



St Katharine's Knockholt Church of England Primary



Newsletter 7 - December 2022

With only a few days left to open doors on Advent calendars, the excitement is building!

As ever, it has been a busy term and we were proud to share all that we do and the ethos that makes St Katharine's such a wonderful place to learn and work during our recent OFSTED visit. I look forward to sharing the inspector's report with you as soon as I am able to.

After several years of COVID-impacted Christmases, it was wonderful to be able to return to our usual routines and welcome families to the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone involved for all the generous donations and support that you gave. Every child will benefit from the funds raised. We also invited our KS1 and YR parents into school for the children's wonderful Nativity performances. I'm sure you will agree that the children sang and spoke with amazing confidence, clarity and enthusiasm. Thank you to all of the children and staff who worked so hard to put these shows together.



As well as our connection to Gambia, our links with the local community are important to us and Y5 and Y6, led by Mrs Bennett, enjoyed singing to the residents at Nesbitt House.



In amongst all the busyness, I have been impressed with the children's understanding of the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of Jesus. To underpin this, Year 5 and 6 took part in an interactive workshop run by Crosstech designed to explore the Christmas story and to nurture personal spiritual development and the whole school came together to celebrate in church at our Christmas service.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

Best wishes

Miss Tormey



Hedgehog Class

The children in Hedgehogs have had a busy term! We've learnt lots of phonics sounds and have done some super writing on Stickman and penguins. Hedgehogs had Dance and Drama this term too. The children have loved learning some key drama skills and games. Thank



you, Mrs Doll! This term we have continued with our Forest School Fridays too and have had some magical experiences in the forest like making our woven Christmas trees and jingle sticks and getting muddy too. Thank you, Mrs Wilson!



The children also enjoyed preparing for the Christmas Fayre by creating their craft bags and, of course, we have been preparing for our Nativity too! Every child was a super star, we are very proud! We can't wait to see everyone again in the New Year. Merry Christmas, Hedgehogs!



Robins Class

Our Robins class has worked hard on developing their fundamental skills in PE.



Our keen mathematicians have used ten frames, numicon, whiteboards, part-whole models and counters to investigate numbers and learnt the concept of addition and subtraction.



Our young writers experienced the warmth and glow of a real candle before writing their version of the story 'Little Glow'. They read about all the festivals celebrated around the world which are connected to light from Christmas to Diwali and from Chinese New Year to Bonfire night!



In RE they worked together to create an Advent wreath.



Squirrels Class



What a busy term we have had in Squirrels! In art, we explored printing techniques, looking at pattern and colour-blending and eventually created our own polar bear motif printing blocks to support our topic on Polar Exploration.



In literacy, we wrote non-chronological reports on polar bears. We then used these skills to create a report on an imaginary polar creature. We wrote a funny story about Father Christmas' dilemma, when he accidentally shaved his beard off. We also wrote letters to Father Christmas and each of us actually got our own personal reply which was found when we followed a trail of glitter! We explored different types of poems including Haikus, acrostic, comparative and traditional rhyme and collaborated with partners to invent our own. Our favourite numeracy lesson this term was when we found the hidden questions under the tables and around the classroom.



We were busy with Christmas craft, including filling wellies with mud and hyacinths and making home-made fudge along with many other creative masterpieces.

To finish off the year, we cannot wait to perform our Christmas Nativity – Prickly Hay!



Rabbits Class

We can't believe how much we have managed to do in Rabbits Class this term - rock experiments, programming music on computers, Christmas preparations and not forgetting the highlight that was our trip to the Museum of Kent Life! On our trip we became experimental archaeologists and found out the best way to grind wheat; felt real deer fur (just like Stone Age people would have made into clothes); did some cave art using charcoal; learnt how tools and weapons became more efficient; pulled a primitive plough like our ancestor might have used; and we even met with a grumpy and hilarious Stone Age man who told us all about his life.



Phew!!!! It's going to be time for a well-deserved holiday! Have a very Merry Christmas everyone!



Owls Class

Wow, what an exciting term we have had! It started with receiving letters from our Gambian pen pals, a few of which we shared with the rest of the school in the Gambian assembly. In science, we have been learning about digestion and teeth.



In art we have looked at some different artists, including Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, and Kandinsky, and used a variety of media to create our own surrealist, impressionist and pop art pictures for our 2023 calendars.

The highlight, however, was our Roman day where we dressed as Romans and (with some welcome parent help) enjoyed using hacksaws, glue guns, tiny tiles and hot wax to make Roman Catapults, tablets and mosaics. We are now coming to the end of our Roman experience and are looking forward to our next topic – Rivers.



