



A year to remember...



As we come to the end of what has been such a challenging and eventful year, it is hard to find the words to sum up our experiences; however, one of our talented Year 5 poets has been able to do just that. Please enjoy Olive's poem which comes from the heart, sharing the challenges of the year, the feelings it has conjured but also the hope of a brighter 2021. Enjoy!

2020 started off like any other

I was playing on the park with friends, shopping with my mother

Then in March we were sent home from our gorgeous little school

Boris decided he had to set a new rule!

There was a scary virus that could take lives

At first it was fun and there were some high fives!

But then the weeks passed and we missed Newchurch School

We wanted to talk to our teachers and not seeing our friends wasn't cool.

We were suddenly grateful for the education we'd had

We missed our red school jumpers and sometimes felt sad.

Then in September we were all allowed to come back

Boris introduced bubbles and we became a little pack.

It was so lovely to see you all with a smile

Even if we still have to walk in a single file.

The world has changed a bit but we don't care

Because the love we feel at Newchurch is quite rare.

So I'm happy to be back where I belong with you all,

Until the vaccine arrives and the numbers start to fall.

We followed the rules and a rainbow's in sight

Finally, Newchurch can celebrate the light!



BBC

Children in Need

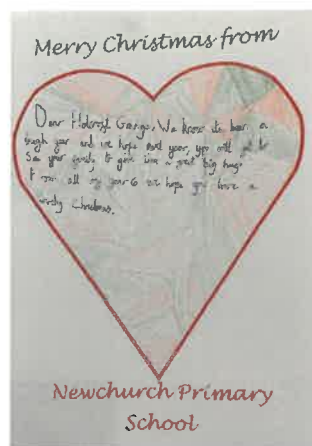
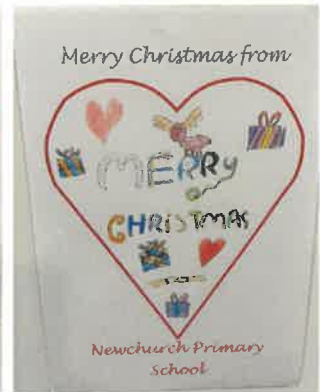
We are proud to announce that as a result of our Children in Need Day, when our Newchurch robins dressed up in bright colours for a donation towards this national charity, we have been able to donate £267 to support other children. This is absolutely fantastic! Thank you once again for our generosity.

Acts of Kindness in the Community



Many thanks for your kindness and generosity over the last few weeks as the children have donated selection boxes and food items (for the Warrington Foodbank) in exchange for donning their favourite Christmas jumpers.

At times like these it is important to consider those less fortunate than ourselves but also those who may be lonely. Newchurch has risen to the challenge and have delivered individually written and illustrated Christmas messages to the residents of Holcroft Grange.





Reception

18th December 2020

The Nativity Story



In RE the children have been learning about the first Christmas Story and the reasons why Christians celebrate Christmas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the story together and retelling it in a variety of ways using the correct sequence of events.

In the small world area, the children retold the story using the figures and on outdoor learning, the children made the stable and the manger where baby Jesus was born using blocks and crates. They sequenced the story using pictures, paintings and drawings in the creative area.

Henry : “Baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day.”

Ella B: “ I made the stable where baby Jesus was born.”

Charlotte : “ I liked painting baby Jesus.”

Art Week



Throughout the last week of term, the children have been studying the art work of Albert Irvin an artist who specialises in painting using bright colours and shapes.

After looking at Albert Irvin’s work, the children investigated how to mix the primary colours to create a new colour – secondary colours. Then they used these colours to create their own master pieces in the style of Albert Irvin. There were some very impressive paintings that could be quite easily mistaken for his actual work.

Cruz: I like painting pictures and mixing the colours.

Fabiana: We looked at lots of paintings and then we did our own.

Archie: I love mixing paints.

Christmas



Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without singing, dressing up, Father Christmas, a visit from the Elves Colin and Coco, making cards and having fun in the snow.

The small world area changed into Santa’s workshop where the children dressed up as Elves, Father Christmas and Mrs Christmas. They checked the children’s Christmas lists, made toys using the blocks, wrapped the presents and they even made a sleigh.

Newchurch Reception children starred in the Warrington Christmas Light Swight On, singing ‘Santa Clause Is Coming To Town,’ and they made their own recording for the Christmas Newchurch assembly.

