



Wise Owls News

Autumn Term Christmas 17th December 2021

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Families,

WOW! What an amazing half term this has been. This year everyone has demonstrated once again, how well we work together to ensure we give our children the best education possible and enable them to produce some wonderful work. It felt like a sense of normality planning a school trip to Boydells Farm. Despite the long journey and freezing cold weather, it happened with relative ease. My award has to go to the poor cow who had to endure 4-7 year old children, and staff, milking her!



Many of our families have been directly impacted by Covid this term and we are grateful to you all for how quickly you have responded to the calls to come and collect your child and your support in making the decision to test your own children. I would also like to express my thanks to all of the staff who have been flexible in how they have supported each other through covering staff absence. However difficult it is at the moment, it is rewarding to be part of a team that has pulled together so well in support of the children and each other.



I was thrilled we managed to have a wonderful week of Christmas, with Christingle in the church, 6 school nativity performances, all unique, and an amazing treasure hunt in the church to find some knitted friends very kindly made by our amazing community knitting group. A big thank you to you.



It was wonderful to hear the laughter of the children enjoying all the activities and practising for the school play. I am in awe of how the children from all year groups delivered their lines, without a script and learnt some impressive dance moves. A special thank you to Miss Neal for her patience in teaching some very tricky dance routines in Year 2.

This term also marks the end of an era as we say a sad farewell to Mrs Lambell, who will be retiring after 34 years. She has given her heart and soul to our school making it a really wonderful place for the children, their families and staff. From funny faces drawn on plasters, to baby teeth that have fallen out placed in special pouches, to making sure our budget balances; she will truly be missed.

I hope over the Christmas period you are able to spend some much needed quality time with your families. Thank you from all the staff and myself for your Christmas greetings, gifts and continuing support. Wishing you a happy holiday filled with warmth and cheerful celebration. Best wishes from Mrs Nicholson

EYFS UPDATES

SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

When we returned, our journey continued with a focus on our book Little Glow. The book centres around a flame who observes all the different festivals celebrated by Little Glow's neighbours.



In P.E. we listened to music and moved our bodies as if they were flames. We created pictures in response to classical firework music and discussed what marks we could make to represent the pitch and tempo of the music. In the book we discovered festivals such as, Diwali and Hannukah that we celebrated in class.



We turned our classroom role play area into a fire station. The children relished the opportunity to act in role as fire officers, taking calls, writing reports and pretending to put out fires. These learning experiences then led to us exploring other professions of people who help us.



We were very excited to have some visitors and were lucky to meet key workers in school, including nurses, a police officer and a postman from Royal Mail. We enjoyed utilising the different equipment used to care for others. After the postman's visit the children were inspired to write a Christmas letter to Father Christmas.



The children discovered that soldiers help us too and sacrifice their lives to protect others. As a school we came together on Remembrance Day to remember those who lost their lives during wars. The children were very respectful and took time to reflect.



We were very excited to go on our first school trip to Boydells Farm. The children and staff enjoyed meeting and interacting with the animals. Some of the teachers were tempted to sneak the kittens home with them! We had some sleepy heads during the journey home.



To finish off our celebrations from our book Little Glow, we began learning Christmas songs for our Nativity show.

It has been a long term and we would like to thank you all for your support. We hope you have an enjoyable and restful break with your families during the holidays.

YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

We have finally reached the end of a very busy but fun term. We are proud of how hard the children have worked on such a variety of activities.

The highlight of this half term was of course the end of our [Farm to Fork](#) topic, with a visit to Boydells farm. The journey seemed to last forever, but it was worth it just to see the children's faces as we drove in.



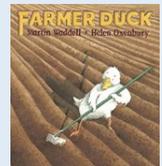
The children were able to experience petting animals, like rabbits, week old kittens and goats. They learnt about how to take care of them and to feed them. The most fun was had by the children who were brave enough to milk Mootilda the cow, many of them splashing their boots with warm milk in the process! Here are just some of the children's thoughts about the



visit: *"I liked milking the cow."* *"I liked stroking the guinea pigs because they were soft."* *"I now know a goats eyes are rectangular."* *"Lawrence the alpaca kept jumping around."*



'Farmer Duck' gave us the opportunity to begin to think about how farming has changed over time. In the story, the poor duck has to do all the farm jobs like tilling the fields and gathering the animals. Lots of these jobs were done by hand and we know that now lots of machines are used to do these same jobs. We also acted in role as the lazy farmer and the tired duck and wrote speech and thought bubbles for each character.



Creative Arts Week was great fun as we learnt about all the different things that an artist can do - from acting and dancing to painting and sculpting. We focused on the "Four



Seasons" art work by Giuseppe Arcimboldo and musical composition by Antonio Vivaldi. We enjoyed looking at, drawing, tasting and working with a range of fruit and vegetables - we even used them to create faces. Our winter themed music and dance went very well - it would seem we have some budding conductors, musicians and dancers across both classes!

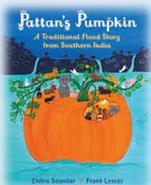
We have finished the term off in style with "The BIG Little Nativity." The children truly wowed us, and Mrs Nicholson, with their ability to learn lines and perform. We were so proud of all our children who met the challenge to narrate or speak without the help of their scripts—they didn't think they could do it, but we knew they could. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.



We hope that you and the children have an enjoyable and restful Christmas!

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS



Wow, what a busy half term we have had!

When we came back to school after our half term break we began reading the book [Pattan's Pumpkin](#); an exciting and vibrantly illustrated Flood Story from India. We enjoyed reading the story and taking part in all the [India](#) themed activities in class. We tasted Indian food and created a HUGE collage of the farms located in the Sahyadri Mountains.



Back in November we began learning about the life and times of [Guy Fawkes](#). We travelled back in time and discovered lots of new facts about the Gunpowder Plot. We also looked closely at World War Two and on [Remembrance Day](#) we talked about the importance of the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. We found out that we wear poppies to remember those that gave their lives to make the world a better place for us. We made our own poppies and wore them for the whole day, Mrs Nicholson lead an assembly where we held a two minutes silence.

Our Year Two [Choir](#) visited All Saints Church on [Remembrance Sunday](#) and performed 'You gave us our Freedom' to the congregation.



We can't talk about this half term without mentioning our whole school trip to [Boydell's Farm](#). We had a great day! We experienced what life is like living and working on a small dairy farm. We got to milk cows, feed the goats, went on a tractor ride, watched the calves being fed and walked the rabbits. Farmer Kiley was in charge of the farm and gave us lots of tips about how to care for the farm animals.



At the start of December both classes enjoyed a visit from [Lesley Williams](#). She taught us about the importance of being a good friend, working as a team and we also spoke about [diversity](#).

December has been busy for us all and we all took part in our final [Nativity](#). We loved performing to you all and we hope you enjoyed watching us. Our favourite songs included 'The Big Adventure' and 'Sing the Good News'. We also changed ' Fabulous Friday' to 'Festive Friday' and have created lots of Christmas themed crafts.



We rounded this term off with a [pantomime](#) and on Thursday we enjoyed watching 'Dick Whittington'. It was very loud, but a great time was had by all!!

OUR VALUE FOR DECEMBER IS: "PATIENCE"

Merry Christmas

Bless us Lord, this
Christmas, with quietness of
mind; Teach us to
be patient and always
to be kind.

~ Helen Steiner Rice
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COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

17th December 2021

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please drop us an email or write in separately. We welcome your comments.



Do you have a worry about one of our Children?

Please telephone or visit the school and ask to speak to Mrs Nicholson or in her absence

Mrs Gutteridge.

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