

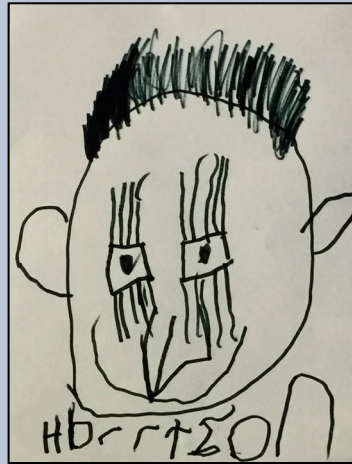


## STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

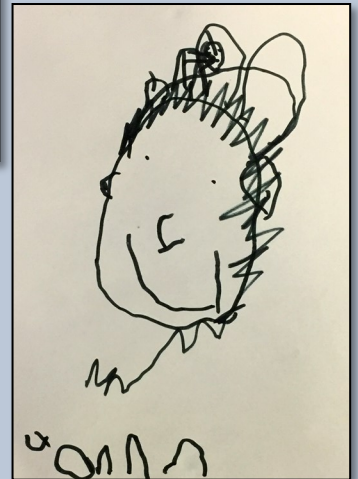
*"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"*

December 19th 2022

**Rainbow Explorers** started the term learning about the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They let their imaginations run wild and our outside huts often became the straw house, stick house and brick house. During nursery rhyme week we learned a new rhyme every day and performed them to UK and Poland class. We were really lucky to have a visit from the librarians from Abingdon Library and they read a wonderful Christmassy story to the children. As we love books so much in Nursery, secret readers have come into our class. It has been lovely to share stories with parents. Christmas has arrived and the children have loved making Ms Bolton's traditional Christmas cakes and learning songs for a Forest School performance.

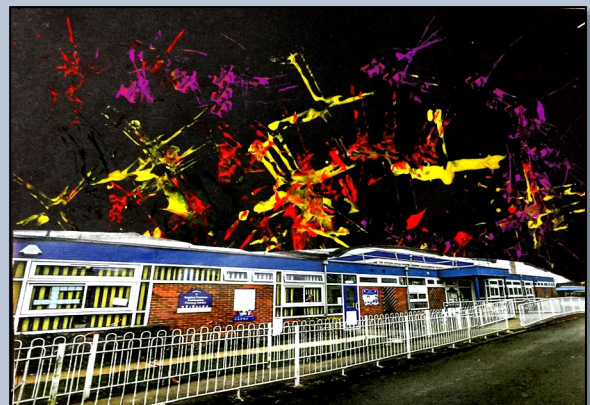


Harrison and Jonna  
your self portraits  
are fantastic.

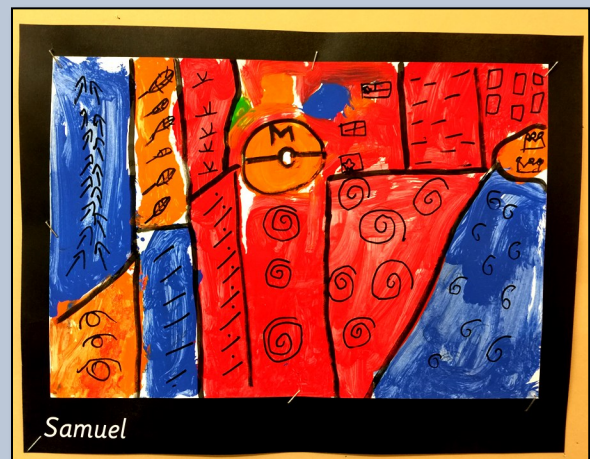


### Reception - A Term of Celebration

We started the term celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. The children really enjoyed making sweets and having their hands decorated with Mehndi which is a dye made from the henna plant. Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot! To mark bonfire night, the children crafted some spectacular firework pictures and wrote a collaborative poem. We commemorated Remembrance Sunday by making our own beautiful poppy pictures using a stamping technique. Finally to Christmas, the children wrote letters to Santa and loved performing in our first show since 2019. Thank you for supporting the Christmas sing a long. Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



**Year 1** have been learning about different forms of celebration, they particularly enjoyed learning about weddings and sharing family photographs. We loved looking at the work of the Brazilian artist Romero Britto. He combines different artistic style, including graffiti, to express hopes, dreams and happiness. As you can see below, the children produced their own beautiful pictures inspired by Romero Britto. In Science we have learnt to label parts of the body and used our sense of taste to discover what foods are sour, sweet, salty or bitter. We put our sense of smell to the test and decided that we didn't like the smell of black garlic. The highlight of our term has been the Christmas show. The children sang beautifully and made lovely headbands. We hope you enjoyed our performance.



