

A classical painting depicting a man and a woman in 18th-century attire. The man stands on the left, wearing a light-colored coat, dark breeches, and a black tricorn hat, holding a long staff. The woman sits on a green metal bench to his right, wearing a light blue dress and a wide-brimmed hat. A small brown dog is at the man's feet. The background shows a lush landscape with trees, a path, and a cloudy sky.

Kingsmead's Creativity Week

March 2015

Every year Kingsmead Primary School has a Creativity Week based on the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' Project. The week uses one painting from the gallery's collection to inspire work across the curriculum.



This year's painting:



Mr and Mrs Andrews by Thomas Gainsborough, around 1750

Nursery



In Nursery we made prints on different shades of blue fabric. The prints used different textures and images linked to the painting.



When the prints were finished, they were made into Mrs Andrews' dress for our class display.

Reception

In Reception we talked about what we could see in the picture as a class.



We all then printed different parts of the picture using natural objects such as dried wheat and sea sponges.





We also discovered that our very own hands were the best tool for painting fantastic trees.



Reception's class display

Year 1



In year 1 we jumped straight into our week with a visit from Mr and Mrs Andrews themselves! We talked about their painting and recreated sections of it for our display.

We also looked at the best way to present our display picture and what materials would make a good 3D frame.



Once we had decided on our designs it was time to get making!

We had a drama session where we thought about what Mr and Mrs Andrews could be thinking and saying. We had great fun performing in their hats.



Later we used this drama to help us write speech and thought bubbles.



Year 1's class display

Year 2

We imagined what the characters in the painting might be thinking and feeling.



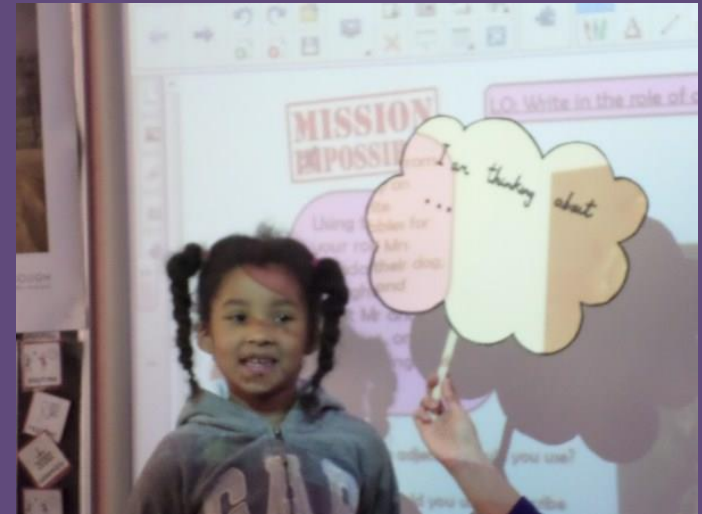
Using masks, we took on the role of either an interviewer or a character from the painting, and asked each other questions.

We looked closely at the landscape in the painting. We went outside to make sketches of the trees, sky and grass, observing the different textures and colours.



Inside, we used different techniques – like colour mixing, rubbings, dabbing and mixed media – to recreate sections of the landscape.

Using thought bubbles, we imagined being one of the characters from the painting, and shared our thoughts with the class.



Some of the bubbles went up on our class display.

Year 3

We started the week with our classroom being transformed into the National Gallery.

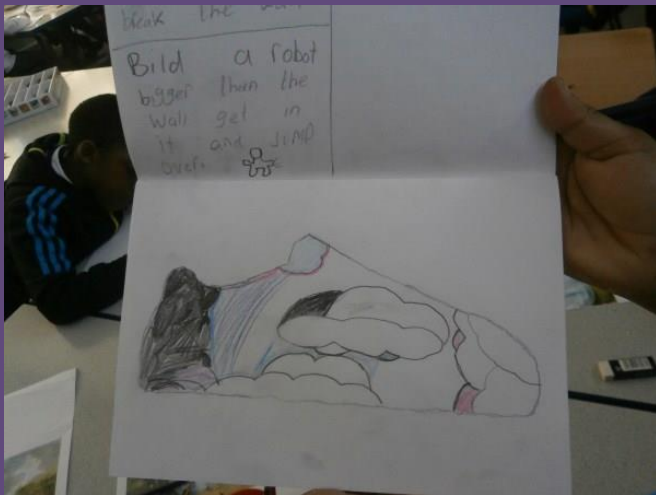


We worked in groups to piece the jigsaw of Mr and Mrs Andrews together. We explored and hypothesised how, who, when, where, why, and what was happening in the picture.

We looked at the casual shoes worn by the couple and talked about the different casual shoes that are worn now.



We created our own modern shoe shape using cardboard, newspaper and mod-roc.



We took inspiration from the different elements of the painting to plan designs for the outsides of our shoes.

For one lesson we were transported to Hackney Auction House. We worked in groups to build a time machine to take us back to 1750.



We delegated roles, bid for items, negotiated prices, collaborated and solved problems. We then wrote a pitch for our machines, and voted for the best one.



Some of Year 3's finished shoes for the class display

Year 4

We worked together to recreate Mrs Andrews' dress.



Each group was given a selection of art supplies and one word linked to one of the characters in the painting. We used these to decorate a piece of material which got put together to make a dress of themes.

We also became entrepreneurs, having just £1.50 each to start greeting cards businesses. We had to visit 'Doja's Discount Store' to buy equipment and sell our cards to the National Gallery to sell in their gift shop. The more creative the card, the higher the price!





