



UNICORN SCHOOL

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No 974

MRS FRALEY'S END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

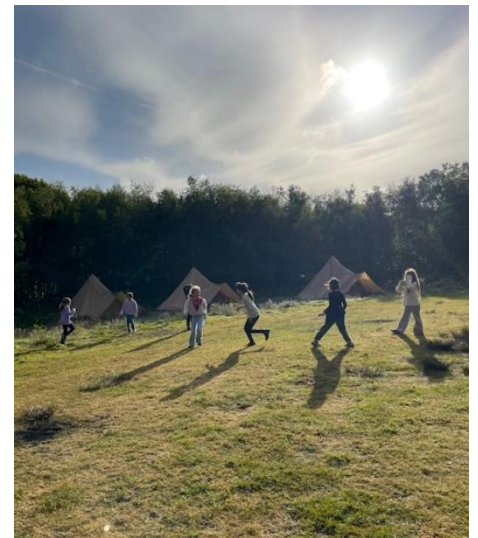
Dear Parents

Despite our unimaginably difficult start, I am pleased to say the children have enjoyed another fun filled and exciting year which, on top of the academics, has been packed with an abundance of enrichment across the curriculum.

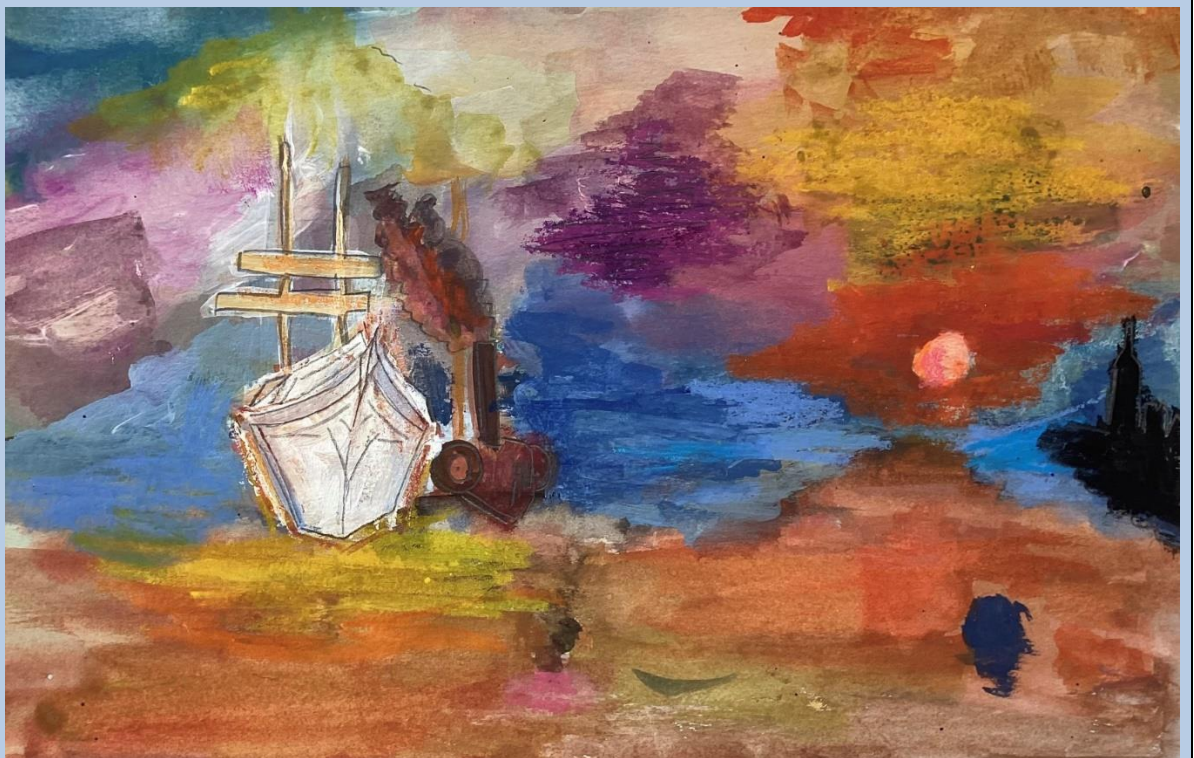
That said, we continue to feel the loss of our friend and colleague, Hannah Langdon, Red Class Teacher, Head of EYFS and Assistant Head, who tragically died suddenly from a ruptured brain aneurysm last September. We miss her more than words can say.

In sport, the children have participated in matches and tournaments in football, netball, hockey and cricket with some notable successes against much bigger schools. We hosted the Unicorn Cross Country competition and all classes have had swimming lessons with selected pupils taking part in the Borough's Swimming Gala. We were very lucky with the weather for both of our Sports Days and they were celebrations of sporting prowess, sportsmanship and the joy of participation.

