



Wimborne First News

Wimborne First School & Nursery

December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

The last half term has flown by, I hope all the information shows we have still been able to do some amazing things throughout the term despite COVID restrictions. The

children have had an amazing couple of weeks focusing on Christmas and we have had lots of laughter and fun.

From phonics, reading and maths to reindeer, present sales, sticker charts, and so much more! Everyone has worked so hard to keep the school going and we have made it to Christmas. Thank you everyone.

The children as ever have been amazing and we finish the week on a high. Thank you for all your support, we will see you on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Enjoy a lovely break with your families, stay safe and enjoy some time together.

Sarah Hartley

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT



As part of our Christmas preparations Foxes class participated in the Community Christmas Tree project, collaborating with the Museum of East Dorset (Priest House) and other local first schools. The children wrote messages explaining why Christmas is important to them which were attached to the back of Christmas tree decorations. The decorated tree can be seen in the entrance gallery of the Museum of East Dorset throughout the month of December from the High Street in Wimborne. The project aims to act as a beacon of hope and a symbol of our community spirit despite the tough year we have all endured.



Colours Bright and Sparkly Lights

Butterflies and Bumblebees - Reception



What a busy half term it has been! The children have grown so much and made everyone proud. Their learning journey has taken them from new members of Wimborne First School & Nursery, to independent and confident classmates! We have all thoroughly enjoyed our Winter Wonderland celebrations these last two weeks. Particular highlights being our Christmas party and meeting Santa's reindeer Comet and Prancer. Amongst all the fun, the children have still found time to work with numbers to 5. They have had lots of practice counting on and back, finding the total of two numbers and recognising and describing common 2D shapes. They have also worked hard to learn all of the 'set one' sounds and to read and write simple green and red words. Our Colours Bright and Sparkly Lights topic started with a firework fun week, where the children made edible sparklers, colourful



repeating patterns, created fantastic Kandinsky pictures and read and enjoyed the story of The Rainbow Fish. We look forward to next half term,



where the children will continue their learning journey through our new topic: Happily Ever After. Thank you for all of your support this term. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Autumn highlights...

Hedgehogs and Mice - Year 1



We have had a fantastic Autumn Term with our wonderful Hedgehogs and Mice! The children have exceeded our expectations and we are super proud of how hard they have all worked. We have had a very busy term doing lots of exciting things...

For our Sparkly Starter, we visited our woodland area and listened to the story 'The Owl who is afraid of the dark'. The children all enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows on our fire pit. In Science we have been learning about light sources and investigating how shadows work. We loved drawing around our shadows at different points throughout the day and were amazed with our findings. We were a bit disappointed when the sun went behind the clouds but this generated a lot of discussions about why we could no longer see our shadows. In Art, the children became mini Van Goughs and created their own Starry Night pictures using pastels and water coloured paints. The results were fantastic!

We have also been enjoying all the amazing Christmas treats Mrs Hartley



has arranged for us. Our Christmas party was so much fun! We danced, played games and even watched a panto. We loved learning our dance and songs for our Christmas production and hope you all enjoy watching us 'strut our stuff' on Wednesday for our virtual premier! But, the best treat of all was having a message from Father Christmas himself and then being able to visit his reindeer.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. Make sure you all rest over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you next half term!



HAPPY HABITATS

Robins and wrens - Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic time learning all about animals and their habitats. We started our topic by becoming palaeontologists for the day, as we took a trip back in time to the land of dinosaurs. To begin with, we dug for dinosaur remains as we carefully excavated the bones from the clay. We then sketched some dinosaurs and matched them to their habitats. We finished off our sparkly starter by making our very own ammonite using salt dough. What a busy day!

Our topic didn't stop there as we became super Science detectives and looked for insect microhabitats around the new school grounds. Using our knowledge of microhabitats, we designed and built our very own bug hotel!!

Towards the end of the term, all the festive activities started and the children blew our socks off with their incredible singing for our virtual Christmas performance. They also enjoyed a trip to the Christmas shop where they bought some lovely presents for their families. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support throughout this particularly hard term and we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE REHEARSALS!

