

NEWS

from the Primary Phase



Friday 15th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn 2 is always a wonderful half-term in the primary phase - it has been a busy seven weeks, offering lots of news and much for us to celebrate!

In November, our Chaplaincy team invited pupils in Year 3 and Year 5 to take part in a 'Remembering Those We Love' event. 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.

For Armistice Day, children from Year 6 led a beautiful Remembrance worship in each of our classrooms. It was a wonderful opportunity for Year 6 to share their curriculum learning from last half-term, where they focused on the events of the World War, with a real purpose. So many children and staff commented on how brilliantly they led each worship, so thank you and well-done Year 6! James (one of our Year 6 pupils) marked our minutes' silence by playing 'The Last Post' on his trumpet.



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! Year 4 went to Fort Nelson and experienced what life would have been like serving in the Roman army. Both year groups came back full of enthusiasm for the things they had learnt and put this to great use in their Literacy lessons too.

To mark Children in Need, our children took part in a 'Sportacular' event which raised £758.30! Throughout the day, the children (and teachers!) were challenged to take part in a range of sporting events in which our PE equipment was used continuously throughout the entire day! Well done to all our children and a big thank you for your generous donations!

This half term also saw the return of our class masses in our new chapel space. Our Year 2 children focused on the theme 'Share the Light of Jesus' whilst children in Year 3 reflected on the theme of 'Saints'. It was wonderful to invite parents to celebrate Mass with us. Those who were able to attend commented on the children's respect and reverence throughout.



This term also saw the start of Juliette's prayer group – a moment in our week which so many of us now look forward to! Every Friday, children across KS2 are invited to meet during their lunch break to take part. Eager to participate, a group of our Year 4 children took great pride in setting up their own prayer space ready for Juliette's arrival!



We began thinking about Christmas back in November when we sent out a plea to our families for donations to the Rotary Shoebox appeal. Thank you to those of you who were able to donate to this wonderful cause. Jack and Luna, two of our School Council members, were pleased to count 39 boxes in total which will make 39 children very happy this Christmas!

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 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 – a special thank you to Mrs Byles for arranging 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 100 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 6th December was our annual trip to the Bournemouth Pavilion to watch the pantomime. We had the added excitement this year of seeing Alice (4JR) dancing in the show – she was absolutely brilliant and dazzled us with her amazing dancing throughout. Elodie (from 5CB) was lucky enough to be invited up onto the stage too and was given a goody bag for her 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 and held our Christmas Fair. Thank you all for supporting our Christmas Fair and what fun we had! We believe that we have raised approximately £6000 for the school. Thank you to our PTA who helped us organise all of the prizes, sold tokens and supplied all the food and drink for the event. We know that this is a huge commitment on top of your own day job, so a huge thanks goes out to you! We have a new PTA team starting in the New Year. If you would like to help in any way, please add **Monday 8th January at 6pm** to your diary and contact Sally at saturnergreen@gmail.com for further information.



The final week of the Autumn term 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 and acting. Thank you all so much for providing their wonderful costumes, practising lines and songs at home, and applauding their performances so whole-heartedly. This year, our Reception children performed their very own traditional nativity here at Iford - entertaining us with their unique charm and enthusiasm! We were also able to invite some very important guests from our local community – residents from the Retired Nurses National Home came to view our performance and thoroughly enjoyed every moment!



Following the Nativity performances of children from Years 1-6 in the De La Salle Theatre, we have received wonderful feedback from many members of our community commenting on the memorable experience shared by both members of the audience and children alike! This would not have been possible without our parent community facilitating alternative drop off arrangements – thank you for helping us to create this unforgettable experience. The donations collected following each performance raised over £600 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.



The focus of our School Council this half term has been promoting community links as this is such an important aspect of both our faith and our school mission statement. Over the past few weeks, our school council members have been busy writing cards to local residents and this morning, delivered them to our neighbours to wish them a very Merry Christmas.

This afternoon, we gathered together for our traditional 'Carols Around the Tree.' We enjoyed a performance of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' 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!

