



*Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear.*

William Shakespeare, All's Well That Ends Well

## A window on our world:

**Topaz Class** has been investigating "Light and Shadows". The children have made shadows and shadow puppets showing that shadows are formed when an opaque object blocks the light source. They have investigated if light travels in a straight line.



In **Amethyst Class** the children have been enjoying the new topic of 'Dark, Light and Christmas'. We started with Halloween and Bonfire night activities, and have enjoyed stories such as 'Owl Babies', 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear' and 'Elmer'. Our Role play area has been transformed into a 'Bear Cave' where the children have enjoyed playing with torches, glow sticks and shiny objects. We are now busy practising songs and dances for our Christmas play which we are doing together with Ruby Class at 10am on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

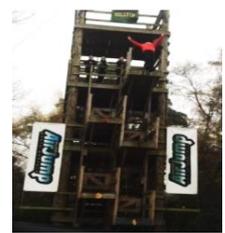


## Hill Top

It was all a bit last minute, but I was delighted to get the opportunity to go to Hill Top and join the year 6 children who had arrived the day before.

I found them queuing excitedly to don hard hats and harnesses and mount the scaffold to the "Super Swing". It looked more like a cross between a trebuchet and something one might have found beneath the Tower of London at the height of the Reformation.

It seemed every activity at Hill Top required a hard hat and harness - witness the so called Pizza Box challenge which required 3 children to scale a telegraph pole, clamber onto a piece of wood the size of a pizza box, hold hands, lean out, let go and then drop to the ground! It was astonishing they way all the children supported and helped each other to complete this very challenging task.



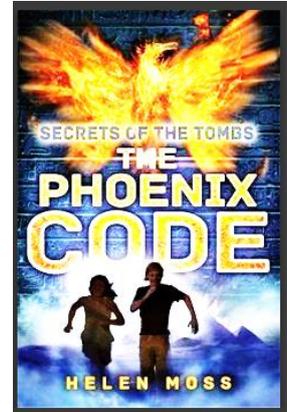
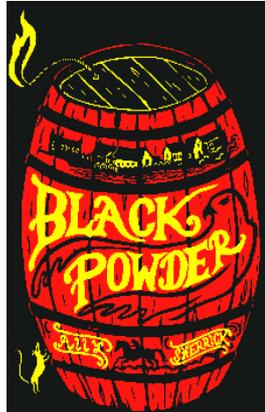
On the last day, the children dispensed with the hard hats and harnesses and, like fledglings, leapt into the air, fearless! Hill Top enabled all the children to learn through enjoyment, self-discovery and reflection and in doing so experience achievement.

Thanks to Mrs Willan for organising the trip, to Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Baker and Mrs Cousins for making it so much fun for the children and to Dr Sutton for being such a delightful road trip partner through the highways and byways of East Anglia.

Mrs C

## Book Club

We are lucky to have the renowned children's author Helen Moss living in our community and even luckier that she is visiting our school every week for a book club with some very keen readers in years 5 and 6. The group is currently reading *The Great Sea Dragon Discovery* by Pippa Goodhart. Next up for book club readers is *Black Powder* by Ally Sherrick. If you have not finished all your Christmas shopping yet, why not add these two books, which come highly recommended by our year 5 and 5 children, to your list?



The Times on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 published a list of books for Christmas, including its children's book of the year: *The Skylarks' War* (9-11) Hilary McKay

Other recommended books included:

*How Winston Delivered Christmas* (5-9) Alex T Smith

*Christmas Stories* (7+) Noel Streatfeild

*The Girl, the Bear and the Magic Shoes* (3-7) Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Lydia Monks

*Nice Work for the Cat and the King* (5+) Nick Sharratt

The Sunday Times publishes its Children's Books of the Year list next week, Sunday 2nd December.

## Remembrance



Children remembered the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of World War 1 during our daily act of collective worship. They stood beautifully and respectfully whilst Mrs O'Conner, one of our peripatetic music teachers, played the Last Post. It was very moving indeed.

All the children made Poppies and Mrs Baker turned the front of the school into a garden of remembrance for the fallen. The children in Sapphire Class wrote poems which reflected their sadness and bewilderment at the futility of war

### Staff Update:

I am delighted to inform you that three new members of staff have recently joined us: Mrs Anna Gomori- Woodcock as a midday supervisor, four days a week; Mrs Catherine Seale as a teaching assistant, three days a week, and Mrs Karen Easey as our Administration and Finance Officer. She is currently working on Thursday and Friday afternoons and, after Christmas, will be with us four days a week.

### Parking:

When dropping off/picking up children at school, please do not park on the pavement. This impedes visibility for those trying to cross the road and access for all pedestrians using the pavements. It is particular dangerous for parents/carers with buggies and people who are disabled and who have to negotiate their way around inconsiderately parked cars. Please also do not use the school's entrance to its car park as a turning point, or any other drive way-it is dangerous!

Inconsiderate parking is a problem at many schools and the services of the police, PCSOs and traffic wardens have been called upon by schools to help them sort out the difficulties parking causes. Let us draw on our school values to cooperate and give us the courage to challenge that which we know needs to be challenged so that our community is one where we all care for each other.

### Community News:

Our children were asked to design the cover for the Christmas edition of Coton Community News. I am thrilled to inform you that they gave those charged with deciding the winner quite a headache! I do not want to pre-empt the Community News by publishing the winning design in this November issue, but I am delighted to announce that the winners are as follows:

#### Amethyst

Winner: Sebastian

Highly Commended: Jack, Hugo, Malachi

#### Ruby

Winner: Rohan

Highly Commended: Flavia, Eva, Tiggi, Alaina,

#### Emerald

Winner: Alfie

Highly Commended: Rohan, Sophie

#### Topaz

Winner: Lorien

Highly Commended: Konstanterios, Fiona, Leonie, Sophie, Lia

#### Sapphire

Winner: Scarlett Balderstone

Highly Commended: Ruth, Jake, Joshua J

The overall winner was **Scarlett** and her design will feature on the cover of the Coton Community News All the winning designs will be published in the school's December newsletter.

### Some reminders:

- 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December: EYFS and KS1 Nativity (Amethyst and Ruby Class) from 10.00am
- 14<sup>th</sup> December: Shhh...Top Secret!
- 16<sup>th</sup> December: PTA Christmas Party
- 17<sup>th</sup> December: Carol Service. 1.30pm St Peters
- 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch
- 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Disco 5.30-7.30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> December: end of term.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January: school closed for staff training
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019: school reopens for children