

# NEWS

## from the Primary Phase



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Dear Parents and Carers

As our first half term of the school year draws to a close, we have much to celebrate! The new school year began with us welcoming our new Reception cohort to the St Peter's community. After their 'stay and play' sessions on Monday 4th September, the children were excited for their first official day at 'big school.' It was a joy and privilege to greet them all, looking smart and school-ready in their brand-new uniforms. They settled into their classrooms brilliantly and have coped with the demands of a full school day from the off! Well done Reception – we are so delighted that you have joined us.

For our older children, there have been a number of enriching school trips and experiences taking place this half term. Year 3 enjoyed their visit to the New Forest Wildlife Park where they were able to observe wolves closely! Our Year 5 children looked fabulous on their 'Egyptian Day' and had a fantastic time at the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester. Our school community was filled with evacuees on Tuesday as our Year 6 children found out about the experience of British children during the Second World War.

Our Worship Council's mission this half term has been to promote child-led prayer within our classrooms. The children came together to prepare a worship based on the theme 'Creation'. They thought carefully about how they would set the tone for prayer before bravely leading worship in our KS1 and KS2 classrooms. We are so proud of the children for taking on this role with such confidence and reverence. The Worship Council have now passed on newly stocked prayer bags to each class. We hope that when it is your child's turn to share the prayer bag at home, it will create moments of meaningful thought and prayer within your family. We also hope that you enjoy the task of planning a worship of your child's choice to share in class.



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, our children took part in a Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace. If you have never prayed the rosary at home before with your child, we encourage you to use this time of instability in the world as a reason to focus your prayer and maybe enhance your own spirituality.

We say a huge thank you to all of our School Council members who did such a wonderful job last year, and welcome our newly appointed team: Drew, Luna, Alex, Maria, Annalie, Torben, Nelly, Rocco, Aiden, George, Daniel and Jack. It is a very important job and each member was proud to receive their ideas book and special badge!



Our mission this term is to build links with the local community. So far, we have organised collections for the Southbourne Foodbank and Hope for Food and have also sent letters to invite residents from The Retired Nurses National Home to watch our Harvest Festival celebration. The team are full of fabulous ideas and are incredibly keen to meet once every fortnight in our meeting room. We hope to build many more community links over the coming weeks.

In the final week of this half term, our youngest children took to the stage to wow their audience with their harvest festival songs and readings. It was so wonderful to see Reception taking part and to hear them singing so enthusiastically about their 'Tasty Food!' Year 1 provoked thought through their reading from Matthew and Year 2 read an excerpt from Peter Rabbit along with the ever popular 'Harvest Samba' song.

Our Key Stage 2 children took part in a Harvest Mass, led by the children themselves. My thanks go to Father Darryl who is always ready to help us celebrate mass within school.

I also want to take this opportunity to share my thanks to our school community for the generous donations you have provided for the foodbank. We know that it is not easy for all of us at the moment so every little bit of giving is even more valued and important. Our two charities are so grateful for your support - 4 tables worth of goodies!



As you may be aware, Brenda, our wonderful School Crossing Patroller is sadly retiring today after 22 years of service at our school. Brenda will be sorely missed by both students and staff. Her vigilance and dedication to keeping our children safe outside the school gates has been so vital at what is a very busy crossing.

Thank you, Brenda, for everything you have done for us. We wish you a very happy retirement!

I hope you enjoy reading further news from across the Primary Phase in the pages that follow, including updates from each year group as well as our Forest Schools programme and news from our recent sporting endeavours!

