

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

December 25

Winter Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Cheer at St Peter's

Christmas Cheer at St Peter's

St Peter's has been brimming with Christmas cheer these past few weeks! The school has been alive with festive joy, from the bustling Christmas Fair to the excitement of Year 3 visiting the Old Vic for their pantomime trip. Our classrooms and halls have echoed with laughter and music during Christmas parties, and the whole school has come together to enjoy a special Christmas dinner. Everywhere you look, there has been singing, smiles, and the true spirit of the season shining through.

This term, our school value has been kindness, and we have truly experienced the joy of being part of such a caring and thoughtful community. We have benefitted in many ways from kindness within our community, but we must give a special mention to a wonderful team of volunteers, from Murphy Engineering, who spent a week renovating our Pavilion building. Thanks to their efforts, it now provides a warm and welcoming nurture space, ready for the new year. The transformation has been truly incredible with everything from new windows and lighting to the beautiful pastel interior. At St Peter's, we are very proud of all we do to serve others in our community, but we are equally delighted to benefit from the generosity of others. This partnership and connection truly demonstrates the power of kindness and generosity, showing what can be achieved when people give their time and care to a community. We also hope that our kindness advent calendar has allowed parents to see some of this spirit spreading into your homes, making the festive season even more special.

If you've joined us for any of the Christmas performances over the last couple of weeks, you'll know just how hard the children have worked. From learning many new songs to performing confidently in front of large audiences, the children have really impressed and entertained us all. From the very youngest taking part in the Nativity, to our 180-strong KS1 choir, and the enthusiastic Majors Choir, everyone has loved being part of a musical Christmas at St Peter's. And, as if we weren't feeling Christmassy enough, we were treated to a wonderful Christmas medley, performed by the Ladye Bay Handbell Ringers – we are so grateful that they were able to take the time to visit us this year.

Once again, we received a warm welcome from the team at St Peter's Church as we enjoyed a very special Christmas service today. Reverend Mark, and pupils in year 6. helped us to reflect on the gift of kindness and the children raised the roof when singing their favourite Christmas songs and carols.

Now, all that remains is for the staff to don their costumes and make spirits very bright at this afternoon's pantomime. Everyone can expect a few familiar heroes and villains and – with our new for 2025 Strictly Edition - keep an eye out for Craig Grumble Horrid and Dame Shirley Baubles on the playground at the end of the day! Hopefully it will be a '10' from the audience this afternoon!

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Finally, we are delighted to share the wonderful news that our very own St Peter's baby has been born, just in time for Christmas! Miss Napier welcomed a baby boy into the world, yesterday afternoon, and I know you will join me in sending our love and congratulations as she begins the very exciting journey of parenthood

On behalf of the whole team at St Peter's, I wish you all a very happy and special Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2026. Just a reminder that we do not have an INSET day at the start of term so we will see you bright and early on Monday 5th January!

Warmest Christmas Wishes,

Catrin Battista





Reception

Nativity

Our Reception children have been nothing short of amazing in their Nativity performance this year. They have worked so hard to learn all their songs, actions, and even remember their lines with such confidence. It has been wonderful to see their excitement, dedication, and teamwork shine through in every rehearsal. On stage, they performed with such joy and enthusiasm, making the whole school and their families incredibly proud. We loved welcoming so many of you into school to come and see the children perform and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

We have had so many lovely messages and feedback from the audience. What a fantastic achievement! We can't wait to watch the film when it is finished!

In Phonics, we have begun learning our new Phase 3 sounds. These include more digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and even a trigraph (three letters that make one sound). The children have been working incredibly hard to remember these sounds and use them in their writing, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and determination. Regular reading and practice at home will really help to secure these new sounds and common exception words. You can find the sounds, common exception words, and QR codes linking to helpful videos in your child's reading record. The children have already been applying their new knowledge in their latest writing task—writing a letter to Santa!





