



## STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

### Curriculum in Action

December 19th 2023

What a celebratory term we have had in **Rainbow Explorers**. It all started with fireworks and the children enjoyed learning about the story behind bonfire night. They created their own images of fireworks using blow painting and were amazing at remembering to blow the paint through the straws rather than suck. As a class we learnt about the reasons for Remembrance Day and why the poppy is a symbol of remembrance and the children created their own poppy images using their hands and fingers. Celebrations to mark World Nursery Rhyme week and the build up to Christmas rounded off a wonderful term. In our maths lessons we have been creating simple patterns using resources from inside and outside the classroom. Our Christmas song performance to the adults in Forest School was a real highlight of our term. The children loved learning the songs and they performed amazingly. As their teacher, I hear that the children's singing contracts are already being written up. We look forward to all the new experiences that the New Year will bring and we wish you all a Merry Christmas.



**We made Christmas cards using leaves that we collected in Forest school to print on cloth.**



The Story Pumpkin was a magical experience for the **Reception** children. They were mesmerised by the storytelling and were immersed in a world of make believe. A huge thank you to Mrs Warren who organised this wonderful experience for the children. We commemorated Remembrance Day by making poppies using a stamping technique. We wrote letters to Santa and made beautiful Christmas cards. Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year



**The Reception children loved performing in their Nativity play and learning all the festive songs.**

This term, **Year 1** have enjoyed a selection of traditional tales. The tale of Robin Hood led to further learning about the environment as we compared Sherwood Forest with the Amazon Rainforest. We also compared the city of Nottingham with Rio De Janeiro and looked at population, culture, physical features and wildlife. As a class we enjoyed the story of The Gingerbread Man and we followed the instructions in the book to make our own tasty gingerbread men. Each class has had three sessions of forest school and the children have thoroughly enjoyed them despite the weather. The rain just makes it more fun really. We performed our Nativity play and looked back on what has been a great term.



### Muck, Mess and Mixtures

What a term we have had in **Year 2**. The children loved the messy play day and using adjectives to describe cold spaghetti, soft cloud dough, green slime and wet porridge. We have been reading *The Disgusting Sandwich* and creating our own disgusting recipes. Both children and adults have loved our class story, *The Christmasaurus*. In maths we have been learning column addition and subtraction and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Our science lessons have been about germs and hygiene. We began our topic with an experiment that showed how important hand-washing is. We learnt about germs and how they spread by carry out the mouldy bread experiment. Our great term culminated in a performance of our KS1 Nativity, 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings'.

**Year 3** have enjoyed their topic on Heroes and Villains. At the beginning of the term a group of fire fighters and ambulance workers came into school to talk to us about their jobs, we were able to look at the amazing equipment that they use each day. The children wrote a thank you letter as recognition of the valuable work they do. In writing we have worked on descriptive paragraphs using adjectives, verbs and adverbs and in Maths we have been learning about addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our Science lessons have been fascinating as we have studied how muscles help us to move. We have also learnt about different food groups. In PE we have practised balancing and we learnt how to do a teddy roll and a bunny hop. Outside we have loved learning all about the game of rugby.



**Year 3 enjoyed their visit to Didcot Library**





## MAGIC AND POTIONS

In **Year 4** the pupils wholeheartedly embraced the magic themed curriculum. Their written words transported us to enchanting worlds inhabited by witches, spiders, ghosts and bubbling cauldrons. Witnessing such vivid imaginations come to life was truly a joy. In Science the pupils enjoyed an explorative science day. They learned about states of matter and experimented with the effects of heating and cooling materials such as water, soap and metal. We were privileged to host a group of skilled professionals from UTC who generously shared their expertise in potion making. The highlight was undoubtedly the vomiting pumpkin. Through engaging demonstrations the pupils had the unique opportunity to work collaboratively in groups, mixing various chemicals to observe chemical reactions

This term in **Year 5** we have been very busy learners. We have continued to learn all about the Egyptians and have learnt all about the animals and plants that live in and around the river Nile. We had fun designing our Pharaoh style Egyptian masks, drawing maps of Egypt and learning all about the many different gods who were worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. In writing we have been learning about modal verbs and we enjoyed innovating the story of Marcy and the Sphynx. The Year 5 children made a positive contribution to our community by organising a collection for the Didcot food bank. Instead of collecting money for Children in Need, the children decided to ask for items of food instead. We were all delighted by the response and we would like to thank you for all your donations. Our shared area was transformed into a Winter wonderland and the trees are ready for our North American Wilderness next term. Our adventures continue. Thank you all so very much for your support this year, it is greatly appreciated. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from the Year 5 team.



