



## All Saints Church School

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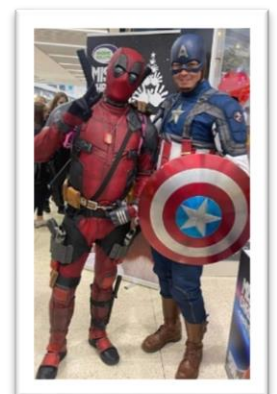
Head Teacher: Mrs S Bowditch BA QTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic December we have had! Christmas performances, FOAS Christmas fair, a KS1 Christmas craft afternoon to name a few. A huge thank you to everyone for supporting all our events, it really has been an amazing couple of weeks.

### Mission Christmas

Mission Christmas took place on December 2nd in Poole Dolphin Centre with over 40 characters in attendance. Unfortunately, our Darth Vader - Mr Churchill, was unable to attend due to a chest infection but one of his friends, Indiana Jones, took our school donations and added them to the two van loads of gifts that were collected. These are being distributed by 5 different charities across the south. Thank you to everyone that donated a gift. There were so many, Mr Churchill could only just fit them in his car!



### Key Stage 1 craft afternoon



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December our Key Stage 1/EYFS team organised a brilliant afternoon of Christmas craft activities for parents, carers and children. It was lovely to see so many attend the event and enjoy creating festive crafts. I would like to thank all staff who helped organise and support the afternoon.

### FOAS Christmas Fair

Our FOAS Christmas Fair was one of the chilliest I have known! We were thrilled with the amount of families who came to support the event. Christmas cheer filled the air aplenty and all the stalls and games were busy throughout the evening. The school choir sang beautifully at the beginning of the evening, setting the tone for the rest of the evening – thank you Mrs Roberts and Mr Wood for supporting. Our very own Mrs Dale continued the Christmassy vibe with her beautiful vocals throughout the evening. Thank you so much to FOAS for organising a brilliant Christmas fair – it really was tremendous. The final total raised will be announced in January...watch this space!

### Christmas performances

If you attended a Christmas performance this year, you will be able to recall just how A-MA-ZING all our children were. They shone like stars and we were all so proud of their singing, line learning and general awesomeness!



### Lighting of the Christmas Tree

I would like to thank our school choir, Mrs Roberts and Mr Wood for singing at the lighting of the Christmas tree in the borough of Montacute on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



### Charity event totals

Children in Need = **£201**

Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) = **£78**

Christmas plays (after performance and licence fees are deducted) = **£1524.45**

**50% will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support & 50% will go towards learning resources here at All Saints**

### Polar Express

This Christmas, Mrs O'Donnell organised a whole school art project based around the Polar Express story. The art ambassadors led a whole school assembly where seven lucky children won a 'believe' bell. Our children used a variety of media to create stunning pieces of art which have been on display in the school reception area. A big thank you to Mrs Westcott who made our very own Polar Express train and conductor.





### **Yurt update from Mrs Sullivan**

Thank you so much to all the families who were able to give us some of their time to move the hardcore up to the yurt site. I was truly blown away by the level of support and community spirit. Within a few hours we moved 12½ tons of hardcore up to the forest area, an amazing feat. Everyone mucked in, even the smallest! I would like to personally thank everyone of you. It would have not been possible without you. This has been a massive project and one that will benefit many children for years to come. I look forward to sharing the next exciting update with you in the New Year! Best wishes Mrs Sullivan



### **Merry Christmas and an Happy New Year**

Our Autumn term has been fabulous. I am so proud of each and every one of our children. We had a super end of term praise assembly today, as well as an opportunity for instrument players and singers to perform to everyone this morning.

I would like to thank the All Saints team for their dedication to supporting and nurturing our children to be the best versions of themselves.

Thank you, as parents and carers, for supporting our school. Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in January 2024.

With very warm wishes

Mrs Bowditch

# ACORNS

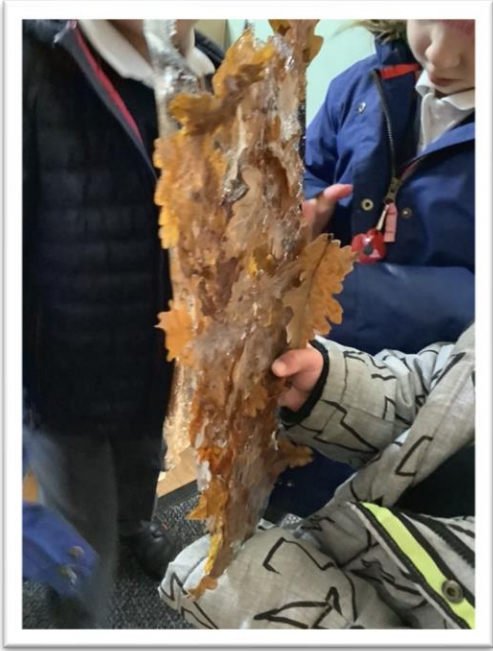
We have had such an exciting month in Acorns. Our nativity was such a success, and we were so proud of the children, from the way they walked to the church, their amazing singing and how their personalities shone throughout the performance!



In Maths we have been continuing to explore the composition of 5, looking at part whole models and five frames. We also looked at various 2d shapes and how we can use them in our art. It was great to have so many parents visit us for our maths afternoon, I know the children enjoyed showing you around the classroom and sharing their learning.



We have explored the 'Countdown to Winter' with the arrival of snow on our tree and ice in our playground. The children have been using the leaves to create homes for hedgehogs and foxes.



Thank you for all your help and support this term, I am so proud of how the children have settled into their learning and come together as a class. Their kindness and care to each other is lovely to see. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Acorn Class team

# CLASS 6

We hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits as we approach the festive season. It has been an exciting and eventful month for Class 6, filled with valuable learning experiences, festive celebrations, and hands-on activities.

## **Christmas Carol Concert at St Catherine's Church**

Our Christmas Carol Concert at St Catherine's Church in the village was a resounding success! The entire class showcased their musical talents and spread joy to the community through beautiful renditions of classic carols. We want to extend our gratitude to all parents and families who joined us for this heartwarming event, as well as Mrs Rees, the band and Mrs Coleman who made it all possible.



## **WW2 Evacuee Experience in Weymouth**

Class 6 had the incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in a World War II evacuee experience in Weymouth. Through this hands-on learning adventure, students delved into the historical aspects of the war. They learned about the Blitz, Air Raid Precautions (ARPs), rationing, shopping, and the daily life experiences of evacuees. From using Anderson shelters to cooking and cleaning during the war, our students gained a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those living in wartime Britain. Not only did they learn about history, but they also had the chance to use stirrup pumps to simulate putting out fires, providing a practical insight into the wartime experience.





## Integration of Science and Design Technology

In an innovative approach, we have linked our science and design technology units. Students have been engaged in planning and creating their own electronic games, applying the scientific principles they have been learning. This project not only enhances their understanding of the subjects but also fosters creativity and teamwork.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

# CLASS 1

Class 1 have had a very busy December despite only being the 14<sup>th</sup>! Last week, they all performed brilliantly in our Christmas play, Barmy Bethlehem. What a fabulous bunch of actors, singers and dancers we have in Class 1! Huey said, 'I enjoyed it when everyone clapped and we had to bow.' Eleanor enjoyed dancing on the stage and said, 'My favourite was singing Baa, Baa, Baa, Baa Boogie. I loved wiggling around!' It seems everyone enjoyed being on the stage and the applause as Ruby said, 'I loved singing because everyone clapped at the end and it made me really happy.'

During the week the children all made a Christingle after Reverend Nick came to school to tell us about them. Mylo told us that 'the candle represents the light of God.' Henry G said, 'The sticks on the Christingle are the seasons,' while Tobias admitted, 'I liked eating the marshmallows because I love marshmallows!'

This week we have been making crafts at our Christmas craft afternoon with our special grown-ups. It was lovely to see so many adults joining in with our festive creative activities. 'I liked making the Christmas trees with my Mummy,' said Aubry, and Oliver told us that, 'We made a penguin together. I liked the craft afternoon with Daddy.'

To finish off our last few days before Christmas we learnt about the history of Christmas trees and all about when Prince Albert introduced having Christmas trees in our homes. The children thought it would be fun to turn Miss Daniel into a Christmas tree as she was wearing a green dress! Henry N and Evie thought this was very funny and said, 'We put baubles and tinsel on Miss Daniel. Cellotape was the best for sticking them on,' and, 'We stuck a star on her head so that she looked like a real Christmas tree.'



Well done, Class 1 for your enthusiasm and positive learning attitude this term. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from all the children and adults in Class 1! Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024!

