# A National School of Creativity
# Where The Children Come First
# And Excellence and Enjoyment Are A Reality

# Context and Background…

First and Middle Schools amalgamated in 1985 - 200 pupils on role

School is in area of social deprivation serving two large council estates

Resource Unit for children with physical disabilities and a Resource Unit for children with SEBD (Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties)

I joined the school in 1989 and was appointed Head in January 2002

Presently 762 children on role and over 100 adults employed

3 very successful OFSTED inspections (1997, 2000, 2007)

From 1985-2002, many initiatives developed to improve the school resulting in a school with recognisably high standards

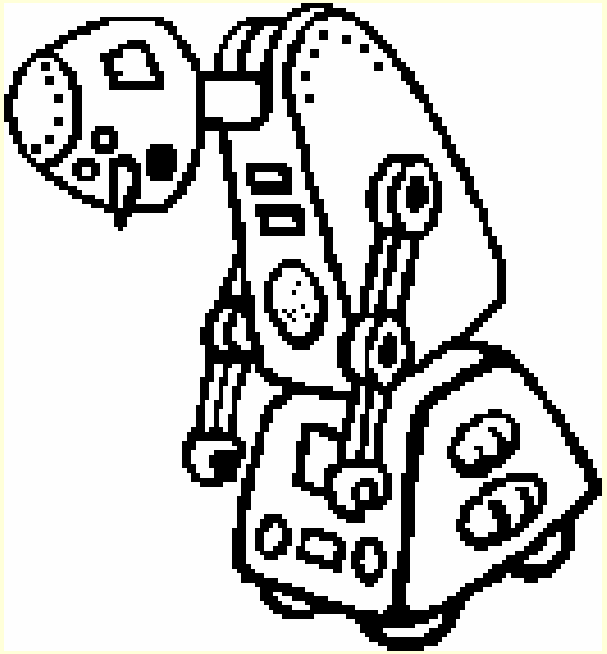
BUT

## Early Days of Headship and Challenges set at Appointment

- Faced with the challenge of an excellent school with no areas of weakness
- A Beacon School with a National Profile
- Excellent standards

## My personal Reflection at that time:

- Sats Robots!
- Boredom
- Sterile teaching and learning
- The whole child
- What is my *real* vision



July 2002

The Start of Something GOOD!

# Creative Partnerships' philosophy…

**Creative Partnerships believes that it can transform…**

- ***The aspirations and achievements of young people***
- ***The approaches and attitudes of teachers and schools***
- ***The practices of creative practitioners and organisations that wish to work in schools***

# What was CP?

***Creative Partnerships provides school children across England with the opportunity to develop creativity in learning and to take part in cultural activities of the highest quality.***

- **Managed by the Arts Council England**
- **Funded by Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

**and**

**Department for Education and Skills**

# THE PRIORY VISION

## *'TO RE-ENGINEER THE FOUNDATION SUBJECTS CURRICULUM' and.....*

# MISSION STATEMENT

***"TO ENABLE CHILDREN***
***TO BECOME***
***INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE***
***LEARNERS***
***WHO ACHIEVE***
***THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE***
***ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL***
***STANDARDS***
***THROUGHOUT***
***ALL AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM."***

# Sharing The Vision

# Inspiring The Staff

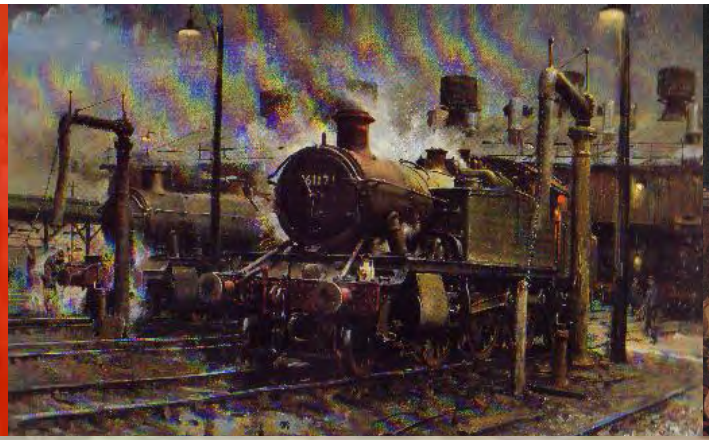
# WHAT HAPPENS ?