As this term draws to a close, sadly, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Brewer after over two years of service to St. Peter's School. We are very grateful for all she has done for our community and in particular for her care of our students with additional educational needs. We also wish Miss Clothier good luck as she moves school to take on a full-time teaching post and wish her every happiness and success.

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 further news from our School Council!

Finally, I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas,



Alison Malone

ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk



Important Reminders

Parking:

We are receiving increasing numbers of complaints from residents and regular car users regarding inconsiderate parking around our school both mornings and afternoons. There has also been an increase in the report of verbal abuse towards residents from members of our community when challenged. Please may we ask that you be respectful of our neighbours and consider road safety when parking. If you notice illegal or dangerous parking a report can be sent to Parking@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01202 128900 Option 1.

Arrival after the start of the school day:

We have noticed an increasing number of children arriving at school after 8:30am. The classroom doors open at 8:20am to allow the children time to enter their classrooms ready to commence learning at 8:30am. If your child is not in class by 8:30am then they are late and missing valuable learning time.

From January, there will be a new signing in system for anyone arriving late via the office. A 'late sheet' will need to be completed by parents on arrival. This way we can monitor persistent latecomers. We understand this may delay you longer in the morning whilst we implement this new procedure, but we have a duty to ensure that children are arriving to school on time. The register will still only record children arriving after 8:40am. If you are struggling to get your child to school on time, Mrs Malone would welcome you coming to see her.

We do understand that there may be occasions where you are not able to get your child into school on time but we need to address this issue as it becoming a regular occurrence for some families. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Absence reporting:

If your child is ill, please call the absence line before 9:00am on the first day of absence. The correct telephone number is 01202 421141. Please select option 1 for absence reporting and then option 1 again to take you through to the primary phase absence line where you can leave a message. Please leave your child's full name, class and the reason for absence, e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, temperature.

Lost property:

Please may we ask that all items of clothing are clearly named. We accumulate large quantities of unnamed lost property which is regularly disposed of. If items are labelled, then we will return them to your child.

Primary Phase Diary Dates

Monday 1st January	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 2nd January	STAFF TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday 3 rd January	Spring Term Commences
Thursday 4 th January	Year 4 Swimming Commences
Thursday 4 th January	Vision Screening - Reception Classes
Friday 5 th January	<u>THIS WEEK ONLY</u> Forest School, Group 3 - RWB, 1RM and 2LM
Tuesday 9 th January	Forest School, Group 3 - RWB, 1RM and 2LM
Tuesday 9 th January	Year 6 National Child Measuring Programme
Tuesday 9 th January	Year 2 Swimming Commences
Friday 12 th January	Year 4 Waterwise Session
Friday 9 th February	Last day of Spring 1
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February	HALF TERM
Monday 19 th February	Spring 2 Commences
Tuesday 20 th February	Reception trip to Beaulieu
W/C 26 th February	Year 5 Bikeability (more info to follow)
Tuesday 5 th March	The Book Fair will arrive in school for a week
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day Celebrations (more info to follow)
Monday 11 th March	Parents' Evening 3:15pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday 13 th March	Parents' Evening 3:15pm - 6:30pm
Thursday 14 th March	Parents' Evening 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Tuesday 19 th - Friday 22 nd March	Life Education Visits
Wednesday 27 th March	Last day of Spring 2
Thursday 28th March	STAFF TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN
Friday 29th March	BANK HOLIDAY - GOOD FRIDAY
Monday 1st - Friday 12th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 15 th April	Summer 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!

In our Fantastic food topic, our 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 pumpkin soup and Spanish rice.



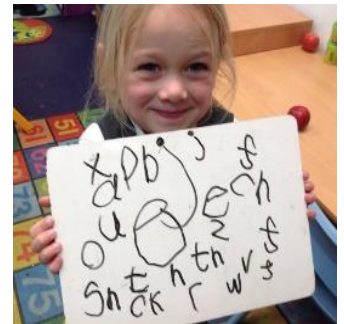
The idea of our 'Fantastic Food' topic is to allow children to experience and try new foods, in the hope they will be open to trying new tastes. It was amazing to see that when the children had been part of the cooking/cutting process, they were nearly all willing to try new tastes and talk about why 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 '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 children enjoyed a very special pyjama day. They were treated to a hot chocolate and bedtime story in their pyjamas before they brushed their teeth. The Tooth Fairy was so impressed with everyone's learning throughout this topic that she paid the children a visit and left a very special treat for them to enjoy!

