

NEWS

from the Primary Phase



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn 2 is always a wonderful half-term in the primary phase. We have really enjoyed being able to gather together again as a school community for a number of annual events that have had to take place virtually in recent years. It has been a busy seven weeks, offering lots of news and much for us to celebrate!

Pupils in Year 3 and Year 5 were invited to take part in a 'Remembering Those We Love' event, which the Chaplaincy team held during the month of November. During their visit to the Southbourne Chapel, the children had the opportunity to pray together, light a candle, hang messages on some special remembering trees and to think of all those they love. The children engaged brilliantly in this spiritual opportunity so a huge thank you to Juliette and Liz for organising it.

On Armistice Day, our Year 6 pupils led a beautiful Remembrance Day service in the hall, enriched by their incredible musical talents. 6RA performed 'Poppies' and 6JR played their own composition to the poem 'In Flanders Fields,' which was written by Bianka and Ava. It was a wonderful opportunity for Year 6 to share their curriculum learning from last half-term with a real purpose. So many children and staff commented on how brilliantly they had led our service, so thank you and well-done Year 6! Ollie C (who is now at the Southbourne Site in Year 7) also came back to mark our minutes' silence by playing 'The Last Post' on his trumpet. It was so powerful to hear this live and really wonderful for the children to see what they can go on to achieve if they continue to nurture their God-given talents – a heartfelt thank you to Ollie!



November also saw some classes brave the cold to enjoy some off-site visits. Year 2 took a trip to Marwell Zoo where they were able to observe meerkat behaviours first-hand, enriching their 'Meerkat Madness' topic! On Thursday 17th November, Year 4 went to Fort Nelson and experienced what life would have been like serving in the Roman army. They came back full of enthusiasm for the things they had learnt and put this to great use in their Literacy lessons too.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our PTA Quiz night in November. The PTA had prepared a fun evening of games, trivia and Bingo! Everyone had a great time and an impressive £632 was raised for the school. A special thank you to Mrs Alderson, Mrs Hayes, Mr Ryan, Mrs Turner-Green and Mrs Thain for their work to ensure the night was a success.

Our Year 6 choir were delighted to take part in the Bournemouth Schools Music Association Carol Concert this year. Having attended a number of rehearsals throughout the term alongside other Bournemouth schools, they performed brilliantly on stage at the Pavilion. We were incredibly proud of them all as they represented St. Peter's School superbly.



Our Years 3, 4 and 5 choirs were then invited to entertain the guests at the 'Laguna Hotel Tinsel and Turkey' event. The children were absolutely incredible and delighted the residents with their festive singing. They sang with pure joy and thoroughly enjoyed performing – it is wonderful that Mrs Byles has been able to arrange so many opportunities for her choirs to share their talents with our local community.

Our school Advent Service, held at Our lady Queen of Peace Church in Southbourne, was the perfect occasion to take some time out from the busy build-up to Christmas. Almost 80 children from across Key Stage 2 (who are all committed members of Mrs Byles' choirs) joined with students from the secondary phase and sixth form to lead us in a wonderful evening of reflection, prayer and song. Once again, their singing was beautiful; everyone left the service feeling uplifted and tremendously proud of our children.



Wednesday 7th December saw the return of our annual trip to the Bournemouth Pavilion to watch the pantomime. We had the added excitement this year of seeing Taylor (6RA) dancing in the show – she was absolutely brilliant and definitely received a larger cheer than the celebrities on that occasion! Erin and Polina (from 5LF) were lucky enough to be invited up onto the stage too at one point and were given a goody bag for their participation. A huge thank you to the many parents who offered to help with our trip – we wouldn't be able to organise opportunities like this without your support, so it is greatly appreciated!



The excitement continued into the following day, when we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch (a big thank you to our amazing catering team), wore our Christmas jumpers to raise money for 'Save the Children,' and held our Christmas Fair. Thank you all for supporting our Christmas Fair. We believe that we have raised approximately £6000 for the school.

This week has been filled with the joy of our Christmas Nativity plays. The children have been so excited to perform these to live audiences and have raised the roof with their incredible singing. Thank you all so much for providing their wonderful costumes, practising lines and songs at home, and applauding their performances so whole-heartedly. I am delighted to

share the news that the donations collected following each performance raised a total of £860 for our Brother Lionel Fund. Thank you for giving so generously to support disadvantaged children in India. It is wonderful that our children know they are using their talents and gifts to make a difference in the wider world. We were also able to invite some very important guests from our local community – residents from the Retired Nurses National Home came to view all three of our daytime nativity performances and thoroughly enjoyed each one.

