



# Newton Longville Christmas News



Dear Parents,

I can't believe we've come to the end of term already! It certainly has been a busy time, but filled with fantastic moments.

The first day back after the half term holidays greeted us with the phone call from Ofsted and as you know they appeared the next day. Thank you to all of you who completed the questionnaire for them, we were thrilled with the number of responses. The report, which is now in the style of a letter, is on our website and published on Ofsted's website. We were so pleased with the outcome and the positive comments about the children, staff and school itself.

We have also had our Health and Safety inspection this term and I'm really pleased to inform you that we were awarded excellent.

The Diocese then announced that they would be completing their Church schools inspection for us - well they say everything comes in threes! Thank you again to all those parents that came in to talk to the inspectors, and also to those of you who completed the questionnaire. Once again a report we can be really proud of. The inspectors saw firsthand how wonderful our children are and were extremely impressed with all the work that we are doing in school. Again the report, which is a wonderful reflection of school, is on the school website.

Apart from that classes have been busy with their own projects working up to our Christmas festivities. I'll leave it to them to share with you.....

## Foundation Stage

The Foundation class have had an exciting time over the last few weeks. They enjoyed designing and making poppies, and saying prayers for soldiers and their families. The children have been working on their letter shapes and being key word detectives. They used tricky finger skills to create a range of birdfeeders, and Christmas tree goodies.



## Year 1



We have had another super half term. Our topic has been Great Explorers and the children have learned some interesting facts about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. They also had to decide which explorer they thought was the greatest and why. In English we enjoyed reading some funny poems, learning a skipping rhyme and began to learn about the structure of non-fiction texts and how they are different to fiction. We read Harvey

Slumfenburger by John Burningham, learned a repeated refrain orally, wrapped our own presents and imagined what would be inside the different shapes. We have continued to use our outside area for enhancing our learning, for example, using 10 green bottles for one less in Mathematics. It was lovely to see so many parents at Parents Evening and we appreciate parents taking the time to write a note back to their child/children after feedback and looking at their work. The children looked great in their spotty costumes for Children in Need. Should we celebrate Harvest or Christmas? provided the big question for our RE learning this term which included the children sharing their own special gifts and saying what gift they would give to Baby Jesus if he'd been born today. The children were fantastic in our KS1 nativity, Magical Christmas Journey. Special thanks again to Mrs Howlett

for enhancing costumes and to Mrs Ruff for the sheep tango! Our busy term ended with a visit to the panto to see Dick Whittington - lots of singing, dancing and glitter! Thank you to all Year 1 parents and carers for your support again this term particularly with homework and reading challenges. The children are doing amazingly well!



## Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic second half to the term! We became scientists at the Science Fair learning how to make all sorts of exciting experiments including bath bombs, lava lamps and bouncy balls. We discovered why Remembrance Day is important and about interesting religious symbols. The highlight of our term has to be performing a 'Magical Christmas Journey' with Year One. We worked incredibly hard learning lines, actions and songs. The performance was amazing and was a fantastic end to the term. Well done Year 2!

## Year 3



Well, what a term it's been! It has been lovely getting to know so many of you, and you can all be proud of your children. They have been working hard, and learning and enjoying the curriculum. Our 'Prehistoric Britain' topic continued to be popular.

Our 'Forces and magnets' science topic was great fun too. Thank you again to those of you who have visited us. The children recalled a huge list of visitors who have joined us

this term, so you all clearly made an impact!

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!

## Year 4

Well, what an action packed half term it has been in Year 4. In art, the children have been exploring working with chalk and reproducing pictures of the rainforest by famous artists. We also had a most enjoyable couple of days tasting tropical fruit that grow in the rainforest. Some of the children had never eaten avocado, melon or passion fruit before! In DT we experimented with weaving yarn and making God's eyes, a typical tribal art form that is used by some rainforest people and in science we have learnt all about the water cycle; all this in addition to our usual hard work in maths and English. We ended the term with a well-deserved class party and are all looking forward to our Christmas break.



## Year 5

It has been a busy half term in Year 5. We have been working with Jake, a coach from MK Dons, in PE. He has been teaching us about healthy lifestyles during theory lessons in class. We learnt about the different food groups, heart rates and the importance of keeping healthy for different parts of the body. Then in practical lessons we were able to experience a variety of sports including football, handball and dodgeball. In Science we have been studying Space and have enjoyed finding out about the different planets.



We have found out how day and night is created and about the phases of the moon. To show how the solar system is organized, we made an Orrery. We thought about the distance of the planets to the sun and their orbits.

We were lucky to have a visit from Rachel from the Bridgebuilders Trust. We did a 'Christmas Cracked' workshop, which involved singing, games and competitions whilst learning about the meaning of Christmas.

## Year 6

It's been another exciting half-term for Year 6 in the run up to the Christmas holidays. As well as their continuing engagement in a range of English, Maths, reading and S.P.A.G activities, the class have also developed their swimming skills with Mrs



Bushell and Mrs Andrews. They've also taken on the ongoing challenge of producing online adverts for the different school clubs, which involves planning, scripting, storyboarding, producing and amending online adverts for a range of different clients. The adverts will be shown and shared with the rest of the school within each new broadcast of 'Newton Longville



News' at the end of each term.

In the coming new year, we have a range of fun, exciting and challenging activities planned for Year 6 across the curriculum, including: research projects into Victorian life; class readings of 'Street Child'; musical production scripting; and creating a range of writing and creative pieces based on H.G.Wells 'War of the Worlds'.

It's been a great start for all the Year 6s and we have nothing but high hopes for 2017!

## Our Newton Longville / Magaya School Twinning

Thank you so much for your interest and support in our new venture!

The children certainly rose to our first challenge - we sent an incredible 106 letters to the children at Magaya School in Zimbabwe, along with a huge number of pencils and notepads which you kindly donated. Thank you! We are looking forward to receiving replies to the letters in the New Year!

The staff have also contributed - we spent a few busy hours sorting through our vast resource collection. Due to changes in the curriculum, we had many perfectly good resources which were no longer relevant to our children, so we boxed these up and have sent these to Magaya School too. We have received a message from Mrs Wachipa, the Headteacher, saying that she and the children are VERY excited about receiving these!

*Our first truck load of boxes were collected on 'Children in Need' day, which seemed very appropriate!*

Many of you have contacted us at school asking about other donations you would like to make for Magaya School and its community. In the new term, we will officially launch an appeal for clothes, shoes, toys, etc. which we will



then arrange to be taken to Zimbabwe. Please keep this in mind if you are having a 'sort out' over the holiday. We will send a letter home in the New Year with further details and dates.

Thank you, in anticipation of your continued generosity.

### And at last to Christmas!.....

What a fantastic time we've all had, from KS1's 'Magical Christmas Journey', to 'Carols by Candle-light' in KS2, and for the first time ever our FS children did their own performance showing just how confident and capable they really are - stars in the making! The children have sung, acted, joked, recited, performed and smiled all the way through, and we are extremely proud of them, as I am sure you are too!

The parties and panto have also gone with a blast and the school has been filled with fun and festivities in classes up to this, the very last day. Thank you to all of you who completed the panto review questionnaire. The result was undoubtable, and we shall be booking a panto again for next year.

And that leaves me just to say.... on behalf of all the staff and children here at school.... may you have....

a very, very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



See you all back at school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

A quick note to all of you wanting to deliver letters or money to the office- Santa has left us a new postbox outside the front door to save you time and solve the problem of the traffic jam by the office in the morning rush.