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

In Year 1, we have had a very exciting half term with our topic 'Out of Africa'. We started our theme by designing and making our very own Djembe drums using paper mâché. We thought carefully about each process and then, during literacy lessons, we wrote instructions on how to make the drum. We used bossy verbs in our writing and were able to sequence the instructions.

We then experienced an engaging and energetic African drum workshop with Chiekh! We learnt all about Djembe drums and how to play a call and response song. It was an experience we (and our ears!) will never forget!

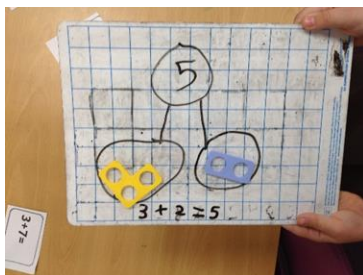


During Geography, we have made 'me on the map' circles in order to fully understand where we live in the world, starting with our town, country (England and UK), continent and world. Linking with our topic, the children have been using their map skills to locate Africa and Ghana. They were able to compare weather patterns between Kumasi in Ghana and Bournemouth as well as comparing their human and physical features.

This half term, we have been exploring the west African tale 'The Leopards Drum' by Jessica Souhami as our class text. The story tells the tale of Osebo the leopard who has a magnificent drum, but 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 story and retelling the story with puppets and acting it out. We continue to focus on finger spaces, full stops and capital letters. The children have worked exceptionally hard to write their own versions on the story in their first "BIG WRITE" this term. We are so proud of how far they have come in order to independently write a whole story!



Our Mathematical focus this term has been on 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 how addition and subtraction are related. They have used the $< = >$ symbols to compare addition and subtraction calculations.



Our phonics and reading sessions continue to go really well. We have started to teach phase 5 'Grow the Code' where the children learn alternative graphemes for sounds they have already learnt. The children are picking this up quickly but we would love to encourage you to keep going over the current sounds and tricky words with your child on purple mash (phonics homework sheet). In reading, the children are now developing their fluency by blending in their head and re-reading sentences for sense. Please remember the book your child has read that week will be available for them to read at home using their Collins login details - recapping the stories and phonemes daily at home will have a huge impact on the long-term retention of their phonics knowledge.

In RE this half term, the children have been looking at their role as a steward of God's creation. We looked at the concept of reaching out to those in need particularly the poor and vulnerable. We are currently learning about the season of Advent. We have created our own advent calendar of advent



promises. We will look at getting ready for the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph and focus on the joy that Advent season brings.

Thank you for your help with the children's home-learning. The children are always proud to tell us what they have been practising at home. Just a reminder the weekly homework in year 1 is:

- **Reading daily (minimum 3 times a week)** Please could you ensure you are making comments about your child's reading in the yellow book where possible – we collect in reading records each Thursday.
- **1 Mathletics lesson**
- **Re-cap as often as possible of our Little Wandle sounds and words (found on Purple Mash).**

Many thanks again for your endless support. We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and new year!

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 learning about Meerkats and other types of Mongoose. The children were able to write an information text about the different types of Mongoose that live in Africa. They are now experts in everything Meerkat related including where they live, how they behave and what they look like. We are sure they could answer almost any question that was thrown their way about meerkats! After learning lots of interesting facts about Meerkats, we were lucky enough to go on a trip to Marwell Zoo, where we observed the Meerkats' behaviour for ourselves. The children loved applying their knowledge of tally charts that they had learnt about in Maths to record what they saw the meerkats doing at the zoo. When we returned to school, the children wrote a fantastic recount of our events at the zoo.



We finished the topic by throwing Sunny a welcome home party and the children used their artistic skills to create some fantastic decorations. In Science, we have been learning about different animals and their habitats. The children have developed an understanding about how animals adapt to their environment and the basic facts of a food chain.