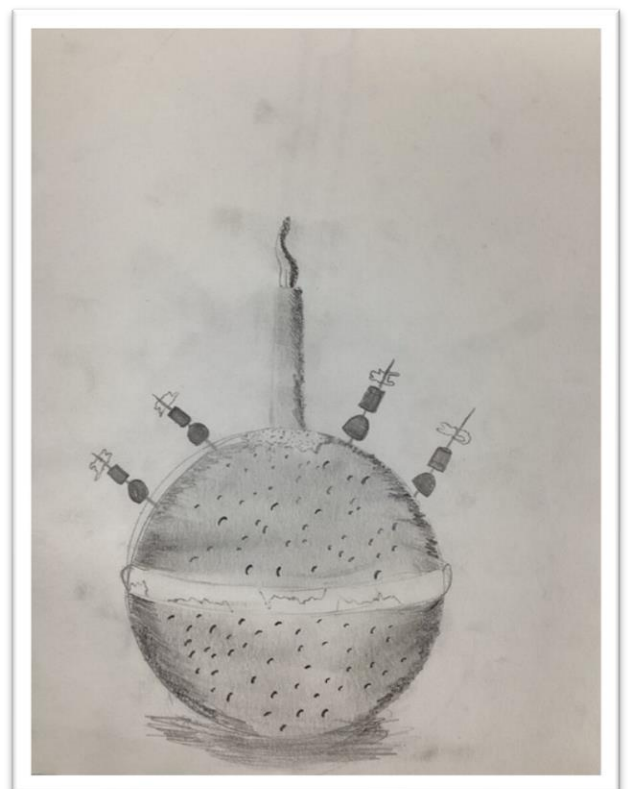


# CLASS 5

The last couple of weeks has continued to be busy interspersed with Christmas activities. Over the last month, the children have been preparing for the Year 5 and 6 Carol concert by learning a range of Christmas carols. During their singing practice, the children worked hard to learn how to sing unaccompanied and how to sing in harmonies. Our carol service took place last week in the church by candlelight and we were all very proud of all the children who sang and read during the concert. We would like to thank Mrs Rees for all her support with this.



For part of our Christmas art based on 'The Polar Express', Year 5 had to draw bells using shading. The children learnt about different drawing pencils and how to create texture, tone and shadow using a range of techniques. Using the skills we learnt, we decided that we would draw the Christingles that we had made.





During our English lessons, we have been using the 'Jabberwocky' poem to inspire us to write nonsense poetry. We looked at the rules of spelling to help us to make up words that could be used as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Then, by looking at morphed animals, we created our own fantastical creatures such as the chocophat or the gorillig. Finally, we wrote poems using our new nonsense words mixed in with English words.

Mr Cashmore and Year 6 invited us to take part in a couple of mini tournaments last week: dodgeball and bench ball. We enjoyed working as a group to compete against different teams.



## CLASS 3

Class 3 were phenomenal in their Christmas play- 'I'm Gonna Shine!' After much hard work learning lines, finding costumes, and practising songs, it was wonderful to see the children performing so well on the night. Thank you for all the support at home to make the show come alive.



In English, Class 3 have learnt the story 'Stone Soup' and innovated it to all sorts of interesting soups! They practised using fronted adverbial phrases to vary their sentence structure and consolidated our learning on speech conventions (such as speech marks, and 'new speaker, new line').

This week Class 3 thoroughly enjoyed playing Dodgeball, led by Class 6 children, and cannot wait for a rematch next term! It was super to see Class 3 demonstrating our school values so clearly, particularly respect and kindness. Lots of cheering, and very honest players made the game enjoyable for all.

On behalf of the Class 3 team, thank you for the wonderful cards, gifts, and lovely messages. We wish you peace and happiness over the holiday, and hope you manage to find a moment to rest and relax amid all the excitement Christmas brings.

## CLASS 2



Class 2 have been really busy during December. We were so proud of their performance of "Baarmy Bethlehem" where every child excelled in their individual roles.

We have continued our exciting topic of 'Through the keyhole' and worked hard on our stories about the family at Montacute House, written in the past tense, where our toys came to life! We were also very fortunate to take part in a house sport competition, run by year 6. They ran a dodgeball competition for us and blue team emerged the winners. We enjoyed playing the game and were so impressed with the year 6 for organising and running the activity.



The class 2 team would like to wish everyone a very Happy and enjoyable Christmas. Thank you to everyone for all your good wishes, cards and gifts, we are so very grateful.

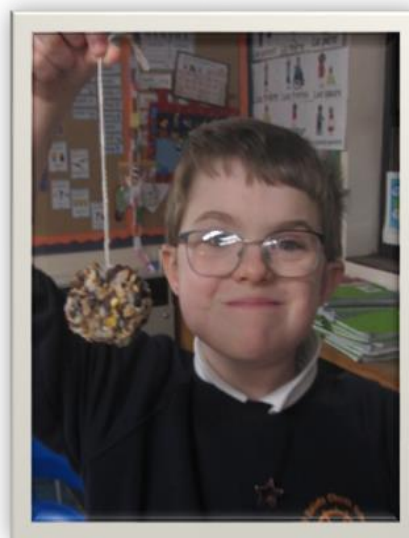
# CLASS 4

The children made us very proud with their Christmas performance **'I'm Gonna Shine'** last week. They really impressed us with their acting, singing and fabulous signing which was helped by such a supportive encouraging audience to performed to!



In English, Class 4 have been reading 'Coming Home' by Michael Morpurgo. We looked at the language used to convey emotion and description. The children then went on to write their own journey stories and many included some heart-warming messages.

Just like the robin in the story, we felt that the robins in our gardens needed some extra nourishment, so we made some bird feeders to hang in our gardens. The children have loved watching the birds feeding from our classroom window and have written some great instructions so they can make them at home.



We have really enjoyed making our Christmas cards and feel very proud of them! The finishing touch was to incorporate our science lessons on electricity. Using copper tape, children built a small electrical circuit to light up star. It was very tricky, but the children persevered and were so excited when they succeeded.



Class 4 are very excited about their new reading/reflection area which we have been creating this week. We are looking forward to taking turns to use it next term.



On behalf of the Class 4 team, thank you for the wonderful cards, generous gifts and lovely warm-hearted messages. We wish you all a very merry Christmas, hoping you find time to relax and unwind together in this busy season.