

The Week That Was...

Week 2 Term 1

Hello Parents,

It was another week full of learning and fun for the children. We are still developing our unit 'Friends and Family' and the children are progressing well. Some managed to supply pictures of their families and we used these to develop vocabulary such as 'brother,' 'sister,' 'Mum,' 'Dad,' etc. You can still send me pictures of your family if you haven't done so already.

It was more difficult for them to work out **how many people** in their family. To help them, we made houses with enough doors and windows for each family member. They could then better count and identify the numbers in each family. This particular piece of work required many skills, including Resilience (staying on task and concentrating), Thoughtfulness (What do I still need to do? What materials do I need to do it? How will I go about it?) Cooperation (working alongside and together with others, sharing the materials, waiting patiently or finding something else to do whilst waiting) and Respect (looking after the things I use and tidying up when I've finished). Not all the children have finished their houses. Some need more time as they tend to find other exciting things to do in between.

Our personal learning goal for this week was Respect. For the Early Years children it not only involves just looking after the things around them (especially if it's not theirs) but also tidying up, and looking after oneself and the others around them. The Blue Man or Mr. Respect, on the next page is a symbol of this PLG. I demonstrated him picking up things, playing carefully, looking after someone if they fell over or were accidentally bumped into. I demonstrated him letting someone else go first. In fact I think I demonstrated all of the elements that make up Mr. Respect. When I ask the children who is this person and what does he do, most of them simply bow like him and say in a rather posh voice: "After youuuu." Oh well, we're getting there. Next week we'll continue with respect but also have as our focus Co-operation.



We did a lot of counting this week. During Circle Time we counted how many children were sitting in our classroom. Last week when I asked Zainab how old she was she would tell me she was six. She was quite insistent. By Thursday of that week, she was telling me she was three. This week, when I asked a child to count the children, we struck a problem. Zainab was the second child to be counted and got a little cross and said: "I'm NOT two I'm three!!" We counted from the other end and then she was suddenly eight. "I'm NOT eight, I'm threeeeeee!" Which launched every other child into the same discussion about their age. We'll be continuing with counting activities for a while yet.

We also played games outside that involved 'stealing' bricks to make a house. The children had to count how many they had after the time was up. If they went out looking for bricks to steal, someone could come and steal one of theirs... A great game involving tactics, resilience (yes, again ! Not giving up or getting upset) as well as speed, fitness and co-ordination. We had the whole field to ourselves, so we ran and played with large green balls as well. By the time we got back to the classroom each morning, the excess energy had been burnt off and they were ready to get on with all sorts of other activities.

We continued to sing a variety of songs and the children have also been learning a poem about "This is the Mum." Ask your child to try and recite it. Ask your child if he or she knows what the picture of Mr. Respect means. Ask about the songs involving Froggy and Miss Mousy, or the little fish in the water making no sound, ask them about the bus door that seems to close on their faces and them asking the driver to open the door again. Ask them about the stories we read this week (see attached pictures to help prompt them).

We finished our week with our Back to School Event. The children gathered in their houses and helped carry the equipment to the sports field. After all, the theme was Co-operation. They were all keen to help carry something and there was enough for most of them. On the field we talked a little about the theme and explained that all our games would involve this skill. We launched an Ecole Yenzi sky lantern and as it sailed off into the blue sky the children were gasping in amazement. (I was sighing with relief as my practice attempts with a home made and much larger version earlier in the week resembled more the Hindenburg disaster of 1934). The sky lantern headed off and we simultaneously witnessed the early arrival of the morning flight from Libreville. I'd checked the schedule...twice!

There was a considerable distance between the two however, so it was safe. The morning continued with a variety of exhausting games. I was with the Kingfishers and so the pictures here are all tainted blue. We ended the event with a hand painting activity that was designed to represent the differences and yet the unity of our school. The older helped the younger throughout the morning, including this event. It was great to see. There was a lot of laughter and many very sweaty children. A good sign. Ask your child about this event too, but perhaps wait until they have recovered from the week that was.

This is the Mum

This is the mum who wakes me up and gets me out of bed.