In RE, we have learnt about the Catholic Social Teaching principles. 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 of 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 how they are developing into such brilliant mathematicians. 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.

The children have been working incredibly hard practising their nativity song and dance. 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 Morris and Miss Cox

Year 3 News

Wow, what a busy but exciting half term it has been for Year 3! Our learning this half term has been based on our Power of Reading text, *The Tin Forest*. On the children's return to school after the October half term break, they found that the entire classroom had been covered in tin foil! This made for an exciting start to the new topic, as you can imagine. This led to writing our very own descriptive diary entries from the perspective of the main character in our focus text.

Year 3 have been inspired by the Big Question that has guided their RE learning during this topic, 'What does it mean to be a steward of Creation?'. The children have been learning ways in which they themselves can be good stewards of His creation as well as ways in which they can also inspire others to do the same. We have used the passion that the children have shown during RE 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!



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, in 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



'Veni, vidi, vici'. As Julius Caesar once said, 'I came, I saw, I conquered' and that is exactly what Year 4 have done throughout the second half of the Autumn term whilst learning about the 'Rotten Romans', from Roman numerals in Maths to making clay pots in Art.

We began our new topic by reading the legend of Romulus and Remus, and how they founded the city of Rome. This provided us with the perfect writing opportunity as we were then able to write formal letters to King Amulius, from the perspective of Romulus, pleading for him to release his brother, Remus, from jail. Within these letters, we looked to make use of fronted adverbials and subordinating conjunctions, both at the beginning

and end of our sentences. We also looked at how this legend has been passed on during the last 2,000 years and how this has led to subtle differences appearing within it. Furthermore, we also explored what archaeology can tell us about the building of Rome and, that one thing we all agree on, is that it was founded around 753BC.

Given this fact, this period of history has therefore provided us with many rich opportunities to develop our historical skills as well as our historical understanding. We initially revised chronology by creating a timeline of the key events from the rise and fall of the Roman Empire before identifying the difference between primary and secondary sources, and why both are valuable. Following this, we then compared the diets of a rich and poor Roman with an average person in modern Britain today.

Much excitement was then generated when looking at Julius Caesar's attempted invasions of Britain. Despite many of our children recognising this dictator's name, few of them knew that he failed on both occasions when trying to conquer the Celts. We later learnt that it was in fact Emperor Claudius who ordered the successful invasion one hundred years later. In our local history study, we then looked at a key battle which took place at Maiden Castle, in Dorchester, and how this led to the Romans building the town itself. This was something that Miss Ward is passionate about teaching the children, due to it being her home town.

This sequence of history lessons then enabled our children to fully immerse themselves into a day of learning at Fort Nelson, entitled 'The Romans are Coming'. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by a Celtic warrior who posed us the question, 'Do we live alongside the Romans or go to war against them?' This involved taking part in a Celtic feast within a round house, visiting a Roman trading post and looking at various artefacts and then joining the Roman legion.



The children particularly enjoyed being given their own Roman scutum shield. The teachers and parent helpers were then able to test their tortoise formation by hurling some pretend rocks their way...

When we returned to school, we then wrote our own newspaper reports about Emperor Claudius' successful invasion. This included making use of a catchy headline, a short but informative summary and learning to write in columns. The children also made use of their 'Super 6' when punctuating direct speech. This allowed the children to include direct quotes from the invading Roman soldiers as well as Boudicca, a female Celtic warrior, who led a rebellion against the Romans.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