I wish you all a safe and restful half-term break,

*AMalone*

Alison Malone

[ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk)





## Important Reminders

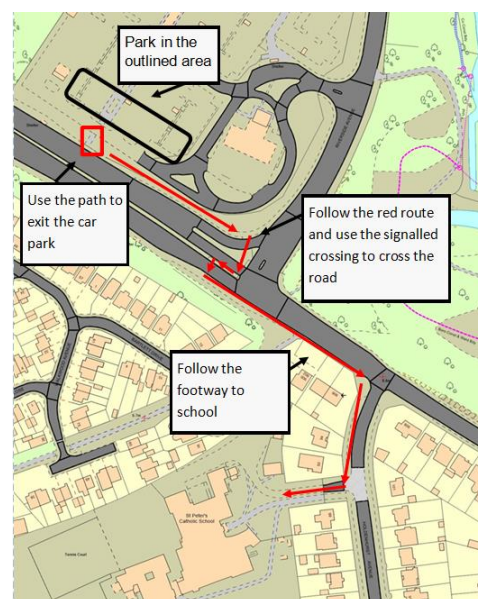
### Parking

We continue to receive a high number of concerns from our local community regarding the impact of school-related parking on residents and on the safety of our children.

Therefore, we are working closely with Sustrans and BCP Council to help support sustainable and active travel to school. We encourage active travel choices and want to make it easier for children to walk and cycle to school - if not for all their journey, for part of it.

We understand that some parents and carers do need to drive to school. **BCP Council have arranged with Tesco Extra, Castle Lane, that you are able to use Tesco as a park and stride location. Cars will need to be parked away from the store in the area of the carpark that is closest to Castle Lane.** Parking and walking via the pedestrian route shown on the map is around 400m.

Please consider using this location as a park and stride destination to help reduce the parking issues that we have around school.



### Absence Requests

There has been a significant increase in the number of parent requests for absence from school. Please remember that in order for children to learn effectively and make good progress in school, it is essential that they attend regularly and consistently.

## Primary Phase Diary Dates

<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>3AB</b> Parents' Evening 3:15 – 6:30pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Maths workshop for parents of children in Reception 2:15pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 visit to the Chapel, Southbourne 'Remembering Those we Love'
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 visit to the Chapel, Southbourne 'Remembering Those we Love'
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 3:15 – 6:30pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Class Mass 'Saints' 10:45am Parents of children in 2LM welcome to attend
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 3:15 – 6:30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 5:00 – 7:00pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Bournemouth Pavilion Concert – Year 6 choir
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 2 Trip to Marwell Zoo
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 3 Class Mass 'Share the Light of Jesus' 10:45am Parents of children in 3AN welcome to attend
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Trip to Fort Nelson
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Class Mass 'Saints' 10:45am Parents of children in 2SC welcome to attend
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Class Mass 'Share the Light of Jesus' 10:45am Parents of children in 3AB welcome to attend

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Service, Our Lady Queen of Peace 7:00pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Panto Trip, Bournemouth Pavilion
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch provided by Caterlink 3:15pm Christmas Fair
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Nativity, <b>Southbourne Theatre</b> Performance Times: <b>1:30pm and 6:00pm</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Nativity, <b>Iford Hall</b> Performance Time: <b>9:30am</b>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Nativity, <b>Southbourne Theatre</b> Performance Times: <b>1:30pm and 6:00pm</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>STAFF TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	School Commences

### Reception News

Reception have had a wonderful start to the year. We have been getting to know our new friends in the class and building on these relationships. Our topic has been, 'All About Me'. We have talked about how we are the same and how we are different and celebrated the joy in our uniqueness. We have looked carefully at what makes us unique and have noticed so much about what makes us, us. Time looking in the mirror to really examine our face has been amazing. Sometimes we don't notice the small things like the colour of our eyes! We have had lots of discussions about our families too. The children have chatted away so happily about their families on our communication phones, setting up houses in our home corners and creating their homes with the small world.

Autumn is such a fantastic season and we have enjoyed going on Autumn walks on our field where we have collected leaves and acorns. We have used these natural materials in our maths lessons to create patterns and to count onto our 5 frames. We have even created our own Autumn trees inspired by the artist Kandinsky by cutting out different sized circles to create an eye-catching picture. Using scissors is a tricky skill to master and we are working on being experts with this tool! Outside, we have been increasing our fine motor control by using tweezers to extract pumpkin seeds. Wonderful fun!



We have begun to build upon our knowledge and love of God and have looked at all that God has created in the world. As a finale to this unit, we have said thank you to God for all He has created. This has to have been the best day at school so far, as it spread pure joy and appreciation amongst all of the children and staff. We have loved to see the joy and grace with which the children are taking on their class worship at such a young age. Well done, Reception.

