



Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 5th December 2023

What an exciting end to the Autumn term we have had! The children's excitement in the build up to Christmas is such a joy to experience.

We were immensely proud of all the children as they performed in their Christmas shows last week. Thank you all for your support with these as well as your positive feedback. Many of you have commented on the exceptional dancing, performing and singing. My thanks to the staff for all their incredible hard work in preparing such professional performances.

Over the past 2 weeks, children have thoroughly enjoyed a plethora of Christmas activities, including baking in years 1, 2, 3 and 4 and sewing in years 2, 4 and 6. There was much excitement on Tuesday afternoon as Father Christmas came to visit the children during their parties and provided them with a treat. He reassured us all the children are still on the good list!

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the Carol service today. It was a very special service and it is always delightful to be able to come together as a school community to celebrate Christmas.

All that remains for me to say is a huge thank you to you all; the staff and I feel very blessed to work together with parents who are so supportive of all we do. Barford is a very special community which we are all very thankful to be a part of.

Wishing you all a most joyous and peaceful Christmas period,

Mrs Mary Baker



FABs Christmas Fair

Huge thanks to Mr & Mrs Olorenshaw, Mrs Stokes, Mr & Mrs Gibson, Mrs Barber, Miss Lynch, Mr Trimble and all the FABs team and parents who generously gave up their time to help to put on our Christmas Fair on Wednesday. Thank you all for supporting this with such generosity and helping us to raise a whopping £1500! The choir performance was excellent; thank you to the children and Mrs Rose for their performance!

Very Serious Christmas Message

This morning Mrs Rose shared a very serious Christmas message with the children in assembly. It is available to see on the school website if you'd like to watch it! Merry Christmas to you all from all the staff.

Turn on the Subtitles

Do take a look at <https://turnonthesubtitles.org/> It's such a simple concept that requires no effort but can help children to develop their reading and literacy skills.

There is a podcast which provides some information about the research and advocates of the programme which might be interesting for teachers: <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-g359q-15223ae>

St. Peter's Crib Service

There will be a crib service at St. Peter's church on Sunday at 4pm. All are welcome to attend!



What we've been learning

Reception

Firstly, Reception staff have been so proud of the Reception children with their rehearsing and performances in our Nativity play last week. Their behaviour and performing were outstanding, and they all shone like stars as they wiggled and jiggled as sheep and shepherds in their dance.

What a fun couple of weeks we have had to end such a fantastic first term in school. The children have embraced our learning themes so well, and started to lead their own learning which has been very creative. Our book theme has been 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson, but we have also been busy getting ready for Christmas! We have been finding out about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, also celebrated within our class community. We made Hanukkah candles including a Shamash ('helper') candle used to light a candle each day for 8 days.

We had lots of fun celebrating in school this week, but our magic moments include it snowing as we left after our Christmas party (even if it wasn't real!), and our visit from Father Christmas!



Year 1

In year 1 in English we have been writing about Guy Fawkes and we have also been practising writing our tricky words in our neatest handwriting.

In maths we have been thinking about counting to and within 20, including solving problems. We have also been making repeating patterns with shapes.

In science we have been learning about the seasons and how the weather and plants change in Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer.

We really enjoy performing our Christmas play to all the families, it was great fun! On Tuesday we had our Christmas party where we shared some food and had some games and dancing!

With Mrs Baker we practised our mixing, rolling and cutting skills to make shortbread which was delicious.

Year 2

It has been a busy two weeks for year 2! We have two D.T. projects that we are working on. We are making our cars with moving axles and wheels. We have designed a toy car of the future. We have also started sewing some Christmas decorations. It's really hard to keep the thread on the needle! We have also been writing instructions on how to make our cars and working hard on column subtraction.

We really loved performing in our nativity and then watching a professional nativity too. In RE we have been making our own adverts inviting people to church to get involved in the Christmas celebrations that happen in church over Christmas time. We have also had our Christmas party and finished our science topic by looking at food chains. Merry Christmas everyone!

Year 3

In year 3 in computing we have been doing our Christmas project using 'scratch'. In art we have been doing collages of volcanoes erupting and what was around them.

