

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a very happy New Year. Hopefully you had a brilliant Christmas and Santa brought everything you wished for. For a change, I fear I may have over indulged, just a smidge, in terms of chocolatey goodness and the volume of puddings consumed. My little girl has taken to rubbing my tummy and referring to me as 'Daddy Pig', which has upset me no end. The suit was a little tighter on Tuesday morning and I am feeling very sensitive about the subject. Sniff, sniff.

As Mr Fossard is a glutton for punishment, Year5/6 went to Bristol museum on the first day back to look at Ancient Greek artefacts. It was very much about looking at real life artefacts, taking measurements and sketches and hypothesising as to what they may have been used for. Actually being like real archaeologists.

They followed this with a Greek day back in school on Wednesday. Almost everyone dressed up and they looked spectacular. We had Isabella as Medusa (complete with green snake hair), Will looking like Hermes and Bex doing a more than acceptable impersonation of Aphrodite, to mention just a few. Although, I am not entirely sure that James fully entered into the spirit of things. 'This is ridiculous! I keep standing on my skirt.' Toga, James. It is a toga. The afternoon was spent 'crafting' Greek... I want to say 'pots' at this point but I fear that may be over-egging the pudding... things which bore a vague resemblance to Grecian Earthenware. To be fair, Sam and Nikita can be genuinely pleased with their handled goblets, while some of the others are more from the Henry Moore Impressionist Movement rather than the Ross Fossard This is Meant to look Like a Pot You Lot School of Art.

On Wednesday, twenty Year 3/4 pupils represented our school at the North Somerset Dodecathlon sports event at Hutton Moor Leisure Centre in Weston. The children competed in twelve events, ranging from relay races to indoor curling and had the time of their lives. As ever, their behaviour was impeccable but what particularly impressed Mrs Gritten and me was the way they supported each other and showed such good sportsmanship. It is very rare that Beth allows me out to fun events like this but I loved it. In absolutely no way did I get completely carried away, shout myself hoarse and try and nobble the other teams. That would be wrong.

Year 1/2 are meant to be learning about winter at the moment. However, due to the unseasonably high temperatures (at the time of writing), this has quickly morphed into climate change. CO2 levels, evaporation rates and melting ice caps were all discussed, along with the consequences this will have for our planet. What impressed me the most, was the amount they already knew and how readily they understood what was being explained to them. Mrs Yandall was really proud of them.

The beautiful animation of Stick Man by Julia Donaldson was shown over the Christmas holidays and provided the inspiration for today's activities in Reception. To begin with, just to get them in the mood, Mrs Hayward read them the story. They then donned their CSI suits and wellies and rambled across the fields looking for suitable twigs to build their own stickmen with. Interestingly, Zachery and Sienna had an ever so slightly a different definition of the word 'twig' to Mrs Hayward. I could not make out exactly what Mrs H was saying from my office but, suffice to say, there was a lot of gesticulating from the adult as two tiny, crestfallen dots dragged half a tonne of lumber back to where they had found it. In the afternoon, the twigs were lashed together to create a class of stick men which look superb. It is just the sort of thing I would have loved to have done as a child.

Well done to Molly in Reception, Evie & Tilly in Year 1/2, Benjamin, Ben, Jake & Helena in Year 3/4 and Isabella & Josh in Year 5/6. What a brilliant way to start the new year. Phoenix had the highest number of conduct marks this week and Dragons had the highest number of work marks. Achieving their bronze star badges were Sophia, Theo, Molly & Rosie. Silver star badges were awarded to Duncan & Evie. Isabella received her Gold badge and Oliver K received his platinum badge. Well done all of you!

Our book review of this week is obviously Stick Man by Julia Donaldson. Like all her collaborations with Axel Scheffler, this is a fantastic book which all ages can enjoy (although, probably aimed more at Reception and Year 1/2). It tells the story of a man made of stick who gets separated from his family and has to find his way back. The rhyme scheme and repetition make it a wonderful story for younger children as they will quickly pick up the patterns and be able to join in with them.

As part of our safer internet work, there is a helpful attachment with this week's newsletter. This was a piece written by a colleague in another school, which I feel does an excellent job of making parents aware of some of the potential pitfalls of their children or themselves using social media. Very few people set out to put themselves in a vulnerable situation but it can so easily happen. Please take the time to read the attachment and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Have a great weekend, play safely and take care. Mrs T has declared January to be, 'A healthy month, when you don't eat all your usual rubbish.' I fear cabbage soup and a small salad may be my only sustenance this weekend. The joy of it.

Take care,

Mr Tucker

## Coming up next week:

**Monday - Year 5 & 6 trip to the Houses of Parliament**

**Tuesday - Year 3 & 4 swimming in the afternoon**

**Music lessons start this week - Keyboard & singing on MONDAY**

**Wind instruments on TUESDAY**

**Guitar on THURSDAY**

## School Clubs

The first week of school clubs is usually far from plain sailing, this week went fairly smoothly with just two exceptions. KS2 football - we owe you a session already and Art - it starts next week not this week. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Also, we have been given the opportunity for a FA skills coach, James Howiantz, to lead a Girls football club on a Thursday lunchtime for Term 3. This has meant that we have had to move **Netball to a Friday lunchtime** and **Mrs Grittens Get Active club to a Wednesday lunchtime**. James will also be providing football coaching in lessons on a Thursday afternoon for year 3 & 4 and 5 & 6.

Finally, on Monday (tennis), Wednesday (football fun), Thursday (tag rugby) and Friday (hockey) next week your child is invited to stay to the **first hour** of the after school club free of charge to try the sport that is being played on that night. Please book your child in at the school office in advance so that we know how many children to expect. For those families who have already signed up to a block booking I will credit your account for the single session.

## Church News

**Sunday 17th January 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC) with Communion, All Saints' Wraxall Church**

A service of music, words and prayer for all ages