This is the mum who helps me pull my t-shirt over my head.

This is the mum who irons my clothes, who puts away my socks.

This is the mum who puts my snack inside my new snack box.

This is the mum who goes to work, who tries not to be late.

This is the mum who stands in the rain, by the old school gate.



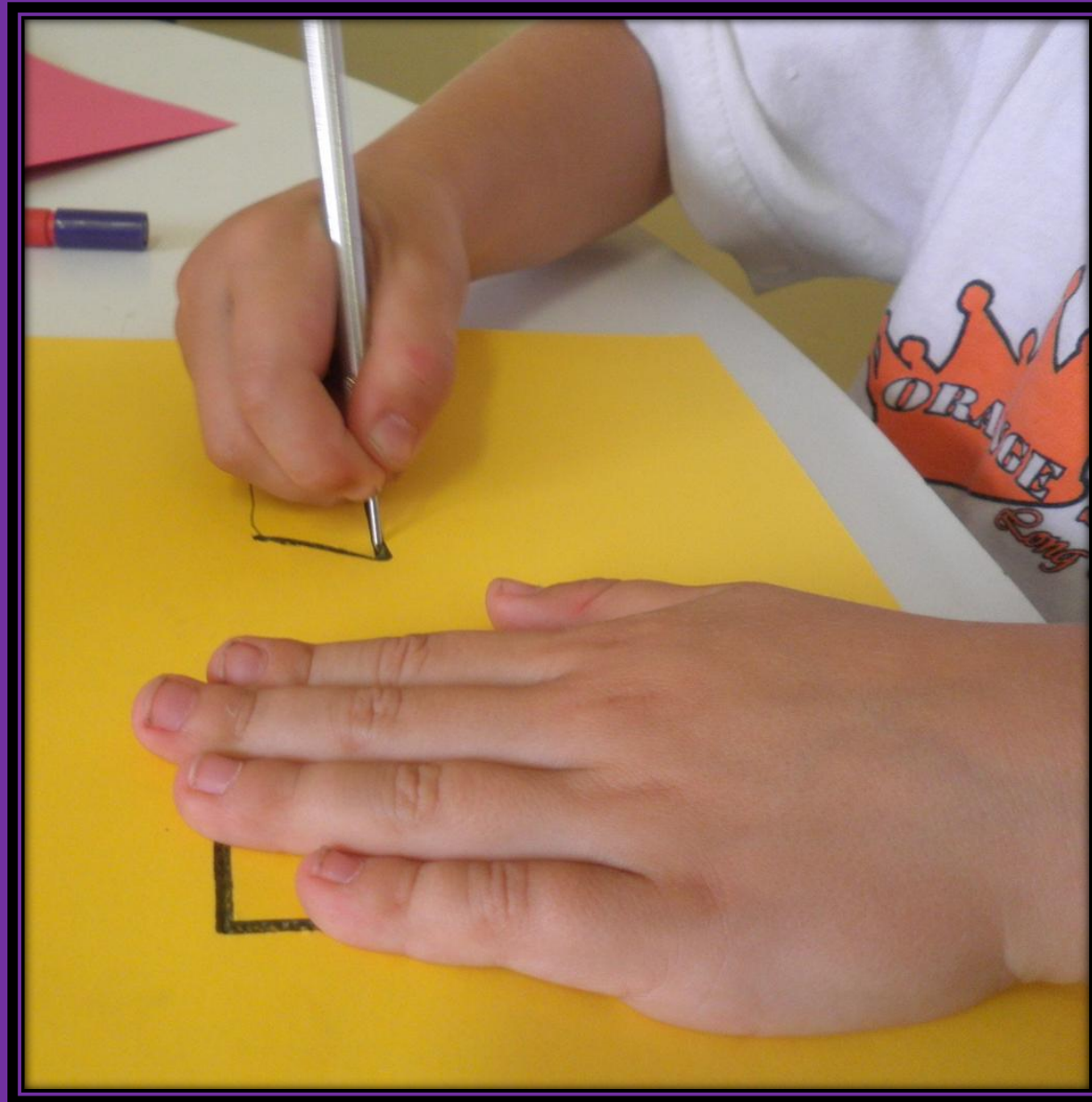
A bucket full of chain links, a vivid imagination....voila... lots of dogs!



