

Special Edition Art Newsletter

October 2026



Y3 Drawing Like Leonardo: In Y3 we have been learning the nine drawing exercises which the Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci continually practiced, and which he also taught his apprentices to practice! The children have been doing these drawings in their sketchbooks. They are not to be viewed as 'perfect finished artworks', but rather compared to the way a musician might practice scales on an instrument, or an athlete might do stretching exercises before a race. Since September we have been learning to do 'hatching and cross-hatching', 'contour drawing', 'drawing moving people or animals' and learning to see and draw 'the divine and the grotesque'.



Y4 Yinka Shonibare – The Meaning of Fabrics and Pattern: In Y4 we have been studying the work of the contemporary British/Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare who uses 'African' fabrics to explore themes of colonialism, globalization, and cultural identity. The Y4 children have been working with a range of many different types of fabric, and in class we have been discussing how fabrics and textures enrich our lives, and are used in many different ways in our society for practical purposes, for self-expression, and to express our identities. The children have been clothing figures by combining different fabrics to create new patterns and new styles of clothing!



Y5 Mad Hatter Hats: In Y5 we have spent the first few weeks in September completing our Mad Hatter Hats which were begun in Y4. In this art project linked to **'Design and Technology'** the children are learning how to measure, to mark their measurements with a pencil, and how to carefully cut out different parts to construct their hats. We discussed how making accurate measurements and precise cutting are skills which are useful for projects such as dress-making or building a go-cart!



Y6 Landscape Painting and Drawing: In Y6 we explore the three main themes which run through most cultures and periods in art history around the world: Landscape, Portrait (Human figure), and Still-Life. The children have been learning to use one-point perspective (to which they were introduced in Y5) along with atmospheric perspective (the way objects fade and change colour the further away they are from you), to create a variety of landscape paintings and drawings. As our influences we have been studying the artwork of British artist David Hockney, and the German artist Anselm Kiefer who both use landscape painting as a way of commenting on the past, and on the traditions of landscape painting itself.



Y6 Special Art Project

We want to celebrate this artwork by last year's Y6's who created a wonderful patchwork quilt for the school, now hanging in our hall, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's painting 'Wheat field with Cypresses'.

Van Gogh's expressive painting was pixelated with computer software and the colours were enhanced. Then the Y6 children worked in small groups to select and, (learning stitching with a needle), sew together coloured fabric squares without knowing what the complete image would become.

Once short strips of fabric had been assembled and sewn, the whole quilt was machine-sewn together, and backed with lining fabric.