If you were unable to make it to any of our performances, or you would like to relive the magical moments, then we have produced a recording of them. These can be accessed via our private YouTube page.



I cannot express my gratitude enough to Mrs Byles for her hard work this term. Almost all of our good news stories this term are the result of her efforts to ensure that music is at the heart of our primary phase. This afternoon, we gathered together for our traditional ‘Carols Around the Tree.’ We enjoyed a performance of ‘We Three Kings’ by our school orchestra and were led by our choirs in a festive sing-along. We made so much noise that Father Christmas knew to call in – he even had an early treat for us all!

Sadly, we bid a fond farewell to Miss Dadds today after over four years’ service to St. Peter’s School. Miss Dadds has been successful in securing a leadership role at another local school and we are extremely proud that the talents of a member of our team have been recognised in this way. Miss Dadds has been a wonderful asset to our Primary Phase team and will be missed tremendously. We wish her every happiness and success in her new post.

Finally, I wish you all a Christmas break full of joy and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Liz Pritchard'.

Liz Pritchard

EWN@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Diary Dates

SPRING TERM 2023	
Monday 2nd January	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 3rd January	Spring Term Commences

Reception News

What a busy half term Reception have had! We have been enjoying our two topics of 'Fantastic Food' and 'Tooth Tales'. The two topics go together so well as we think about which foods are healthy and unhealthy and then go on to look at how our food choices can affect our teeth!

During our first topic, Fantastic Food, the children cooked food from around the world. We chose Spain and Poland as these are countries that have great meaning to us, reflecting our teaching staff and also our school community. The children had the most wonderful time going to the Food and Technology room to make Polish soup and Spanish rice!



The idea of our 'Fantastic Food' topic is to allow children to experience and try new foods, in the hope they will be open to trying new tastes. It was amazing to see that when the children had been part of the cooking process, they were nearly all willing to try new tastes and talk about why they like the food, or not. We bought special safety knives from Amazon and they were the best tool we have used. If you need a chef at Christmas, purchase some safety knives!

We then moved on to our next topic, Tooth Tales, to learn about how to look after our teeth. We were amazed when a Fairy door arrived in our classrooms with a special note begging us to help the Tooth Fairy teach children about how to keep teeth clean and healthy. Since then, we have been learning facts about tooth hygiene: making videos to teach other children about how to look after their teeth, learning how to brush our teeth, making tooth bags, drawing tooth fairies and creating homes for our wee fairies to come and visit!



We have been working so hard in our phonics sessions, and have quickly been beginning to write. We have written all about our fairy jars, and have written lists to Santa; being careful to hear and write the beginning, middle and end sound in each word.

To finish our Tooth Tales topic, the Tooth Fairy came to visit! We had a wonderful hot chocolate and bedtime story in our pyjamas before we brushed our teeth and awaited the Tooth Fairy with our Tooth bags left under our pillow.

In RE, we have been thinking about how we can prepare ourselves for Christmas. We know that we need to spread love. We have also been thinking about how we, as Christians, go to church on a Sunday. We have been building churches. No church exists without people. Our children have had such a wonderful time looking at, and creating churches!



We wish you all a very peaceful and Holy Christmas,
The Reception Team 😊

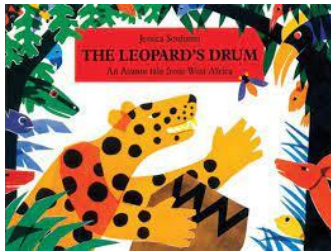
Year 1 News

We have had a very exciting half term with our theme, Out of Africa. We started our topic with an engaging and energetic African drumming workshop! We learnt all about djembe drums and how to play a call and response song.

During our design and technology lessons, we each made a djembe drum using paper mâché. We thought carefully about each process and then, during our literacy lessons, we wrote instructions to explain how to make one. We used bossy verbs in our writing and were able to sequence the instructions.



During Geography, the children have been using their map skills to locate Africa and Ghana. They were able to compare weather patterns between Ghana and the UK as well as the human and physical features of Ghana and Bournemouth.



