

St Peter's



Church of England  
Primary School

December 22

# Christmas Newsletter

from St Peter's  
Primary School

## Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last week, the school grounds have been coated with a beautiful crisp frost and the magic of Christmas has truly felt like it has returned to St Peter's at last. As I reflect back on a term of re-opening our doors to the wider school community, it is with a huge sense of pride for all that we have been able to offer once more to the children and families of St Peter's. It's hard to imagine now that there was a time when music fell silent here, but once again the school is alive with the sound of song as Thursday singing worship rings in the air and Christmas carols are joyously shared once more.

As we set out with you all at the start of September, you will know how passionately we all feel about welcoming our community back into school. It has been very special to share parents' evenings in person, year group share sessions, PE events and trips with volunteers and numerous Christmas events. The Reception nativity, Key Stage One carols at St Peter's church and Key Stage Two evening carols were all events that were wonderful to see and be a part of. For those of you with children in Reception, I hope that you have been able to enjoy the recording and children will look back on that with joy in years to come.

We remain, as ever, immensely grateful to our PSA for their ongoing efforts to fundraise for our school and the huge effort that they put into organising our Christmas fair this year. Children's learning has already been hugely enhanced by the history timeline on our playground and this is just one example of the valuable impact that funds raised for school by the PSA can have. You will see from this bumper edition newsletter that this has been anything but a quiet term! There's almost never a chance to stand still at school and teachers and year group teams have worked tirelessly to deliver a knowledge-rich and engaging curriculum for our children. I am immensely proud of the team we have here and I know you will share my thanks to them for all that they do – staff and children have certainly earned a good rest over the festive period in order to re-set for another busy term of learning in January.



The end of this term also brings with it some sadness as we say goodbye to Miss Cunningham and send her off with all our best wishes for her new job. Miss Cunningham joined us over 6 years ago and her impact at St Peter's cannot be understated. As well as setting the highest standards of excellence in her teaching, she has led a transformative approach to some of our wider foundation curriculum teaching and has supported teachers across the school to deliver this with great passion and energy. We will miss her.

Finally, I'd like to wish every family at St Peter's a peaceful and joyous Christmas. Today, we were able to join together once more at St Peter's church and celebrate together as a school with our clergy team. This is always incredibly special and it was wonderful to hear poems and Bible stories read by the children, hear the school choir and share in the joy of Christmas together at church. As with all of our services, we end with a blessing and I'd like to share today's with you, as led by Reverend Tonya.

### **A Christmas Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.



Wishing you all a very special and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Catrin Battista



## Reception

Reception have been incredibly busy this term. We have learnt all about the Christmas story and last week we retold it to the rest of the school and to our families. All of the children worked so hard learning new songs and were exceptional!

We also had a lovely visit to the church on Tuesday afternoon. The children had a great time singing some songs from their nativity and joining in with the special Christingle service. A massive thank you to Rev. Mark for welcoming us and to all the parents for helping. I think the majority of the sweets managed to stay on until we got back to school!

We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in January.



## Year 1

In Year 1 this term, we have been learning to retell traditional tales such as The Gingerbread Man, The Three Little Pigs and The Nutcracker. We have become expert storytellers using story maps and actions to help us. We have also been practising our writing skills when writing about characters in the tales such as The Gingerbread Man and The Nutcracker. We have been working on our letter formation as well as thinking carefully about nouns, verbs and adjectives to create a sentence.



In History, we have been learning about The Great Fire of London. We have developed the skills of expert historians by investigating, observing, asking questions and looking at evidence. We now know that Samuel Pepys was a significant person who lived in 1666 during The Great Fire of London and, thanks to his diary, we were able to discover that the fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Travelling back in time, we pretended to put out the fire using traditional methods and this allowed us to see that teamwork was key in helping put the fire out, which links with our value of Co-operation.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fabulous term of learning. Across the term, we have been developing our skills as artists with the expert guidance of our resident artist Miss Phippen and have created incredible owl portraits using soft pastels inspired by the local artist, Mandi Baka-Murray. We are really proud of our observational skills and our use of mark making techniques to create different effects. Can you see how closely we have portrayed the features in the original picture?