## WORKS OF ART ARE USED AS A STARTING POINT…

- **Each year group studies 1 work of art *per half term***
- **During the school year, children will have used 6 works of art as a stimulus to their learning**
- **During their time at Priory School, the children will have studied over 40 works of art in depth.**

# WHY?

- To raise the profile of the Foundation subjects
- To develop learning and teaching through the Creative Learning Curriculum
- To foster creativity and inspiration in all children
- To build confidence and self esteem so that the children are able to express their creativity and individuality
- To achieve a radical change in styles of learning and teaching



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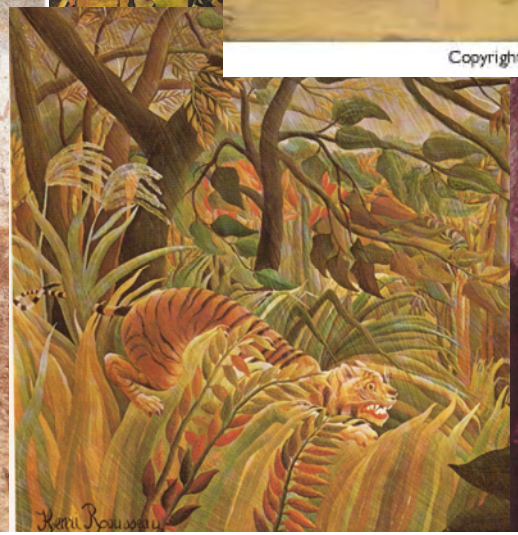
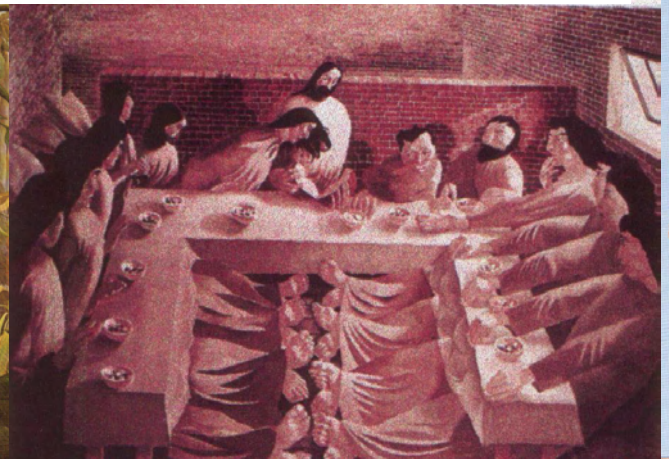




# THE CREATIVE LEARNING CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

# PLANNING

- Everyone involved
- Year groups worked together
- Looked at existing planning
- Looked at inspiring works of art
- Looked at National Curriculum
- Looked at QCA schemes
- Planned webs using 6 paintings as starting points – 1 for each half term and then developed detailed planning

# CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS!

## Rosie – Visual Artist

# CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS!

# African Muzik Makers!

# CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS!

Carolyn – Traditional Folk Dancer

# CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS!

Alan – Percussionist and Ex Queen’s Guard

# CREATIVE RELATIVES!

Carole – Terence Cuneo’s Daughter

# CREATIVE PARENTS!

## Jenny – A Parent in Tudor Times

# CREATIVE PARENTS!

Jason – Teaching Children How To Be Chefs

# CREATIVE VISITS!

Tree Dressing in Burnham Beeches

# Year 6 Transition Project with TroubleMaker Drama Partner

# Year 3 Drama Project with Patchwork

# CHILDREN'S COMMENTS!

***"It is wonderful learning about not only the painting but the painter. It is amazing to know what had to be done to make the painting. We learnt our weekly lessons in a different but amazing way. It is much more interesting learning this way. I love how every lesson fits in with the painting. The way we discuss everything is interesting and exciting. I can't wait to look at another painting. We can be all the jobs we would ever want to be, artists, journalists and story or book writers."***