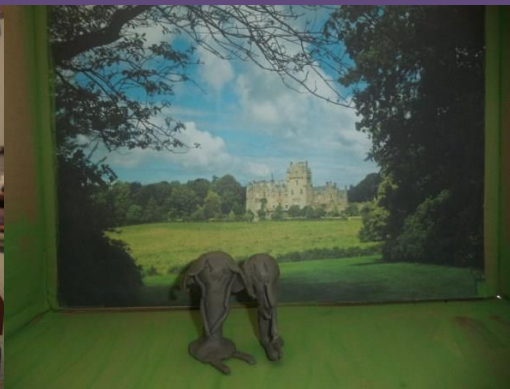
Year 4's dress for their class display

Year 5

During our first look at Gainsborough's famous painting we talked about our initial thoughts, moving on to what we thought could happen next.

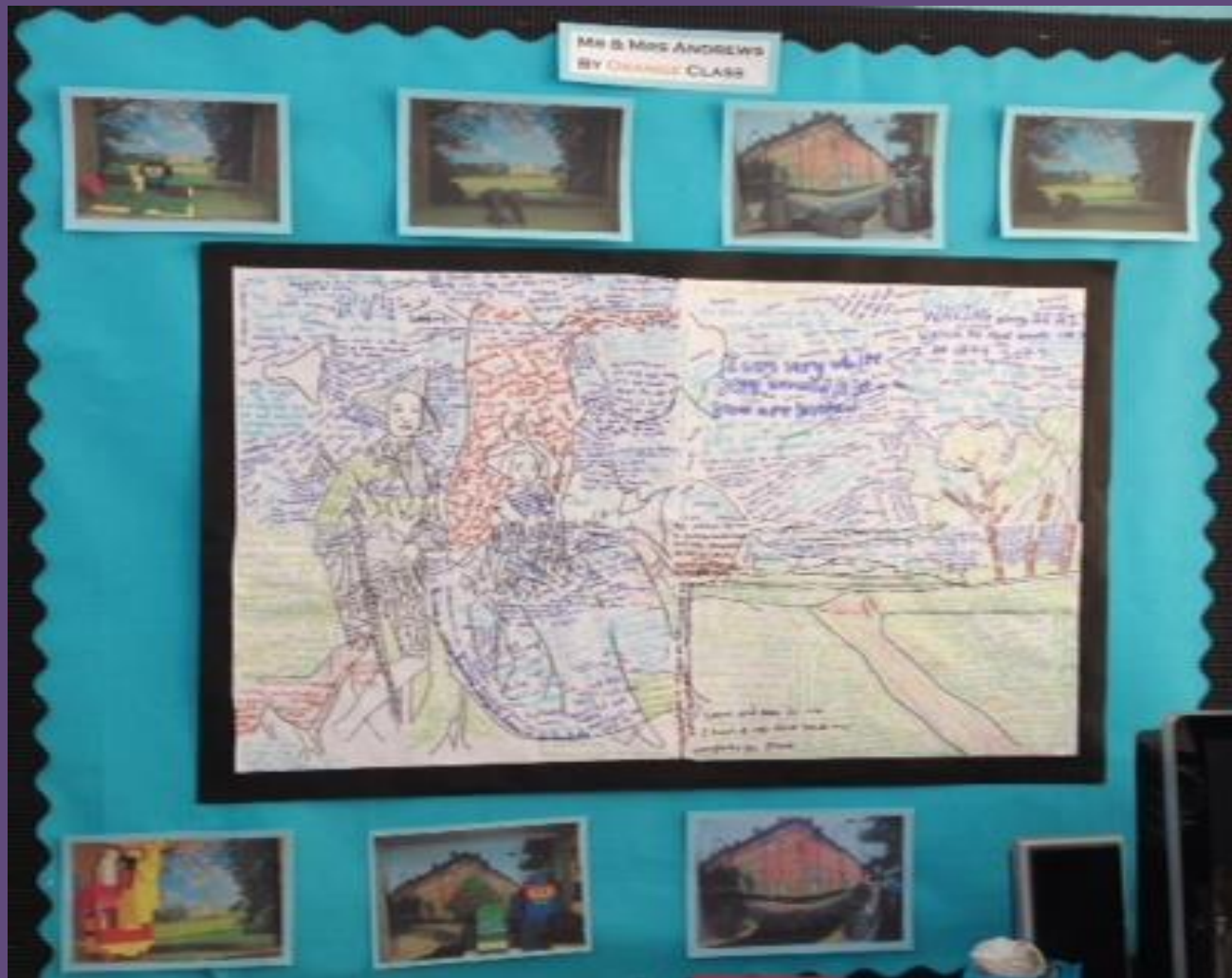


We solved maths word problems, using conversion rates to see how much items in the 18th Century would cost today. We deciphered and uncovered what we had to do, and then applied our maths skills .



We explored the idea of creating a sequel to the painting. We were allowed to use one of four mediums: clay, paint, Lego or laptops. Not only did we successfully recreate the painting, we came up with some amazing and imaginative follow ups.





Year 5's class display

Year 6

We looked at different interpretations of Gainsborough's painting. Then we worked on ipads to produce a collaborative piece of music. To give us some inspiration we listened to some music from the 18th century, but we gave it a modern twist by adding our own pieces on top.



Using the interpretations of Gainsborough we also created our own versions of the image, experimenting with different media for effect. Our class thought the painting hinted at betrayal, and some of us used this word to inspire poems or raps.

Lots of trainee teachers came to work at Kingsmead during Creativity Week. They all had a fantastic time, and they thought that the children who they worked with were extremely creative!