Recently, Year 2 had an extra special fun-filled Friday where we enjoyed a Design and Technology day! We learnt some new technical knowledge about vehicles, which enabled us to design and make them using chosen methods and resources to create wheels and axles to make our vehicles move. It was the excellent co-operation, problem solving skills and masterful teamwork which made for such a successful day. Thank you, Year 2, for being a shining example of #ExcellenceInWhoWeAre.



## Year 3

It has been a busy but exciting term in Year 3. We've been lucky enough to go on a trip to the Bristol Old Vic to watch *The Nutcracker*. Although it was a very different adaptation to the version we have been learning in class, we enjoyed seeing someone else's interpretation of the story. We had such an amazing time together. The teachers were proud of the children who were so sensible and respectful and were able to show off how amazing St Peter's children are.



We have been busy with our history learning this year all about the stone age and how life has changed over the years. We even got to do some writing about how the first drawing was created, which was so exciting and interesting to find out. We retold the story of *The First Drawing* and wrote our own version of the events.



In our science learning, we've been thinking about our bodies and how amazing they are! The children have designed a healthy meal and thought about all the different types of nutrients and food groups our bodies need. In the last two weeks, we've thought about the bones in our body and how our muscles help us to move.

It's been an amazing term and we can't wait for our learning after Christmas!



## Year 4

This term, Year 4 went on an exciting trip to St Peter's Church to take part in their yearly Star Trail. We experienced what it would be like for the Three Wise Men to make their journey following the star to Bethlehem. We learned all about gold, frankincense and myrrh and explored lots of interesting items (like compasses and telescopes) that travellers can use to help them on their journeys.



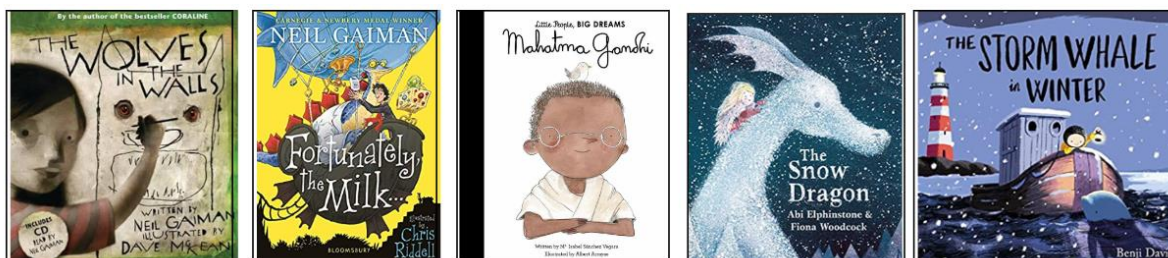
In our art lessons, we have been producing some fantastic tiger art linked to our work in English and inspired by the work of Karla Schuster. As part of this process, we have had the opportunity to do some mark-making to music and use colourful inks.



In science, we have been learning all about the different teeth we have and the jobs they do. We carried out an experiment on eggshells (as they are similar to teeth enamel) to see what the effect of different drinks was on our teeth. Since then, we have also been learning all about our digestive system – we drew around each other on large pieces of paper and labelled all of the organs that are part of our digestive systems.

In our reading comprehension lessons, Year 4 have been keen to share their reading recommendations and lots of us have been desperate to bring in books from home that we're passionate about. The books below are some of the recommendations we have shared.





## Year 5

### Trumpets!

This term, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their trumpet lessons! We have been learning about musical notation and we have been practising playing different songs. Just in time for Christmas, we have learnt to play the song Jingle Bells! It has been amazing to see the children working so beautifully together as a band. Please do visit our Facebook page and you can hear the wonderful music for yourselves!



### Jingle Bells



### Project Pearls

Last term, in order to bring our geography learning about slums to life, Year 5 had the opportunity to learn about a charity that helps children and their families in the slums of Manila, Philippines. We were excited to have Melissa Villa, the cofounder of Project Pearls, join us on Teams for an interview and question and answer time.