**Year 6 pupil**

# Ofsted January 2007

***"The school works with over 50 creative partners to deliver the Creative Learning Curriculum. This innovative approach to teaching the foundation subjects is outstanding and helps pupils reach excellent standards in their work as well as making a significant contribution to their personal and social development. Pupil's engagement and enjoyment of their lessons, their excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning and the commitment and dedication of the teachers make this a very happy school."***

# Ofsted January 2007

***The curriculum is outstanding. The school has just cause to be proud of its innovative Creative Learning initiative which has a positive impact on learning and personal development throughout the school.***

***Creative partners bring a wide range of skills which benefit all year groups. High quality individual booklets are an end product of the imaginative and vibrant teaching and learning that takes place. Stimulating displays create a superb learning environment.***

# Ofsted January 2007

**Priory is a good school with some outstanding features. "We feel lucky that our little boy is in such a fantastic school." This is reflected in the views of the vast majority of parents. The visionary leadership of the headteacher inspires all staff, pupils and parents to live up to their motto of 'The Children Come First.'**

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

## Year 3 – 2007/8

## Year 2, 3 and 4 – 2008/9

*Huge risk taking, replanning from scratch,*

*Cross curricular linking to include core subjects included as much as possible*

*Flexible groupings, flexible timetabling*

*Developing different ways of recording*

*Children taking 'ownership' of learning – being involved in planning and evaluation*