As a class, we have been exploring the west African tale, The Leopard's Drum, by Jessica Souhami. The story is about Osebo, the leopard, who has a magnificent drum. However, he won't let anyone else have it - not even Nyame the Sky-God. So Nyame offers a big reward to the animal who will bring him the drum. The children have enjoyed sequencing the main events and retelling the story using puppets. They have worked exceptionally hard to write their own versions of the story in their first 'BIG WRITE' this term. We focussed on using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters in our writing.

Our Mathematical focus this term has been addition and subtraction. We have been using practical resources such as cubes, numicon and number lines to read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition and subtraction. The children have recognised fact families and explored how addition and subtraction are related. They have used the $<$, $=$ and $>$ symbols to compare addition and subtraction number sentences.

We recognise that the lead up to Christmas is very busy and tiring for everyone especially as many have been battling seasonal coughs and colds, we are always thankful for your support! We loved meeting with you online this term to discuss your child's progress and how they have settled into Year 1

We wish you a very Merry Christmas.
The Year 1 team

Year 2 News

Year 2 have been busy in the second half of the Autumn term! The children have been working hard and have immersed themselves fully in our new topic, Meerkat Madness. They have enjoyed listening to our Power of Reading text, Meerkat Mail, by Emily Gravett and have loved finding out about Sunny's adventures to find the perfect home.

In Literacy, we have been discovering lots of interesting facts about Meerkats and other types of Mongoose. From this, the children were able to write an information text about the different types of Mongoose that live in Africa. They were able to apply their scientific knowledge of different animals and their habitats to their texts and demonstrated an understanding of how animals adapt to their environment and the basic facts of a food chain. Year 2 are now experts in everything Meerkat related including where they live, how they behave and what they look like. We are sure that they could answer almost any question thrown their way about meerkats!

After learning lots of interesting facts about Meerkats, we were extremely excited to go on a trip to Marwell Zoo, where we observed the different behaviours of Meerkats. The children loved applying their knowledge of tally charts that they had learnt about in Maths to record what they saw the meerkats doing. When we returned to school, the children also wrote a fantastic recount of our events at the zoo. We finished the topic by throwing Sunny a welcome home party for which the children used their artistic skills to create some fantastic decorations.



In RE, we have learnt about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The children have thought about role models in the world and what they can learn from them. They have also learnt that Jesus is the light of the world. They created some wonderful work explaining how they will shine the light of Jesus in all they do. Recently, we have started our new RE unit, Advent, and have discussed the meaning of the Advent wreath and how it helps us to prepare for Christmas.

In Maths, the children have successfully grasped the concept of multiplication and division and we are so proud of their achievements. The children have also loved applying their knowledge of tally charts to create a bar chart from the observations we made of the Meerkats at Marwell zoo.



During Art, the children have been looking at how illustrators create texture in pictures. They have been busy experimenting with sand and water as well as looking at hatching, stippling and cross hatching techniques to create texture in their own pictures. The children then went on to create their own pictures of Sunny, in his habitat, using these techniques!

The children have been working incredibly hard practising their nativity song. Thank you all for your hard work and festive spirits!

We would like to thank you for your hard work and support this term and wish you a very Merry Christmas with your families. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Miss Pepper and Miss Morris

Year 3 News

After a mysterious, magical start to this half-term where the year 3 classrooms were turned into a terrific tin environment, our power of reading text, *The Tin Forest*, was introduced. This helped us to create some very descriptive pieces of writing, using a range of different sentence structures. We learnt how to use a thesaurus to enhance our vocabulary. We also considered the story through the old man's perspective thinking about the glum, dull life he had living in a junkyard, and how he dreamt every night of a lovely, colourful jungle. We used these contrasting settings to create two different diary entries.

In R.E, we have studied a new theme, Catholic Social Teaching. Year 3 have been inspired by the Big Question that has guided their R.E. learning during this topic, 'What does it mean to be a steward of Creation?' The children produced a guide for younger children explaining why we should look after our environment and suggested ways in which younger pupils could do this. Next, the children helped to lead an assembly which informed Key Stage Two pupils about the effects of plastic pollution on our planet. They went on to persuade them to make Eco bricks, which they hope to collect and use during the summer term. We were also lucky to have Emma Evans (Parish of Immaculate Conception and St Joseph Christchurch - Families and Youth Co-ordinator) come in and talk to us about how St. Joseph's Church are reaching out and supporting people within their parish. As a year group, we were then visited by Mrs. Gould, our school's deputy head, who told us about Brother Lionel and his charity, Reaching the Unreached. This unit has been fantastic at helping us to understand that God created us to be loved and to go forward and love