The junior children had great fun during their annual residential trips; Blue Class stayed at a new and exciting venue - Bushcraft Camp in Kent and Indigo Class enjoyed Sayers Croft. Violet loved their week on the Isle of Wight, UV had an action-packed stay in Cumbria, Violet and UV had a great ski trip to Norway and Red and Orange Classes enjoyed their weekly outing to Forest School. Other trips this year have included the National Archives, Science Museum, Natural History Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Rose Theatre, Junior Citizenship at Holly Lodge, Bekonscot Model Village, the Living Rainforest, Legoland, Orleans House Gallery, Kew Gardens, Orange Tree Theatre, Hampton Court and Jeremy King's all-day STEM workshop here at school. All UV completed their Bus and Tube day challenge to get themselves from school to the fountain outside Green Park Station, a quick selfie and then back again!



Art and DT continues to be enjoyed by the children and is truly inspirational, whether paintings, ceramics, charcoal or pottery, it's always of an exceptionally high standard. Our Big Draw's theme was 'Drawn Together' with the classes painting a wonderful array of watercolour landscapes inspired by the work of JMW Turner in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth. Our Arts Week's theme was 'Reflections', which was interpreted in many ways.



Blue art - Marianne North paintings



Miss Gresson, Head of Music, has been busy. There have been tea time concerts, try an instrument afternoon, UV and Violet Choir sang at the Cecil Court Care Home and MTB music exams have been held in school. The Junior Carol concert, Yellow and Green's nativity and Red and Orange's nativity were all fantastic. Violet and UV performed in the Young Voices at the O2, Indigo and Violet classes performed at the Richmond Singing Festival at the Rose Theatre and we thoroughly enjoyed the Infant and Junior Summer music concerts. Unicorn Singers competed in Music for Youth national competition and successfully made it into the finals, they also filmed for Twinkl and Disney and performed in West End Musicals concert with Mike Reed and stars of West End Theatre. Musical Theatre's production of *Seussical the Musical* was spectacular, as was UV's production of *Grimm - once upon a musical*. Last but not least, huge achievement for Lola (V) who has played Little Cosette for the last 4 months in the West End production of *Les Misérables*.



I am enormously grateful to all the parents for their unstinting efforts, supporting the school across the year. In particular the Ultra Violet parents, who never fail to amaze with their spectacular transformation of UV's classroom on party day; this year as the Emerald City out of The Wizard of Oz, with the Yellow Brick Road running from the pedestrian gate all the way up to the classroom. Mr Gladstone made a wonderful Wizard, Tara Carr a fabulous Dorothy and all the children dressed as magnificent Tin Men!



School Committee, under the brilliant leadership (again, again and again!) of Trudi [Matilda (B)] deserves praise and recognition for all its fund-raising, which has included the Harvest Festival, Farmer's Market, Coffee and Croissants, Second Hand Uniform Sales, Christmas cards and wrapping paper, Junior Christmas Carol Concert, Christmas Fair, Christmas gifts for West London Action for Children, World Book Day, Mad March Hair Day, Infant and Junior Discos, Cake Sales, Mufti Days, Summer Fair and recent Parents' Social, for which our thanks also go to Tara [Bo (UV)] and Henry [Fordy (I)] for compering the brilliant evening.

Total monies raised this year is a staggering £16,300, which will be split between our charities: Little Village, The Children's Trust and the School Bursary Fund. Our thanks go to all who helped, donated, attended, baked, brought and bought!

Our heartfelt thanks go to Trudi and all the class reps for everything they have done this year. We are delighted and very grateful that Trudi has agreed to take up the mantle, again, as Chair of School Committee ... this will be her 5th year on the trot! It is a fun and rewarding job to be a Class Rep and we

do need more volunteers over all classes except UV. If you are interested in being one this September, please let Cindy in the office know. None of the fabulous events that the children and adults enjoy throughout the year would happen without that support.



I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with School Council, discussing in earnest and with great enthusiasm all sorts of interesting topics that arise during our lunchtime conversations. Thank you to the Head Boys, Head Girls and all the other members for their lively contributions to our weekly meetings.

We have a number of fond farewells, as many families, some of whom have long been part of the fabric of Unicorn are leaving, and I wish to acknowledge their commitment towards our wonderful school community.

