

NEWS

from the Primary Phase



Friday 20th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn 2 is always a wonderful half-term at the primary phase - it has been a busy seven weeks, offering lots of joy and much for us all 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 special remembering trees and to think of all those they love. The children engaged brilliantly in this spiritual opportunity - a huge thank you to Juliette and Liz for organising it.

This half term also saw the return of our class masses. 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.

We welcomed primary phase pupils to join this year's team of Lasallian Leaders within school. Our Lasallian Leaders are a group of pupils who meet regularly to pray together and share ideas. They are involved in all aspects of our school community - supporting at school events, leading and planning liturgies and Masses and develop leadership skills by running prayer groups, assemblies and fundraising initiatives.

Three of our Primary Lasallian Leaders Josie, Emma and Sophia recently represented St Peter's school at a local Social Justice Conference. They came back filled with ideas and inspired to find ways to promote Lasallian values in our school.



On Wednesday 4th December, a special 'Commissioning Mass' for all this year's Lasallian Leaders across both Primary and Secondary was held in the school chapel at our Southbourne site and celebrated by Mgr John Nelson.



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. So many children and staff commented on how brilliantly they led each worship.

Our Year 6 children took part in an evacuee day and our Year 1 children were treated to an African Drumming workshop. November also saw some classes brave the cold to enjoy 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 were invited to wear spotty clothing to school. In total, we raised £531.71 for an incredible charity – a big thank you for your generous donations!



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. Each year, children from across Bournemouth are encouraged to compose their own carol and I am delighted to share that, this year, the competition was won by three of our own students – Emma, Josie and Eva-Luna who performed their composition 'It's Time for Christmas' to a full house. Well done girls – we are so proud of you!



The girls' carol is also featured in the De La Salle carol service where children from our primary and secondary phase joined with students from all over Europe. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ph-ivMeBZY>

Our Year 4 choir were 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 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.

Tuesday 10th December, was our annual trip to the Bournemouth Pavilion to watch the pantomime. We had the added excitement this year of seeing Alice (Year 5) dancing in the show. She was absolutely brilliant and dazzled us with her amazing dancing throughout – an inspiration to us all! 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 on Thursday 12th December, when we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch (a big thank you to our amazing catering team), wore our Christmas jumpers and held our PTA Christmas Fair.

Our Christmas Fair was a huge success raising close to £3,000 for our school and what fun we had! Alongside a range of stalls, children visited Father Christmas, had fun in our VR Centre and we were treated to performances from both the Year 3 choir and our samba band. The PTA did a wonderful job of organising prizes, selling tokens and supplying food and drink for the event. We would like to thank Sally from Tesco for supporting our Christmas Fair, both in person and for donations from the store.



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. 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 Linkfield Court Care Home came to view our performance and thoroughly enjoyed every moment!

Children from Years 1-6 performed their nativities, Straw and Order and A king is Born, in the De La Salle Theatre at our Southbourne site. A memorable experience shared by both members of the audience and children alike!



The donations collected following each performance raised £928.25 for our chosen charity, Julia's House. Thank you for giving so generously to support such a worthy cause. It is wonderful that our children know they are using their talents and gifts to make a difference in the wider world.

We will continue to support Julia's House in the New Year and are taking part in Julia's House Tail Trail – a series of giant mermaid tail sculptures which will be on display in the BCP area for 8 weeks from 5th April-1st June. The proceeds from the trail will help raise vital funds for Julia's House children's hospice so that they can continue to provide a lifeline of care to seriously ill children and their families in our local area.

Our sculpture brings the mission statement of our school to life and builds on the importance of our school name. We will share the location of our tail closer to the time for you all to visit!

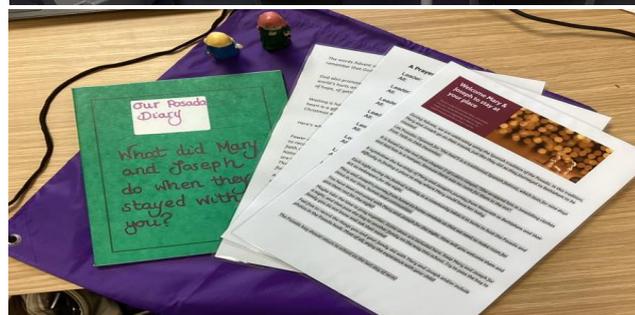


Over the past few weeks, our school council members have been busy writing cards to local residents and this morning, delivered them to our neighbours to wish them a very Merry Christmas.



