

KIDZART

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

SUMMER HAS BEEN BUZZING AND WE'VE BEEN AS BUSY AS BEES



YEAR 3 CHILDREN MAINDEE PRIMARY SCHOOL TAKING A BREAK ON THE BRIDGE IN THE STUDIO 1 JULY

KIDZART is a registered charity dedicated to providing FREE creative days for primary school children from under-resourced areas in Monmouthshire and neighbouring counties, where their access to the creative arts is limited, and to giving them the chance to experience the potential offered by these subjects. Once imagination is sparked, free-thinking and problem-solving and confidence can follow. Working in small groups with our skilled staff and volunteers, the children also learn the value of kindness and generosity to each other.



Still in the Spring term on 8 April, a bright and sunny day, we welcomed the second half of Year 4 from Ringland shortly before the Easter break and our AGM on 15 April. Since our last newsletter sent out at the beginning of April, we have had two visits from the second half of the Year 4 class at Ringland Primary. We have agreed with the school that the same children will have 2 visits this year and 2 in the next 2025/26 year when they will be Year 5. Although this is different from the normal choice of sending 15 children from each of the 4 year-groups, the school preferred this approach concentrating on 4 sessions for this present Year 4 group. These children

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were at a very formative stage during the Covid Pandemic and will benefit greatly from our creative educational days. Even after just 2 visits the results are quite amazing. On 22 May we were invited by the children to come to the exhibition at their school which they put on for their parents and us. It was a great occasion, the children with the help of their teacher Alice made their own video about their visits to us and a link provided by the Head is included here which should enable you to share the experience: [Ringland Video](#)



We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Prewett, Head of Ringland Primary School, on 8 April, which was the first visit of Group 2, Year 4 and he stayed for a while observing the lessons and met all our staff and volunteers that morning. In the afternoon we were also very pleased to welcome Rebecca Sims, Deputy Director of Education together with Education Business Manager, Ceri Gibbons. The 3 primary schools which we are working with this year were recommended by Ms. Sims and she was very pleased and complimentary about Kidzart and said she was receiving very good feedback from the schools involved.

Our AGM on 15 April was an enjoyable event and we were so pleased that Mrs Ward, the Head of Crindau Primary School, attended. There was an exhibition of the work done by her pupils who visited us during the Spring Term, and this was her second visit to us as she came for the day with the year 4 group back in February.

The buffet for the AGM was superb, prepared by our wonderful housekeeper Tracy, and Alan Bateman provided some great music with his saxophone and clarinet.



Exhibition of work for AGM

Maindee Year 6 visited on May 13 and made incredible masks, very individual and quite different from those made by Crindau Year 6 in the previous term. As our tutor, Yvonne says, *Year 6 masks were so impressive, being colourful and well made, as were their clay gargoyles. It was a day filled with laughter, colour, and*



boundless creativity as young artists explored new techniques and shared their imaginative visions with us. The art studio buzzed with excitement, enthusiasm and curiosity. We are always inspired by the energy and fresh perspectives our visiting children bring.'

Tasty, healthy snack table available all day prepared by Tracy



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Maindee Year 5 came to visit us on 3 June and mastered using a dip pen and ink to draw a seahorse, which they coloured using watercolour paints. They also made clay tiles. Yvonne says, *"I loved their interpretation of the coral reef on a clay tile. They were very imaginative and expressive. Some children even made separate little pearls as treasure on the sea floor."*



In the afternoon it was time to make music with our wonderful music teacher Lesley who says, *'The music this year has taken on a different excitement, with the children being introduced to playing the glockenspiels. Sessions usually start with rhythm warm-ups, including 'chair drumming'. The focus is on keeping time to a beat, using the claves, and then transferring that skill to the glockenspiel. After playing a simple Blues piece to get the geography of the glockenspiel, the children play easily accessed melodies, using one, then two notes, with*

a backing track. Moving on to pieces with more notes and faster speeds, it is great to see their confidence growing as the afternoon progresses. The children are always surprised by just how much they can achieve in under two hours! Sometimes I even give them a final challenge of playing faster, a piece with more notes. They all rise to the challenge and the look of excitement on their faces as they achieve the challenge is lovely to see. The children in all sessions have been a pleasure to work with and they have laid the foundations for the next sessions they come to.'