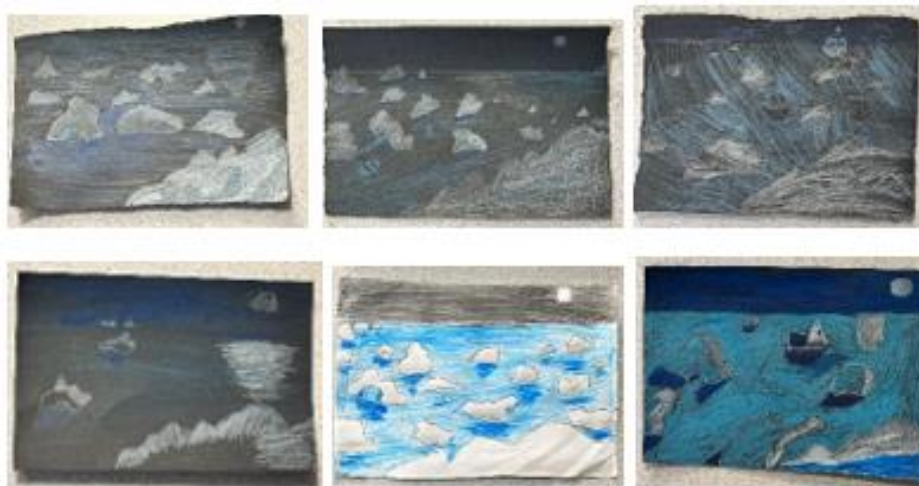
Year 5 News

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, writing persuasively by focusing on the skills 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. In Art, we 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 of Antarctica. 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! We also focused on which type of materials would keep someone warm in a climate such as Antarctica by using data loggers to measure the temperature drop in water which had been insulated by these materials.

To conclude our topic, we welcomed our very own Antarctic explorer to St Peter's. The children were very grateful to host Ben and had lots of questions for him!

Thank you to all the Year 5 children for arriving at school each day with a positive attitude to learning and to the parents/carers for their continued support.

We wish you all an enjoyable, restful and peaceful Christmas holidays.

The Year 5 Team.



Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic half term learning all about our wonderful chocolate-themed topic. We started by exploring the process of how chocolate is made, from bean to bar. After researching where chocolate comes from, we wrote our own explanation text to document each stage in greater detail. When writing, we specifically focused on using a range of causal conjunctions and fronted adverbials to link our ideas together and develop cohesion.

This half term, Year 6 have been busy reading our Power of Reading text, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, written by the famous children's author, Roald Dahl. This provided us with a wealth of writing opportunities as we spent time focusing on each of the Golden Ticket winners, thinking of expanded noun phrases and relative clauses to describe them. We used this as inspiration when writing a newspaper article documenting Charlie Bucket's find of the final Golden Ticket. To bring our newspaper reports to life, we focused on incorporating a range of eyewitness statements, ensuring that we punctuated our quotes correctly.



In Geography, Year 6 have been learning all about the cocoa trade in order to answer their key enquiry question: *Where would you choose to set up a chocolate factory today?* Year 6 used a range of maps to locate the world's different climate zones before identifying which regions of the world provide the conditions that cacao trees need to grow. The children learnt about the concept of trade miles before analysing maps to identify the trade routes associated with transporting cocoa around the world. Year 6 considered some of the issues surrounding the cocoa trade before they researched the Fairtrade initiative and how this has been used to improve workers' conditions and communities around the world. Year 6 considered both the positive and negative implications of this initiative before entering into a whole-class debate. To end our topic, Year 6 completed a case study on the Cadbury Bournville factory. They identified the location of the factory and considered why Bournville was a good location for trade during the 19th century. Finally, Year 6 finished our topic by applying their knowledge to answer our key enquiry question where many children chose Bristol and Liverpool as locations for their own chocolate factory.



Year 6 have been busy researching a range of different chocolate brands and the products they sell to help them design and create their own chocolate bar in DT. To do this, the children created their own packaging designs and chocolate moulds as well as considering advertising slogans and jingles. Their finished chocolate bars were then sold at our PTA Christmas Fair for our school community to enjoy. Year 6 have further demonstrated their creative talents in Art where they have been focusing on the works of the famous artist, L.S. Lowry who often depicts urban landscapes, focusing particularly on industrial districts. Year 6 replicated his artistic style to create their own chocolate-factory artwork using pen and fine lines before exploring the concept of a naïve artist.

We have been immensely proud of all of the hard work and enthusiasm Year 6 have shown towards their learning 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

What a wonderfully musical half term this has been 😊

We started the half term with a visit from Cheikh Diopp, an African drummer who shared workshops with several classes on using djembe drums within music. All classes from Years 1-6 have been fortunate enough to learn to play djembe drums in class this half term – they are very loud!