In the last week of term, the children got a wonderful surprise visit from Father Christmas and he even brought the snow. It was magical!

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Year 1

December 2020

This half term in Year One...

In RE lessons, Year 1 have been exploring the story of the first Christmas. They learned that Christians believe that God sent Jesus as a special gift to mankind and Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birthday.

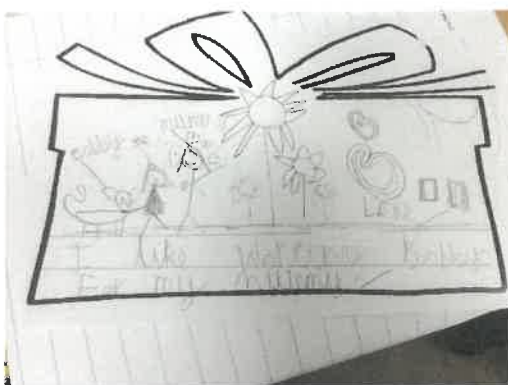


They used drama to retell the key events in the story and thought about how the different characters felt about the arrival of baby Jesus.

Maggie: Mary felt excited and joyful about baby Jesus.

Meryn: King Herod felt angry and nervous about a new king being born.

We thought about gifts at Christmas and how it feels to give and receive gifts. We decided that gifts don't always need to be something that we can buy and hold, and it is just as important to help people and do nice things for each other.



Amazing Art



Year 1's art focus this half term has been drawing. They have explored the work of artist Paul Klee and the drawing techniques he used. Using a range of drawing materials, such as pencils and pastels the children practised drawing natural objects and had a go at scaling their drawings by reducing and enlarging their pictures according to the size of paper used.

They also undertook the challenge of sketching without seeing and also went outside to create continuous line drawings of the trees. The children really enjoyed the challenge of not taking their pencils off the page until their drawing was finished and produced some amazing work! They also looked at Klee's painting of The Houses Tree and created their own version using different paper and drawing materials.



Computing

In Computing Year 1 have been learning all about animation and creating their own characters using online drawing tools. They practised drawing different characters and even created their own maths emoji! They found out that cartoons and lots of films are made using computers. They learned that when still images are put together and moved quickly, it looks like the images are moving. They used an app called Easy Studio to create their own character using simple shapes. Finally, they took photographs at different stages of creation and then combined the images to make the characters move!

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Year 2

Time to reflect...

In RE Year 2 have been reflecting on the meaning of gifts. They compared the two gifts and voted for which one they would prefer to receive and gave their reasons why. They then went on to discuss the content of those gifts, where they had some mature conversations about the meaningfulness of receiving and giving gifts. They reflected upon the fact that gifts don't need to be expensive or extravagant to hold thought or meaning.

Beatrice: It is not about size – if there was a big empty fridge or a small chocolate hamper, I would prefer the small hamper.

Georgie: The big one is wrapped nicely and looks fancy, so someone has spent lots of time decorating it.



Spreading the joy...

In Y2, they crafted some lovely messages for the residents at Holcroft Care Home. They spent some time to reflect upon how the people that live there might be feeling at this time of year, and chose to write messages of positivity. The children had lots of lovely things to say. They really hope the residents enjoy reading the messages Year 2 have written!



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18th December 2020

Christmas shopping...

Year 2 have been doing a touch of Christmas shopping in their maths lessons! They used chocolate coins to work out what items they could buy from Miss Igglesden's shop! They had to work as a team to work out what coins were needed – and to make sure they had the right amount. They were also given some items which they had to make the correct amount of money using the coins provided.



A wee bit o' celebration!

As they reached the end of their topic (The United Kingdom), Year 2 celebrated the four nations by tasting foods from the different countries as well as listening to traditional music from those places. After a class vote, the children



decided they enjoyed the Scottish the most! **Bobby A:** I liked all of the foods, but the Irish fruit cake was my favourite!