“HMMMMMM...if I creep up on it, maybe it won’t scare me as much.”







Patience, precision, concentration...





There are 7 people
in my family!

Shukri

My Family

7 1 4 - A m m



5

My
Mum

2

Aaliyah

3

My sister



70

Alifah
My sister

4

Wajdi
My brother

7 4

Hasenah
My sister

6

This is
me

7

4



Esanah
sister



6

This is
me

- A m m

Aaliyah

3

My sister



Ha
My

Afifa
siste

AL

There are 5 people in my family.

Alexandre



4

5



This is my Dad

8



3



2

This is me.

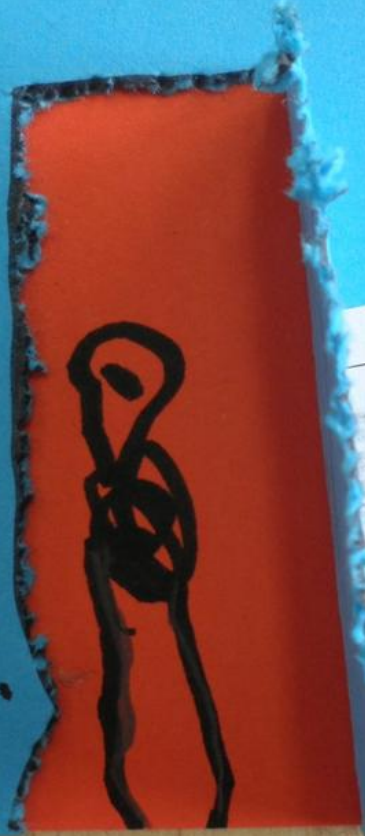
My Family

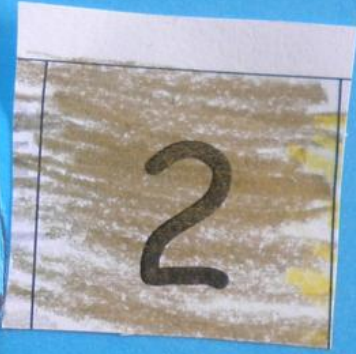
This is my Mum.



1

This is
my Mum.





This is me.

My Family

There are 4 people in my family.

Chinonso

This is my Dad.

3



4

This is my brother.

4

4

14

This is my Mum

2



This is me.

1



4

11

Chibig

This is
my Mum.

2

This is
me.