Squirrels and Rabbits
- Year 3

This term we have spent the last few weeks throwing ourselves into our rehearsals for our song, dance and poem to put into the Christmas video this year. We have had an amazing and very festive time, learning our song words, practising our dance moves in our PE lessons and also studying Christmas poems in our English lessons. We even picked some to perform for the video! We hope you enjoy watching it!

Christmas Party day!

Year 3 had such a fabulous time during our winter wonderland party day! In the morning, we visited the Christmas shop to buy presents for our friends and family, then we enjoyed a bit of a party in our classrooms playing games like musical statues! The highlight of the day was our delicious Christmas dinner that we ate and had our first year group meal in the school hall! To finish off the day of fun, we enjoyed a pantomime on the screens in our class and even had an ice cream during the 'interval' just like in the theatre! It was safe to say that a great day was had by all.



MUMMIFYING FISH!

Badgers and Foxes
- Year 4

What an unusual start to this half term... Mummifying Fish! The children had a fantastic afternoon, extracting the organs and using a present day version of a Natron Salt to stuff the fish. To preserve the mummies, we left them for a few weeks before unwrapping them. We discovered the fish had begun the process of mummification, however were still quite smelly!

Around the world we go,,, As we began our new topic 'Going Crackers' we took a trip around the world, exploring the term longitude, latitude, northern and southern hemisphere. The children became explorers and located different countries on a world map, before we landed on Mexico and Poland. This started our discovery of how 'Christmas is celebrated around the world'. The children explored the differences between how Christmas is celebrated in Poland and Mexico and were surprised to find out some rather interesting facts.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our book 'The Iron Man' this half term the children were on the edge of their seats waiting



to find out what happened next. The children worked hard to answer questions about the book and become news reporters. They enjoyed learning about the key features of a Newspaper report and innovating their reports to include their very own creature landing on Earth!

Little Caterpillars Nursery

What a magical time of year it has been at Little Caterpillars! The Gruffalo has been a big part of this half of term. We have been listening to the story, joining in with re-telling the story, as well as making some very yummy Gruffalo rice crispy cakes. We also created our own Gruffalo hats, which the children have used in their role play. We have had some very fierce Gruffalo's indeed! On a walk to the school field, the children found something a bit strange... Real Gruffalo foot prints! We now keep a very close eye out for him incase he comes to visit again. The children have been truly captured by the magic of Christmas, all starting with our arrival of Elvis the cheeky Christmas Elf. On the 1st of December, when we arrived, we discovered some very large muddy footprints, as well as some very small snowy footprints, that had been walked through the nursery. We thought this was very odd indeed and so we followed the footprints to a sack that had been left. At carpet time we decided it would be a good idea to open it up and inside we discovered a letter from Father Christmas asking Little

Caterpillars to teach Elvis how to do good listening and good helping as he was being far too cheeky at the North Pole. Little Caterpillars have been taking the task very seriously and have been amazing at teaching Elvis how to do the right thing. We have introduced our very own 'Dream Team Jar' and every time everyone does fantastic working together (e.g. playing or building something together or tidying up) a very special pom pom goes inside the jar. Once the jar is filled the children can choose an exciting activity to do together which will take place after the holidays. We are really looking forward to this as the children have come up with some brilliant ideas! We have been very busy making some beautiful salt dough decorations for our Christmas tree and taking part in all kinds of crafty activities. We also had such a great time at our Christmas party next week! We are so proud of all of our Little Caterpillars for settling in to nursery so well this term and we are very excited to welcome every one back in January. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



REINDEER

We were so excited this week to have Santa send in his special helpers for Christmas. A big thank you to N and J Heavy Horses where the reindeer came from, it was very exciting. The children and staff loved them.



