



"The Christmas presents once opened are Not So Much Fun as they were while we were in the process of examining, lifting, shaking, thinking about, and opening them. Three hundred sixty-five days later, we try again and find that the same thing has happened. Each time the goal is reached, it becomes Not So Much Fun, and we're off to reach the next one, then the next one, then the next. That doesn't mean that the goals we have don't count. They do... it's really the process that's important."

Benjamin Hoff, The Tao of Pooh

It's a Baby!



Children in Amethyst and Ruby Classes excelled themselves with their star turns as angels, weary travellers, kings, shepherds, inn keepers, sheep and cattle. They took us on a journey to Bethlehem 2000 years ago and allowed us to share in the message of peace and goodwill to all mankind. Along the way they told us how they'd all got in a bit of a tizzy as rooms in Bethlehem sold out faster than on *LastBooking.com* but also of the wonderful things that would happen because of the birth of a baby who was laid in a manger.

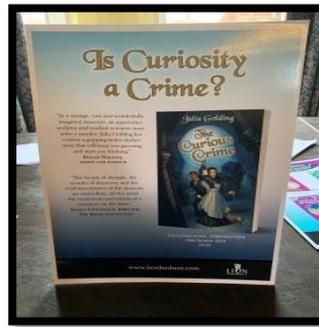
Harmonia Youth Singers

Our after school club choir, Harmonia Youth Singers, run by the simply marvellous Kirsty Body performed a Christmas Countdown Concert on Saturday 1st December at St Ives Free Church. The children performed alongside the two adult choirs that Kirsty also runs (one of which meets here in school on Tuesday evenings.) The children were absolutely brilliant. They sang four numbers by themselves, and then joined the other choirs for the finale songs. They are very proud to have raised £300 for Motor Neurone Disease Association through donations after the concert.

Carol Concert at St Peter's

The Rev. Rebecca Gilbert led the children of Emerald, Topaz and Sapphire Classes, their parents and carers, and their ukuleles, in a candle lit Christmas Carol Concert which took place at the lovely Church of St Peter's. All the children sang beautifully and the year 6 children read from the gospels.

Years 5 and 6 Visit to Girton College



At the end of November, we were fortunate enough to be invited to Girton College by the author Julia Golding for the launch and a signing of her latest book. Julia spoke to the Year 5 and 6 children about how her career in writing had come about after living as a British Ambassador and then as an Oxfam aid worker. She publishes a variety of genres under many different names; her latest offering, '*The Curious Crime*', is a murder mystery for younger readers, which Julia read an extract from to pique the children's interest. Girton College afforded a quite beautiful backdrop for the event (despite some extensive construction work going on) – it's rewarding for the children to see the academic milieu that is sometimes forgotten when living in the City of Cambridge with all its impressive commercial and technical components.

Aladdin!



On the last Friday of term, 124 children and 31 adults set off from Coton to join the audience to see stars of stage and screen tread the boards in Aladdin at The Cambridge Arts Theatre. A huge "thank you" to all our parents, carers and staff who kept this whole school trip top secret for so long. It was an immensely enjoyable production filled with thrills, spills, slapstick and a hilariously slick laundry scene. It took us on a raucous rickshaw ride to Old Peking, a land where no expense had been spared on costumes fashioned from a fiesta of flammable fabrics that made Strictly's seem positively pedestrian. This uniquely British institution gave us all, adults and children alike, the opportunity to sing along to "Baby Shark", clap our hands, look behind us and, of course, boo and hiss at a wickedly malevolent baddie in the shape of Wayne Sleep. Thank you to the volunteers and members of staff who so generously gave their own time to make these magical moments for our children.

A peek at the Thursday afternoon carousel

Music:

In classroom music this term we have mainly been learning the ukulele. Thanks to Cambridgeshire Holiday Orchestra Association, we have had the loan of 30 instruments and have been strumming chords to lots of different songs, the most popular being Yellow Submarine and Hound Dog. We have also learnt about The Beatles, a little about Elvis, and the structure of the 12 bar blues.

Spanish:

Emerald Class: This term we have worked on numbers, personal details (name, age, greetings and feelings) and phonics (with some interesting tongue twisters!). We are currently working on pencil case contents as well as singing Christmas carols. Next term we shall be learning how Epiphany is celebrated in Spain.

Topaz Class: We looked at where Spanish is spoken in the world and revised our numbers. The children have been learning about how to tell the time and they made a paper clock. We are combining this with meal times and are focusing on breakfast at the moment (at what time do they have breakfast in Spain and what do they eat).

Sapphire Class: We started the year with some geography (where is Spanish spoken in the world). We worked on interrogative forms (where, who, which, when, what, why). The year 6 children should now be able to tell the time and talk about breakfast (what they eat and at what time).

Dates for your Diary

- 3rd and 4th January: school closed for staff training
- 7th January 2019: school reopens for children
- 14th February: Valentine's Day Spring Concert
- 18th-22nd February: Spring Half Term
- 7th March: World Book Day
- 22nd March: KS2 trip to Royal Albert Hall- to be confirmed
- 5th April: end of Spring Term
- 23rd April: start of Summer Term
- 13th-16th May: KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests (KS2 SATS)
- May: KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests will take place during the month of May
- 10th- 14th June: Phonics Screening, year 1
- 6th May: May Day holiday- school closed
- 27th- 31st May: Spring Half Term
- 23rd July: last day of term for children
- 24th July: school closed for staff training

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

Abraham Lincoln