1

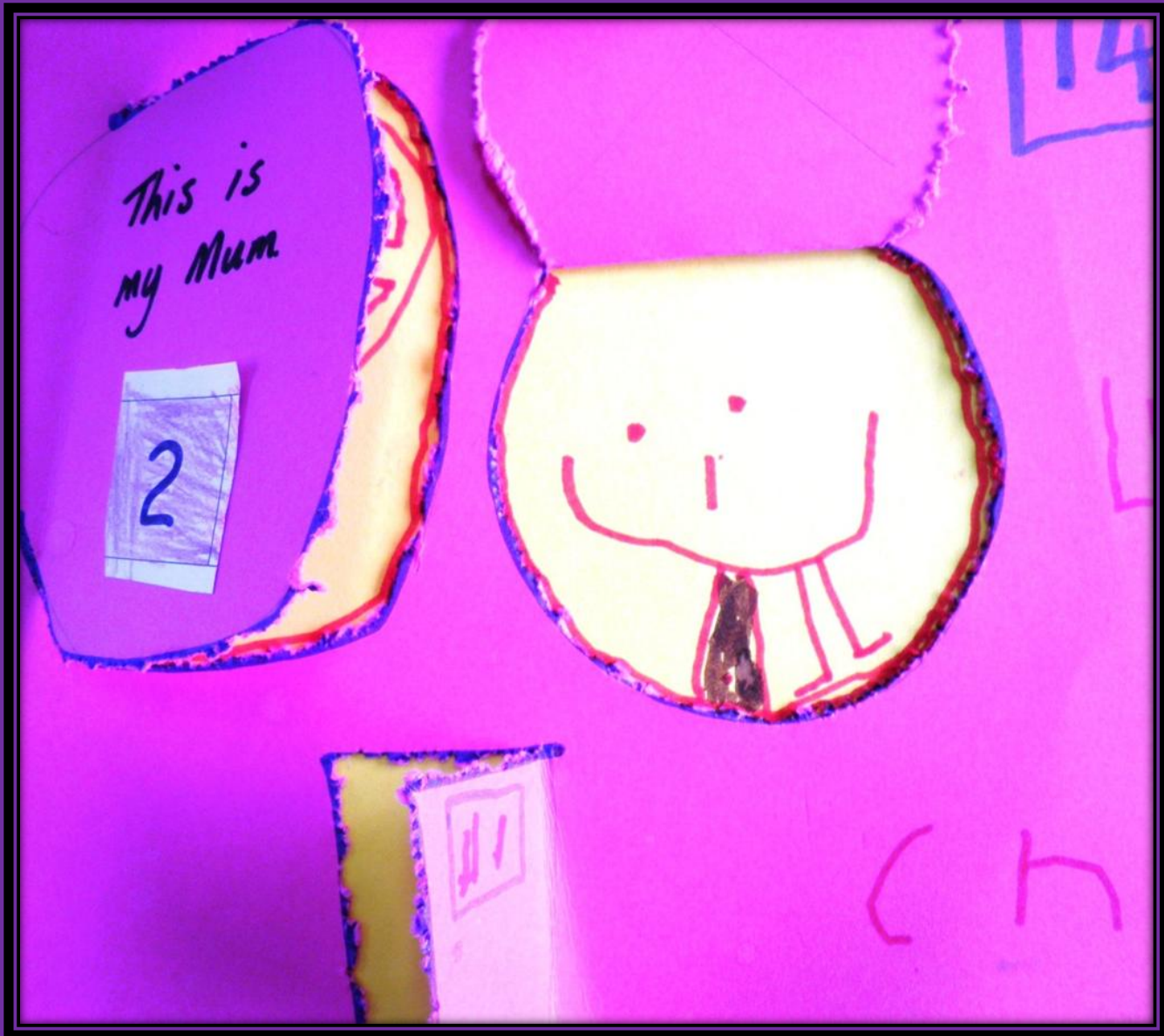
4

4

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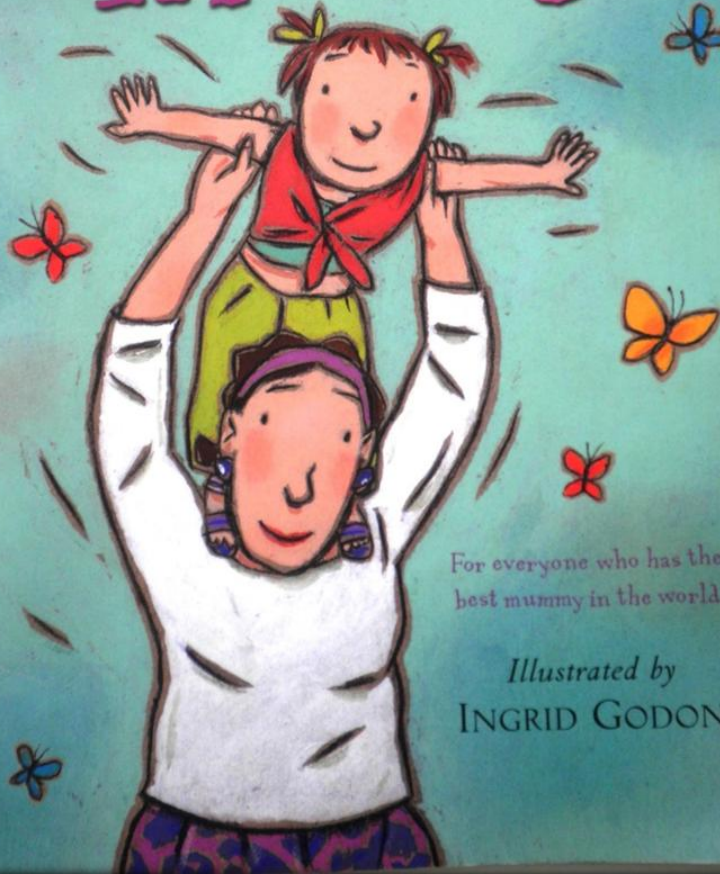