Maindee Year 4 came to visit us on 17 June and had fun in the morning creating suns! They made colourful sun collages first and followed up by making suns in clay. As teaching assistant, Kathy says, *'it is lovely to see the children so engrossed in their artwork. At the end of the session the art is displayed and shows how each child has personalised their artwork using skills learnt.'*

Below: Making a Start



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Colourful sun collages



Clay suns



Relaxing in the field

Maindee Year 3

7–8-year-olds from Maindee came to visit us on 1 July and inspired by Yvonne, explored how to incorporate letters, words and numbers into their own hanging mobile. They then turned their own initial into a creature or animal as a relief clay tile with great success.



Yvonne speaks for us all at Kidzart when she commented,

'All the children who visited us this year were so polite, charming and very engaged in the art and clay projects we organised for them. They were a credit to their parents/guardians and schools.'

Below: Lesley with the children making music and thoroughly enjoying themselves in the process of learning.



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Zeynep is the teacher who accompanied all the groups from Maindee on their visits through the summer term and has sent us the following comments from the children.

KIDZART was enjoyable and fun." Hamsitha Y6

" It was so exciting and I loved using clay." Merab Y6

"It was fun and we did lots of activities" Kenzo Y6

"I loved making the colourful bright masks and KIDZART made me feel welcomed." Tenzil Y6

"It was fun to use clay." "The art was different." Khushveer Y5

" I really enjoyed using clay because it was my first time using clay." Uzair Y5

"I enjoyed using different instruments." Aiyana Y5

" In music we did different rhythms." Juliet Y5

"I learnt how to stick things down and how to use different materials." Anna Y5

" KIZDART is fun." Demi Y5

" I enjoyed how to use an ink pen." Thea Y5

" I enjoyed sketching and using clay." Aayan 4/5F

" I learnt how to beat the rhythm using the chairs." Umama Y4

" Art made me feel happy." Amanah Y3

"My favourite part was having breakfast." Narcisa Y3

"It feels like home." Shantel Y3

"I had the best day ever." Shantel Y3

" I loved it that we had lots of food to eat." Oliva Y4

" I enjoyed making something with clay." Suzana Y4

" I loved the way they treated us and cared about us and if we needed help they were there for us." Shalom Y4



Our Fun Day was held on Saturday 5 July

This was our first Fun Day which was enjoyed by all who came. We would like to thank all the people who helped to make this day a success and to raise funds for our Charity. **THANK YOU**

There are more photos from the event on our website www.kidzart.uk

The two vintage tractors were kindly shown by John Barnes of Abergavenny and as you may imagine were a magnet for children and adults alike.

Continuous music from 11am to 4pm included Chepstow Male Voice Choir, Ships and Giggles (sea shanty group picture above), Banjaxx (Celtic folk band) and Double Measure (guitar duo) organised by our wonderful Music Teacher Lesley ably assisted by Nigel.

There was a brilliant food stall and barbeque serving hotdogs and burgers all managed by Caroline, her husband Tom, daughter Nikki and neighbour Rhys.

There were various art activities on the Kidzart Stall run by the Kidzart Teachers and Volunteers.

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Games on the grass such as giant noughts and crosses and a football game suitable for all ages were managed by Jayne, one of our lovely volunteers, and her grandson Otto.

Face Painting and a stall selling cakes and miscellaneous goods including Kidzart key rings and streamers, were all provided by our wonderfully resourceful Tracy and her family. Thanks to Andy for all his practical help in setting up and for making the 'stage'.

Other stalls included chain saw art by Tim Dobbs who makes the most amazing garden sculptures, Welsh Jams and Chutneys, and Chepstow Walkers.

The Raffle was a great success, and we had a total of 23 donated prizes to give out so our thanks to all those who provided these.

On a minor downside, the weather could have been a bit warmer since we had heatwaves both sides of our weekend but at least the day was dry and enjoyed immensely by all.

Ringland Year 4 group 2 (8-9year-olds) visited for the second time on 15 July

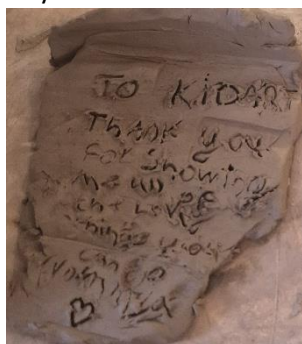


Yvonne reported, 'On their more recent visit we looked at sculptors who make their work from recycled rubbish. The children made a junk model relief panel that tested their card engineering skills and a clay sculpture for a tea light to shine through. It has been such a privilege to see how much the children from Ringland school have enjoyed their visits to KIDZART and to witness how they have progressed and matured throughout the year.'



In the clay session after the break Mya made a little extra piece, a wall plaque which she brought to Becci and me in the office to say we were the first to see this and she would like Kidzart to keep it. The photo reproduction is not great so here is the text.

TO KIDZART
Thank you
For Showing
Me such
Lovely Things
You can do
From Mya



The day finished with the music session before Mr. Malpas arrived in his minibus just before 3pm to take the children back to Ringland with their lovely teacher Alice.

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It is the end of our second year and Becci, our office administrator, has been with us since the start of this current academic year and she reports, *'It's come to the end of my first year with Kidzart. I have seen how much the children from all three schools have enjoyed their visits, and how much they gain from a whole day of creativity. The excitement from the kids is clear from the minute they get off the bus to the minute they get back on! It's certainly going to be a quiet summer here in the office without them!'*

Since our last newsletter, 3 of the Trustees (Yvonne, Kathy and me) have visited Maindee Primary School where we received a very warm welcome from the Deputy Head, Martin Smith, the Equity Lead Officer, Martine Smith and Zeynep Firat who accompanies the children on their visits to us. Later we were also able to meet Jo Cueto, the Head. We were taken on a tour of the school and met some of the children during their lunch break. It was so nice to see the ones who had visited us back in their own school, so pleased with their visits to us and sharing the experience with others. We are now planning next year and as with Ringland and Crindau schools, Maindee is very eager to carry on working with the Charity as they can already see so many benefits for the children.

The dates now agreed so far for event days (all Tuesdays) from Autumn 2025 to Summer 2026 are as follows.

Autumn 2025 Ringland Primary School: October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18

Spring 2026 Crindau Primary School: February 3 and 24. March 10 and 24

Summer 2026 Maindee Primary School: April 21. May 12, June 2 and 23

Next Year we are also planning to have a Kidzart Stall at the Maindee Summer Fete in July to help the school and to raise awareness of Kidzart.

Thank you to all our wonderful staff and the volunteers who help us so much and are so important to us. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved or help in any way or are considering becoming a member. We shall be pleased to hear from you. There are lots of details on our website www.kidzart.uk and please forward this newsletter and/or the flyer to anyone you know who may be interested in our work.

You can also now find us on Facebook at Kidzart Foundation so please, if you are on Facebook, become a follower. This all helps with raising our profile and in turn our fund raising as we rely on donations to be able to continue our much-needed work.

Thank you so much to those who have already given so generously to help us continue. As you see from the feedback we get from the schools our work is helping so many kids, giving them opportunities to express their own creativity, nurturing confidence and encouraging them to continue their individual creative journeys.

**BEST WISHES
FROM VAL WELHAM
AND ALL THE TEAM AT KIDZART**

'FROM IMAGINATION TO CREATIVITY'

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