In alphabetical order: The **Brough** family, Poppy, Louis and Elodie [17 years]; the **Carr** family, Bo [8 years], we are delighted that Mrs Carr will still be here in September teaching LAMDA and running the School of Comedy Club; the **Chandler** family, Poppy [8 years], our thanks go to Mr Chandler for also being a Governor; the **Kolupaev** family, Luka [8 years]; the **Lee** family, Millie [4 years] and to Mrs Lee for being our Co-Chair of Governors; the **Ludvik-Bovill** family, Scarlett and Nicholas [5 years]; the **Mir-Powar** family, Rani [3 years]; the **Pawlowski** family, Henry and Hugo [8 Years]; the **Perl** family, Julia and Leon [8 years]; the **Somerville Waters** family, Ember [8 years], India Waters also attended Unicorn as a child; the **Stout** family, Emily [8 years]; the **Tonejc** family, Luka [8 years]; and the **Wates** family, Theo and Indigo [11 years].

As we say goodbye to some, we extend a warm welcome to our new families joining Red Class in September. Elsewhere in the school we welcome the **Bebbington** and **Derrick** families to Orange; the **Partridge** family to Yellow, the **Pennings** family to Green, the **Bebbington** and **Jiang** families to Indigo. The Jiang family left temporarily for another school last year, but soon realised their mistake and are thrilled to be coming back to the best school in the borough!



Moving to staff who are leaving, we said a fond farewell at half term to **Mrs Gentle**, Teaching Assistant in Red Class for the past 16 years, who has left to help look after her gorgeous new grandson. Today, we say farewell to **Miss Young**, Head of Games, Pastoral lead and EDI champion for the past 8 years, **Mrs Frazer**, Red Class Teacher and ex parent (Evie and Drew from 1999 - 2010) and then started working here, so on and off an association that has lasted for 27 years! **Mrs Walcot**, Head of Computing, who has been with Unicorn the longest, having started her career here in 1998 - a total of 28 years; **Miss Botes**, maths and classroom support and school listener amongst a myriad of other roles she has played here over the past 16 years. In addition, **Mrs Jones**, who has supported me and two previous heads over the last 16 years will be reducing days and focusing on her marketing role. We also say goodbye and good luck to **Mr Jack**, Old Unicorn and this year's gap year student, who is going on to do a Teaching degree at Roehampton University in the autumn.

All have been hugely popular with the children, parents and staff alike and we will be sad to see them go; we wish them every happiness for the future.

To the Governing Board, we say farewell to **Will Barker**, part of the Finance Committee for the past 3 years. We thank him for his support and invaluable contribution over the years.

Unicorn is unashamedly a creative school and we have maintained the breadth of what we offer right through this academic year. We are a small, non-selective school, and so the range of schools that current UV have been offered places to is testament to their hard work and the outstanding teaching they have received over the years. They deserve huge congratulations for their results and even more praise for the calm and mature way they have conducted themselves throughout the 11+ process. For a cohort of 21 children, they received 66 offers, including 6 scholarships and accepted places to:

Chiswick Community	Grey Court	Harrodian	Ibstock
Kew House	Kings College Wimbledon	Kingston Grammar	Latymer
Orleans	St Benedict's	St Paul's Boys	Thomas's

Class Teachers for September:

Red Class	Mrs Nicholas	Orange Class	Mrs Maher	Yellow Class	Mrs Palmer
Green Class	Miss Engelmann	Blue Class	Mr Gough	Indigo Class	Miss O'Gorman
Violet Class	Mr Jones	UV Class	Mr Gladstone	Violet & UV English	Mrs Bird

My thanks to the UV parents for their very generous leaving gift of our new gazebo - it's very smartly branded with our Unicorn logo and is our lovely shade of blue. I'm also grateful for being given it in advance - it has been very useful in this weather!

Thank you so much to parents, governors and colleagues for their exceptional contribution to school life, and it just leaves me to wish you all a very happy summer break. Fingers crossed the sunshine continues!

House Points: The final scores on the Summer term doors are:

Polly Fraley

Griffin	Phoenix	Centaur	Pegasus
2025	1320	1437	1468

POLLY FRALEY
Headteacher

Congratulations to Griffin for winning this term's house point shield, then Pegasus, Centaur and Phoenix. All children should be very proud of their contributions with a total of 6250 house points being won.



Summer Birthday Wishes to:



BENJI (R), REX (I), SAOIRSE (NEW TO ORANGE IN SEPTEMBER), DAVID (G), LEO (O), ANTON (Y), ENIOLA (G), ALICE (G), ESME (V), RANI (UV), MAX (I), GEORGIE (G), JACK (I), BENJAMIN (UV), POPPY (UV), LEO (O), MATILDE (O), EMMELINE (B), EMILY (UV), LOIS (NEW TO GREEN IN SEPTEMBER), WILLOW (G), HARRIET (V), AVA (G), WILLIAM (Y), ALEENA (V), KIT (B), ALICE (V), CLEMMIE (B) AND JACK C (UV)

To book wraparound care, please click new Autumn link:

[Richmond Rugby Club \(WAC\) Booking](#)

Breakfast club: Run by school and NO need to book in advance

Class of 2026