CARL NORAC

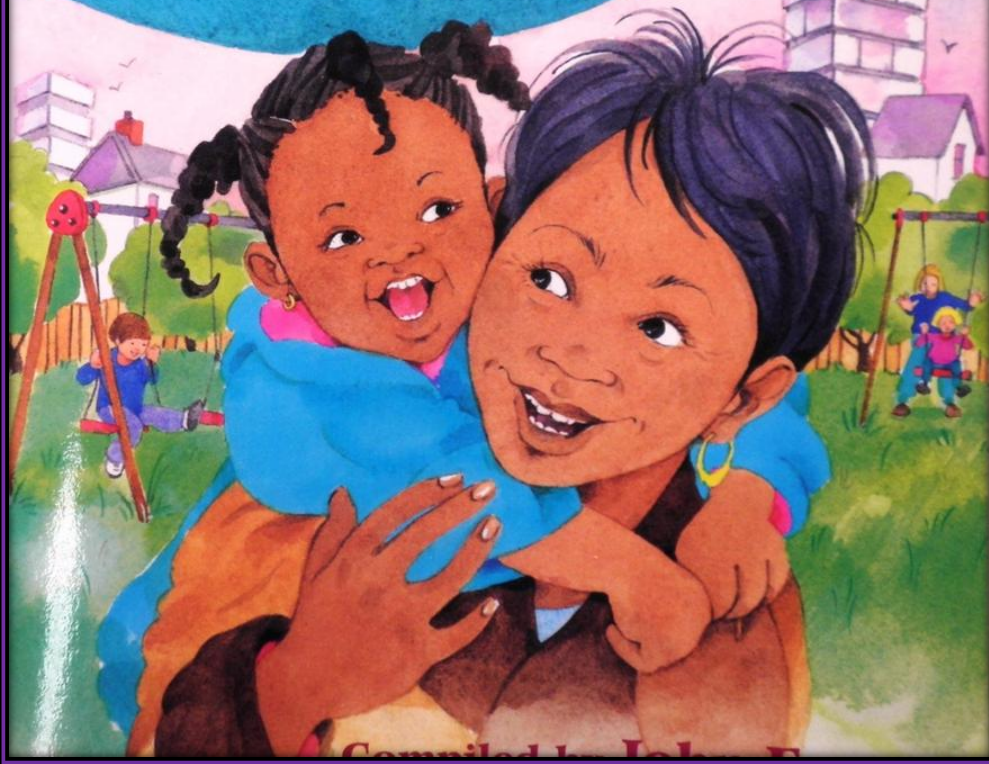
My Mummy is MAGIC



For everyone who has the
best mummy in the world

Illustrated by
INGRID GODON

*This is
the Mum
and other poems*



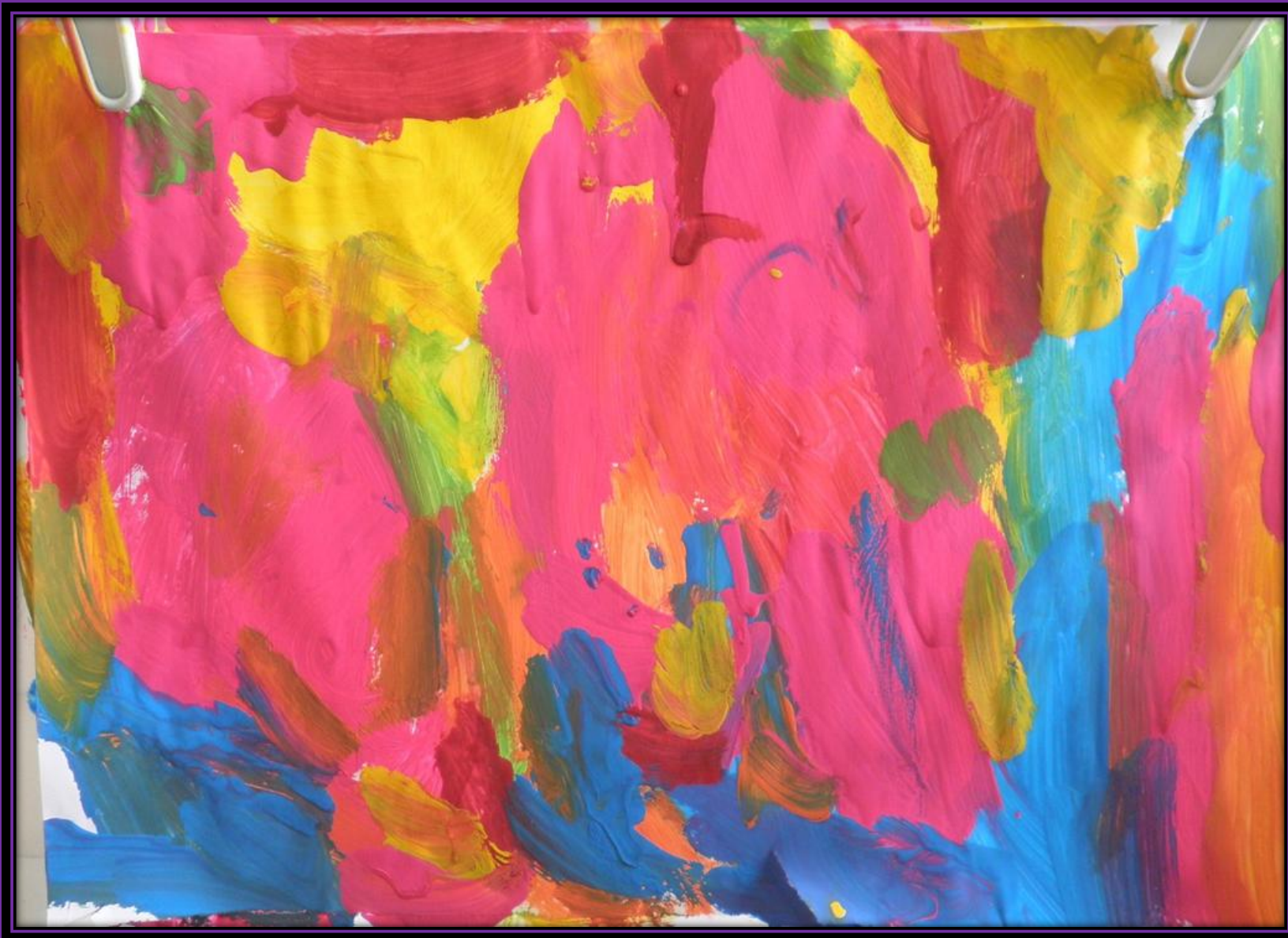
Mr Pusskins



a love story



“I’m making a ‘folder’ for my Mum.” That makes it 20 by now. Not bad after only 10 days of school. The house with family members can wait.



One of Ady's masterpieces.



Borrowing books and swimming on the same day is not a good idea. We'll change books on Monday. We do visit the library every day though. The more exposure to books, the better !



Plus plenty of 'reading' opportunities in the classroom.



Before heading off to the field for our whole school event. And of course the sun came out at this particular moment.



So we turned around... The moment was gone. Looking at the camera was not important. Everything else was more interesting.



Way more interesting. It was like our cycling trip to the pool the other day. Just like herding cats!!! Next week we will be going to the pool by bus .









Look! Up in the sky. It's a bird, it's a.... no it's not Superman, it's a sky lantern.



Oh, and a plane.

















So who's this?









Home again, home again...











Ecole Yenzi... Unity and Diversity

Enjoy your

weekend !

Andrew