Good Lighting Award



Socially distanced in the presentation photograph

(left to right) are site manager Andy Best, CfDS coordinator Bob Mizon, head teacher Mrs Sarah Hartley, Craig Thurgood of Dorset Assets and Property Team, Phil Lucas, chairman of the local Wessex Astronomical Society, and Richard Burden, Principal Landscape and Planning Officer of the Cranborne Chase AONB.

Photos: Melanie Capper, Cranborne Chase AONB.

On 8th December 2020 a new first-class lighting installation in Dorset received the BAA Commission for Dark Skies' Good Lighting Award. Certificates were presented to the recently completed Wimborne First School and to the Dorset Council Assets and Property Team who supplied the custom-made scheme. Exterior lights at the school, on the northern edge of the town, were designed with the surrounding environment

in mind. Sensors ensure that they come on only when needed. With a 'warm' colour temperature of 3000K and directed strictly onto the area to be lit, the car park lights and small, shielded building downlighters respect local biodiversity and the superb night skies of the newest International Dark Sky Reserve in Britain, the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the border of which is close to the school site.



WELLIES AND WATERPROOFS AREA

As you may have seen, we have started to develop some of the grounds now, in particular the Wellies and Waterproofs area. We have had our first teaching session up there, with Year 1 having story time accompanied by toasted marshmallows from the fire pit. The Centenary Plaque has been installed and looks great, and the Fernery has been planted behind it. Thanks to Simon Joyce of Jewson Poole for organising and paying for the removal from the old school and the installation up here. Also Thanks to Andy Mountford (builder) for his work on the project. The composting toilet is now ready to install and reinstate, and we have started a small log pile to encourage biodiversity in the area.

We have also planted a beautiful real Christmas Tree in the area, which will be celebrated for many years to come. Thanks for Mrs De La Haye for donating this to us, and Scott at Milton Roofing for transporting it and helping to transplant it.

Finally for now, the Outdoor Classroom has been installed which will allow us to increase the number of teaching sessions in the area, once we have fenced off the wildlife pond. We are looking for things to use in Mud Kitchens, so if you have any old pots and pans or kitchen utensils that you no longer want please think of us. We can recycle them, give them a new life, rather than them just being thrown out.



Children In Need

We had to keep Children In Need a little more low key this year. However with all the children feeding Pudsey, and added to the on line donations we managed to raise £473. Thank you so much for supporting BBC Children in Need this year! We know it's been a really challenging time for everyone, so your support means more than ever! All monies raised are put to work all year round in communities right across the UK. It funds local charities and projects who help remove the barriers that are facing children and young people, so that they can thrive. Children in Need work closely with a whole range of organisations so they can understand where the need is greatest, ensuring the money raised goes to supporting the young people that need it most.

Lunchtime Supervisors

I just wanted to introduce you to our amazing lunchtime supervisor team. They have been amazing through COVID and during the last term. They are so flexible and have been willing to do anything to help the school run smoothly. We are so happy that they are part of the school community.



Wimborne Food Bank

Once again when we asked for you to support the Wimborne Food Bank you did not let us down. The trolley was filled every day with tins of food, pasta, toiletries and everything else needed to support those people that need a little extra support themselves, in these uncertain times. The items are currently in quarantine but they will be taken to the food bank before half term, so that they can be distributed as and when needed.

The food bank provides enough food for breakfast, lunch and tea for 3 – 4 days. Most of the food is tinned or in packets, such as rice and pasta. Sometimes they are also able to offer a very limited range of fresh fruit and vegetables and bread. They are based at Leigh Park Community Centre, Gordon Road, Wimborne. They always welcome donations and items can be dropped in between 12pm and 2pm on Fridays. Thanks once again for your amazing generosity.

Thank You

Remembrance Day

We normally mark this day by sending a few children to The Minster to commemorate and remember why we wear Poppies. However under the current circumstances this was not possible. Therefore we asked every child to colour in a poppy, which we then made into a very large, and we think you will agree very effective poppy. The setting for the tribute was chosen to have the maximum impact within the school and the wider community. We have also managed to save the Poppy and it can be reused for future years, as the tribute seemed to go down very well.

