meadows, ponds and fields. After a fun coach drive to the

site bathed in sunshine, the class unpacked quickly in their self-contained 'Bramley' chalet, had a fire drill and wolfed down their lunch as it was time to start on a range of activities – a blindfold trail, a complex maze and a range of orienteering activities (using maps and compasses) to familiarise themselves with the site. It was great fun rushing around the location with our friends. We were thrilled when we discovered a Tuck Shop visit was set for the day followed by a film night, in preparation of our big next day.



Waking up to glorious sunrise, devouring our cooked breakfasts, we set off for our hike to stunning Pitch Hill extending our group orienteering skills, bumping into Duke of Edinburgh Awards participants and taking in the scenic view. Although thankfully it was a sunny day, previous rainfall meant there were some deeply muddy areas during the 5 hour to-and-there walk. We were really grateful to be wearing wellies and waterproof boots! Across the paddocks, we noticed flocks of sheep and horses. Our instructors introduced species of trees and showed us a 'Prince Alfred Cake' – fungus which is common in

broadleaved woodland in Britain and most often found on dead wood of beech, ash and silver birch trees. The panoramic view from the top of the hill was magnificent. After a relaxing packed lunch on the hilltop, we gently made our way back to base. We gulped down our dinner in anticipation of the evening's campfire, where we told stories, sang a song, roasted marshmallows and giggled uncontrollably.



Buckets of rain! Wellies! Woodland rope climbing, caving, built some shelters, we needed them! Movie night, hot chocolate – yay!

Beautiful morning, huge breakfasts for all in preparation for Thursday's Axe Throwing, a range of Challenges, flint fire-lighting in the Roundhouse and a deep search for minibeasts, as we have been constantly surrounded by opportunities to discover the natural world. We will be very sad to leave Sayers Croft as it has been an incredible five days but we can't wait to see our families again.



# Book Week

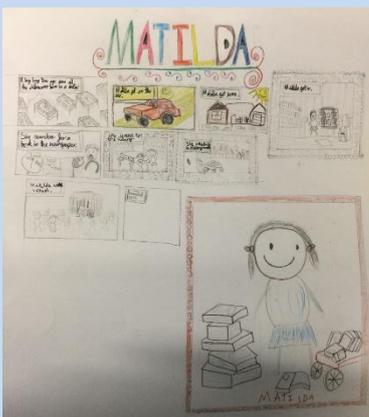
**In class 5**, we brought Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes to life using stop motion. [Please click here to watch them.](#)

**Class 2** researched facts about bees, finding out as much information about them as possible. Then we swapped facts with children in our class to try to get even more information. After that, we planned what we were going to write and borrowed phrases we discovered in non-fiction books.

Next, we drafted our first copy of our fact book about bees. We edited them with a partner before finally presenting them!

**In class 3**, we themed our week around Roald Dahl's Matilda. Our first activity after reviewing the story was to bake a chocolate cake in response to the Bruce Bogtrotter and Trunchbull scene (which we later ate in a similar way to Bruce!)

In groups, we created large comic strips of the Matilda plot, complete with illustrations inspired by Quentin Blake. We then created puppet theatres which we performed on Friday afternoon to other groups.



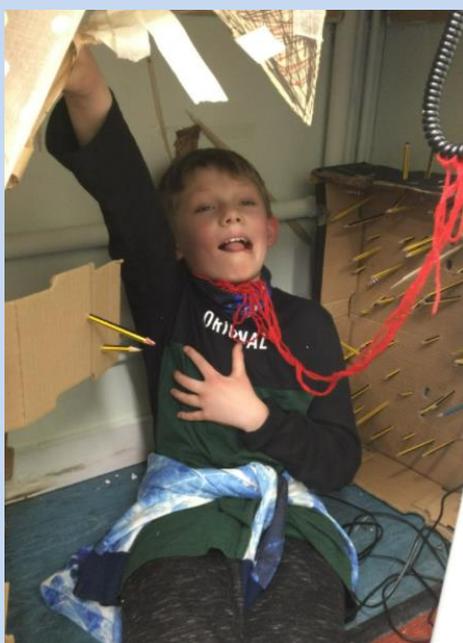


#### Class 4

In response to the book *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, Class 4 engaged in various group and individual creative projects, including making comic strips, top trumps cards, painted portraits, pop up card scenes and puppets to name a few!

Taking inspiration from the character Bruce Bogtrotter, we made our own chocolate cake and wrote a poem using the 'moreraps' figurative writing techniques designed by author Joseph Ceolho.

