



## Christ Church CE (VC) Primary School Autumn Newsletter 2023



### Dear Parents

The autumn term at Christ Church has been filled with musical performances, charity and social events, lots of learning and best of all, fun and laughter! The children, staff and governors are now ready for a well-earned rest as, no doubt, are you!

When we return in January, our school will be part of the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT). There won't be any significant changes for our children and families, other than our school name changing slightly – we will be Christ Church CE School – but, as always, if you have any comments or questions about our voluntary academisation please do get in touch.

This newsletter includes some photos providing a snapshot of what has been happening in school this term, along with other news and information, which I hope you will find interesting and useful. Please do keep up to date with events in school by reading our weekly 'Notices' (sent via Parentmail) and linking to our website and Facebook page.



Coming together to celebrate has meant that Christmas at Christ Church has been very special. Our performances of 'Bethlehem the Musical' delighted you all with many parents commenting on how much the children (and Kanga Ben!) enjoyed performing.

The children helped us to reflect further on the true meaning of Christmas during the Church Service, drawing parallels between The Nativity Story and a Christmas cracker. It was wonderful having so many families with us in church to hear the children share the important messages about

the true meaning of Christmas and I hope that on the big day we can all take some time to remember their words.

The Christmas term ended with a special treat – The Cinema trip! This year the children enjoyed watching The Muppet Christmas Carol and, whilst it wasn't everyone's favourite Christmas film, there was certainly a lot of laughter!

All of us at Christ Church are very grateful for the beautiful cards and lovely gifts that we have received – thank you for your kindness.

We wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New

**Mrs Cooper and all at Christ Church**



### Class 1

In Geography we have been learning about Animals and their habitats. We found out about different continents and which animals preferred living somewhere hot or cold. Year 1s made fact files about red pandas and giant pandas, labelled emperor penguins and investigated how big a whale shark is – ask the children the answer! As a class we made an art collage of Ningaloo reef in Australia where whale sharks visit. We also found out all about African elephants.

Do you know who is the boss in an elephant family?



In DT we listened to the story of Goldilocks and the three bears and designed a new chair for baby bear to learn about free standing structures. We did lots of investigation first, including testing different chairs around school and finding out how tricky it is to attach legs to our structures. Once we mastered the technique we made our own chairs.



Our Science topic has been all about seasonal change. We focussed on autumn and winter, looking closely at the weather and changes in nature. Then we found out about hibernating animals, made homes for hedgehogs and dormice and learnt about how bears keep warm. We had a visit from Stuart, Mrs Talbots' tortoise who was hibernating until he met class 1, then he decided it was much more fun to be awake!



The reception children have been involved with all of our topics and have extended their learning in 'discovery time'. We enjoyed sharing our discovery time and our Christmas service with our parents.

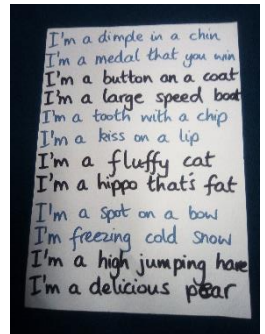




## Class 2

It has been a very busy term, we have packed in a lot of learning!

In English this term, we have read: Last Stop on Market Street, Bold Black Women in History, Big Cats and Poetry. We have enjoyed creating effective sentences using: onomatopoeia, simile, metaphor and alliteration to mention a few! We have written short stories, poems, biographical writing and non-chronological reports. We are also learning to check, edit and improve our writing.



In maths, we have focussed on place value, addition and subtraction (including money), we have enjoyed using number lines to count on and back to find answers. We have also used Base Ten and other equipment for addition and subtraction. Year 2 children have been applying their understanding to column method too.



Our science topics have been: Brilliant Bodies and Wonderful Weather. We found out about food groups and how important each group is for a healthy body to grow. We used our senses too, investigating different breads to see which we liked best and why. Our weather wheels that we made are being used to help us record the weather, which

we have found to be very changeable.



In history, for Our Family History topic, we found out about our parent's and grandparent's childhoods and compared them to our own. We loved finding out what toys were played with, and how homes and shops have changed over time.

In RE this term, our first topic was 'Does praying at regular intervals every day help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?' and we learned about prayer routines, calmness and commitment. In our second topic 'What do Christians believe God is like?' we explored ideas through the parables of The Lost Son and Jonah and the Whale.



In PE we worked on our tennis skills with Adam from Skipton Tennis Club and we have been improving our invasion games skills with Kanga. We also improved our team building skills last half term, working in small groups to share and work well together.