others, showing dignity and respect. During Advent, we have learnt about Mary's life, before and after, the annunciation. We wrote a diary imagining what Mary might have been feeling, and thought about her faith and how strong this would have been to carry the Son of God. We also thought about Mary's faith journey through her life experiences with Jesus. We have used the passion that the children have shown during R.E. lessons to steer our writing focus in Literacy, too. Year 3 have been busy persuading members of the community to also be good stewards of God's creation through the medium of letter writing. They are hoping to be worthy of a Blue Peter Green Badge after all of their hard work!

Both classes embraced their creative sides by making their very own dream jars. Through art lessons, we have learnt about the work of Japanese sculptor, Toshihiko Mitsuya, and tried some of his techniques (using aluminium foil) ourselves! We have continued to record our creative ideas, sketches, and findings, within our sketch books, which are looking fantastic. We are very proud of these special books. In D. T, children investigated 'Christmas decorations' before designing and making their own. These were then sold at the School Christmas Fair.



Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at plants and their life cycle. We carried out an experiment where we put plants in different environments to see how it affected the plants growth. The plant that was in the class and had all the right elements to grow, had us in awe! Due to the warm autumn, we were able to pick some tomatoes from the Year 3 herb garden and learnt how to harvest these seeds so that we can hopefully plant them next summer! The children were fascinated by this process.

In maths, the children have become confident at using the column method to add and subtract 3- digit numbers, applying it to some problem-solving contexts. More recently, the children have started to learn about the three times tables and its corresponding division facts. The children have enjoyed learning songs that help them to remember these facts in a different way.

In light of learning about how we can look after our world, we have also been studying ways in which certain industries and establishments exploit our environment for its resources. Deforestation has been at the centre of our learning in our Geography lessons this half term. The children have been shocked to discover that deforestation takes place in their own locality, the New Forest, which we visited earlier this year. Although there was a shared sense of unfairness about this, Year 3 have also been learning the reasons behind deforestation, including land-use patterns.

The Year 3 team would like to thank the children for their hard work and resilience with their learning at a time of year which can often feel overwhelming and busy. It has been a joy learning our Nativity songs alongside the children and to see them shine in their individual roles. We would also like to thank you, parents and carers, for being supportive as always. Bringing resources into school to make various crafts is very much appreciated and ensures that we can fulfil these exciting activities that we have planned.

We wish you and your families a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

The Year 3 team.

Year 4 News

This half term, we have been learning about the 'Rotten Romans'! We started our topic by becoming historians and studying sources to discover more about the history of the Roman Empire. We then started to explore and learn about the many different emperors that the Romans had. Using our note taking skills, we created a timeline and small fact file for the most important. This led us to looking closer at the most infamous Roman leader; Julius Caesar. We continued to build on our information writing skills and created a non-chronological report all about his life.

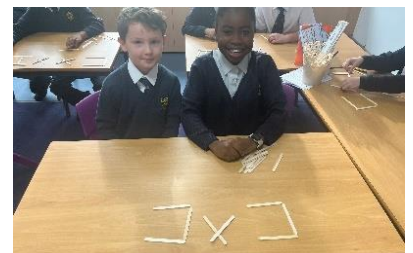


To support their learning, the children visited Fort Nelson for a Roman experience day. They had a wonderful time and learnt about Roman trades, joining the legion and also Celtic customs at the time of the Romans coming to the British Empire. We even had a Roman and Celtic battle and practised creating battle formations to stay protected!

On our return to school, we continued to discover what it was like to be a real Roman! The children had great fun decorating their own shields and then made Roman spelt bread. To support our learning about Pompeii, we also created a city and had a miniature volcano eruption!



In maths, we have been introduced to Roman numerals and have learnt to read numerals up to 100. We also discussed where they are used in our lives today. Following this, we looked at multiplication and division and have continued to work on our times tables. We have now learnt the 6, 7- and 9-times tables and we are becoming increasingly confident in recalling facts. We are always challenging ourselves to be even better – something that can definitely be helped with at home!



We have had so many fantastic experiences this half term where the children in Year 4 have represented St. Peter's wonderfully! We had an exciting trip to the pantomime to watch Beauty and the Beast which we all enjoyed! The children have also been busy preparing and delivering a show of their own. We are so impressed with how they have risen to the challenge of their parts in the nativity and their dedication to putting on a brilliant performance!