We have also begun to read, Yay! Every child has embraced our phonics with excitement and purpose. They love the mnemonics for each phoneme and have been buoyed by the repetition in lessons alongside new learning. Reading Practice has started and we are so excited to see the progress in our children. It is so wonderful that they are able to have that small group reading time 3 times a week. We have seen such progress already.



In maths, we have been looking at lots of mathematical language that will set us up for understanding mathematical concepts. We have been playing with capacity, length and height and talking about more/less and the same. Noticing amounts has been fundamental to our learning and the use of 5 and 10 frames has also added so much mathematical understanding to our youngest learners. If you are personally interested in how we teach maths, in particular subitising, please see Karen Wilding's video:



[What is subitising and WHY is it so important in young children's maths? - YouTube.](#)

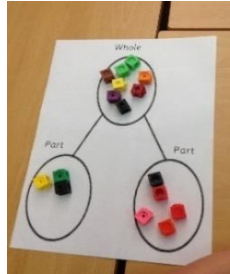
All of the children have worked incredibly hard this half term and we wish you all a very restful break.

The Reception Team x

## Year 1 News

The children have settled so nicely into Year 1 and we are very proud of the way they are adjusting to their new classrooms and routines. It was so lovely to see so many of you at our 'meet the teacher' event - thank you for taking your time to come and see us.

This term, in our RE lessons, we have been focusing on creation. Within this topic, we have explored how we praise and thank God for his creation and used instruments to show our praise using Psalm 150.



In maths, we have been refreshing our brains and working through our place value topic. We have been recapping our accurate counting and comparing numbers using new vocabulary; less than, greater than and equal to. The children are becoming much more confident with using number lines and their number formation is coming on really nicely. We are now beginning to use part-part-whole models to explore addition which the children are loving doing not only in their maths lessons but choosing time too!

In Literacy we have been enjoying 'Traction Man is Here' by Mini Grey. After completing our 'sparkly starter' mission, we have written thought bubbles and various sentences about the story. Along with this, we have written lists and labelled the characters using lots of adjectives. The children have practised using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters in their sentence writing. We have even designed a new character for Traction Man to conquer - an evil vegetable!

In History, we have been learning all about the real-life superheroes Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children have been amazing at remembering lots of information about both of our real-life superheroes and have loved exploring how nurses are such important figures in our lives. To conclude our topic, the children had a real-life nurse come in to visit us and asked lots of interesting questions about what it takes to be a nurse. It was lovely to see them so interested and asking lots of questions.

Our phonics and reading sessions continue to go really well. The children have loved the opportunity to work with different adults in small groups. As they did last year, they have focussed on a book for three days to work on their decoding, prosody and comprehension. The aim is to become fluent at reading the story by the end of the week. Please remember the book the child has read that week will be available for them to read at home using their Collins login details. Please speak to the teacher if you are still unable to access these.

We are so proud with how the children are getting on so far in year 1 and are very appreciative of all of your support with their learning at home.

Thank you so much!



Miss Maguire, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Mudge



## Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic first half term! We have been so proud of how hard they are all working and how engaged they have been in our first topic, All At Sea. In Literacy, we have been learning about the tragic events of the SS Forfarshire and Grace Darling's brave rescue of the survivors. The children have been able to write a recount of the events as well as take on the role of Grace Darling and write a diary entry in the role of a survivor.

The children have also engaged in our Power of Reading text 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe Todd-Stanton and have absolutely loved listening to Erin's adventures. We were so impressed with how well they did in their independent write when recounting the adventures of Erin Pike.



During Science, the children have been investigating materials and their properties. We have been working scientifically using our observation and classifying skills. During these lessons, we have looked at different materials such as sand, fabric, metal, wood and paper and discovered why these materials are suitable for the object they are made out of. We then moved on to researching life boats and created our own in Design Technology. Thank you for your generous donations of the resources the children needed!



We ended our topic this week with a visit from the RNLI, who spoke to us about the roles and responsibilities of sea rescues today. The children have also created their own lighthouses in Design and Technology lessons!



