

Monthly Magpies

Historic Heroines:

In February 1897, the First Women's Institute was formed in Canada. It became very important in 1915 when it worked hard encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War and bring new life to rural communities. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. If you could start a club to make a difference to people all over the world, what would it be? What would you want to change and why? You could make a plan for your club, or design the headquarters.



Fun and Free:

Imagine Children's Festival

This festival combines shows and workshops, play experiences and exhibitions, music, art and literature. There are events for all ages from baby to teen and it many are free. These include the eco-inspired games of 'Earth Activity Trail', opportunities to scrawl your designs on the fest's 'Giant Chalkboard', drop into the buzzing line-up kid-friendly music performances in the venue's Clore Ballroom or, if you're a worn-out grown-up, get a luxurious hand massage at the 'Imagine Wellbeing Zone'. The festival takes place between the 12th and 23rd of the month, and places can be booked at:

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/imagine-childrens-festival?page=1>



Composer Central:

This month we are celebrating the incredible work Felix Mendelssohn. Born in February 1809, Mendelssohn was a composer in what is known as the Romantic Period. Much of his music was inspired by stories, but the work you might now the best is the melody of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Have a listen to some of best works here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWiCHa9DFOY>

How does the music make you feel? Perhaps you could write a story inspired by the music. This month we will be listening to Mendelssohn's music together during assemblies and relaxed start.



Love our Libraries:

This month we are celebrating the incredible books of Alan Ahlberg. Many of his books were illustrated by his wife, Janet. You may have come across some of his books before. In Year 1, we share Funnybones as a class reader. Younger children might enjoy Peepo or his Happy Families series, while children in Key Stage 2 might enjoy the humour in his poetry books such as Three Cheers For Mrs Butler, or his autobiography, The Childhood of Burglar Bill.

Where we live:

Your local park

Daffodils are beginning to flower in our parks and open spaces, promising that Spring is on its way. Why not take a sketchbook and some pencils, and draw a picture of the flowers as they bloom? Daffodils are often seen as a symbol of hope, because they tell us that Spring is on the way. Do they make you feel hopeful with their bright yellow petals that look a bit like the sunshine?



Marvellous Mental Health:

Jar of Happiness

Sometimes it is good to practise thinking about the good things in our life. On some slips of paper, write down something good that happened this week. Each week, or each day if you feel really inspired, make a note of one good thing that happens. Keep them in a jar or shoe box. You could decorate it to make it look really special. Then, when you have a tough day, you can look at all the good things that have happened to help you feel more positive.



Sports Personality

This month we are celebrating the achievements of Coco Gauff. She is an up and coming American tennis player who made history by defeating her idol and five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams in straight sets on her Grand Slam tournament debut on July 1, 2019. She was the youngest female to qualify for a Grand Slam tournament main draw, as well as the youngest player overall to qualify for the main draw at Wimbledon in the Open Era. She previously became the youngest ever finalist in the girls' singles event at the 'US Open' in 2017 and won the 'Junior French Open' in 2018. She has achieved a lot at a very young age. Why not see if you can keep a tennis ball in the air by tapping it with a tennis racket? How many times can you hit it before it touches the floor?



Awesome Artist

This month we are really celebrating the promise of Spring by thinking about Van Gogh's famous daffodil paintings. Younger children could have a look at some of his paintings and have a go at recreating them. Older children might want to find out more about Vincent Van Gogh, but make sure you look with a grown up, as some of Vincent's life was very sad. This website has some fantastic information, but should only be looked at with your grown up's permission.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-vincent-van-gogh>