We had a preloved toy and games stall at the Christmas Fair from toys collected in a very short time by the year 5 classes. Project Pearls have received a grand total of £230. This is an amazing amount. As a year group, we have been able to adopt 16 families for Christmas. This means 16 families of up to 8 family members will have food, Christmas food and gifts to help during a tough time of year. **Thank you to everyone who donated or gave their time.**

If you would like to know more about Project Pearls, you can visit their website at <https://www.projectpearls.org/>



### Science

In science, we have been looking at properties and materials. We have loved being able to carry out experiments and in one lesson we investigated the rate of oxidation on apples when different substances were applied.



### Reception Buddies

We have loved meeting our buddies this term and getting to know them better. It was very exciting for Year 5 to see Reception's nativity and the children were very proud of their buddies' performances! We look forward to spending lots more time together this year.

### Class Worship

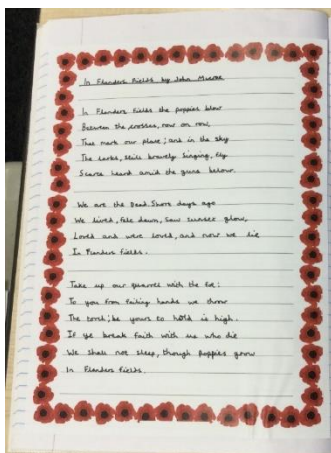
Since September, we have been thinking about the Christian value of **justice** as part of our class worship. We have shared many inspirational stories about people who have fought for justice and we have had some amazing discussions about how we can try and make the world a fairer place by standing up against injustice. Below are some examples of the brilliant books we have shared:





## Year 6

What an exciting and busy term Year 6 have had! It has been brilliant to get stuck into some really interesting learning and seeing children's enthusiasm for art, maths and science. In November, our legacy learning was in full swing when we raised money and awareness for the Royal British Legion. On Remembrance Day, the children led a very moving worship: Oak class taught the younger children about Armistice Day and why we wear poppies; Maple class recited Flanders Field with empathy and prosody; and Willow class led the school in prayers and remembrance. We were so proud of how the children behaved as role models on this important day. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from a member of the Royal British Legion who really sparked the children's interests.



In History, children have enjoyed learning about World War 2 and many have brought in artefacts and primary sources from home to enhance their learning. In English, we have enjoyed reading *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo. This book has inspired us when writing letters, diary entries and narratives about the main characters, who are evacuees.



## Playleaders

As announced last term, we have been very fortunate to be able to fund some additional support from PH Sports during our morning play times. This has meant that children are able to access the equipment from our play shed during these times in addition to lunch times. It has been so wonderful to see the children loving our play time equipment, particular favourites include giant Jenga and the scoop spades! Thank you to Miss Billingham and our play leaders for helping to look after this equipment.

We have also been delighted to re-introduce some external PE events. A group of children from year 5 and 6 were able to attend a sports hall athletics event at Gordano this term, competing against 5 other local schools. The children were incredible, showing teamwork, determination and enthusiasm. We look forward to attending more of these events throughout the year.

## House Captains

House Captains did a sterling job supporting the Year 6 legacy learning for the Royal British Legion, manning the collection buckets before and after school. We were impressed with the way they engaged so enthusiastically with parents and carers. They also organised the delivery of 630 poppies to all St Peter's pupils so that everyone could participate in Remembrance Day with pride.



## School Council

This term, our school have started spearheading our 'behaviour curriculum' project for terms 3 and 4. Our School Council are the pupils' voice, and represent the highest example of excellence standards and teachers and leaders will be working closely with them as we continue to strive for *Excellence as Standard*.

## Eco Team

Our Eco team have been super busy putting together a bumper Christmas special newsletter for you this term, containing:

Eco Team mission

- Who we are and what we do
- Terra-cycle update
- Recycling at Christmas
- Switching off and saving energy
- Christmas recycling crafts from our eco team

**ECO TEAM  
NEWS  
AND  
CHRISTMAS  
SPECIAL**



See our attached newsletter for all our fun-filled news!