In RE, the children have been thinking about Creation and have listened to the stories of Noah and Jonah. From this learning, we have recognised different ways of how to look after God's creation. Some of the children suggested that doing a litter pick would show us looking after God's creation. We then carried this out on our school field!

Thank you for a brilliant first half term Year 2. We are looking forward to learning new and exciting things together throughout the year.

Year 2 Team



## Year 3 News

Wow! What a busy first half term it has been for everyone in Year 3. I am sure that the highlight for all of us was our school trip to the New Forest Wild Life Park. For many children, the experience of being on a coach together, was a big event, and to then be topped off with seeing real-life wolves was the icing on the cake!

Within science, the children showed us what they already knew about the bones in their skeletons by making them out of sticks and pasta at the start of the term. Building on this, they have been amazing at learning lots of new vocabulary surrounding the bones in the human body. They even make their own arm muscles making links to our work in DT (learning about levers). The children have created their own moving arm focusing on the bicep and triceps muscles. A highlight was playing with them after to see how contraction and flexion occurs in the arm.

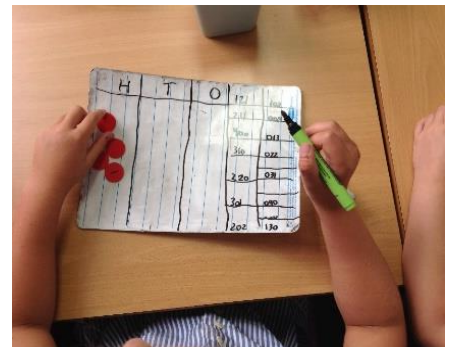


Much of our literacy work this term has been based on 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett, and has allowed the children to explore poetry, non-chronological reports and alternative endings to stories. We have been focusing on consolidating the children's knowledge of sentence structure and using conjunctions to extend ideas as well as including expanded noun phrases to add more description.



In computing, the children have learnt how branching databases work, whilst thinking about how they are used within our daily lives. They used a branching database on Jit5 (an online learning platform), identifying attributes of objects such as colour or physical features to sort groups of food and animals, before creating their own dinosaur branching databases. The children really enjoyed these activities, and helped each other develop resilience, as they worked their way through their databases.

After exploring 3-digit numbers, by using practical maths equipment and identifying what each digit was worth, the children quickly became confident at representing a number pictorially, using base 10 and place value counters. Number bonds have been central to our work in maths, where we have been learning to use a number line, to add on 1s, 10s and 100s to a 3-digit number. Many children are now regularly using Mathletics to complete weekly homework activities to help consolidate class activities. Well done to those children who have managed to gain Mathletics certificates! TTRockstars is also helping the children to get faster at their times tables and it has been great to see momentum growing and more children engaging with the site.



Through the teaching of the 'Creation' unit within R.E, children have learnt about Jesus being baptised, and about how we are called to help look after God's creation. As a class, the children shared their experiences of baptism and we focussed on the symbols of baptism and the role of Godparents. Children listened to the scripture of how Jesus called his first disciples, and then discussed how the disciples would have felt when this happened. The children enjoyed working together to rehearse and perform our harvest songs.

Now half-term is here, it gives us all time to reflect on how much has been achieved in a relatively short time. Moving from Year 2 to Year 3 is always a big change. We hope that you all have a good break!

Best wishes,

The Year 3 Team



## Year 4 News

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in Year 4, learning all about Australia, settling into our new routines and being back with our friends. We began our 'Awesome Australia' topic by studying information texts and then writing our own on this incredible country. We explored Australia's geography, looking at its location within the world (9,509 miles away from Bournemouth to be precise) and discovered that as well as it being the world's 6<sup>th</sup> largest country, it is also the world's smallest continent. We then went on to learn about Australia's history, specifically the Aboriginal people and their relationship with the land. Furthermore, this also provided us with the opportunity to find out more about Uluru as well as many other famous landmarks. Mrs Wyatt even helped us to draw these in our Art lessons using oil pastels. Finally, we were then able to research a number of Australian icons including Steve Irwin, Shane Warne, Margot Robbie, Kylie Minogue and Emily Kame Kngwarreye before presenting our information as an information text. To do this, we made use of: titles, subheadings and paragraphs. We also used apostrophes to indicate possession, e.g. the Northern Territory's capital city is Darwin.



