



SCHOOL NEWS!



Dear Parents,

I can't believe we've come to the end of term already! It certainly has been a busy one, but one filled with fantastic moments. As I write this with Christmas parties and music wafting from the hall it's hard to remember the beginning and all we've done....

We started the term focused on our School Value of friendship, and as part of this fundraising for others.

Thanks to all your generous donations (and cake baking) we have raised amazing amounts:

Macmillan Cancer Support received £450.42

Children in Need - Pudsey bear was thrilled with his £602

The 'Food Cupboard' received all our Harvest hampers after year 5 had delivered all the village parcels

Our Year 2's collected £205 for the Poppy Appeal

Foundation Stage raised £110 for The Winter Night Shelter

The House Captains have raised enough money through their Friendship Bench competition to sponsor a pig for a year and have now adopted 'Maud', supporting Curly Tails pig sanctuary.



This term for the first time we have welcomed The British Cycling Federation into school. After winning the Level 2 cycling competition last year at Cottesloe they offered to come in and support us further. They have worked with year 5, 6 and Foundation Stage developing and extending their cycling skills, which I know the children have enjoyed immensely.

We've also continued our 'creative reading and writing' focus this term. Our sponsored read raised £1800.

Thank you to all of you who participated. These books are going into our school library alongside a generous donation from the Ihezic Foundation of 1000 books. House Captains have collated all the children's Christmas stories from House challenge and with the help of Mrs Bushell produced the Newton Longville School Christmas Story Book which will be housed in the library.

The end of the term has been magical as we've moved into the Christmas festivities. The theme of 'stars' flowed through the FS and KS1 performances and I'm sure you'll agree each and every one of them deserved star status!

Amidst these there was the snow! This caused so much excitement and although it meant we unfortunately had to close for the day (sorry for the inconvenience it caused, but thank you for your understanding) the children loved playing on the field and sharing 'snow adventures'. Last week KS2 entertained parents and villagers in their 'carols by candlelight' beautifully and the evening was so atmospheric with the bells ringing us in and the candles lighting the church. From that point parties have been in full flow and each day the excitement seems to get to fever pitch! We could all possibly burst by the end of the week!

Classes have also been very busy with their own projects working up to our Christmas festivities. I'll leave it to them to share with you.....

Foundation Class

Foundation Class have been making fabulous progress with their letter sounds. We have been improving our writing too – check out our name writing display near reception! As the weather has got colder we have made different bird feeders using our fine motor skills. Our classroom looks great with our two colour repeating paper chains.



Year 1

The children are off to a flying start in Year 1! We have enjoyed baking gingerbread men, reading and writing bear stories, learning about our bodies, finding greater than and less than a number and tracking the weather.



A particular highlight has to be our production of The Shiniest Star. All of the children tried their best and I was very proud. Thank you for all the support from grown-



ups at home. The children are working incredibly hard and are so enthusiastic about their learning. I wish them a happy Christmas and am looking forward to welcoming them back for more excitements next year.

Year 2

What a busy term we've had in Year 2. We started the year with a new topic called Why is Britain Great? We read poems from We Are Britain written by Benjamin Zephaniah and produced self-portraits for our corridor display. Learning about London Landmarks was made all the more interesting when several members of the class went on personal family visits to London. They came back to school and presented interesting information to the class about what they had done and seen. Other members of the class chose to make a 3D model of Big Ben, a board game based on British Customs or designed their own version of the Union Jack flag using different materials as part of our creative



homework option. We had a special visitor in class when we were learning about The Queen and her family. Guardsman Wragg, one of the Queen's Guardsmen, came into school to talk to the children about his job and role of country protector. He's been on guard outside Buckingham Palace many times! The children enjoyed learning about The Gunpowder Plot and how The Great Fire of London started and some children even visited Pudding Lane. Our context to learning about WWI and WWII was Remembrance Day and attendance at the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at St. Faith's Church, to lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the school. We made cake pops and decorated them in red, white and blue icing during Baking Week and wrote some fantastic instructions. Our nativity production of The Shiniest Star was delivered with confidence and independence. Well done! Also, thanks to our volunteer helpers: Mrs Danna, Mrs Stanton, Mrs Sparling and Mrs Hodder Everyone has worked so hard and done their best you all deserve a rest! Have a super Christmas break.





Year 3

We've had a really busy term in Class 3, and what a term it's been!

The children have settled well into the routines and expectations of Key Stage 2, and really seem to be enjoying our curriculum. Our 'Prehistoric Britain' topic has certainly been popular, and the children have enjoyed hearing all about 'The Iron Man' in English. Our 'Forces and magnets' science topic was interesting – our 'friction investigations were great fun! We've also learned how our digestive system works – apologies if this was shared at the dinner table!

It has been lovely getting to know so many of you, and you can all be proud of your children. Thank you for the support you have given!

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas, and I'm looking forward to the children feeling refreshed in the New Year, ready to work even harder!

As we have been learning in our French lessons, we wish you a 'Joyeux Noel'!



Year 4

What an excellent start Class 4 have had to the year! The children have shown fantastic engagement with the rainforest topic that we have spent most of the term focussing on. I was blown away by their homework projects based on rainforest animals. They have produced some excellent persuasive writing to try and help stop deforestation. So persuasive in fact, that they are going to be responsible for making the school a more environmentally friendly place. Watch this space for more details!