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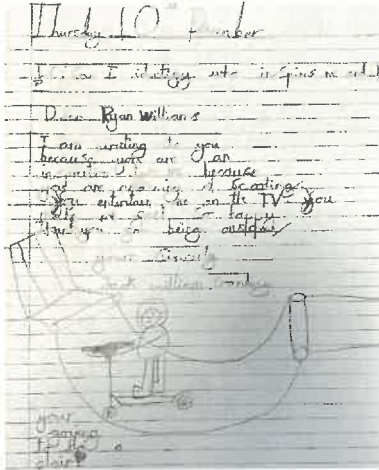
Year 3

December 2020

Decoration Designers

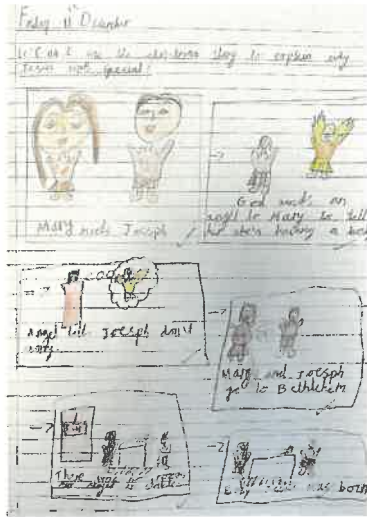


Christmas - A time to reflect



The children started their RE topic by looking at inspirations. They spent time thinking about what it means to be inspired and then identify somebody who inspires them. Once they had identified their inspirational person, they wrote letters to that person.

Ralph: I enjoyed writing my letter to my inspirational person.



The children also spent time learning about and reflecting on the Christmas story. They created story maps to show their understanding of it and answered the question, "Why is Jesus special?"

The children of Year 3 have become decoration designers this week. To start, they were given a brief and an expected outcome. They have truly met the requirements! I am sure you will all agree that they have made beautiful decorations.

Phoebe: I liked decorating my snowflake using sequins and gems.

Tom: My favourite part of making my decoration was using the glue gun on my own!

Spreading Christmas Cheer!



This week, the children have spent time thinking about the local residents of Holcroft Grange Care Home. As a class, we spent time thinking about the residents and how they might be feeling this time of year. The children of Year Three spent time writing lovely, positive messages to spread a little bit of Christmas cheer.

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Year 4

December 2020

Blue John



Year 4 have started their new class text, Blue John by Berlie Doherty. They have used the front cover of the book to write a prediction about what they think is going to happen in the story based on what they can see. They have used amazing inference skills and come up with some lovely story plots.

Ben – I think I will enjoy this book because it sounds very interesting and I want to know what happens next and if he gets out of the cave.

Amazing Art!



Year 4 have been learning about the artist Georges Braque. They had to use the three primary colours: red, blue and yellow, to mix all the other colours and then use white and black to create different tints and tones within those colours. They then created their own colour palette to paint their own master piece in the style of the artist.

Joe - I enjoyed doing this a lot and I didn't think that it was going to be as good as it was. I liked being able to mix all the different colours.

Super Sewing



Getting into the Christmas spirit, the children have been experimenting with different sewing stitches to make some beautiful decorations for the Christmas tree. They have used running stitch, blanket stitch and cross stitch to sew on buttons and beads to make their final piece amazing.

Alexandra – I really enjoyed doing this, even though I found it tricky. It was good being able to learn new stitches and sew things that I have never done before.

Building Bridges!



Year 4 have been learning about how the Romans built bridges, then designed and built their own bridges to find out whose could take the most weight. They had to look at different bridge designs and structures and adapt their own designs to make them stronger using newspaper, straws and tape.

Oscar – I found this a really hard challenge because every time we tried to put the pole up it kept falling it down.

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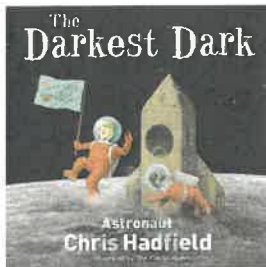


Year 5

18th December 2020

Christmas Curriculum

Year Five's Reading/Writing Corner presents...



Year Five have completed their work on *The Darkest Dark* this half term, through their biographies of Chris Hadfield. Utilising their knowledge of relative clauses, semicolon, adverbial openers and subordination, the children deployed a wide range of grammatical features to build their written work. Here is an extract from Rowan's work...

'In the great evolution of astronomy, there are a variety of great people; however, this one man proves that dreams come true. The legendary Chris Hadfield had and is living an interesting life. This man (famous astronaut) has been to two space stations and was the first Canadian to walk in space.' This standard has been echoed across the whole class. We are really proud of their efforts. 'Always aiming up...' as Chris Hadfield would say.

Rowan: I think Chris Hadfield is so inspiring. He is the perfect example of how you can make your dreams come true.