During Advent, we introduced the Posada Bag - a Spanish tradition, where Mary and Joseph visit people's homes as they journey towards Bethlehem. Las Posadas is Spanish for 'the Inns'. The tradition comes from Chapter 2 in Luke's Gospel: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn".

4 bags have travelled from family to family this Advent - if Mary and Joseph came to stay with you, we hope you welcomed them with open arms.



This afternoon, we gathered together for our traditional 'Carols Around the Tree.' We enjoyed a performance of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' by our guitar group whilst our orchestra performed 'Good King Swings at Last' and 'See Amid the Winter's Snow' as well as being 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 our wonderful Mrs Lafferty – a much loved member of our office team who, over 7 years has been an integral part of our school community - supporting pupils, parents and staff alike. We also say goodbye to our lovely teaching assistant, Mrs Castles who has helped so many of our younger children at the primary phase. We wish both Mrs Lafferty and Mrs Castles every happiness and success as they move on to their next venture!

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!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AMalone". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large 'A' and 'M'.

Alison Malone

ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Primary Phase Diary Dates

Monday 6 th January	Spring Term Commences
Tuesday 7 th January	Year 2 Swimming Lessons Commence
Thursday 9 th January	Year 4 Swimming Lessons Commence
W/C 13 th January	After school activities commence
Tuesday 28 th January	Year 4 Waterwise sessions in school
Wednesday 5 th February	SEND Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30am, School hall
Wednesday 6 th February	6RA Class Mass, 10:45am – Parents welcome
Wednesday 12 th February	6HH Class Mass, 10:45am - Parents welcome
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st February	Half Term
Tuesday 25 th February	Reception trip - Beaulieu
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 12 th March	Spring Term Soiree
Monday 17 th March	Parents' Evening, 3:15pm-6:30pm
Tuesday 18 th March	5CB Class Mass, 10:45am – Parents welcome
Wednesday 19 th March	5CW Class Mass, 10:45am – Parents welcome
Wednesday 19 th March	Parents' Evening, 3:15pm-6:30pm
Thursday 20 th March	Parents' Evening, 5:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday 22 nd March	New Milton Music Festival - Orchestra and Samba Band
Tues 25 th – Fri 28 th March	Life Education visit to school
Wednesday 26 th March	SEND Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30am, School hall
Wednesday 26 th March	4JR Class Mass, 10:45am - Parents welcome
Friday 28 th March	Reconciliation for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 28 th March	Bournemouth Music Festival, Years 3, 4 and 5 choirs
Wednesday 2 nd April	4RA Class Mass, 10:45am - Parents welcome
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 1 and Year 5 - Science Dome visiting school
Friday 4 th April	Staff Training Day School closed for children
Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April	Classes Resume

Reception News

What a busy half term Reception have had! We have been enjoying our two topics, '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!

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 what adjectives the children could think of as part of our food taste testing activity and see some children trying something new. They were nearly all willing to try new tastes and talk about why they like the food or not. As part of our topic, we made some delicious fruit kebabs. The children loved being part of the cutting process and again, used some lovely adjectives to describe their thoughts.

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, we will be having a very special pyjama day. We will be brushing our teeth before the Tooth Fairy comes to visit! We shall also have a wonderful hot chocolate and bedtime story in our pyjamas before wait and hopefully the Tooth Fairy might pay us a visit with a special treat!

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 felt very lucky to have our first trip out of school to see the pantomime and very much enjoyed it. All of our children were so excited and it was so lovely to see them immerse themselves into the show. Thank you to all parents who helped out, we really appreciate it.

To finish our fantastic first term in school, our children have all been amazing in our Nativity. We are so proud of every single child in reception and want to say a special thank you to everyone at home for practising lines, bringing in outfits and probably hearing our songs over and over.

We wish you all a very peaceful and joyful 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 began our topic 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 drumming workshop! We learned all about Djembe drums and how to play a call and response song. It was an experience that we (and our ears) will never forget! During Geography, we created '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 out. We continue to focus on finger spaces, full stops and capital letters. The children have worked exceptionally hard to write their own versions of the story in their first "BIG WRITE" this term, we are so proud of how far they have come 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 additions and subtractions.

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 of that Advent season brings.

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 (found in red homework books). 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.

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**



Caring for God's gifts

- **Re-cap as often as possible of our Little Wandle sounds and words (found in your child's red homework book).**

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 in to 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 Cox and Mrs Wilkinson



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 has been covered in tin foil! This made for an exciting start to the new topic and led to writing our very own descriptive diary entries from the perspective of the main character in our focus text. Based on the book, the children have also fully embraced recycling - creating brilliant Christmas decorations out of materials gathered at home. They also planted cress seeds to grow in old plastic yoghurt pots and egg cartoons. Showing great care towards the environment and nurturing these plants has really shone through this half term.