Otters Class

As part of our learning about the history of music and music from other cultures, Otter class visited the Gamelan orchestra at Sevenoaks School and played the instruments with the help of school.



students from the

We learnt lots about our geography topic - North America - and wrote our own travel brochures. We also learnt and performed the dance "America" from West Side Story with Mrs Doll.

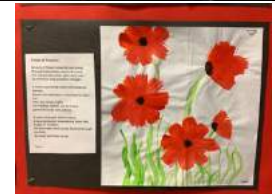


DT had a Christmas craft focus this term and we created calendars using vector drawing and improved our use of tools and our sewing techniques. We hope you enjoyed the results!



Badgers Class

It has been a busy and productive term in Year 6. With bike-ability, the TT Rockstars' House cup and a range of other exciting events (including our trip to Mary Poppins!), we have managed to squeeze in some learning as well. The children have experienced a range of art activities over the course of this term. They have painted poppies to decorate their Remembrance poems, carved lino for William Morris-style printing and even stitched together their very own tote-bags for their Christmas craft. It has been a constant hive of activity and we are certainly looking forward to a "rest" over the Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas! Mr Freeman, Mrs Richardson and Badgers Class

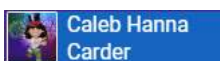


House News

This term, the children from KS2 were invited to participate in the inaugural Times Table House Cup. Bumble, Carder, Honey and Mason went head-to-head to earn the title of House Rockstars. It was a fantastic 10 days with children putting in huge amounts of effort to help their house achieve victory, but unfortunately there could only be one winner...



CONGRATULATIONS to Carder who scored a massive victory this time round. Many congratulations also to the individual house champions who earned the most points for their houses:



Caleb Hanna
Carder



David Bosch
Bumble



Charlie Assender
Honey



Ethan Boatwright
Mason

We hope for the return of the TT Rockstars' House Cup later in the year and I hope to see as much effort from everyone again as I did this time around!

Rock On! Brett Rollins (aka Mr Freeman)

Club News

Our key stage 1 weaving club, led by Mrs Mathur, has provided our emerging weavers opportunities to weave with range of materials.



This has helped them to learn to focus, build eye-hand co-ordination and upcycle materials to create beautiful woven art pieces.



Sports News

Football

Wednesday 30th – we played 2 matches - both were against good opposition. The first, against Dunton Green, ended 0-0, but was an exciting game to watch. We have a strong forward line and defence with a very capable goalkeeper. Lots of shots from our team were saved by their excellent goalie. All 9 of our players contributed, with rolling subs keeping players fresh.

The second game was against Ightham and this was very exciting. They had a good game plan with lots of passing, forcing us to be more alert. But we have some excellent and powerful kickers and we soon took the lead. We scored 4 goals and they came back with 3, just before the end of the game. We held on to keep the win!

Well done team and thank you to all parents and guardians who come along to support. Squad players: Jacob, Poppy, Heidi, Dexter, Charlie, Ronan, Frankie, Owen and Gunner.

Next match: Tuesday 17 January.

Netball



Our netballers have enjoyed training sessions and playing in the tournaments. The team, made up of players from years 4, 5 & 6, have played well in the tournaments this term showing great strength of character, teamwork, growing



skills and sportsmanship. The results may not always have gone our way, but they have approached each game with a positive attitude and determination to enjoy the opportunity and to learn from their experiences. A fabulous effort and a big well done to all of them, including those who are part of the netball club and part of the wider St Katharine's Netball Team.

Our thanks go to Mrs Barker for coaching and accompanying the children to all the matches.

PTA News

Wow, what an amazing time had by all at our Christmas Fayre, which raised £6,000! Thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came along and made it such a success. Every child at St Katharine's will benefit from this fundraising. Fay & The PTA If you are interested in joining us, please find me on the playground or email on stkpta@gmail.com

Dates for your diary ...

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 rd January	INSET day
Wednesday 4 th January	First day of term 3 – children in school
Monday 23 rd January	Young Voices concert, O2
Friday 10 th February	Last day of term 3
Monday 20 th February	First day of term 4
Wednesday 22 nd February	Y6 to Sevenoaks School – music event
Thursday 16 th March	Love to Dance, Stag Theatre
Saturday 18 th March	Netball and football tournament, Knole Academy
Monday 20 th March	Jungle Book performance (M&M Productions) at school
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term 4
Monday 17 th April	First day of term 5

St Katharine's Knockholt CEPS

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SNOW DAY and CHRISTMAS KARAOKE!