Following this, we then started our first text of the half term, Fox, a beautiful story about friendship, loyalty and betrayal. After initially storyboarding the text, we looked closely at the symbolism used within the story and later analysed the characters of Magpie, Dog and Fox to support our own retelling of the story. Whilst doing so, Year 4 learnt all about fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions and the use of direct speech. These grammatical features then acted as our writing toolkit for our next Big Write and the teaching team were very impressed by the writing that was produced! Our work on these animals didn't stop here though as Mr Laurijssen has been helping us to create these characters from wood in our Design and Technology lessons. The children have very much enjoyed being able to use the tools required for this task and are looking forward to bringing these home in the coming weeks.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction, specifically when it comes to 4-digit numbers. This has seen us represent numbers in different ways, using concrete manipulatives, as well as pictorial and abstract methods, and identify numbers on a number line. This has then enabled us to compare and order these numbers before learning how to round them to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000. We then moved on to the addition and subtraction of two 4-digit numbers using the column method for calculations that involve no exchanges, one exchange and more than one exchange. Our confidence with this type of calculation has certainly improved and will inevitably help us with our Maths for the future. Another area of the Maths curriculum that we have been working tirelessly on is our times tables knowledge. We have currently recapped our 2's, 5's, 10's, 3's and 4's, and this is helping us with our recall of these facts. We will now look to replicate this with our remaining times tables.



To support our topic work on Australia, in Geography we have been exploring the different hemispheres and how this impacts climate and day light hours. The children also found the different time zones fascinating and how Australia's day is in fact ahead of ours. Additionally, we have also been exploring living things in Science and this has allowed us to learn more about a wide range of plants and animals before discovering how they can be classified using classification keys. One particular animal that the children enjoyed learning about was the Tasmanian Devil! We then built on our scientific knowledge by discovering more about habitats and how living things are adapted to surviving in a specific place. This work about God's creation has also tied in nicely with our RE work as we have been looking to answer our big question, 'How are we made in the image and likeness of God?' This has allowed us to reflect on how we can be good stewards in protecting and caring for our planet, the way God intended.

Thank you for all your support so far. We look forward to another fabulous half-term!

The Year 4 Teaching Team 😊



## Year 5 News

Our Year 5 children have had a fantastic start to the new school year! We introduced our new topic, Ancient Egyptians, where the children spent their first day decoding the Egyptian writing method of hieroglyphics, building pyramids and learning about what it was like to live in the Egyptian times. In more recent weeks, the children have been looking into Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun and were very excited to have the opportunity to crawl through our very own St. Peter's version that popped up overnight! It was wonderful to see Year 5 so keen to get hands-on with their learning and this really helped to bring their subsequent newspaper articles to life!



Year 5 have been working really hard this half term culminating in our Egyptian topic day. We had a wonderful day of topic-based activities, including: making mummy pizza, creating mummies from clay and toilet roll and designing an Egyptian death mask. We were particularly impressed with the effort that had been put into creating authentic Egyptian costumes, they all looked amazing and we thank you for going to such trouble.

In science, we have been undertaking some exciting experiments linked to our topic and have even mummified our own tomatoes. The children spent time learning about the Egyptian mummification process and understanding how natron was used as a preservative to stop Pharaoh's bodies from decaying. They then went on to make their own natron and used this to mummify a tomato. We will see after 70 days whether our tomatoes have managed to be preserved or whether they have gone rotten and mouldy!



To further enrich our learning, we visited the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester. It was great for the children to be able to further build on their existing knowledge of the Egyptians and see a range of artefacts and replicas of mummies. They represented the school brilliantly and it was lovely to draw our Egyptians topic to an exciting end.

We wanted to take the time to say a huge thank you for making our trips and topic days possible this half term. We truly couldn't do it without you and we are extremely grateful to have such a supportive parent community that prioritises every learning opportunity.

Have a fabulous, restful half term.

