BLAKENEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO: 6
December 2023

This is our last newsletter of 2023!



If you have popped into school lately for any reason you will have noticed that our Christmas preparations are well under way. We have so many events to look forward to - please do not forget to look at the events section of the newsletter to make sure that you don't miss out!

Throughout December, we are running a reverse advent calendar. Each day, 2 children from the school will walk up to St Nicholas Church to donate an item to the Food Bank.

With so many wonderful events planned for the children this month, we believe it is really important for them to show the same thoughtfulness and generosity to the wider community.



The children have been so lucky with donations to the school, trips and treats this term. The most recent was the arrival of the new bark for the adventure playground. A massive thank you to the PTFA for funding this and to the children for helping to spread the chippings to make it safe.

Although Remembrance day fell on a weekend this year, on Friday 10th we walked up to the Church for a poignant service with Reverend Richard. The children said prayers and read John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields.* We then made our way to the war memorial in the village to lay crosses. The children always remember this event and tell personal stories that they have heard about family members. We would like to say a big thank you to Reverend Richard for coming with us.



From all of the staff, to all of you - we wish you a very happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Team Blakeney

Hoglets & Hedgehogs

It has been a busy term so far and we have been having lots of fun whilst preparing for our nativity and getting all things Christmassy!

We have been astounded by the progress in our class so far and our children are eager to learn and settled whilst in school. In English this half term, our focus text has been on The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. The children have enjoyed getting to know the characters and they can re-tell the story with confidence. Our younger children have been getting constructive, making a home for Hamish the cat, whilst also learning how to write key words/phrases and sentences. Our older children have been focusing on instruction texts on how to make Mr Grinling's sandwich, newspaper reports and they finish off with a re-tell of the story.

We have come to an end for our maths for this half term, and we have shown great confidence with place value, addition, subtraction and shape! Over the last few weeks we are consolidating our learning, completing some concrete, practical activities, revising key concepts that we found a challenge during the term. The youngest children have been getting to grips with numbers 1 to 5 and have enjoyed getting crafty whilst making the Numberblocks. Our oldest children have been tackling their maths learning head on and have worked tremendously hard on their assessments.

As the term comes to a close, we say a sad farewell to Miss Furnell, who has been teaching us music the last term. Miss Furnell will still be in Samphire Class, but has finished her time with us. We have loved having Miss Furnell and we have had great fun learning to play the ocarina.

We have lots of exciting things coming up over the next couple of weeks including our trip to the Sealife Centre, carol singing, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch, the Christingle and nativity. We will also be visiting Langham Village School for a shared activity morning. Wow! We are super busy.

Next term our learning theme will change and we will be moving onto Superheroes and Holes. We will be focusing on 'real-life' superheroes and hope to invite lots of visitors into school to enhance our learning.

Samphire News

Year 6 recently returned from their very exciting residential trip and proved their increasing maturity and resilience when dealing with new and exciting situations. Their behaviour was exemplary and I have added some photographs for you. Remarkably, they all look clean and dry!

The children are busy earning coins for excellent effort, achievement or acts of kindness. These coins are being collected so that when we visit Fakenham Christmas Tree festival they are able to donate their hard earned money to charity. I hope that this will reinforce the values of the school and inspire compassion, generosity and kindness.

Samphire News (continued)

In Maths, we have completed our termly assessments and are currently revising the learning intentions from earlier in the term. Luckily, we have covered all of the curriculum content and have time to consolidate our skills. Year 5 and 6 will focus on finding fractions of amounts while Years 3 and 4 will aim to increase knowledge and speed of times table recall and adding and subtracting using the column method.

In English, lower KS2 have just completed a series of lessons on writing instructions. All children added exciting adjectives and adverbs and knowledge of these different word classes will be enhanced continuously as we move forward. After their triumphant poetry writing, Years 5 and 6 are report writing and have been looking at articles from the Times to identify features of reports.

Our Monday running sessions are something I always look forward to. As I write this, we haven't yet made it all the way to Morston but we are not far off. We are calling the final push "the ice cream run" as if we make it the whole way the children will definitely deserve the treat.

Looking forward to next term, our learning theme will be the Mayans and I am pre-warning everyone that this involves chocolate!



December

Fri 1st		PTFA Bingo @ Blakeney Village Hall
Tues 5th		Hedgehogs trip to the Sealife Centre, Hunstanton
		Samphire trip to Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 8th		Christmas Jumper Day
Sat 9th		Christmas Market @ St Nicholas Church
Tues 12th	10.00am	Carol Singing @ Budgens, Holt
Weds 13th	AM	Hedgehogs going to Langham Primary School
Thurs 14th	2.30pm	Christmas Concert
Fri 15th	2.00pm	Nativity/Christingle @ St Nicholas Church
	5.30pm	Fed Christmas Disco @ Hindringham Primary School
Tues 19th	AM	Choir visit to Glaven Caring Centre
Weds 20th	AM	Whole school visit to Sheringham Santa Express
	3.15pm	Break up for Christmas

January

Thurs 4th	8.45pm	Back to School
Fri 12th		Y3/Y4 Swimming recommences @ Greshams
Tues 16th	1.30pm	Federation Pantomime @ Blakeney Village Hall