The children have made some fantastic progress in their maths work this term. Their ability to explain their learning using the correct mathematical language has been very impressive. It was also a super achievement for them to beat Class 5 in our first 'Battle of the Bands'. I hope they can retain their title!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help and support this term. I have really enjoyed getting to know you and have felt very welcomed. Enjoy your Christmas holidays!



Year 5

A busy term in Year 5! In science we have been learning about Space and Forces. We have carried out a variety of practical experiments including parachutes, spinners and balanced forces. Some of our experiments were tasty too – when testing balanced forces we used maltesers (of course we got to try them too!) In computing we have learnt new filming skills this year. We have started writing scripts to make films using the green screen. Also we have been using Lego to create animations, we have enjoyed making models to include in our film and learnt how to use a technique called 'onion-skinning'. Although very short films need hundreds of still picture to create them! We were visited by Rachael and the Bridgebuilders team for a 'Christmas Cracked' workshop where we learnt about what Christmas really means to Christians. In the pictures you can see us playing some of the games and solving puzzles.



Year 6

It has been a busy autumn term in year 6. We are still enjoying our newly refurbished classroom and the children are taking pride in keeping it tidy. When I look back over the term it seems surprising that we have crammed so much into our weeks!

Our work this term has led us to some interesting discoveries about mountains, volcanoes earthquakes and rivers. It has been a fascinating topic through which children have produced excellent creative writing, lovely water colours and clay models. We have enjoyed making cookies, floating boats, giving speeches to the class, writing and performing play scripts, creating board games, designing road safety posters and running our own lunchtime clubs.

Our science has been a Dragon's Den style investigation culminating in a team competition to research, design and build a festive light display incorporating an electrical circuit with a switch. All entries were of high quality and our expert team of judges had a very difficult time choosing the best, congratulations to the winning 'Team Pudding' who received certificates in assembly last Friday.



The children have also been working hard during activities with their foundation buddies and I have been extremely proud of the way they conduct themselves around the younger children. All this and they have **still** worked hard as we prepare for S.A.T.S. next year. Merry Christmas to all, enjoy the break with your families.

And other news....

Science & Nature Garden

Gardening Club made a good start on clearing out and weeding our science and nature garden. We were visited by Stephen from Dobbies again who donated some bulbs which we planted in the newly cleared beds. Hopefully we'll see the fruits of our labour in the spring! A special thanks to the Scouts who added a path and border making the area look even more inviting.

Year 2 Science Fair 2017

The Royal Latin School their sixth form and Year 11 pupils led most of the science activities at the science fair, which involved making bath bombs and lava lamps! We were also amazed by a magician doing science related tricks. The children were given a t-shirt to wear and remember the event by. We came back being inspired scientists.

STEM Club

We have started a new club for children in Years 1 to 6. Our first project is focusing on using the hundreds of milk bottles that have been donated by you. The children counted them (about 450!) then researched some ideas on what to use them for. Ideas ranged from a green house, to a castle! The children then made a presentation and presented their ideas to the group. Everyone voted for their favourite idea. Watch this space for what the winning design will be

British Science Week 12th-16th March 2018

Following our letter dated 13th November we are again seeking parents help in coming in to talk to the children about their Science, Engineering, Technology or Mathematics (STEM) based jobs during British Science Week. Thank you to the parents who have already expressed an interest in participating in developing the children's awareness of STEM and creating a sense of awe and wonder. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, can come into school during this period and help inspire our pupils into STEM related careers in the future. Either, complete the slip that was attached to the original letter, or speak to your child's class teacher.

Visit from the Ihezic Foundation

Mr Michael Bloedorn, from the Ihezic Foundation, personally delivered just under 1,000 books to our library as a donation to us. The books are going to make a big difference to the range of material we can offer to our pupils by extending their range of interests and personal reading choice. The Ihezic Foundation is a charity dedicated to improving and increasing educational opportunities to children and students in schools and universities in the United Kingdom and across Africa. Each class wrote thank you messages to the Ihezic Foundation and Mr Bloedorn responded by saying "what wonderful students you have..." We couldn't agree more!

Anti Bullying Week

We were treated to an anti-bullying themed assembly by a comedy magician called Eugene on Friday 17th November which was also Children in Need day. He performed some amazing tricks in between telling us about his story which was an inspiration to all. An important message about anti-bullying was delivered in a fun and engaging way. We hope to see Eugene again in the near future – possibly for a magic club!

KS1 Skip to be Fit festival 2017

Three Year 2 children (Amber, Harry and Lola) took part in the Skip 2 B Fit festival . There were about 20 other schools involved each with one or two teams of three pupils. Our children took part with enthusiasm and were awarded a medal for participating. Harry was awarded an extra medal, a gold star, for showing good sportsmanship. Well done skippers!

KS1 Multi Skills festival 2017

We took one team of six Year 2 children (Amber, Amelia, Josie, Jacob, Charlie and George) to attend the multi skills festival at The Buckingham School. There were 10 other local schools also participating in this event. Challenges were testing the pupils' agility, co-ordination and balance. Each child was given a medal for participation in the festival and trying their best. A fun time was had by all. Thank you to the parents who took their children and stayed to support the event.

So much news to share, it truly has been a fantastic (and busy) term.

All that is really left for me to say, on behalf of all of us, is



Have a wonderful Christmas, enjoy fun and family time together, and all the very best for 2018!

Thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts and cards that we have received in school. They are all so very much appreciated.

And:



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- Thursday 4/1/18 School opens for the children
- Tuesday 9/1/18 Panto day! (please remember packed lunches)
- Monday 15/1/18 Year 5 Viking Day