We learned about the artist Kathy Jeffers, who inspired the children to create their own pinch pots. They carefully rolled the clay into a ball, then used their fingers and thumbs to pinch out a space for a candle. After shaping their pots, they decorated them beautifully and wrapped them up as a special Christmas gift for their grown-ups. We hope you enjoyed the surprise! The children also made festive candy cane tree decorations by bending pipe cleaners into shape and threading beads onto them.



We ended the term with a lovely visit from our Year 5 Buddies! Together, the children decorated their own 'melted snowman' biscuits and enjoyed eating them while listening to a story. It was wonderful to see how well they worked as a team and to hear the thoughtful conversations between them. The Year 5 children were so supportive and gave their buddies some fantastic compliments about their Nativity performances! We are very much looking forward to our Christingle service and we can't wait to see our buddies again to create our Christingles.



On behalf of everyone in Reception, we wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!



Year 1

This term in English, year 1 have enjoyed learning about traditional tales. We have had great fun creating story maps with actions to help us to learn, remember and retell the stories of The Gingerbread Man and The Nutcracker. We also enjoyed the story of Lost and Found by one of our house authors Oliver Jeffers. We practiced using our suffix 'ed' to write about the journey of the boy and the penguin.



As historians, we have enjoyed learning about the history of communication. We had great fun exploring different phones from the past and the present. We loved looking at various methods of communication, how these have changed over time and how this has altered the way we communicate with each other. Did you know cave paintings and Egyptian hieroglyphics are the earliest forms of communication?

In computing, Year 1 embraced the challenge of programming robots. We wrote short algorithms and programs for our Beebots and enjoyed predicting program outcomes and problem solving when things didn't go as planned.





In RE this term, Year 1 have been learning about the Christmas Story. As part of this, we have been looking into 'Gratitude' and how Christians show being thankful at Christmas time. In one of our recent lessons, we created Christmas pictures to spread Christmas cheer in the local area and sent out pictures to a local care home. We have since had a response which is as follows:

"Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas pictures – it's so kind of you to think of us and you have some amazing artistic talent in year one! The residents really enjoyed looking at them when we received them yesterday and have started their own pictures to send back to you."

We are all looking forward to receiving the resident's pictures!



Towards the end of this term, we have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit. We had great fun watching Reception perform their nativity and listening to the Ladye Bay Hand Ringers. We look forward to more adventures and discoveries in the upcoming terms. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a well-deserved break!



Year 2

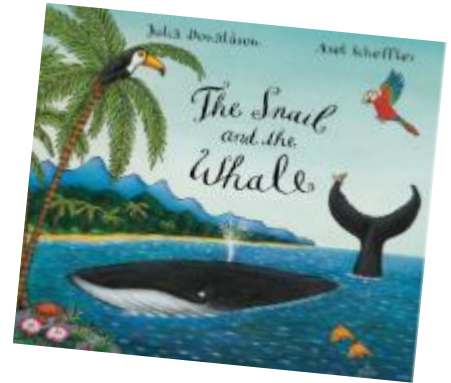
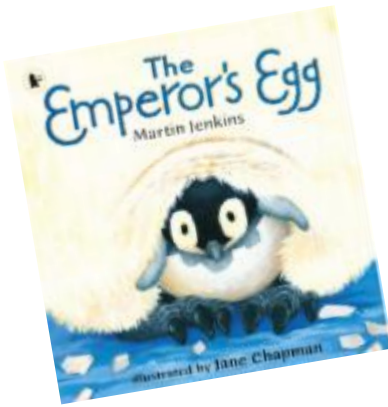
This term, year 2 have been artists! Inspired by the work of Mandi Baykaa-Murray, we have created our very own owl portraits. We used our observational skills to spot patterns and colours in owl feathers. Then, we recreated these patterns using chalk pastels and charcoal. Look at our expert creations!



In RE this term, we have been exploring the concept of 'Incarnation' through the story of Christmas. We have been learning about why Christmas is important to Christians; exploring some of the reasons why Jesus was an extraordinary baby and finding out about how Christians remember the birth of Jesus through their celebrations.



