



## Newsletter No.8

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

The Christmas break is upon us! The seasonal holiday has snuck up on us once again, the autumn term has flown by. As the term has drawn to a close we have been delighted to welcome you all to join us in various events; Reception's nativity, Church services and Carols Around the Tree. Christmas dinner was a lovely whole school event and the children's whole school Christmas cards decorated the hall along with our Christmas tree for a full festive feel.

*To finish the term the year groups have shared their favourite learning and experiences. Do ask your child about their favourite moments in their current year group as well, they may add a few surprises!*

### Reception

This term Wrens and Robins have loved doing phonics and learning our new sounds. We particularly enjoyed it when the Elves came to stay in our Woodland area. We were excited to write them lots of messages and make them lots of presents! We could not believe it when they wrote back to us!

We also enjoyed being detectives and finding our lost toys- Kipper and Monty! They were stolen by 'Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh' and we cunningly foiled their plans by making traps and maps for them!

Finally, we have loved performing our Nativity. Learning the songs has been so much fun (photos below left)!



### Year 1

Year 1 have been learning all about animals. We had an exciting trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park and saw lots of fascinating creatures. We enjoyed writing about the tigers we saw and have made posters about tigers for Shepreth. We particularly enjoyed learning to identify carnivores. (photos above right)

### Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful autumn term. One of our highlights was the breakfast week event where we tasted different sausages, made pancakes and spoke to a farmer about how much a square metre of his field can produce. We also loved learning about spiders. We created our own non-fiction posters and shared these with the Year 1's. As well as this, we wrote our own version of 'How Anansi got Eight, Skinny Legs'. Our stories are now in our classrooms for each other to read. (photos above right)

### Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed their Stone Age topic this term and particularly making fossils and weaving. They did wonders with milk cartons to create Woolly Mammoths. In our science unit on rocks they were able to experiment with sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic 'rocks' using chocolate! They were proud of their

'bugs' inspired by 'James and the Giant Peach' and this lead to great writing of reports about their creatures. Photos below left.



Mon pull de Noël est marron et bleu. Mon pull de Noël a un renne et un cadeau.

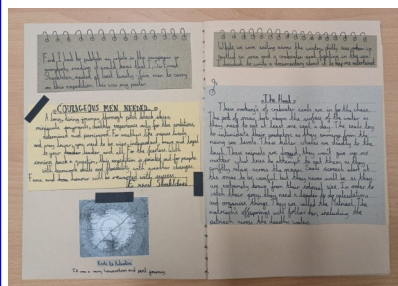


## Year 4

Year 4 have been using charcoal to create tone in our drawings of the Maya ruler King K'ak' Tiliw Chan Yopaat of Quirigua. We used a grid to make our drawings as accurate as possible and help us record all the details that showed the Ancient Maya he was a powerful ruler. We have also been doing some Christmas writing in French ready to send off to a school in Brittany. We learned Christmas vocabulary and used colour adjectives to describe them. Photos above right.

## Year 5

This term has been a real adventure in Year 5: from the witchery of Macbeth and Dahl to the singing of sea shanties to parents; from discovering the joys of Cambridge on the Number 7 Bus, all the way through to surviving the creation of Shackleton's Hoosh, it has been a voyage of delight. Thank you, Year 5 children, for taking us with you. Now, in preparation for next term's Victorian topic, we have been enjoying an abridged "A Christmas Carol", before we dive into another Dicken's classic: "Oliver Twist". No "Bah! Humbug" from us in Year 5! Merry Christmas, one and all! Photos below left.



## Year 6

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their Autumn Term. Highlights have included: the class novel Letters from the Lighthouse that left us in suspense, going back in time for our History Off the Page day, revising our grammar with Grammarsaurus videos sing alongs and creating 3D Christmas decorations in Maths. One of most memorable things for the majority of the children has been stepping into their role as a buddy for the reception children. They have really enjoyed visiting their buddies at lunch time and the task of creating a working carousel for them was no mean feat but one that they undertook with great effort, resilience and creativity. Photos below left.



As you can see it has been an actioned packed term for all. Your children continue to amaze and inspire us as they soar to success! As with any school, the hard work of the whole school community comes together to help the children do their best. **We would like to extend our warmest wishes and thanks to you all for your support of the children. Parents, carers, staff, governors, FABS and the wider community all come together to make the children's school experience the best it can be and we are grateful for all your contributions!**

As the term ends, I am pleased to share an update from our wellbeing committee, the details of their most recent meeting are attached with some useful strategies that may help if the festive season becomes a little overwhelming. Speaking of the wider school community, we are pleased to attach Premier wrap around care's Ofsted report which had a positive outcome, well done to all the team and the children, the provision has grown in size and strength over the years since it began.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and enjoy the time with your families. If you need some inspiration, we can recommend 12 days wild as a great opportunity to get outside this winter: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/banish-winter-blues-12-days-wild> . If you are looking for something indoors the Fitzwilliam or one of the many University museums in town are a great free opportunity: [www.museums.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/) . If you are looking to do something at home the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artist Summer Show competition is taking entries in the New Year: <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/> . You could help your children get ahead with their entries!

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 4th January 2024. Please see the initial diary dates for the term attached below and note that we are delighted to have a whole school pantomime performance in school on Friday 12th January.

**Best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas break.**



Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney

**Parent diary dates:**

(this list will be updated as the year goes on and dates are added so do keep checking it in each newsletter)

Week beginning	Key dates so far
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January: Spring term starts
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January: Whole school pantomime (at school)
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January: Big Bird watch assembly Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January: Year 4 Bikeability
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January: Year 5 and 6 National Measuring Programme Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January: English Challenge Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January: Young Voices Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February: FABS KS1 Disco
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February: Parent Consultations pm Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February: Parent Consultations am
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	HALF TERM WEEK: NO SCHOOL
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March: FABS KS2 Disco
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March: Singing with The Perse at Saffron Hall, Year 5
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March: Book Fair Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March: Dental Survey Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March: FABS Easter Bingo
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March: Last day of term Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March: Good Friday, Easter holidays

**Remaining term dates for the 2023 – 2024 school year:****Spring term 2024**

**Term Starts** Thursday 4th January 2024

**Half term** 19th – 23rd February 2024

**Spring term closes** Thursday 28th March 2024

**Summer term 2024**

**Term Starts** Monday 15th April 2024

**May Day** Monday 6th May 2024

**Half term** 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Summer term closes** Thursday 18th July

**Professional Day** Friday 19th July (no school)

**Professional Day** Monday 22nd July (no school)