



Stillness Arts

Hello and welcome to our very first Stillness Arts Newsletter!

We have some very exciting Arts projects ahead which we would like to share with you:

This year we are working towards the Artsmark schools award. This is a creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It provides a clear framework for teachers to plan, develop and evaluate arts, culture and creativity across the curriculum. Mr McKinley and Mrs Gunstone attended a very inspiring training day with other schools to get us started on our Artsmark journey.

As part of our Artsmark journey, the children will be gaining an individual Arts Award. We'll soon be starting Years One and Two on their Arts Award journey. The Arts Award has five levels, all of which except for the introductory award level are nationally recognised qualifications, the highest level even comes with its own UCAS points, but that's probably a few years away yet! The Year Ones will be going for the Discover award and the Year Two will be going for the Explore level, so we are expecting the children to leave the Infants with an actual qualification! The Arts Award is about getting children interested in different forms of art: to experience them, to talk about and react to them, find out a bit about arts organisations, as well as creating some art (this could be dance, music, drama as well as visual arts). Finally they will reflect on the process. They will be compiling a journal of what they've been up to, with a little adult guidance of course. The Year Two's journals will then be moderated by an external examiner, to make sure they have gained the qualification. We'll keep you posted on how this is going and anything you can do to help at home.

For more information visit the Arts Award website: <https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=64>

Arts Council

This week will see the first full meeting of our Arts Council. We'll be introducing the journals the children will be using on their Arts Award journey, which the Arts Ambassadors can give us their views on, and help introduce to their classes.



Art Room Expansion

We're going out (not up) with a grand expansion of our Art Room. We plan to extend into the outdoor area behind the current Art room, next to the Y1 conservatories. This will give us more space, not just for the making of art or DT projects, but also for art equipment, drying racks as well more display space. We want to source some recycled plastic benches for children to work at, giving them more opportunities to explore and be creative (without sitting down!)

Staff Input - My Favourite Picture

Each half term, a member of staff chooses (you'll never guess!) their favourite picture and shares why they like it so much with the children at an assembly, as well as some information about the artist who created it.

This will then give the children a chance to respond to the picture in any way they want and also if they'd like, do a little research on the artist.

We have, of course, chosen our resident art specialist Mrs Gunstone to kick off 'My Favourite Picture' and she has chosen **David Hockney's 'The Arrival of Spring'**. There will be a separate email in the next few days with more about the painting, its creator, and some ideas of how your child could react to it.

We look forward to seeing what children's inspiration generates!



National Gallery – 'Take One Picture' Exhibition



The National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' scheme focuses on a painting to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms. This year the painting is by George Bellows, Men of the Docks, 1912.

This is a great opportunity to create a whole school art exhibition in the summer term. Mrs Gunstone returned from a training day at the National Gallery, inspired and full of enthusiasm to see what we could achieve with our children.

Currently in our Art lessons

Year One are working on their clay dragon eyes:



Year Two are working on their 'puffy planets':



Gallery Watch

We want to highlight any interesting exhibitions, or events at galleries, that might be of interest to infant school age children, especially if they're relatively local and free. If you have got something in mind, do let us know. Next term the Y1 children will be visiting the Tate Modern as part of their 1960's topic and taking part in a KS1 concert with other schools at the Barbican, led by the London Symphony Orchestra.