We are so proud with how Year 4 have dealt with the trials and tribulations of this term and how they have continued to present us with fantastic work. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

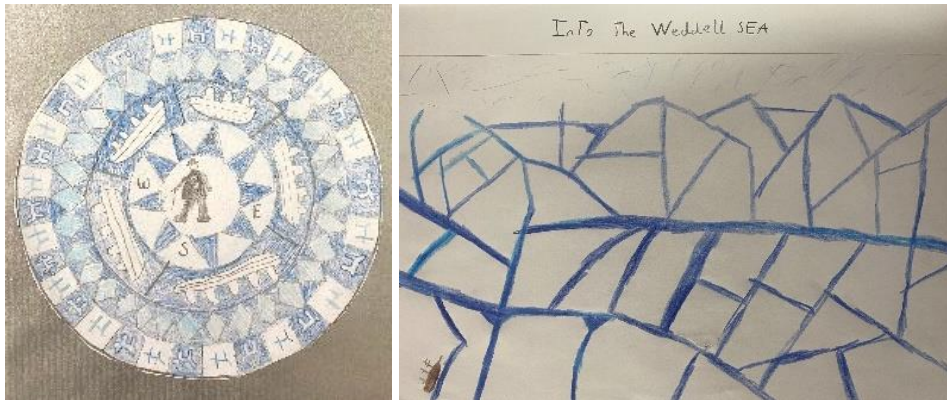
Year 4 team



Year 5 News

This half term, Year 5 have been busy exploring polar regions as we've embarked on an 'Expedition to Antarctica' with the famous explorer, Ernest Shackleton. We began our topic by analysing the advert Shackleton wrote at the start of his expedition in 1914. We discussed the risks and benefits of the voyage before writing an argument, detailing whether or not we would want to apply. Many of us agreed that the hazardous conditions and warning of bitterly cold weather was a grim prospect. Using persuasive writing features, Year 5 re-wrote the advert to include modal verbs and adverbs, as well as positive language, to encourage people to apply.

Using our Power of Reading text, *Shackleton's Journey*, we learnt about the crew that were successful in securing a place on board the ship. We researched the life of some of the crew members before drafting a letter of application – we focused on writing persuasively considering the skills that each person had to offer. When the crew set off for Antarctica, Shackleton was shocked to discover a stowaway, Perce Blackborow, who joined the expedition when the ship was docked in Buenos Aires. We documented our thoughts and feelings in a diary entry written from Perce's perspective, focusing particularly on our use of relative clauses and commas to avoid ambiguity to add extra information.



Our class text is full of wonderful illustrations which Year 5 were eager to recreate. To start our topic, we focused on repeating patterns by replicating the compass design found on the book's front cover, originally created by William Grill. Colouring pencils were used to add detail and emphasise the patterns we had designed. We then focused on drawing in perspective, using a vanishing point and horizon line to draw icebergs that stretched across the Weddell Sea into the distance.

The treacherous ice also became a focus of our Geography lessons, where we spent time locating seas, ice shelves and mountains. We then learnt more about the world's climate zones and biomes, identifying the defining characteristics of a polar desert. We also identified what the key lines of latitude and longitude are on a map of the world and why we use them.

In Science, the children were curious as to how animals cope in the bitter-cold Antarctica and were therefore very enthusiastic to make their very own blubber glove and feel the effects of this extra layer of insulation for themselves in a bucket of ice water! Focusing specifically on the *Endurance* ship, which carried Shackleton and his crew across Antarctica, the children explored the effects of water resistance. The children planned, created and tested their very own streamlined boat to see whose boat moved the fastest!

To conclude our topic, we welcomed our very own Antarctic explorer to St Peter's. Ben, the explorer, kindly brought in his equipment which kept him warm and dry during his multiple trips to the polar region. The children were very grateful to host Ben and had lots of questions!



Thank you to all the Year 5 children for arriving at school each day with a positive attitude to learning and to the parents and carers for their continued support. We wish you all an enjoyable, restful and peaceful Christmas holidays.

The Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News

This half term, Year 6 have enjoyed learning all about our wonderful chocolate-themed topic. We started by exploring the process of how chocolate is made: from bean to bar. We first identified the different climate zones that are suitable for growing the cacao tree before using graphs and our own research to discover which country exports the highest amount of cacao beans. After researching where chocolate comes from and the process by which it is made, we created our own explanation text to document each stage in greater detail. When writing, we focussed on how to develop cohesion within and across paragraphs by using a range of causal conjunctions to link ideas together. We also learnt about the difference between the active and passive voice and how this can be used effectively to alter the presentation of our ideas.

To complement our chocolate-themed topic, Year 6 have been busy reading one of Roald Dahl's most famous stories, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. This has provided us with a wealth of writing opportunities and story inspiration. We began by using the text to make inferences about the characters in the story by using relative clauses and well-chosen adjectives to describe each of the five competition winners, including Charlie Bucket. We used this to write a newspaper article documenting Charlie's find of the final Golden Ticket! To bring our newspaper reports to life, we focussed on incorporating a range of eyewitness statements, ensuring that we punctuated our quotes correctly.



In the story, Willy Wonka takes great pride in showing the children around his factory, describing how his chocolate is made. One room in particular stands out - the Chocolate Room. We used Roald Dahl's writing as inspiration to draft our own descriptions of the Chocolate Room. We began by considering how to effectively up-level language choices by using a thesaurus before learning how to use relative clauses and parenthesis to add additional information. We also learnt how to use a range of sentence structures to add interest and variety as well as how to use a semi-colon to effectively join two independent clauses.

Many of us were surprised to learn of the long and interesting history of chocolate which dates back to the Ancient Maya living in the region of Mesoamerica from around 2600 BC. As part of our history lessons, we spent time researching what life was like for this civilisation, considering their social structure, typical job roles and lasting legacy. In particular, we considered the importance of cacao and why the Maya regarded this as a luxury 'gift from the gods.' We enjoyed learning about the transformation of cacao into a bitter tasting drink known as 'xocolatl' which was used by kings and nobility during religious and military rituals.

Despite chocolate once being a delicacy only enjoyed by royalty, it is now a treat consumed by millions around the world. In DT, Year 6 have researched different chocolate brands and the products they sell in order to design and create their own chocolate bar and packaging. To advertise their chocolate brand, Year 6 have been learning about electrical circuits in order to create their own light-up advertisement board. We have also demonstrated our creative talents in Art where we have been learning about the famous artist L.S.Lowry. We have spent time analysing his artwork, considering how he shows movement and creates perspective in his work.



We have been immensely proud of the enthusiasm Year 6 have shown towards their learning this half term as well as their commitment to perfecting their songs and lines for our Christmas Nativity performance.

Thank you for your continued support this half term - we hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

The Year 6 Team.

Music News

We were treated to a visit from African drummer, Cheikh Diop, at the start of term, to launch Year 1's African topic. Several classes across different year groups were also lucky enough to take part in a drumming workshop with Cheikh, using djembes drums loaned to us by Soundstorm Music Agency. We have been able to continue playing our drums this term in class.



Year 5 have now completed their First Access course, learning brass instruments with Mr Bacon. They have had a wonderful time this term learning to play the cornet, trumpet or trombone – it is particularly lovely to hear some of the Year 5 children now playing their instruments in our orchestra! Mr Motte has certainly enjoyed it too! Please remember to sign up for Progression lessons if your Year 5 child would like to continue learning in the Spring Term.



A gentle reminder for children having instrumental/singing lessons, that the payment schedule is for 10 lessons per term, not for a lesson every week. Therefore, lessons missed due to trips and visits etc will not be “made up” at a later date, unless this results in your child not receiving their full quota of 10 lessons. If your child has instrumental or singing lessons (Years 3-6), please remember that payment should be made by standing order over 10 months, or as 1 lump-sum payment in advance. We have experienced several issues this term with non-payments, meaning children's lessons have had to be suspended. This can be upsetting for the children, and also rather frustrating as we currently have waiting lists for all instruments except flute, clarinet and brass. Please may we also remind you that we require **at least ½ a term's notice** if your child no longer wishes to continue with their lessons, as our peripatetic staff are contracted for specific set hours, which we have to honour. Your help and support in this matter is very much appreciated. Please contact Mrs Byles directly at lbs@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk if you have any queries regarding instrumental/singing lessons.