The Year 6 choir have been busy rehearsing, at school and at Kingsleigh Primary School, for their performance at the Bournemouth Pavilion as part of the BSMA Carol Concert. They sang beautifully, and represented St Peter's Primary School so well. I am very proud of all of their hard work.

The Year 4 and 5 choirs enjoyed a visit to the Laguna Hotel in Bournemouth, to sing Christmas carols to the residents enjoying a Tinsel and Turkey holiday. Their singing was so impressive that it prompted a visit from Father Christmas himself to deliver a small gift to all of the children involved!



We then heard from all 100 (yes, 100!) of our choir members across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at our annual Advent Service at Our Lady Queen of Peace church. This was a wonderful evening of songs and readings to welcome in the season of Advent – and as usual, the children's singing was stunning! I am always so proud that the children are willing to give up their lunchtimes to meet with choir and learn our songs. New members are always welcome! Years 3 and 4 meet on FRIDAY lunchtimes, and Year 5 and 6 meet on THURSDAY lunchtimes. Year 5 and 6 will be busy after Christmas rehearsing songs for their visit to Young Voices at the O2 Arena in London at the end of January! New members are also very welcome at Year 5 and 6 orchestra, who meet after school on THURSDAYS – please email Mrs Byles for more details at lbs@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Instrumental/singing lessons will resume in the week beginning Mon 8th January, so please ensure that payment has been made via parentpay before the start of term in order for lessons to continue. Please also be reminded that half a term's written notice is required if you do not wish for your child to continue with their instrumental/singing lessons. All children who currently learn an instrument will bring home a brief comments sheet before the end of term, written by their instrumental teacher, so that you can see what they have been learning.

News from our School Council



This term, our school council have also been busy taking part in an investigation to unpick air pollution levels in and around our school. They carefully chose different locations to place diffusion tubes which will measure the levels of air pollutant in our environment – they even placed one in Mrs Malone’s office! The School Council look forward to collecting and analysing the results of their test in the New Year.

Sporting News

Congratulations to Joshua, Year 5, who has been selected for the Dorset County Cricket U10s team. Good luck Joshua – we are all very proud of you and look forward to hearing your successes in the coming months!



News from Forest School

Well, we have had a half term of Forest School in which we have experienced all kinds of conditions! Lovely crisp sunny autumnal days have contrasted with foreboding dull, icy days, and we even had a cold rain-soaked Tuesday, which is very unusual for us in Forest School! We welcomed groups from RBC, 1SC and 2SM.

All the groups began their Forest School adventures in our opening week with our nature scavenger hunt, with teams scurrying around our wonderful outdoor area looking for nature items, and filling in their check-sheets to compare around the Fire-Circle at the end of the session accompanied by a delicious hot chocolate!



Our Reception group have enjoyed their first taste of Forest School with activities such as moulding clay goblins, balancing on the slack line, and building animal homes. Everyone enjoyed the challenges, with some brilliant efforts and creativity on show.

We were then all thrilled when we received another visit from Ollie of Year 8 in the Secondary Phase: our ornithological expert. He wowed us with his bird knowledge, and by the end of the sessions all of the children were speaking knowledgeably about all the different types of birds we see in and around our field at school! They also all had binoculars to get close up views too!

In subsequent weeks the groups from years 1 and 2 enjoyed some of our regular Forest School activities such as den building, bug hunting, clay modelling, litter picking (very popular!) and wood “cookie” pendant making. There were many colourful and imaginative designs for the pendants featuring animals beginning with the same initials as their names. The children used palm drills in the process of making them- great for developing fine motor skills!



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. This term we have tried a new recipe: St Peter's Forest School choc chip cookies! They were very popular and delicious!

In our final sessions we all had a go at toasting our marshmallows on the campfire and then we played games with our colourful huge parachute! What a fantastic way to finish!

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. And it is great for your wellbeing!

Mr Motte
Forest School Leader