In English this term we have explored the texts 'The Snail and the Whale', 'The Snorgh and the Sailor' and also the non-fiction text 'The Emperor's Egg'. We have been learning to extend our sentences using conjunctions such as 'but' and 'when' through character and setting descriptions and also by retelling parts of the narratives. Our final piece was to write a fact file about emperor penguins. Please ask us to show off our amazing knowledge of emperor penguin facts at home!



Week Beginning 2nd December 2025

Emperor Penguins

Fast File - Emperor Penguins

Capital letters and full name	✓
Phonics for spelling	✓
Common exception words	✓
Letter Formation	✓
Substituting conjunctions	✓

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica and it is the coldest place on Earth.

When it gets cold they make a huddle.

They slide on their tummies when it gets near a slope.

When the female goes to get food the male looks after the egg.

When the penguins are little they have fluffy feathers.

Did you know that penguins huddle up when it gets cold?

What amazing swimmers they are!

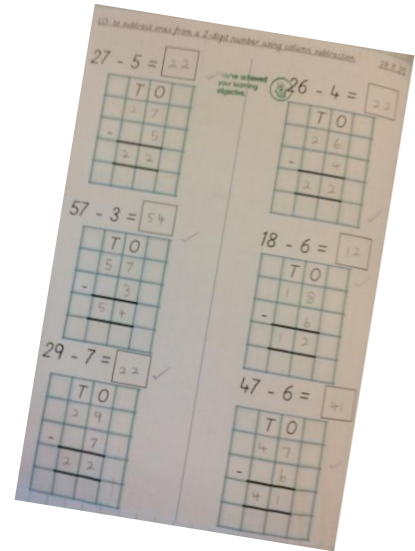
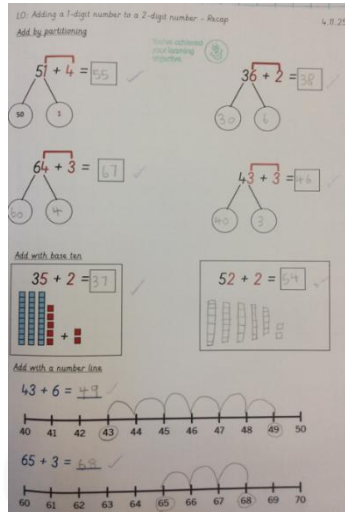
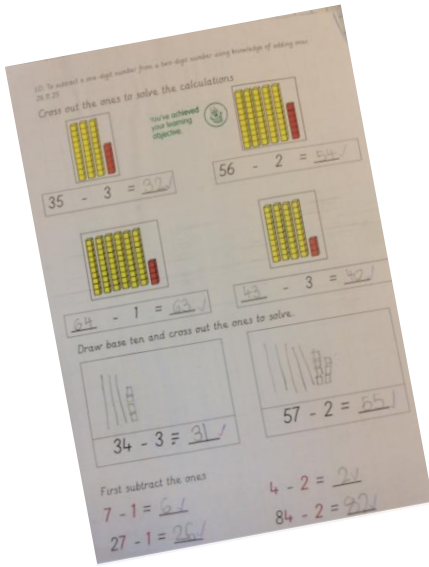
How clever they are at pining in the water!

Adult emperor penguins are black, white, grey and they have a patch of yellow on their neck.

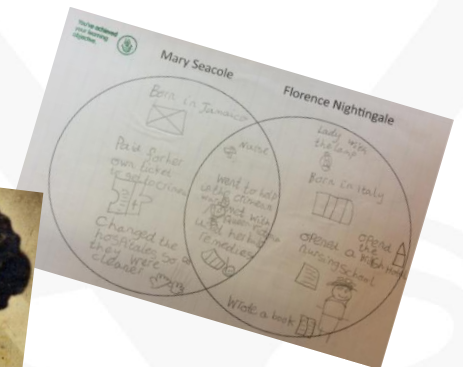
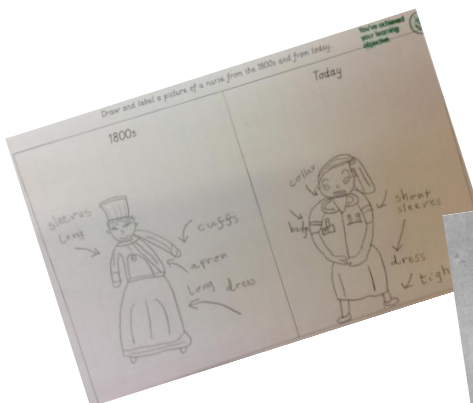
When they swim their sleek feathers help them to glide through the water.

When the female goes to hunt for fish, squid and seal the male looks after the baby chick.

In maths we have been on a journey of learning through addition and subtraction and we are very proud to have learned how to use column addition and subtraction to solve equations as well as pictorial representations and partitioning the tens and ones.



In history we have been learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We learned that they were both nurses during the time of the Crimean War and they had a significant impact on nursing in the 1800s including; improving hygiene conditions, challenging prejudices of race and gender and starting training schools for nurses. We ended the unit of learning by expertly presenting facts we had learned as a group. Make sure you ask us at home about our expert knowledge as historians!

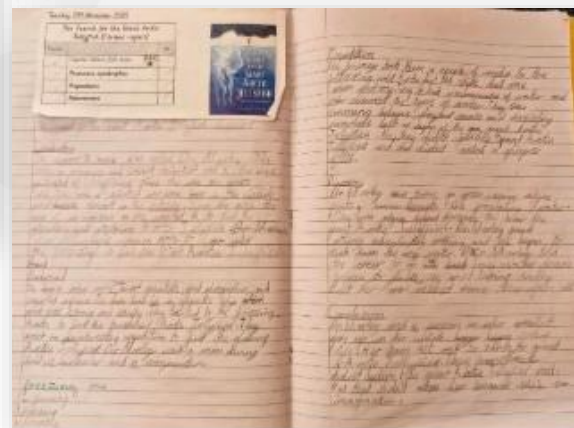
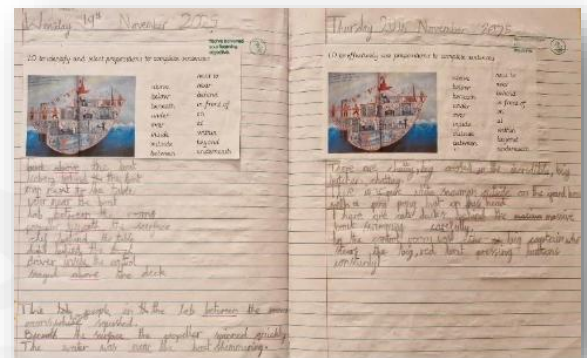
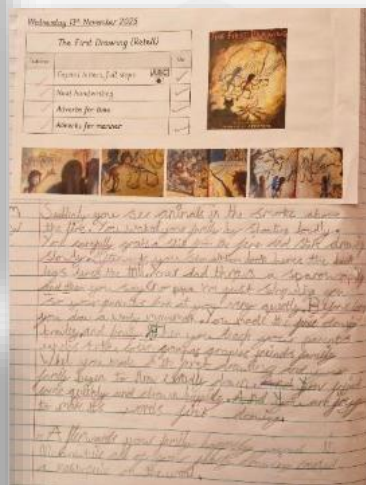
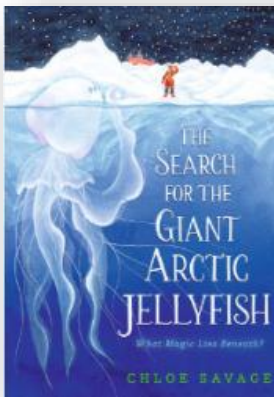




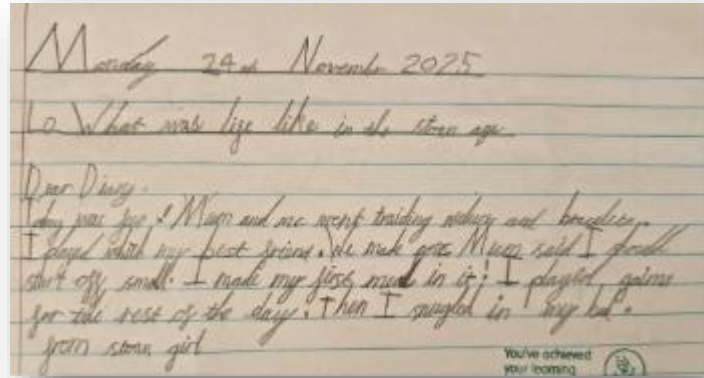
Year 3

English

In English, we started the term with the story 'The First Drawing'. We used this book to learn how to use expanded noun phrases and adverbs. It also linked nicely to our history topic of the Stone Age. Our next story was 'The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish' which we really enjoyed. We created a formal report all about Dr Morley's expedition to the Arctic!



When learning about the Stone Age, the children have enjoyed learning about the three different eras (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic!). We discovered how Britain changed during the Stone Age. Year 3 wrote some expert diary entries to describe what life would have been like during this time!



Science

In science, we have focused on healthy eating where the children thought about making a balanced meal and then moved on to looking at bones and muscles. The children really enjoyed learning about our skeleton! In DT, we continued to build on our science learning about healthy eating by tasting and making our own bread.



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Finally, Year 3 loved our trip to Bristol Old Vic where they enjoyed watching Treasure Island. Thank you to the children for being such fantastic St Peter's citizens during our trip and making us really proud.

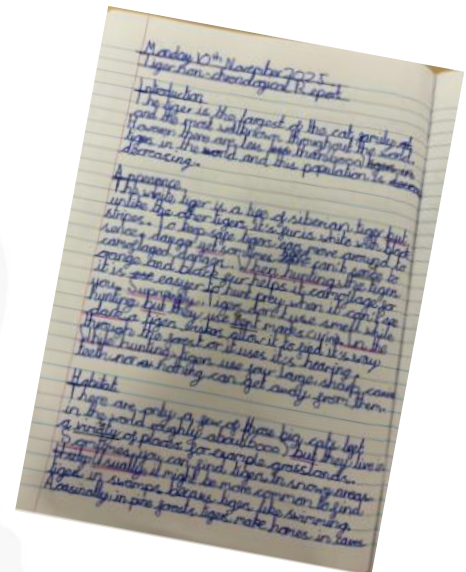
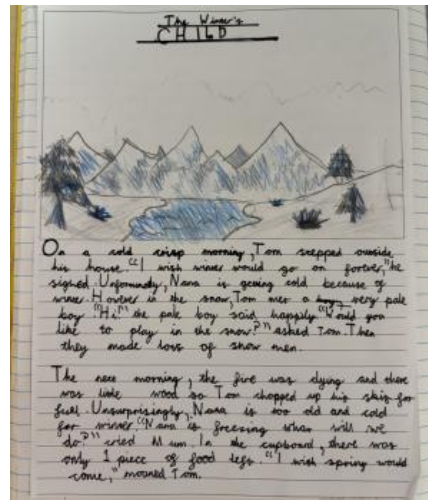




Year 4

English

In English, Year 4 have been enjoying the book *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister. Inspired by the story, we produced detailed and imaginative setting descriptions, working hard to include rich vocabulary and thoughtful description. Year 4 wrote their own narratives based on the text and showed great effort in using correctly punctuated speech to bring the characters to life.



Science

In Science this term, Year 4 have been busy exploring the topic Animals Including Humans. As scientists, the children began by setting up and carrying out an investigation to observe the effects that different drinks can have on teeth. They made predictions, recorded results carefully, and discussed what their findings might mean in real life.

Following this, the children moved on to learn about the digestive system. Using expert scientific vocabulary such as oesophagus, stomach, intestines and nutrients, they confidently retold the journey that food takes through the body.

Art

In Art this term, Year 4 have been exploring mixed-media techniques inspired by artist Karla Schuster. As developing artists, the children began by studying Schuster's striking use of colour and shape, paying particular attention to contrasting and complementary colours.



They experimented with responding to music through expressive drawing before transforming these marks with ink in warm and cool tones. The children then ripped their patterned papers into triangles that will build textured collage backgrounds to create a setting for their tiger-inspired eyes. Using pastels and ink, they crafted bold eye designs ready to become the focal point of their final tiger face collages.

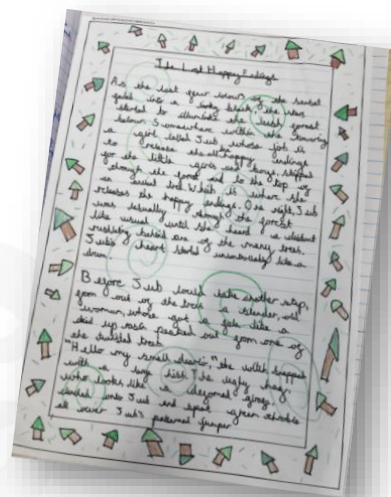




Year 5

English

In English this term, we have been looking at the text 'The Lost Happy Endings'. The children have used this text as a stimuli to write character and setting descriptions and a narrative using speech and carefully chosen vocabulary.



Science

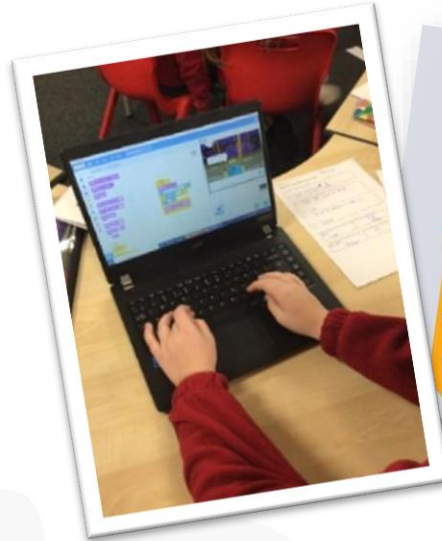
In science this term, Year 5 have been carrying out lots of experiments around properties and changes of materials. We made our own water filters to see if we could purify water. We also investigated oxidation and if we could speed up or slow down the process.





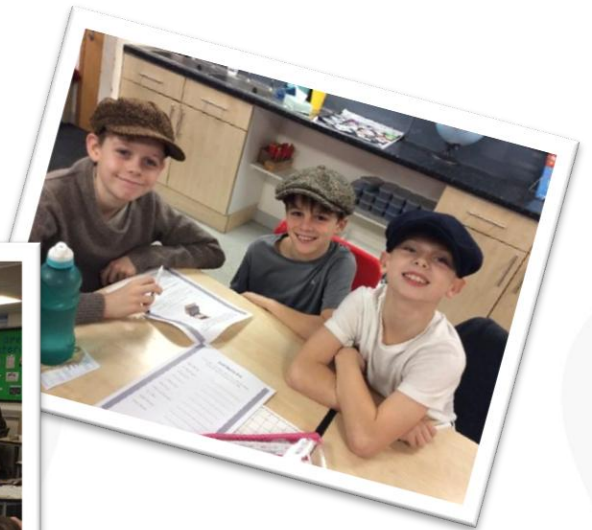
Computing

This term the children have been becoming experts at writing simple code. The children have designed and written their own code using the programme Scratch to create their own quizzes using conditions.





This term, Year 6 have enjoyed a fantastic WOW Day based on WW2. We started the day making our own identity cards and then were tasked with some code-breaking challenges to see if we had what it would take to be employed at Bletchley Park. We played some fun games of battleships and created our own 3D spitfire models. In the afternoon, we celebrated VE Day with some WW2 music, Victoria sponge cake and bunting making. We even found time to enjoy a film about Sergeant Stubby – a famous dog, who captured a German spy during the war.

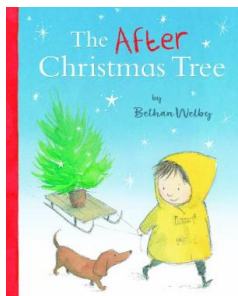




BOOK CORNER

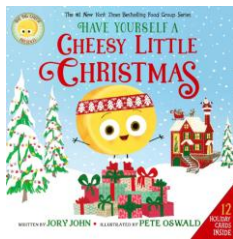
Christmas read recommendations

EYFS and Key Stage 1



The After Christmas Tree by Bethan Welby

A festive story about Brian, who finds a discarded Christmas tree and decides to take it home and care for it so that it can be used again next year. A good book to read and discuss with Reception children.



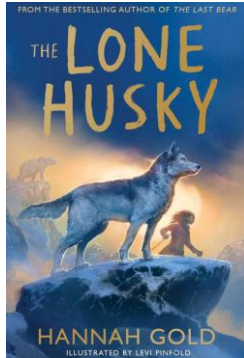
Have Yourself a Cheesy Little Christmas by Jory John and Pete Oswald

Every December, the Big Cheese hosts a gigantic jamboree with flashy decorations, sparkling outfits, extravagant gifts, ear-bursting music, and jaw-dropping entertainment. But this holiday season, mere hours before the festivities, disaster strikes! With no backup plan in place, the Big Cheese must call in a big favor to help save the big day. But will Christmas still be Christmas if it's not quite so grand?



The Winter Wish by Helen Mortimer and Rachael Dean

William is a child who lives in a world of books – a magical bookshop filled with the wonders of words. But hard times are ahead and William creates the most incredible display to entice Christmas shoppers. The would be a magical bedtime story for KS1 or an great independent read for Year 3.



The Lone Husky by Hannah Gold

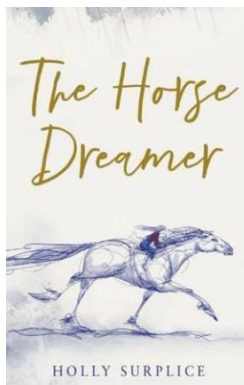
April Wood is no stranger to adventure. After all, she lives in the Arctic and her best friend is a polar bear. But when April finds herself volunteering for the Polar Race – a long-distance dog sled race across the frozen tundra – even she wonders if this may be an adventure too far. Perfect for lower KS2.



Avalanche by Simon Fox

Perfect for fans of Alex Rider and Artemis Fowl, this action-packed thriller just right for KS2.

Tom thought going to a luxury ski resort was the holiday he and his mum needed. But he didn't expect kidnappers to take over their chalet – looking for the dangerous technology her boss has created – or for an avalanche to trap them even further.



The Horse Dreamer by Holly Surplice

Merryn is a young girl struggling to come to terms with her fathers' death. One story night a mysterious horse named Sorrel appears, becoming her companion as the seasons shift. With themes of grief and renewal it is ideal for children in Year 5 and 6.



PSA News

Thank you for all your support of PSA events. We are delighted to share that the Christmas fair raised £2590.00 for the school.

Please keep an eye out for news on future events.

Have a very Merry Christmas

From all in the PSA team

Other news

Chess Tournament

On 1st December the following students took part in a Chess Tournament at the Emirates in London. Well done to everyone involved, you did brilliantly. Especially well done to George who won a medal for the highest points for the school! Super proud.

Ruben B.
Angus D.
George F.
Harrison J.



Wellbeing newsletters

You will find this terms wellbeing Newsletters [HERE](#)

It is filled with Christmas activities and parent advice on topics ranging from technology and SEND information.