The Year 5 Team.



## Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have been really enthused by our class topic, *The World at War*. Much of our learning has been centred on our Power of Reading text, *War Horse*, written by Michael Morpurgo. The story is written from the perspective of Joey who is transformed from a working farm horse to a cavalry mount following the outbreak of the First World War. The children have really enjoyed following Joey's journey to the trenches and learning of the friendships he forms along the way.



In Literacy, the text has been used as inspiration when writing our own descriptive paragraphs. In particular, we have focused on Joey's experiences of being sold at auction as well as the battles he encounters. When writing, we have been focusing on our use of language choices and sentence structures to help build tension and atmosphere for the reader. At the end of the half term, we have also focused on writing non-chronological reports, unpicking the language and structural features of these and how they differ to narrative writing. This enabled us to write our own non-chronological report on how to care for a horse. As well as *War Horse*, Year 6 have also enjoyed their reading for pleasure text, *Archie's War*, presented in a comic-book style.

Our class topic is rich in history and the children have been particularly fascinated by the events of the First World War and the challenges the world faced at this time. Throughout our topic, we have looked at propaganda posters, first-hand written testimonies, political cartoons and photos taken at the time to support our knowledge of this historical period. This enabled us to learn about the challenges soldiers faced whilst living and working in the trenches, including the risk of trench foot. Working chronologically enabled us to identify key turning points of the war which we subsequently plotted on a timeline. In particular, we explored the Battle of the Somme, considering its significance and how it has been memorialised in history.



At the end of our topic, we learnt about the Armistice and the Treaty of Versailles, considering how these terms may have later contributed to the outbreak of war in 1939. To learn what life was like for civilians during the Second World War, Year 6 enjoyed taking part in a topic day dressed as evacuees. We considered how experiences would have differed depending on the host family they were assigned to and how young children would have felt about being separated from their families. We also learnt about the Dig for Victory campaign as well as the Make do and Mend pamphlets which were distributed to overcome shortages. With this as inspiration, Year 6 made their own carrot cake and created their own WW2-themed artwork.



In Art, Year 6 have used various materials and textures to make a 3D collage of a horse. In particular, inspiration for their artwork was taken from the props that were created for the stage production of *War Horse*. In Science, the children have been learning about the circulatory system including the different components of blood. The children particularly enjoyed creating their own 'blood smoothie' to represent these components as well as making their own model of the human heart. Each week, we have also enjoyed taking time to pause and reflect during our class workshops which have been beautifully led by members of our class.

We are so impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm already shown this year by our Year 6 children. We hope you all have a restful half-term holiday.

The Year 6 Team.



## Sports News

A number of children from both Year 5 and Year 6 have recently taken part in the Bournemouth Schools Football Tournament at Littledown. These competitions are contested by over 20 local schools and are always fiercely contested.

The Year 6 team played six games in total, winning three (v St Luke's, Park & Kingsleigh), drawing two (v Moordown and Muscliff) and losing just one game (v St James). We scored eight goals in total across the six games, with Olly, Thomas L and Luche top scoring with 2 goals each and Liam and Kasper scoring 1 goal each. The team played with commitment, confidence and with a smile on their face throughout, and were great ambassadors for St Peter's. Well done to Fionn, Thomas G, Theo, Liam, Olly, Luche, Thomas L, Kasper and Jacob.

Year 5 were one of the most competitive teams at the competition and came close to winning the trophy. They played in six games, winning four (v Stourfield, Park, Pokesdown and St James), drawing one (v Muscliff) and losing one (v St Walburga's). The team just missed out on a place in the final after conceding a last second goal against St Walburga's. We scored eight goals in total with Joshua and Sammy top scoring with 3 goals each and James and Jacob S both getting a single goal. Much like Year 6, the team were a pleasure to take to the competition and applied themselves excellently. Well done to Emrys, Jacob B, Jacob T, Jacob S, James, Joshua, Michael, Oliver and Sammy.

