

Summer Newsletter 2026

A wonderful end to the academic year

'Under the Oak Tree' – Year 3, Maindee Primary School: 23 June 2026



Welcome to our summer newsletter for 2026, the last of the 2025/26 academic year.

Here's what's been happening.

For the summer term, we welcomed back the children from Maindee Primary School, where the theme for the term was flowers and plants.

First up was **Year 6, on Tuesday 21 April**. Our art teacher, Yvonne, explains what they did:

"Year 6 created masks inspired by Mardis Gras and Venetian masks. They were colourful, fun and very flowery."

The children had great fun with this project, cutting, sticking and painting. Every mask was completely unique and created a very eclectic display as you can see.



Painted masks inspired by artists who represent plants and flowers in their work



After a short snack break, our budding artists then had the chance to ‘play with clay.’

Continuing with the flower theme, Yvonne says

“The children made quirky little clay flowerpots with funny faces.”



WELHAM KIDZART FOUNDATION

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After lunch, it was time for music. Our music teacher, Lesley explains:



"Music this term with Maindee has been so exciting! The children were brilliant, achieving so much in the 1.5 hours they had. With years 6, 5 and 4, we started the session on the ukelele, playing a piece on open strings, followed by learning chord C which was used to accompany the songs 'A Sailor went to Sea' and 'Row, Row, Row your Boat.' The children then split into 3 groups and on rotation, each learnt parts on the ukelele, drums and glockenspiels, before coming together to perform the songs as one orchestra."



Well done, Year 6! You got the summer term off to a great start!

12 May, Year 5

There was a new theme, and a new artist inspiration for Year 5's art projects: printing banners and cloth working with the influence of Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. As Yvonne explains

"The banners printed by year 5 were so vibrant. When seen altogether, it was like looking at a garden bursting with beautiful flowers! We continued the flower theme onto decorative clay plates with a relief design."



A Floral Delight of Printed Banners inspired by Artist Yayoi Kusama



After lunch, the children took a short walk into the village. There, they had the treat of a flock of sheep all come running to say hello to them at the field gates!



The Friendly Flock of Llandogo Sheep

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The afternoon brought a new performance by the Kidzart Orchestra! As before, the children each had a turn on the ukeleles, glockenspiels and drums, before coming together to play as one, super-talented orchestra. Well done, Year 5! You were brilliant 😊



2 June, Year 4

A new day, and time for a really fabulous art project for the Year 4s. After the children had eaten their healthy breakfast, it was time for something very different.

As Yvonne explains: *"We had such fun with year 4, who were divided into groups of 3 to paint and decorate umbrellas fit for a carnival parade! Their inspiration for the decoration was taken from flower paintings by Georgia O'Keefe. They even had time to make their own flower illustrations using wax resist and watercolour."*





The flower theme continued for the clay project:

"They made clay bowls that looked like little flowers. Lots of clay slip was required to stick on all the petals around their bowl. They worked so hard that morning and their amazing teamwork while working on their umbrellas was a joy to see." (Yvonne)



After lunch, the children went for a walk around the churchyard, accompanied by our resident dog, Sweep.

They certainly needed the break after the busy morning had by all.

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After the walk, it was music time. This time we had new players for the Kidzart Orchestra and they didn't disappoint! It was lovely to hear all the different instruments being played all together and was a fitting end to a lovely day.

See you next year, Year 4!



23 June, Year 3

For our final Kidzart day of the academic year, we welcomed Year 3. After breakfast, it was time for their first art session but first, a moment was taken at the start of the session to pay homage to the artist David Hockney, and to look briefly at some of his life's work.



The theme for the morning's art session was flowers, inspired by artists such as Van Gogh. Our tutor, Yvonne explains: *"It was Year 3's first visit to the art centre and they worked enthusiastically to make a painting of a vase full of flowers. We used several different methods and media including paint and collage. The focus was on symmetry, of the vase, the flowers and the leaves."*



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A Wall of Flowers!

On their next session, Year 3 made clay planting pockets to hang on the wall.



It's fair to say that Year 3 really embraced their morning art projects. As our art tutor assistant Kathy says:

“How lovely it was to see the happy looks on the faces of the Year 3 children as they came into the centre and their enthusiasm and energy when creating their art. They were delightful children and it was a pleasure to help them. ”

After lunch, as it was a very hot day, the children walked to the shade of the large oak tree in the village (see picture at the top of the newsletter).

For our final Kidzart session of the academic year, the children had an afternoon of music. Lesley explains:

“On the last session, Year 3 worked on rhythms on the claves and boomwackers, followed by playing pieces on the glockenspiels. Again, the achievement of the pupils was amazing – Maindee pupils have proved just how talented they all are.”



And just like that, the final session was over. Thank you to Maindee for joining us on this wonderful summer term.



We would like to take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks to our music teacher, Lesley, who leaves us at the end of this academic year. She has created such brilliant and inspirational music lessons for the primary school children over the last two years. Thank you, Lesley.

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Maindee Fete and Carnival: 4 July

To round off the summer term we were invited by Maindee School to take part in the Maindee Fete and carnival. This is an annual event for the whole Maindee District of Newport hosted at the school and last year there were about 2000 visitors.

Three of our Trustees, Yvonne, Kathy and Val, loaded the car to the gunnels, taking our event tent, all the equipment and materials, as well as our promotional leaflets and poster book and had a wonderful sunny day.



Yvonne and Kathy joined the parade around the neighbourhood and across the River Usk whilst Val minded the stand. Many of the children who had visited us during the term took part and the parasols made by Year 4 were a great addition to the colourful and multi-cultural parade headed by a traditional band. During the afternoon the fete grew busier with hundreds of visitors. Our stand attracted many of the children to do pebble painting, mask painting and to enter our postcard competition. It was a very busy day!



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We would like to thank Zeynep, Martina and Jo, the head teacher of Maindee School who made us so welcome and provided lots of assistants to help us set up and to thank Zeynep for the very welcome sustenance. It was a great pleasure to be part of the day and to see some of the children who had visited us during the term showing their parents, with pride, their photos in our poster book.

By the way, if you are not on the mailing list for the posters and would like to receive them, please let us know. We produce individual A3 posters for each of our 12 event days during the year.

We are now looking forward to the next school year when we are pleased to continue, as requested, to work with the three inner city Newport Primary Schools, Ringland, Crindau and Maindee.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your interest and support and hope you are enjoying the newsletters.

Stay cool

Best Wishes from Val and All the Kidzart Team

If you want to help or get involved:

If you would like to know how you can help or get involved, you can do so in the following ways:

- Volunteer on Kidzart days: no experience is necessary, just a willingness to help the children with their projects, under our tutors' guidance
- By becoming a member: this costs just £25 per year but really helps us run the charity. Visit our website at www.kidzart.uk to find out more.
- Following our Facebook page, **Kidzart Foundation**. By liking and sharing our posts, you help us get our message out. Never underestimate the power of an emoji!
- By making a donation: you can donate through our website www.kidzart.uk or please request our bank details for a transfer by email to info@wyearts.co.uk.
- Attending one of the adult courses at Wye Valley Arts Centre which donates to the Charity.
- Staying at one of the Wye Valley Arts Centre's holiday cottages. Please ask for details.

'FROM IMAGINATION TO CREATIVITY'

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