This term, **Year 2** have enjoyed learning about Africa. As a class we have found out about Kenya, The Masai Tribe, national parks and game reserves. We had an amazing African drumming workshop with Kwame who told us traditional African stories and taught us how to do Adrinkra printing. In English the children loved getting to know the story of 'Lila and the Secret of Rain', they were so creative with their own use of language. In art we looked at the work of the artist Edward Tingatinga and explored his use of colour and bold patterns. We loved performing our Christmas show, 'The Magical Christmas Journey', the children were fantastic.

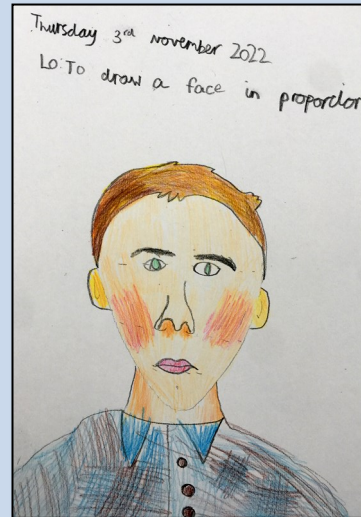




In **Year 3** our topic has been all about Heroes and Villains. We started the term by being historical detectives and examining the case of Guy Fawkes. We took the roles of the defence and prosecution and put Mr Fawkes on trial. As a class we have been reading 'Great Women who changed the World' by Kate Pankhurst and we have learnt about the achievements of some truly remarkable women. In art we have been studying the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and we painted our own self portraits. In maths we continue to make progress with multiplication and in Spanish we have learnt to say 'Feliz Navidad' which means 'Happy Christmas'. Thank you for all your support this term.

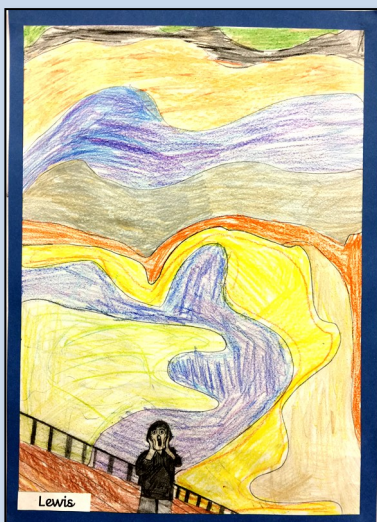


**We love Forest School**

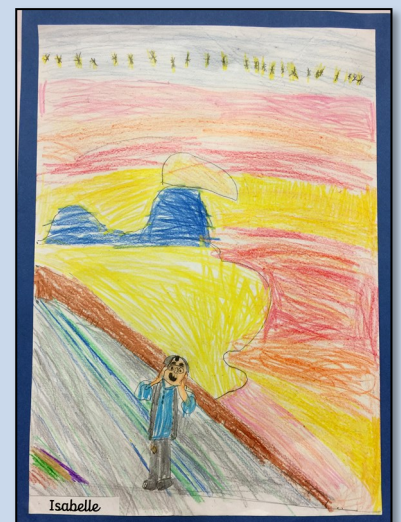


**Olivia's self-portrait**

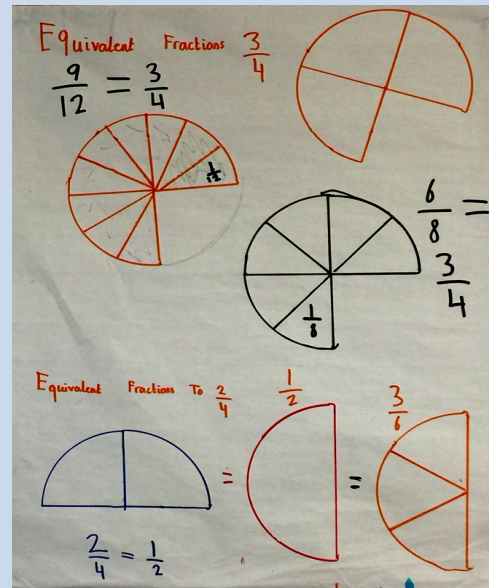
In **Year 4**, our topic on 'Potions' informed much of our learning this term. The children loved learning 'Song of the Witches' from Shakespeare's play 'Macbeth' and then writing descriptions of the witch's lair from 'Snow White'. We used nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs to bring our writing alive. In guided reading we have enjoyed, 'The Nothing to See Here Hotel' by Steven Butler. We have performed some fantastic science experiments this term. The class made ice cream and examined the melting point of different materials. One of the highlights for Year 4 was our visit from a geologist who not only brought in some wonderful fossils but also told us about an exciting project that she is working on. The team that she works with are investigating ways of changing carbon dioxide into a liquid and storing it in the ground to help prevent further climate change. The team have been given 5 years to complete their investigative work. We really hope that they will succeed.