We also played dress up games, where the children had a limited time to select appropriate clothing for a character from the book. Can you guess who this character is?



Later in the week, we created a 'tunnel installation', where we hung our creative projects underneath a maze of tables and invited siblings and other children up crawl through to experience our exploration into the world of *Matilda*, which also included a trip to the chokey!

To round the week off, a group of children performed their own play of *Matilda*, which involved some exciting audience participation and several costume changes!





## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

### 1. Make time, listen and ask open-ended questions:

When approaching the subject of war with your child, give them the space they need to talk and encourage them to tell you what they already know through asking open-ended questions. Liat Hughes Joshi, author of *Help Your Child Cope With Change*, says that it's important to help children work through their feelings in order to avoid the "rumour mill of the playground" which can "take little bits of factual information and blow them out of proportion".

**Note:** If you don't know the answer to some of their questions, be open and honest about this and suggest looking into the answers together; helping to build upon their skills in research and fact-finding.

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

**2. Tailor the conversation:** The type and breadth of information given should always be tailored to the age of your child and how they're responding to the conversation.

"Older children will need more details whilst younger ones may be satisfied just by understanding that sometimes countries fight" - Save The Children.

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

**3. Be honest and consider your tone:** It's important to not lie to your child, and to not sanitise what's happening to the point of being dishonest. Liat Hughes Joshi notes that adults should have a "factual, but reassuring tone" when talking about war—and that you should avoid lying.

"If your child thinks you're lying, they won't be able to trust what you're saying - and they need to be able to trust you." - Liat Hughes Joshi

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

**4. Validate their feelings and reassure them:** Remind your child that this is not their problem to solve, and that adults everywhere are working together to help the situation. Be sure to reassure them and validate their feelings: 'instead of 'don't be silly, it's all okay. We're all okay.' Try 'It's a scary time, I know. It's okay to feel scared and to talk about it. I'm always here for you.' - Good To Know, How to talk to children about war, according to a child psychologist.

Also remind them that they shouldn't feel guilty doing the things that make them happy, such as playing, going out and seeing their friends, and make sure that the news is not playing in the background all the time, as this can lead to extra anxiety.

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

**5. Give a practical way to help:** If children have a practical way to help, this can ease anxiety and help them gain a sense of proactivity. Suggest that they could start fundraisers, write letters to local MPs or create artwork to share with their local community.

"Children who have the opportunity to help can feel like they are part of the solution to the problem, rather than feeling hopeless." - Save The Children.

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**



St John's Hospice

St John & St Elizabeth Hospital

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Join our fun and family-friendly event to celebrate the spring holiday season!**

St John's take on the traditional Easter Egg Hunt will take children on a journey through St John's Wood Church Gardens to find all the hidden bunny figures.

They will be given a map and they will have to note down the names of the figures hidden in the park. All children taking part in the hunt will receive an Easter chocolate egg at the end.

For more information or to book your tickets, please scan the Qr code or get in touch with Claudia at [claudia.sandu@hje.org.uk](mailto:claudia.sandu@hje.org.uk) or on 020 7806 4093



**Date: Saturday 2nd of April, between 10am-4pm**

**Location: St John's Wood Church Gardens  
(NW8 9JA)**

**Entry: £2 per child**



# ENTER THE ACTIVE WESTMINSTER MILE SCHOOLS CHALLENGE NOW!

## SUNDAY 1 MAY 2022

**Take part in this year's Active Westminister Schools Challenge and #RunWithFriends as part of the Vitality Westminister Mile.**

The Vitality Westminister Mile is returning to central London on Sunday 1 May after more than 1,000 days away – so we're inviting you to Run with a SMILE and earn a medal for your efforts!

Westminister schoolchildren, their teachers and parents can walk, jog or run together along what's been dubbed the most iconic mile in the world, with an unforgettable finish in front of Buckingham Palace.

Entry is free for primary schoolchildren, and just £6 for 12 to 17 year olds and £8

for adults – with a £1 discount if you're located in Westminister! What's more, the school with the most participants (including parents and teachers) will receive a visit to their school from an Olympian or Paralympian to inspire them!

### **And that's not all!**

Everyone who takes on the mile can also enjoy the Vitality Wellness Festival in nearby Green Park, making for a great bank holiday weekend day out.

The festival will feature plenty of family-friendly activities and entertainment for all ages, with the full line-up of attractions to be revealed closer to the event.

**It's easy to register, just visit:  
[vitalitywestminstermile.co.uk](http://vitalitywestminstermile.co.uk)**

