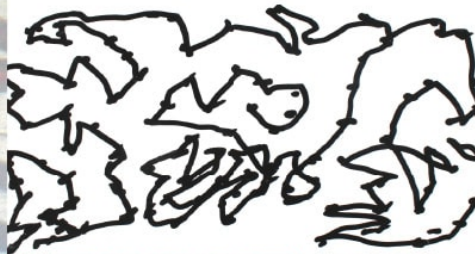


drama, fact & fiction

In small scale work with clay and wire the children investigated microscopic worlds inside the body. Hanley introduced the idea of 'bodymen' who fight germs inside us, and the children took up his ideas, modelling them in clay. Meg's mum brought bags of blood and plasma from her work to show the children. They quickly adopted these into their role play, and drew blood cells and 'trails'. But there were fantastical inventions too. Josie made 'blood books', first with paper then from large pieces of wood. Part sculpture, part dramatic prop, part reference book; the blood books redefined what all of these things might be.



Six months into the work the children found an unexpected way of bringing all their interests together. In *'The Hanley Show'* Hanley stood on a crate in front of a special backdrop. Other children quickly formed an audience. Important props were nearby; blood books, brain and germ sculptures, *Mr Nobody* – an old mannequin with no head or arms, who had been rescued from death many times.

The children never made the reference books we imagined at the beginning of the year, but something far more interesting developed instead. Using a collective *'Question Book'* as a prompt, Hanley asked the other children to test his theories directly by feeling their bones, muscles and skin. And so a new story began, in which the children's own ideas of authorship, authority, fact and fiction took and held centre stage.



the Hanley Show

'Hi everyone. I'm just going on the stage. I just fell off the stage. There's a pretend question book. 'What is a brain?' Sometimes we can't touch our brain. Try and feel your brain. We can't feel our brain can we?...sorry the show is cancelled because I lost the question book. Get all your lights off for a second please!' Hanley (4:4)

'Here's lots of blood trails where blood goes through into the body, and all the blood spreads into the body so you've got blood all around it.' Meg (4:2)

blood books



'When everyone is dead, but not me, we will need to cut everyone up, in half. Then, the wolf will say: 'magic, magic!' and he will make everyone come back alive again.' Amelle (4:0)



Mr Nobody

'He needs clothes on him so he looks nice and alive.' Lotte (4:10)
 'Yes Lotte, maybe the clothes will keep him alive?' Sam (4:9)
 'But he doesn't even have a head or skull so I think he might just die forever...' Ebony (4:4)