King Athelstan - Class Names

King Athelstan's class names have always been artists – it is an excellent way of integrating contemporary and modern art into everyday life and language at school and ensures that children have a good foundation of knowledge about significant artists who have influenced art throughout history. At the start of each year children create amazing pieces of art based on their class artist, which are framed and displayed around the school.

In 2019 we had a considerable revamp of the class artists, as we found that the majority of artists represented were white men; this did not reflect the diverse culture in our community or exemplify the amazing women who have contributed to art throughout history. To make sure everyone had their say about the new choices, we sent out a survey for parents and carers, children and staff to find out their suggestions.
See below for the final results:

Class	Name	Quotes	Background and Class Choice
Inclusion Room	**Stephen Wiltshire**	*"Do the best you can and never stop."*	Stephen Wiltshire was born in London in 1974 to Caribbean parents; his father, Colvin, was a native of Barbados, and his mother, Geneva, is a native of St. Lucia. He grew up in Little Venice, Maida Vale, London. Wiltshire was mute when young. At the age of three, he was diagnosed with autism. He draws detailed cityscapes. He was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to the art world in 2006. **We chose Wiltshire for our Inclusion room as his motto is to never give up – he is also a celebrated member of the autistic community.**
Nursery	**Paul Klee**	*"A line is a dot that went for a walk."*	Paul Klee was a German artist, who was born in Switzerland in 1879. His highly individual style was influenced by movements in art that included Expressionism, Cubism, and Surrealism. ***We chose Klee for Nursery as his block printing and use of shapes will be exciting for the children to investigate.***
Reception	**Yayoi Kusama**	*"The earth, moon, sun and human beings all represent dots; a single particle among billions."*	Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese contemporary artist who works primarily in sculpture and installation, but is also active in painting, performance, film, fashion, poetry, and fiction. She has been called "The princess of polka dots". ***We chose Kusuma for Reception as her colourful polka dots are easy for younger children to emulate and explore.***
	Kristin Nelson	*"I just want to paint."*	Sharon Kristin Nelson was an American primitive painter, actress, and author. Her paintings are conceived without perspective and are brightly coloured with many figures included. ***We chose Nelson for Reception as her paintings allow for great discussion and inference, as well as representing familiar settings with different seasons.***

Year 1	**Georgia O'Keeffe**	*"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else."*	Georgia O'Keeffe was an American artist. She was best known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, New York skyscrapers, and New Mexico landscapes. O'Keeffe has been recognized as the "Mother of American modernism". ***We chose O'Keeffe for Year 1 because they learn about plants and flowers in science. We have kept this artist as she was popular among parents and staff.***
	Vincent Van Gogh	*"I dream of painting and then I paint my dream."*	Vincent Willem Van Gogh was a Dutch post-impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings, most of them in the last two years of his life. ***We chose Van Gogh for Year 1 as his still life paintings of flowers will link well to their science topics and his drawings are easy to imitate for younger children. Van Gogh was also popular in our survey.***
Year 2	**David Hockney**	*"What an artist is trying to do for people is bring them closer to something, because of course art is about sharing."*	David Hockney is an English painter, draftsman, printmaker, stage designer, and photographer. As an important contributor to the pop art movement of the 1960s, he is considered one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century. ***We kept Hockney in Year 2 because of his colourful and playful paintings. He was a well-liked among parents and staff.***
	Henri Matisse	*"Creativity takes courage."*	Henri Matisse was a French artist, known for both his use of colour and his fluid and original draughtsmanship. He was a draughtsman, printmaker, and sculptor, but is known primarily as a painter of Expressionism and Post-Impressionism. ***We kept Matisse in Year 2 as his art is so vibrant and use of chunks of colour is fun to play with. Matisse was a popular choice in our survey.***
Year 3	**Leonardo Da Vinci**	*"Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets."*	Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci or simply Leonardo, was an Italian polymath of the Renaissance whose areas of interest included invention, drawing, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, writing, history, and cartography. ***We decided to move Da Vinci to Year 3 as one of their topics is inventions and Da Vinci was a prolific inventor. We also agreed with staff and parents that he is a key historical figure.***
	Mary Cassat	*"In art, what we want is the certainty that one spark of original genius shall not be extinguished."*	Mary Stevenson Cassatt was an American painter and printmaker. She was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania (Now part of Pittsburgh's North Side), but lived much of her adult life in France, She often created images of the social and private lives of women, with particular emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children. ***We chose Cassatt for Year 3 as her paintings have some similarities with the works of Beatrice Potter and A.A Milne, which are Year 3 bucket list books, around toys and retelling stories.***

Year 4	**Julie Mehretu**	*"That's what I'm interested in: the space in between, the moment of imagining what is possible and yet not knowing what that is."*	Julie Mehretu was born in Ethiopia in 1970 and fled to America with her family in 1977. She paints contemporary visual artist and is well known for her multi-layered paintings of abstracted landscapes on a large scale. ***We chose Mehretu for Year 4 as her art is unique and we felt that the children would enjoy making large scale images with very few restrictions.***
	Kehinde Wiley	*"Art is about changing what we see in our everyday lives and representing it in such a way that it gives us hope."*	Kehinde Wiley is a modern American portrait painter based in New York City, who is known for his highly naturalistic paintings of black people. He was commissioned in 2017 to paint a portrait of President Barack Obama for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. ***We chose Wiley for Year 4 as his art is so colourful, current and diverse. His use of colour also links well with some of the art topics in Year 4.***
Year 5	**Andy Warhol**	*"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."*	Andy Warhol was an artist, director and producer. He was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. ***We chose Warhol for Year 5 as we thought the children would have great fun reinventing some of his multi-coloured pop art portraits.***
	Salvador Dali	*"Those who do not want to imitate anything, produce nothing."*	Salvador Dali was a prominent Spanish surrealist born in Figueres, Catalonia, Spain. Dalí was a skilled draftsman, best known for the striking and bizarre images in his surrealist work. ***We moved Dali to Year 5 as he illustrated a beautifully unique version of Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carol (a text Year 5 explore during their 'Adventures of my Other Self' topic).***
Year 6	**Bridget Riley**	*"As the artist picks his way along, rejecting and accepting as he goes, certain patterns of enquiry emerge."*	Bridget Riley creates Op art (optical illusion). Her works are abstract, with many better known pieces created in black and white. Typically, they give the viewer the impression of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, or of swelling or warping. **We felt that Riley was a great choice for Year 6 as her unusual illusion art links well with their 'Unexplained topic' in the Autumn term.**
	Frida Kahlo	*"Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?"*	Frida Kahlo created many portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by the nature and artefacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naïve folk art style to explore questions of identity, post colonialism, gender, class and race in Mexican society. ***We chose Kahlo for Year 6 as her revolutionary ideas around feminine equality links well with Year 6's Suffragettes study during their WW2 topic. Kahlo was one of the most popular artists among staff and Parents by far!***