The Year 5 choir loved performing a selection of Carols.



We have had such an amazing term in **Year 6** and have achieved so much together. The term started with our residential visit to Liddington PGL centre. The children had a blast and returned to school beaming. As a group of children they learnt so much about themselves including how to take calculated risks and how to work as part of a team. The group also became aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and throughout the week they developed self-confidence. The children who were unable to go on the trip helped out in school and developed their self confidence in different ways. Dance has formed a part of our PE lessons and we have enjoyed learning how to dance the Charleston. Some of the children are so good that we think we might see them on Strictly Come Dancing in years to come. Year 6 had a visit from our local policeman who spoke to the children about online safety as well as safety in the community. The presentation was very informative and the children learnt so much.

### **The Year 6 Residential**

Our roving Year 6 reporters, Alice and Hannah have written about the Residential

The Year 6 residential was outstanding. All of us loved the fun and activities. We were lucky to have had such a great opportunity and it wouldn't have been possible without our lovely brave teachers who volunteered to come on this trip with us. We loved all the activities including archery, zip-lining and rock climbing. Our personal favourites were the fencing and the giant swing. The swing went so high up that we felt free and using the fencing foils was challenging. The PGL staff were friendly and kind and we loved the sing songs on our way to the activities. The food was fantastic and delicious, even the fussiest eaters had plenty of choice. The gift shop was very exciting and we enjoyed spending our money for once. The residential will definitely be something we will never forget.

Alice and Hannah - Year 6 pupils



### **Year 6 Evacuee Day**

We had a great time imagining ourselves as WW2 evacuees. We made carrot cookies using a rationing recipe to mixed reviews. We created artwork inspired by the Blitz and practised our sewing skills. We even built circuits and used them to exchange messages in morse code. It was an amazing day and thanks must go to all the Year 6 parents and carers for the support with dressing up.





### The Story Pumpkin

We had a fantastic visit from the Story Pumpkin. All of the children were treated to a wonderful storytelling workshop involving dragon stories from around the globe. We even got to watch a dragon hatch from an egg and meet the Mother dragon. The storytellers commented on what a pleasure it had been to meet all the children and to see how engaged they all were.



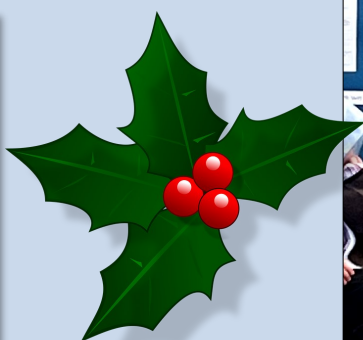
Our collection for the Royal British Legion totalled £283.82 which contributed to an overall collection figure for Didcot of £34,544.83

Thank you to everyone who supported this charity

**Jack in Year 4 recently attended trials for the England Cerebral Palsy football team. He was accepted. Well done Jack this is a fantastic achievement.**

### Sports Round Up

There has been some exciting sports activities taking place this term. Each year group has had two PE sessions a week including dance, gymnastics, rugby and hockey. Year 6 celebrated finishing their 10 week swimming block with a 25 metre swim. As a school we have taken part in some exciting competitions and matches. On Wednesday 28th November a team of 18 Year 3 and 4 children competed in a sports hall athletics competition at Didcot Leisure Centre. After a close competition we finished 4th overall which was a superb achievement. On Monday 4th December our Year 5/6 football team had a friendly match against Manor School. The team did really well and won 4-1. Well done to all the children who took part in these sporting events.



During the last week of term our school was alive with singing, nativity plays, parties and fun.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas