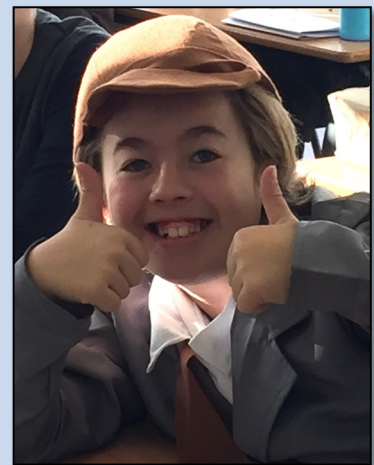
The Norwegian artist Edvard Munch painted 'The Scream' in 1893. The children in Year 4 produced their own versions of this iconic image.



**Year 5** continued learning about Ancient Egypt. In class we went through our own process of mummification using tomatoes. We finished reading, 'The Secrets of the Sun King' by Emma Carroll and we joined the author for an online question and answer event. She talked about her inspirations as a writer and her love of historical fiction. As part of the Christmas celebration, Year 5 performed a selection of traditional and modern Christmas songs to an invited audience. We all sang with enthusiasm and gusto.



During this term **Year 6** have been finding out about World War II. This culminated in our Evacuee day where the children spent the day in role as a child from the 1940s. The children finished their swimming programme with a splash. Their final session concerned water safety and the children wore their pyjamas in the pool in order to know what it felt like to be in water fully clothed. The instructor gave good advice as to how to get safely out of the water. We have enjoyed our first visit to Didcot library and the children chose some great books.







Congratulations to Mrs Hanwell and Mrs Brinkley who both received an award for 25 years service to Education in Oxfordshire.

In school we collected **£283.78** for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

**Thank you**

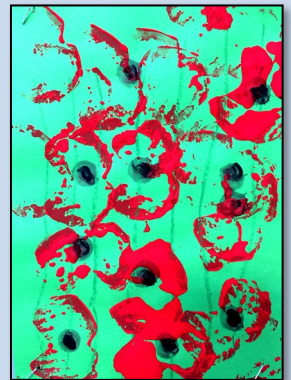
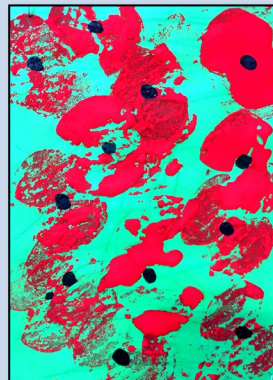
Reception your poppy pictures are beautiful.

On Sunday 4th December our school choir club sang at Great Western Park Church Christmas Carol Service. Mrs Lewis said the children were in fine voice and that they all enjoyed the occasion.

### **Sport at Stephen Freeman**

On Tuesday 6th December a group of children took part in a cross country competition at Rotherfield Peppard. The children ran either a 1500m or 2000m course and although it was cold weather they did really well. A special well done to Jack who finished 1st in his age group.

Our Year 5 and 6 girls football team took on 'All Saints' in a home game. They played well but the final result was 3-0 to All Saints. Thank you to Mr Kapp, Mr Leader and Mr Bews for getting the pitch ready.

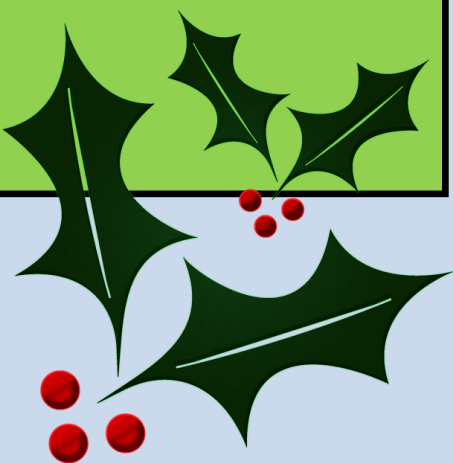




### School Council

Here are our new school council members. This term they helped to organise a non-uniform day to raise awareness for Diabetes UK and the Diabetes clinic in Oxford.

Thank you to the Old Farm Shop for donating the beautiful Christmas tree that has graced the hall during our festive events.



**Thank you to our kitchen staff for cooking a great festive lunch for the children and staff.**



### PTA Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair raised over £1,200 for school funds. An enormous thank you to the PTA members for all their hard work. Not just at the fair but throughout the whole year. Your dedication and hard work is really appreciated by us all. Another thank you to all of you who supported the fair and who contributed to this fantastic total.



### Didcot Community Partnership

Didcot Community Partnership run the 'Grub Hub' for low income families offering days out and hot food. They are also operating a warm space. More information can be found here:

<https://dcp.org.uk/>



***We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.***

