



## Weekly Learning Update 16 December 2022

### Nursery

Our Nursery children made us so proud this week for all the effort they put into singing for the Nativity and I hope you agreed they all made fabulous angels!



This week we have shared time together visiting forest school for a frosty walk, finding frozen tomatoes and trying to squeeze them and listening to the sounds the grass made as we walked through the field. Finding and breaking ice has definitely been the most popular experience for the children using a range of tools.

The children joined in well with our Christmas party day, sharing games, dancing, eating snacks and enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you for your support in Nursery; it has been our pleasure to get to know you all and your wonderful children. Over the Christmas holidays, we would like you to spend time together, making memories and enjoying the festive period and we will see you all in the New Year.

## Reception (King Class and Parks Class)

Reception have had a very busy week!

We shone like stars in our Christmas performance.



On Wednesday, we enjoyed our Christmas lunch, helping us to get us in the festive spirit. This continued into the classroom where we decorated the tree, made cards and calendars.

During our whole school 'Incarnation day', we learnt about the nativity, why it is important to Christians and the diverse ways we celebrate Christmas. We were able to retell the story as we sequenced the nativity pictures.

Reception held their Christmas party in the hall where they showcased their best dance moves, dressed in festive headpieces and played lots of games.

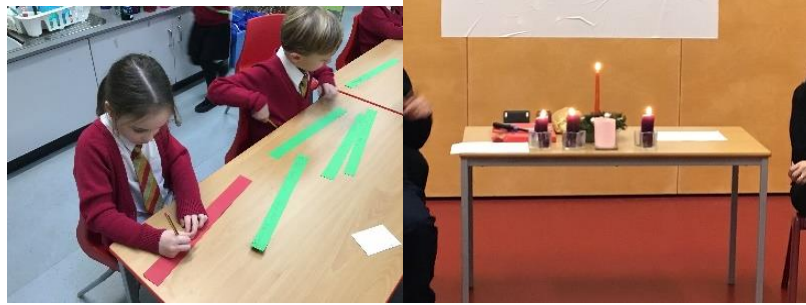
What an amazing term we have had. Well done Reception. Have a fantastic festive break!

## Year 1 (Bell Class and Windsor Class)

It has been another busy and exciting week within Year 1!

This week, we completed a range of activities linked to St Gabriel's Incarnation Day. The children used an interactive resource to learn about the Incarnation story, which they really enjoyed! After that, the children sequenced and wrote about the story. We then spent time thinking about things that a baby would need in their room and the children recorded and shared this. Later in the day, we welcomed Steve and Anne-Marie and learnt about the importance of the Advent Wreath. Children were fascinated about the symbolism of the candles and were inspired to then create their own class advent wreaths. These were shared during Wednesday's Assembly. We rounded off the day by reflecting on what the children are grateful for during this time and the children then made paperchains to share this with one another.





We have also been busy creating Christmas cards and Christmas tree decorations for people we love at home. The children enjoyed a 'Christmas Movie Morning' where they watched 'The Polar Express' in their pyjamas and slippers and a treat of hot chocolate and popcorn.

Well done again to all of the children in their performance for our Nativity. You all did amazingly well and should be super proud of yourselves; we certainly are!

We wish you all a lovely break and a very merry Christmas! See you all refreshed and ready to go in 2023!

## Year 2 (Braille Class)

We have had an amazing last week of term. I cannot believe how much progress the children have made this half term and I cannot wait for them to continue this into 2023. In English, the children created instructions for making salt dough decorations using adverbs and imperative verbs. They then had fun creating these in D.T and will be taking these home to hang on their trees.



We have also worked really hard this week practising for our Christmas show and I hope that you will agree that it was fantastic! The fact that the children remembered all of their lines and knew when to come on and off stage is incredible. They also had a lot of songs and actions to remember so I am super proud of all of their hard work.

I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and we cannot wait to see the children again in 2023.



### Year 3 (Berners-Lee Class)

Mrs Fuller and I are incredibly proud of every single member of Year 3 this term as they have consistently demonstrated dedication and independence in their learning which is especially impressive in their first full term of KS2. I am so proud of how each member of the class has taken it all in their stride and continued to flourish in all areas of their learning and wider school activities. This has been particularly evident the last few weeks with their motivation and behaviour when practising and performing the Christmas Carol Concert. All the pupils sang their hearts out and they performed excellently on Monday.