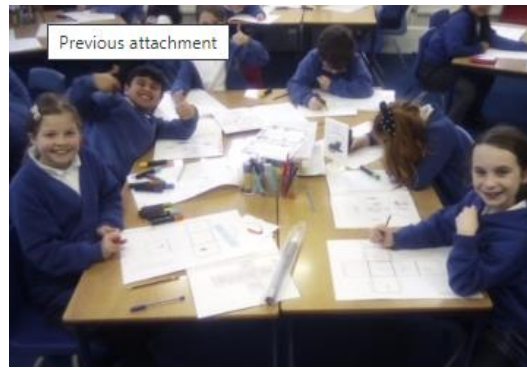
We have been learning how to play the glockenspiel improvising to accompany a piece of music we had learned to sing.



In Geography, we have been finding out about the world around us, it's continents and locating countries on a map of the world. We can name the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom and explain some of the differences between the UK and Brazil as part of our Global Studies topic, comparing the UK with a non-European country.

### **Class 3**

In Design Technology, we have been learning about shell structures. Our task was to evaluate, design and make a box to prevent a biscuit in transit from breaking. We started to explore different types of shell structures and how we could strengthen them. We explored and rated different biscuit packaging and their designs, furthermore, this helped us think about what our designs could be like. We enjoyed designing and making our boxes but also found it quite challenging at times. We hope your biscuit was in one piece when it arrived home!



In RE, we have been learning about different people's beliefs on God. We started by describing things we cannot see but do believe in. We also explored God as the Light, the Father, the Creator and the Holy Spirit. The children used their knowledge from collective worship to aid them in their learning. We have also learnt about Muslims and their beliefs in Allah. The children have been open-minded in our RE lessons and welcome new knowledge into different cultures.





## Class 4

In English we have been reading the book 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. The children have produced some wonderful pieces of writing which involved using similes, adventure and feeling, repetition, speech and relative clauses for the Year 5 children. Alongside, the children used their art skills to create a pencil drawing of the gorilla in the book and we displayed these alongside our writing. The pictures looked very realistic.

In Design Technology we were learning about electrical systems with our focus on creating an alarm system for a small scale moving vehicle. We first investigated the purpose of different alarms in cars. We then explored how to make an electrical circuit and had to consider how we would alarm our



vehicle. Next we designed and created a small moving van which involved measuring, sawing and assembling a base. The children then enjoyed assembling and decorating their finished product,



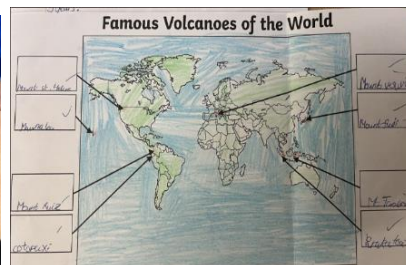
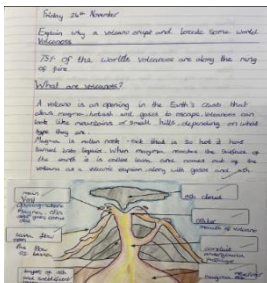
ensuring the door  
had an alarm.



In Geography we have been finding out all about earthquakes and volcanoes. We have been learning about what causes an earthquake and used an atlas to locate the more famous earthquakes along the 'Ring of Fire'. We have also been investigating what causes a volcano to erupt and the children worked with a partner to research a famous volcano of their choice and gather some interesting facts. To end our unit, we had a very

In Geography we have been finding out all about earthquakes and volcanoes. We have been learning

exciting time in class 4 making our own volcanoes and watching them erupt. You may have seen the video on our Facebook post.



Finally, thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparent who helped donate cakes for our bake sale.





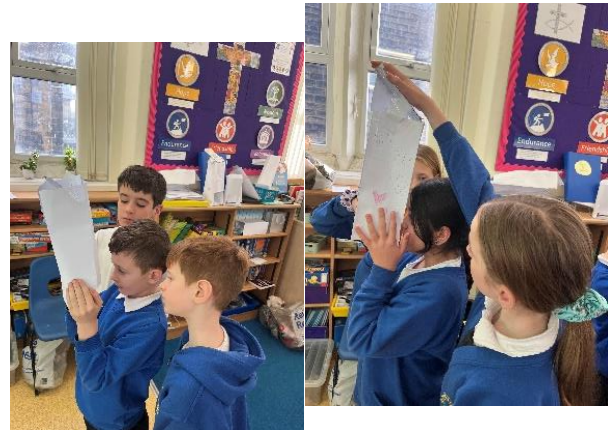
### Class 5

At the end of a very busy term, it has been a pleasure to see the pupils grow in maturity and make progress throughout the Autumn. As part of Anti Bullying Week, pupils wore odd socks to highlight the many differences between all of us. The Wellbeing Champions played a key role in delivering workshops to younger children in school, informing them of the importance of reaching out to others if they witness bullying. This ensured that all pupils are confident in dealing with anything they witness.



In DT this term the pupils have been designing and making a phone or tablet case. This started with researching other products and finding the exact measurements for their own phone or tablet. The children then practiced many different sewing stitches for joining materials together. Pupils then used their design and stitch practice to produce their final product.

In science, as part of our topic of light pupils were given the task of seeing if they could change the direction of light to be able to see over an object by making a periscope. They were given two mirrors and some card and had to use their knowledge of angles and teamwork to be able to achieve the objective. There were some excellent examples where the pupils were able to see out of the high windows in Class 5.



The children in Class 5 were amazing in the Nativity. It was a real pleasure to see how quickly they learnt their lines and how much they enjoyed rehearsing and performing in front of parents. They also did it all with a smile on their faces and

many pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Including singing solos and really making each part their own by adding improvisation, to bring the scenes to life.



Mental health and wellbeing are a priority at our school. Children are involved at all levels, and you will all now be aware of the fantastic work that our Wellbeing Champions and Digital Leaders lead for the other children, and our parents. This programme is NHS backed and is delivered to the whole school from reception to Year 6, with the intention that children are supported in habits that will help them to build resilience, self-esteem and confidence. This year we are taking part

in our second year of the My Happy Mind programme and we know that many of you have noticed a positive change in the way that your children are managing their emotions.



This team of children work alongside the Digital Leaders, who are key in supporting our work in educating our children to be safe in the

online world. This Childnet programme is well established at

Christ Church and the Digital Leaders are

skilled at running online safety training and events for their peers and for parents, complementing the work that the school is undertaking through the United Against Bullying Award. The Digital Leaders are already planning for our Safer Internet Week in 2024 – further details to follow next year.



Childnet  
Digital Leaders  
Programme

ANTI-BULLYING  
ALLIANCE



Our other pupil leadership groups include our Church School Leaders, the Librarians and our Lunchtime Buddies, and this year these children have been joined by our Safe and Healthy World Champions and our Safe and Healthy School Champions. The children in these groups always rise to the responsibilities given to them and it is impressive to see how much pride they take in their part of leading of our school.

### Music lessons in school

Mrs Watkiss wishes to thank the parents of the children in the recorder groups for supporting the children in their wonderful performance during the church service. Didn't they do well?!

In return, we would like to thank Mrs Watkiss for all that she does in supporting music in our school. We know that there are some big plans for Skipton Music Festival!

North Yorkshire Music Service are able to provide private tuition for anyone wishing to learn to play an instrument. More details can be found here

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-music-service/music-lessons-and-instrument-hire>



**'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics**



We all like to have chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we buy tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year. Make sure your tubs don't go to waste by bringing your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site from 1 January - 11 February 2024 to be recycled. The nearest one to us is The Red Lion on the High Street.

The tubs will be taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you would like to take part but are unable to get to the Red Lion, we will be collecting tubs here in school as well.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.tub2pub.co.uk/tub2pub/>

**School Office**

As we will be converting to academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, we would very much appreciate all remaining dinner money and before / after school club balances to be cleared by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Parents of children in Year 5 will note that the costs for the Year 6 residential trip in October 2024 now appear on Parentmail accounts – please note that these balances do not have to be cleared by 31<sup>st</sup> December (!) however, parents can now begin to make payments. Thank you

**School Lunches**

Thank you to Mrs Greaves for cooking a delicious Christmas lunch – we all enjoyed it very much!

Parents please check to see if your child is eligible for free school meals by clicking on this link

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

The spring term menu is not yet available on the North Yorkshire website but we will provide a link as soon as we can.

**Clubs**

Information about the spring term clubs will be sent during the first week back. Kanga club information has already been sent home, or you can contact Kanga directly via their website

<https://www.kangasports.co.uk/>

**Diary dates**

School re-opens on Tuesday 9th January. Other dates for next term will be posted on the school website.