Along with their super video for Merry Christmas, Year Five have been welcoming the festive period in a range of ways.

In RE they have studied the various versions of the Christmas story which exist in the Bible.

In art, the children have looked at how visual images, like the work of Roy Lichtenstein, can be used to give a message and contain symbolism. They used their drawing skills to focus on social awareness at this time of year, creating advertisements linked to helping the environment and those less fortunate than ourselves.

The woodwork projects also came to fruition and are now adorning their own trees at home.

Meredith: I liked doing the social awareness artwork, because it is good to understand what other people have to go through.

Across the curriculum

The children have been investigating forces in science and learning how Newton's laws of motion apply themselves to friction. They were able to express when friction is useful, like on our trainers and when we try to limit its effect, such as on ice skates. They also studied simple machines, particularly how a lever can reduce the force needed to move a substantial object.

Zak: I really enjoy science and learning about how difficult things work.

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Christmas - A Time to Reflect



This half term, the children have been studying the Nativity story in greater detail and citing extracts from bible readings to help them to understand why the story may have been interpreted differently. The children demonstrated excellent understanding and used elements of the English curriculum to read words in context to understand the meanings of unfamiliar words. In addition to this, Year 6 have also been looking at how Christians prepare for Christmas and how we incorporate Christian values into our daily life. The children created Acts of Kindness advent calendars and also advent wreaths, demonstrating their awareness of the representation of each component of the wreath. We have been immensely impressed with how much they have engaged with the RE curriculum this half term.

Grace: Understanding about the different parts of the Christmas wreath and their purpose was very interesting.

Supreme Sketching!



Our art focus for this half term has been sketching and, unsurprisingly, Year 6 have flourished in this area of the curriculum, showcasing their artistic flair once again. Using sketching tools to find different ways of shading has been a key feature and they used these newly acquired skills to work towards sketching self-portrait. Along the learning journey, the children used gridlines to

help develop their understanding of proportion and this really helped when understanding the positioning and size of facial features in relation to each other. The final sketches have left staff speechless! It is hard to believe that the quality of the sketches have been produced by 10 and 11 year old children but this is why we are so keen to provide a chocolate box curriculum to give children the platform to excel in all areas of their learning.

Trystan: I enjoyed sketching a lot. Sketching is one of my passions so it is great to be able to get the chance to develop my skills further.

South of the Border



Our geography topic this half term has involved exploring the wonderful continent of South America. The diverse continent, which comprises the incredible Amazon Rainforest, stretches from the searing heat of the equator in Venezuela to being within touching distance of Antarctica in Chile. The children have carried out research into each country to become experts, sharing their knowledge with their peers. They have also compared climates and developed their knowledge of topography, the tropics, hemispheres and time zones.

Macy: Learning about the rainforest was really interesting. We explored how deforestation is a global concern and conservation of the rainforest is hugely important for the millions of species of animals which live there.



Key Dates and Information

Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
4.1.2021	School opens	
15.1.2021	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2 parents
18.1.2021	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4 parents
19.1.2021	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1 parents
20.1.2021	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3 parents
21.1.2021	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6 parents
22.1.2021	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5 parents
26.1.2021	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception parents
1.2.2021	Children's Mental Health Week	All classes
12.2.2021	School Closes	
22.2.2021	School Opens	



Parental Conferences

Please take note of the dates of the parental conferences in the new year. All appointments will be made via ParentPay as last time and will be launched at 6pm today (18th December) for you to select the best time for you.

December 2020



As the children have returned we have seen a significant improvement in their attendance. The staggered starts to the day seem to be impacting positively on punctuality also. Thanks you for your support in this.

Just a reminder that holidays taken in school time will not be authorised. We appreciate that many of you may have had to cancel holidays that are booked, and like many people, are desperate to get away. However, from an educational point of view, the children have missed so much schooling and more so than ever we need to ensure they are in school. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week. The system works as follows:

100%	Gold award	10 points
Class with the highest attendance of the week	Silver award	5 points

The class with the most points accumulated at the end of the school year gets a very special treat of a trip paid for by school. At the moment **YEAR THREE** are the ones to beat who have 45 points having had four 100% attendance weeks.

Point to note...

Obviously, if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send your child in – this will be classes as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Current attendance figures to date are:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
96.9%	97.2%	99.2%	95.7%	97.4%	95.5%	98.3%

Our school target is 97%. Well done everyone!

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