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.



We were also lucky enough this half term to attend a beautiful service for Remembrance Day at the secondary site. The children really enjoyed making tags to hang on the trees to show their respect for important people in their lives.

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

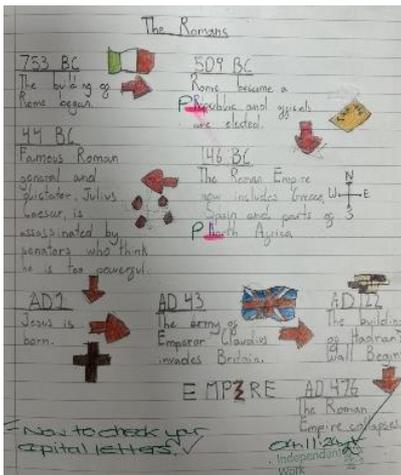
Year 4 News

'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 'Ruthless 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 and persuasive letters to King Amulius, from the perspective of Romulus and Remus, pleading for him to return the crown to the rightful King, King Numitor. Within these letters, we looked to make use of fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions, both at the beginning and end of our sentences, and rhetorical questions.

This period of history has provided us with so many rich opportunities to develop our historical skills and understanding. This has involved creating a timeline of the key events from the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, mapping its growth, and taking a closer look at the hierarchy of Roman society, including their food and clothing. Furthermore, the children have also improved their knowledge of the Roman army and their invasions of Britain, as well as Boudicca's role in the Celtic resistance. Finally, this led us to learning about the legacy of the Romans today.

This sequence of history lessons then enabled our children to fully immerse themselves in to 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 Honorius' decision to withdraw from Britain due to the Saxon invasion taking place in Rome. This included making use of a catchy headline, a short but informative summary containing the 5W's 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 quotes from the British people and the departing Roman soldiers.

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

The Year 4 Teaching 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.

Furthermore, 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.

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. 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 experience wearing a blubber glove and feel the effects of this extra layer of insulation 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. 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/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 wonderful half-term learning all about chocolate! We started by exploring the process of how chocolate is made in order to write our own explanation text to document each of the important stages in greater detail. In doing so, Year 6 thought specifically about the audience, purpose and tone of their writing by using fronted adverbials and casual conjunctions to aid cohesion. Year 6 have also enjoyed reading their Power of Reading text, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, written by the famous children's author, Roald Dahl. As well as being a fantastic story, this provided us with a range of writing opportunities. In particular, Year 6 focused on the opening of the chocolate factory and the launch of Wonka's golden ticket competition by writing a newspaper article to document this. To bring their newspaper reports to life, Year 6 focused on incorporating eyewitness statements, ensuring they punctuated their quotes accurately with speech marks.

In Geography, Year 6 have been learning all about the cocoa trade in order to answer their enquiry question: *Where would you choose to set up a chocolate factory today?* Year 6 started by looking at the different climate zones in the world, identifying these on a map, before considering which regions would provide the right conditions for cocoa trees to grow. Year 6 then explored the concept of trade miles before analysing maps and graphs to identify the trade routes associated with transporting cocoa around the world. This led to us considering some of the issues surrounding the cocoa trade before Year 6 were tasked with researching the Fairtrade initiative and how this foundation has been used to improve the lives of workers and communities in developing countries. Year 6 considered both the advantages and disadvantages of this initiative before entering into a class debate. It was wonderful to see the children so enthused by the topic where they worked collaboratively in order to listen and respond appropriately to any counter arguments presented to them.

Year 6 have been busy researching a range of different chocolate brands to help them in designing their very own chocolate bar! Year 6 spent time designing their chocolate packaging in DT before making their own St Peter's bar of chocolate. These, along with a range of festive chocolate designs, were then sold at our PTA Christmas Fair. To help advertise their chocolate, Year 6 worked in music to create an advertising slogan and jingle.



In Art, Year 6 have been exploring the work of L.S. Lowry who would often focus on urban landscapes and industrial buildings. Year 6 enjoyed replicating his artistic style by creating their own artwork of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory.

We have been so impressed by the hard work and enthusiasm of our Year 6 children at such a busy and exciting time of year! We are particularly proud of the commitment shown towards our Nativity performance where Year 6 worked hard to perfect their songs, dances and any speaking parts.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

The Year 6 Team.