## Worship Leaders



Our worship leaders have played many important roles in collective worship this term, including class worship and in our whole school and church services. In today's Christmas service, some of our worship leaders read some beautiful Christmas prayers to share their thanks and their hopes at Christmas time. We thought you might like to read and share these at home too.

### Dolcie's Prayer

Thank you that we are here together, at St Peter's church, to celebrate your Birthday. Thank you for coming into the world to teach people to be kind and to love one another. At Christmas time, when we spend time with our families and friends, help us to think of people who don't have lovely things and people who are lonely. We pray that the light of Jesus will shine for everyone this Christmas time.

### Damselfly Class Prayer (read by Poppy)

Thank you for sending Jesus to Earth so we can share Christmas. Thank you for our family and our friends who we can celebrate with. Let us think about people who are not as happy at Christmas.

Please God, help people who are poor, hungry, thirsty and lonely.

This Christmas, help us all to smile.

### Dragonfly Class Prayer (read by Sam)

Thank you for sending Jesus into the world to live amongst us. Please look after anyone who does not have a home or food or drink this Christmas. Give them things to eat and a place to stay. Thank you for all the fun we have at Christmas. Help us to remember it is all about the baby

### Mayfly Class Prayer (read by Alice)

Thank you for the time we share with our families and loved ones at Christmas. Help us to think of others and those in need during this time and help us to spread happiness to all of those around us. Be near us during the festive season and continue to help us support those less fortunate.

Thank you for all your love.

Happy reading! Best wishes,  
Miss Jones





## Festive book recommendations



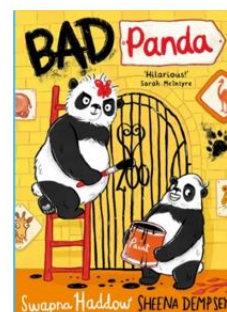
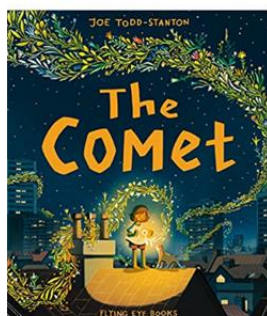
## Early Years





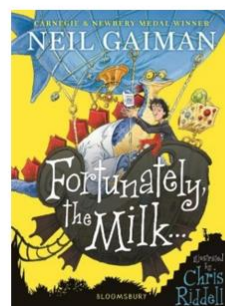
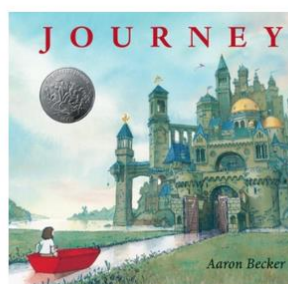
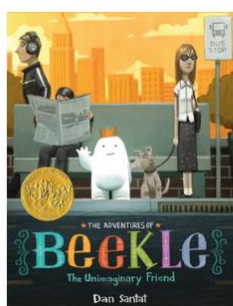
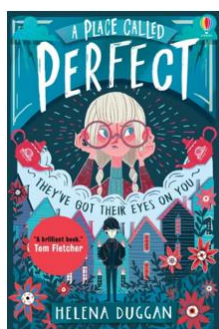
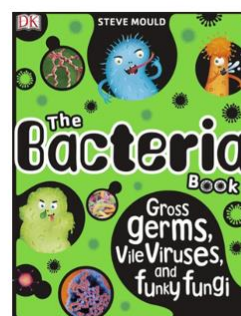
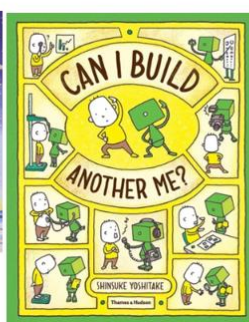
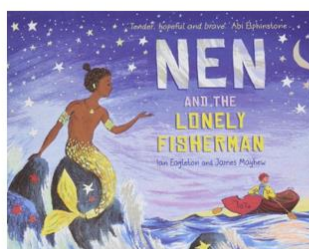


## Key Stage One



## Lower Key Stage Two

### Lower Key Stage Two







## Upper Key Stage Two