*AfL and personalised learning developed*

# WHAT NEXT?

**Extending throughout the whole school…**

***Key members of staff promoted to extend this type of working***

***Rigorous monitoring and evaluation***

***Investment into time and staff***

***Opportunities for professional and personal development and research to drive change***

***Sharing of excellent practice and commitment, leading to raise in standards of teaching and learning***

# NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CREATIVITY

***Extension of 'Transition' project into 2009-10***

*Working with local secondary schools*

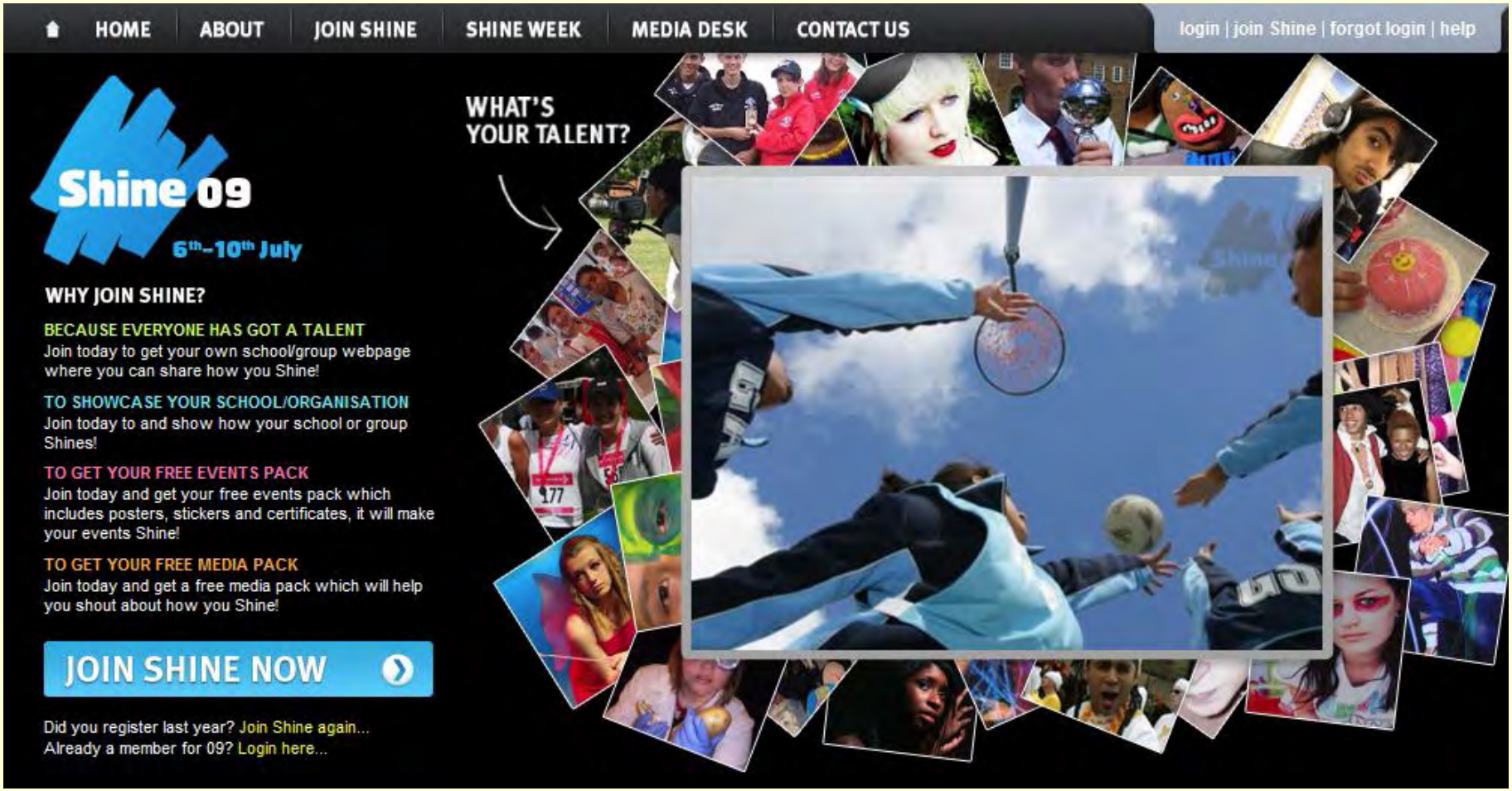
*Aiming to transform the experience of transition into a positive one for both the pupils and teachers and address many priority issues in each school*

# NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CREATIVITY

***Extension of 'The Priory Cluster' into 2009-10***

*Working with other primary schools, introducing them to the Enquiry Schools programme by working together on joint priorities and projects*

# SHINE WEEK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Join today to and show how your school or group Shines!
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Join today and get your free events pack which includes posters, stickers and certificates, it will make your events Shine!
TO GET YOUR FREE MEDIA PACK
Join today and get a free media pack which will help you shout about how you Shine!
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# PRIORY THOUGHTS…

☺ CHILDREN ARE MORE INDEPENDENT THINKERS AND LEARNERS, MUCH MORE ARTICULATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE

☺ CHILDREN ARE FAR MORE CONFIDENT, SOCIAL SKILLS HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED, BEHAVIOUR IS MUCH BETTER, MOTIVATION IS HIGH

☺ ALL AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM SHOW IMPROVED STANDARDS

☺ TEACHERS FEEL HIGHLY VALUED, REWARDED AND MOTIVATED

☺ TEACHERS ARE LEARNING NEW SKILLS BECOMING MORE CREATIVE

☺ PARENTS ARE BECOMING MORE INVOLVED

☺ 'CREATIVES' ARE DEVELOPING A KNOWLEDGE OF HOW CHILDREN LEARN AND AN ABILITY TO TRANSFER THEIR OWN SKILLS

☺POSITIVE ETHOS AND CREATIVE PHILOSOPHY LEADING TO NEW THOUGHTS AND PRACTICES CONTINUALLY

☺ PROJECT IS BEING SHARED SO OTHER EDUCATIONALISTS CAN USE AND DEVELOP IDEAS