News from Forest School

This half term at Forest School the wild, wet and windy weather continued and we felt the chill as winter arrived. Groups from RSM, 1H and 2RM took part in all the fun activities. Each session always ends with a reflection around our Fire Circle accompanied by hot chocolates! Yummy!

We began with all of the groups trying their luck with our nature scavenger hunt card game. Teams picked a card that would send them on a quest to find something such as '5 different coloured leaves' or 'something pointy'. When they were successful they received a pebble and the team with the most pebbles received a class reward. Everyone rose to the challenge, finding numerous items and some hidden animal teddies as well!

In subsequent weeks, RSM had fun making animal shelters, building full size dens, making clay goblins as well as lots of opportunities to practice their balancing on the super-long slack line.

Years 1 and 2 experienced the slack line too, in addition to bug hunting, den building, clay modelling, litter picking and woodland animal drawing. They also chose their Forest School names and drew their chosen animals on their own 'cookie pendants' which they made using palm drills.

We received a visit from Alex in Year 4 who brought along his nature box of delights containing such treasures as dung beetles and a hedgehog skull. Wow - thanks Alex!

With nativities galore, panto and other school trips taking place in this busy period, we will return with more sessions for these groups to ensure they don't miss out on treats like marshmallows roasted on the camp fire!

Enjoy the Christmas break and try and get out and experience nature in all its winter wonderment if you are able!

Mr Motte- Forest School Leader

Music News

As well as the BSMA Pavilion Carol Concert, and the Tinsel and Turkey event mentioned by Mrs Malone earlier, the Year 3 choir entertained at the Christmas Fair, with various festive numbers for the audience to join in with – they really did help to sprinkle an extra bit of Christmas magic on the event! A huge thank you here to Miss Phillips for helping to rehearse the Year 3 choir ready for their various performances, and for conducting many of the choir items at the Advent service.



Away from singing, we were treated to a visit from Oscar Whatmore, African djembe practitioner from Soundstorm, to share his drumming skills with the students. All children from Year 1 -6 have been learning to play the djembe, so it was fantastic to have a specialist drummer come to share his knowledge and expertise – he was so impressed with the children's drumming skills.

Instrument Lessons and Extra-Curricular Music

All children who have been learning instruments this term will have brought home a report from their instrumental teacher – this is a snapshot of the work they have covered this term. Please be reminded that payment is now due for next term, and that half a term's notice must be given should your child wish to cease learning. Lessons will recommence (providing payment has been made) in the week beginning 13th January. Please also be reminded that payment is for 10 lessons per term, rather than for a lesson per week, to allow for trips and staff absences. If anyone would like to start a musical instrument in the new year, we do currently have places available on all instruments – details can be found in this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/gFapfsVJLk>

Choirs will continue to be free of charge for all children who wish to join – Year 3, 4 and 5 on WEDNESDAY lunchtimes and Year 6 on FRIDAY lunchtimes – we will be working towards the Bournemouth Music Festival at Christchurch Priory on Friday 28th March, which parents will be warmly invited to support.

Guitar club continues to meet on Tuesdays after school with Mr Speller, orchestra with Mrs Byles on Wednesdays after school and samba band with Mrs Byles and Mr Motte on Fridays after school – if you wish to join any of these activities next term, and you have not already signed up via the clubs lists, please do contact Mrs Byles directly – there are currently spaces available in all 3 clubs – lbs@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Sports News

This half term, we have been lucky enough to be joined by four Sixth Form students from Southbourne who are completing their Sports Leader Training. They have been working alongside Mrs Berry (Southbourne PE) and I in helping to deliver some interventions during Year 6 PE lessons. These interventions have focussed on activities away from the 'norm', and have included indoor curling, mini golf, Boccia and even ten-pin bowling! All children in 6HH completed the intervention, with the leaders hosting a multi-sports event in their final lesson with us. A massive thank you to Mrs Berry and the brilliant Sports Leaders for giving our children this opportunity!



The Year 5 and Year 6 school football league is in full swing and will continue through until late January. So far, Year 6 have recorded a 4-2 victory against St Michael's and a 3-0 defeat to Park. Year 5 have played one match so far, drawing 3-3 with St Michael's. After Christmas, Year 6 will continue with fixtures against Avonwood and Bethany, while Year 5 will face Park, Avonwood and Bethany. I look forward to updating you on our fortunes and where we finished in our mini-leagues. Should either year group win their league, they will qualify for the school football finals at Littledown in February.