PE News

We have an exciting array of after-school sports clubs and the children have been getting stuck in since September in a number of different sports! Football remains as popular as ever and we have recently expanded our KS2 offering, expanding the club to two nights a week to keep up with demand. The children enjoy learning a variety of different skills including passing, shooting, tackling, defending and attacking, and always finish with matches that give the opportunity for the children to shine. Here are a couple of ‘action shots’ from a recent club....



One sport that we really enjoy offering throughout PE and after school sessions is Tag Rugby. We have built up an excellent relationship with 'Rippa Rugby' and Bournemouth Rugby Club, enabling our children to follow a successful pathway from first time player to club player. We entered our first tag rugby competition last year and performed excellently, and I'm really looking forward to taking a team for the upcoming festival in March. At the after-school club, children learn how to pass and catch the rugby ball correctly, before being introduced to simple rules and eventually progressing to game play, with lots of fun games included. Parents are being invited to view the progress of their children at the final rugby club of the term this week; what a lovely way for us to share all the success of the children! A big thanks to 'Coach Stu' and 'Coach Joe' for all their continued hard work with our children. Here are some pictures of the children in action....



As well as our traditional sport offerings, we are very keen to encourage lifelong participation and a love of sport and exercise, no matter where your talents or enjoyment lies. Our children regularly enjoy the opportunity to try different sports after school, including Dodgeball, Athletics, Netball, Tennis and Footloose Dance. Mr Lane is always looking to expand our offerings after school, so if children have any specific sports that they'd love to be introduced, do let him know and he'll see what he can do!

Forest School News

This half term at Forest School started with the signs of Autumn becoming increasingly apparent: crisp cool air, leaves changing colour and darker mornings and afternoons. We welcomed groups from RBW, 1NW and 2LM.

All the groups began their Forest School adventures with our popular nature scavenger hunt card game, with teams scurrying around our wonderful outdoor area looking for nature items.

In subsequent weeks, the groups enjoyed some of our regular Forest School activities such as den building, bug hunting, and wood "cookie" pendant making. There were many colourful and imaginative designs for the pendants featuring animals beginning with the same initials as the children's first names. In addition to these, there were new pursuits such as nature weaving frames and clay goblin making. These produced some wonderful collages and some super and sometimes scary creations respectively!

As this half term has progressed, the autumnal feel has given way to more icy, wintry conditions. We have enjoyed this, wrapped up warm, with children's sense of wonderment at frosted leaves, feathers and other natural items a joy to witness.

Our campfire cooking sessions have been a thrill for the children, with Years 1 and 2 having lots of success using 'flint and steel' firelighters to light pieces of cotton wool. The resilience and perseverance required gives way to an immense sense of accomplishment. The children made and cooked their own doughnuts, dipped in sugar- absolutely yummy!

As I write, Year 1 have toasted their marshmallows and Reception and Year 2 are about to get that delicious treat for their final session!

Enjoy the Christmas break, and try and get out for a frosty walk. All children's joy at experiencing simple pleasures such as iced trees, or houses lit up by Christmas decorations can be an inspiration to us all!

Mr Motte



Thank you to all families who supported our Shoebox Appeal this year. We collected a total of 77 shoeboxes which is an amazing amount considering the current financial climate. The boxes will be sent to disadvantaged children in Romania who may otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas. The Rotary Club have also asked us to extend their gratitude to you.



We recently took delivery of some wonderful books from Scholastic. These were purchased using the 'Rewards' from our Book Fair in March. Your support for this and other school events is very much appreciated and enhances the resources available to our children.



It was a delight to see so many odd socks on Friday 18th November to support Children in Need. We raised £390.50 in total!



Winter Water and Ice Safety

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service encourage you to talk to your children about their safety around ice and water during this cold weather.


Whatever our age; ice and frozen waterways seem fascinating. However, the ice often thins and can easily result in cracking and people falling into the cold water.



The main safety messages, as well as what to do if you find yourself, or someone else, in trouble in the water can be found here: [Winter Water Safety \(office.com\)](http://www.winterwatersafety.com)

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. Our main safety messages this season are:



- Check that you have a working smoke alarm - do not be tempted to take the batteries out
 - Know your escape route - especially if staying away overnight remember: Get out, Stay out, Call 999
 - Take care when cooking
 - Do not overload electrics
 - Turn Christmas lights off at bedtime and when leaving the home
 - Take extra care with candles and keep candles, matches and lighters out of children's reach
- 

More safety advice can be found on the website: www.dwfire.org.uk