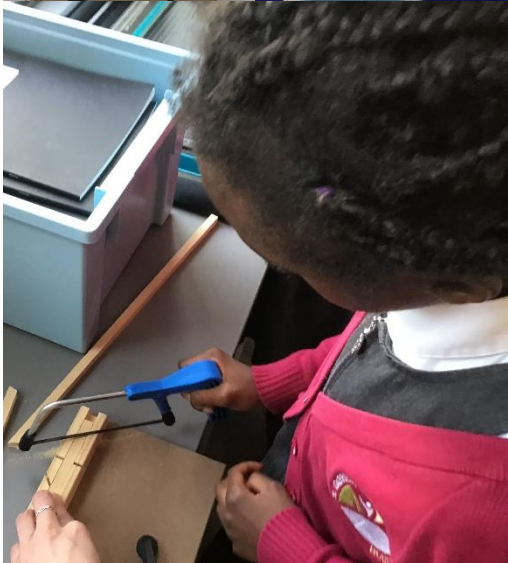
At the start of the week, the pupils wrote up their letters to different supermarkets to persuade them to use less plastic in their shops. These will be sent off to the various supermarkets over Christmas and hopefully we will get some responses in the New Year!

On Tuesday, we took part in our whole school Incarnation Day where we learnt all about the trinity. In session 1, we focused on Jesus' baptism and in session 2 we compared this to different types of baptisms in churches today. As part of this, pupils thought about the symbolism of water and wrote down lots of words linked to water before it was washed away. Finally, the pupils explored the symbols of the trinity and created their own pieces of art work linked to this.





After lots of anticipation and excitement, the pupils finally had chance to build their skyscrapers on Wednesday linked to our Design and Technology topic about architecture in the USA and UK. All the pupils worked really well in their pairs and showed great maturity when deciding who could take their skyscraper home! The pupils also impressed me with their sawing skills as several children wanted to create a wooden structure to support their buildings. A massive thank you to all the parents who donated boxes and recycled items as well as the lucky parents who got to take the skyscrapers home!



## Year 4 (Hopper Class)

Over the whole of our first term, I have been incredibly impressed by the entire class in how they show love and community so consistently and so well. This was most evident in the build up towards our Christmas carol concert. The children's attitude, commitment and levels of support for each other were amazing which was clear to see with such a fantastic performance on Monday!



During incarnation day we spent time interpreting the first two pages of the gospels from Matthew, Luke and John. We worked very hard to understand the message that was being conveyed and from this created our own Christmas cards according to the gospel of John. The remaining sessions focussed on understanding what the incarnation means to Christians whilst also evaluating different beliefs about God.



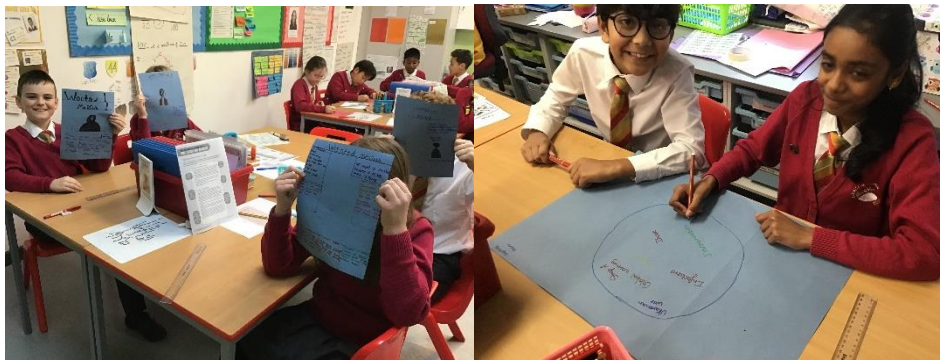
You have all worked so hard and made tremendous steps forward in your development, you should be very proud. Make sure to take your Christmas holiday as a break and spend the time well doing all the things you love doing! Both Mr Healey and I are very much looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year and what we can all achieve together!



## Year 5 (Jackson Class)

It has been a busy Christmas week for Year 5, beginning with our fantastic concert on Monday. I was so pleased with the effort the whole class put into their performance and I really hope all the families enjoyed it as much as we did putting it together.

On Tuesday, we had our own Incarnation Day, in which we explored what we mean by the Incarnation and what the Messiah meant for people living at the time just before Jesus was born. We also discussed what our world is currently like and why we may need a Messiah to save us from things we cannot control. It was a joy to explore this concept with the whole class for a whole day!



Miss Wright and I are so proud of each member of Jackson class – for the progress they have made and the growth they have shown in their personalities and maturity. We hope you all have a lovely holiday with your families and we look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

## Year 6 (Gutenberg Class)

It has been a wonderful week in Gutenberg this week, filled with lots of activities to finish off the term! In Science, the children had the chance to complete their mouldy bread investigations. Over the 14 days of observation, the children were very excited to see how much mould had grown on specific slices of bread and made links between the growth of mould and environmental factors. As a class, we created a conclusion to our test, noting down any patterns we saw and making suggestions on what we would do next time to find out more. It was incredible to hear the connections the children were able to make from the test as



they showed a great understanding of what they had discovered over time. Some key points from our conclusions included:

- Mould grew faster on breads with greater amounts of moisture
- Groups which put on too much water ended up with bread that completely disintegrated
- In cases where no mould grew at all, next time:
  - More water could be put on
  - Areas where water is placed could be more specific
  - Use millilitres for measurements instead of pipettes
- It seems that location does not have as much of an impact on mould growth – this could be linked to the fact that all three locations were quite cool in temperature. Next time,
  - Change the temperature – place one slice into a warmer location
  - Use a thermometer to make location choice more impactful
- If we could do the test again:
  - Change the type of liquid or bread
  - Toasted or untoasted bread
  - Different spreads - Jam, butter or marmalade

In DT, after many sessions based on research, planning and designing, the day for making the Tudor buildings finally came! It was an exciting day, filled with lots of collaboration, communication, problem solving and critical thinking as the children had to work in pairs to make their Tudor buildings. Throughout the day, they had to overcome lots of different obstacles such as how to support the roof using a beam, how to make sure that their building fit together, how to create more crisp lines for the wooden beams, to name a few. By the end of the day, we had our very own little Tudor village in the classroom, featuring not only some very impressive houses but a palace and Globe Theatre too!



It has been the perfect end to such a busy term! We hope Year 6 has a lovely holiday and can't wait to see what we learn next in the new year!

## Other News

Congratulations to all of Key Stage 2 on your amazing Christmas Concert on Monday and thank you all to all the parents who were able to donate to our charity. Together we raised **£150** for Save the Children – that is incredible!

Huge thanks to all the parent volunteers and staff for putting on our Christmas Fair on Thursday. Thanks to all who were able to attend, I hope you will agree it was a lovely event! We raised an incredible **£1,795** for the school! This will be put towards new IT equipment and a large visual timeline to enhance our History curriculum.

The children had a water safety assembly on Tuesday after the tragic events of last weekend in Solihull. We emphasised the message never to go near icy water. Please be careful during this cold weather.

## Recommended Read

As it is nearly Christmas and a time when many people enjoy extra reading time and giving books as presents, I could not help but recommend two festive stories.

*For our Younger Children:*

Little Robin Red vest is a timeless Christmas classic by bestselling, award-winning author, Jan Fearnley, and is now available with beautiful new illustrations. One frosty evening, a week before Christmas, Little Robin washes and irons seven warm vests for the chilly nights to come. As the days go by, he comes across lots of cold and shivering animals, and kindly



offers them his vests to wear. But – oh no – on Christmas Eve, Little Robin is cold and all alone with no vests left! That is, until Father Christmas arrives to reward his kindness and generosity with a perfect little red vest . . . Now over 20 years old, this favourite picture book classic about the true meaning of Christmas remains the perfect festive bedtime story.

*For our Older Children:*



The Good Bear is a gorgeous Christmas story for readers aged 9+ that will warm your heart and take you on an adventure you will never forget. Beautifully illustrated by award-winning illustrator Fiona Woodcock, the artist behind Abi Elphinstone's The Snow Dragon. It is the Christmas holidays and Thea is looking forward to spending them with her father. She can tell him all about her plans to become a writer, and maybe he will buy her the typewriter she has been dreaming of. But when Thea arrives in snowy Norway, everything feels . . . wrong. Her father is as distant as ever and now she has to share him with his new family: his girlfriend Inge and her children. Then Thea makes a surprising discovery. Deep in the snowy woods by the house, is a bear. He is scared and hungry and he desperately needs Thea's help. When the town hears about a bear living in the woods, Bear's life is in even greater danger. Thea needs to show everyone that he is not dangerous – he is a good bear – if she is to save him.

### Online Safety

National Online Safety have terrific infographics all about online safety that is tweeted weekly. Take a look at this week's guide that has Christmas, online safety and possible gift tips [here](#).



### Celebration Assembly – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Come join us after Christmas to see work from the start of the term in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5.



St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉ [office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org](mailto:office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org) ☎ 01788 222405