In science we have been learning about animal and human bones, then testing our knowledge to see what we have learned so far! On Monday we started doing our D.T. project which is making a Christmas card with movement using levers and sliders. Last week on Wednesday we went to see *Nativity the Musical* because it had some of our YR6 friends in it! On Tuesday we had our Christmas party where we played lots of games including musical statues. We also saw Father Christmas!

Year 4

In D.T., we have been developing our sewing skills by creating a Christmas tree decoration for a refugee family spending their first Christmas in the UK. We have had to practise our running stitch, as well as learning how to do blanket stitch. Our decoration had to have at least three sewn elements onto it, and our class came up with so many ideas and designs! In the end we all made

something to be proud of, and we know they will look brilliant on a Christmas tree!

We also really enjoyed our Christmas party this week and extended our creative skills to making mince pies with Mrs Baker!

Year 5

This week, we have been busy in English creating our own set of instructions. Our instructions are very important, as, inspired by The Grinch himself, they are helping you understand "How to steal Christmas". We had a great time sharing the book as a class and then identifying all the right equipment needed and breaking down the necessary steps ready to write our own set of instructions.

We made our chocolate bars last week - they were really delicious! We spent a lot of time working incredibly hard on the packaging. We then had to do the final step of the DT process - the evaluation. We thought carefully and considered changes we would make if we were to remake our chocolate bars or do this again in the future.

In maths this week to cement our recent learning on fractions, multiplication & division and addition & subtraction, we completed a maths mystery challenge! We had to work in teams to solve different problems focussed on these areas (the ones we have been working on during the Autumn term) to crack the code and reveal the answer to the mystery. It was really good fun, we had to work quickly yet accurately and most importantly collaboratively!

In Spanish, we celebrated all things Christmas and new year! We ate grapes, as traditionally done on New Years Eve, at midnight in Spain. Each grape and clock strike equals the coming 12 months. We also sang Feliz Navidad.

We also finished our two autumn term class novels 'Charlie & The chocolate Factory' and 'The Boy at the back of the class' we thoroughly enjoyed both!

Year 6

In year 6 we have been focusing on our class book: Treason. We also have been learning about Elizabeth I and Mary I (bloody Mary). In Maths we have been ordering fractions with different denominators. In English, we have been writing balanced arguments

about whether 'King Henry VIII was a good king or a bad king'. In P.E the class enjoyed a session of bench ball with Miss Lane. Recently, we all went to the Bridge house theatre to watch Nativity the musical. We were proud to see three members of our class in it.

In D.T. we learned to use a range of stitches and techniques to create our Christmas cushions, we were very proud of how brilliant they looked!

Autumn Term Dates 2023

| Date & Time | Event |
|---|--|
| Monday 11 th December 2pm | KS1 & Reception Christmas Show |
| Tuesday 12 th December 5pm | KS1 & Reception Christmas Show |
| Wednesday 13 th December 10am | Whole school visit to 'Nativity' |
| Thursday 14 th December 5pm | KS2 Christmas Performance (Years 3/4/5) |
| Friday 15 th December 2pm | KS2 Christmas Performance (Years 3/4/5) |
| Wednesday 20 th December | Christmas Lunch |
| Wednesday 20 th December 3.30pm | *New* FABs Mini Christmas Fayre |
| Thursday 21 st December 1.30pm | Christmas Carol Service @St. Peter's Church SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2.30pm |
| Friday 22 nd December | INSET DAY |

Spring Term Dates 2024

| Date & Time | Event |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Monday 8 th January | INSET day |
| Tuesday 9 th January | Children return to school |
| Friday 19 th January | Year 3 Cake Sale |
| Friday 26 th January | FABs Movie Night |
| Tuesday 6 th February | Safer Internet Day |
| Wednesday 7 th February | Parents' meetings |
| Thursday 8 th February | Parents' meetings |
| Friday 9 th February | Year 2 Cake Sale |
| Monday 12 th February to Friday 16 th February | Half term |
| Thursday 7 th March | World Book Day |
| Monday 11 th March | Science Week |
| Friday 15 th March | FABs Disco |
| Thursday 21 st March 2pm | Easter Service @ St. Peter's Church |
| Friday 22 nd March | End of Term |

MERRY CHRISTMAS!