## Young Sport Leaders – 'Bronze Ambassadors':

A highlight of our school is the sense of community and continuity between our youngest and oldest children. I was lucky enough to take ten Year 6 children to Bournemouth Collegiate School to be trained up as 'Bronze Ambassadors' who will be working at playtime with our Reception children. The training consisted of learning a number of different playground games, how to run successful playtime sessions and a chance to prepare and organise a plan of action to bring back to school. This is a very popular intervention and I hope to train up more children back at school so that we can expand the programme. Well done to the following children who are our new 'Bronze Ambassadors' – Polina, Jacob, Theo, Erin, Louise, Lily, Jake, Liam, Oliver and Kasper.



## Forest School News



What a wonderful half term to be out doing Forest School! Warm sunny summer sessions gradually were succeeded by dramatic crisp autumnal days, and every week gave us something different to enjoy. We welcomed the groups from RBW, 1EM and 2LM.

Everyone enjoyed the nature scavenger hunt which served as an introduction to our 'rewilded' Forest School area of the field. While hunting for various nature items we observed butterflies, ladybirds and many other small creatures while summer was still tantalising us with its balmy weather. Bonus points were given for any small animal teddies found that had been hidden around our site!

In subsequent weeks our Reception group enjoyed making clay goblins, building animal homes out of natural materials, balancing on the super-long slack line hooked up between two trees, and a marvellous bug hunting session.

Our Year 1 and 2 groups made their own Forest School "cookie pendants" with a picture of their chosen animal on, using palm drills in the process. They also enjoyed activities such as den building, bug hunting, clay modelling, slack-line balancing and litter picking using our Eco Council litter pickers!

In Week 4 we welcomed Ollie from the Secondary Phase who is our resident bird and nature expert and he shared his extensive knowledge (and infectious enthusiasm) of birds with all the children. We then set out to look for many of the birds we discussed using our Forest School binoculars and special St Peter's bird checklists. Some children even made their own clay models of birds. Thanks again Ollie!

Week 5 saw Years 1 and 2 make a campfire and then their own Forest School cookies using flour, water, oil and chocolate chips. They were absolutely delicious, washed down with a hot chocolate... naturally!



We were given the blessing of a wonderfully sunny day for our final 'celebration' session. All the groups began with marshmallows and hot chocolate (again!) around the campfire and then enjoyed their favourite activities from the previous weeks. We all finished off our Forest School experience with fun games using the brightly coloured parachute as shown in the photographs. What a joy it has been!



While there is so much uncertainty in the world, the benefits our natural surroundings can have on our wellbeing take on even greater significance. Try and take your loved ones out for a nature walk, a visit to the beach, or any green space if you are able; you will feel better for it!

Mr Motte- Forest School Leader

## Other News



Thank you to Caterlink for providing a delicious tasting menu at our Open Evening last week.

Plans are currently underway for a similar event to be held for our current parents. This will offer the opportunity for you to taste-test the food on offer and answer any food related queries you may have.



## ParentLine 5-19

A confidential text messaging service for parents and carers of children aged 5-19.

Message a member of the School Nursing team for confidential advice on: 07312 263131

We can help with:

- healthy eating
- weight management
- toileting
- Sleep
- development
- hearing
- behaviour and more.

Available during school term time only.

For any issues which our School Nursing Team may be able to assist, please contact them in the first instance on the Nursing Team telephone number - 07312 263131.



### **A message from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service**

This time of year, there are many opportunities to celebrate, especially with sparklers, bonfires, fireworks and candles.

We would like to encourage you to talk to your children about how they can stay safe near fire. Simple actions such as wearing gloves when using sparklers, keeping matches, lighters and fireworks out of children's reach, keeping everyone a safe distance from fireworks and bonfires can all help towards a safe celebration.

Help your child understand the importance of being safe around candles, especially if wearing a fancy dress costume. It is safer to have battery operated candles in pumpkins.

Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home and everyone knows the escape plan.

With the change of daylight hours, it is important that children dress brightly to be seen when they are out and about. If you are walking near water, take extra care as it may be more slippery with leaves and mud on the banks.

If someone is in trouble in the water, tell them to float on their back like a star, throw them something that floats and call 999 for help, never go into the water yourself.

For more safety information please visit [www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)

Thank you for your time and help,  
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE**