



Roots that strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that flourishes.



Christmas Newsletter

*'Do not be afraid! I am here with Good News for you,
Which will bring great joy to all people'*



This was what the angel said to the terrified shepherds on a hillside above Bethlehem. The Good News was that a 'Saviour' had been born. God had sent his son to Earth to come and live alongside us to show the world that it is better to serve than be served, to love our neighbour as ourselves and to bring peace rather than conflict.

Many churches have a Christingle service around this time of year; it is a way of helping us to remember the meaning behind Christmas: the orange symbolising the world; the fruit and sweets on sticks representing the different seasons; the candle the light that Jesus brings to the world; and the red ribbon the sacrifice that he made for us.



I'm wondering if the orange should be replaced with a pear at the moment? We need some 'good news' and a 'rescuer' from this pandemic! As we go into the festive break there is uncertainty and apprehension around whether our best laid plans for how we would like to spend the time with family and friends can or should go ahead. It feels as though things might be about to go a bit pear-shaped!



It can be hard to stay upbeat about the situation. But there are still many things to be joyful about, not least our incredible children who continue to amaze and amuse us with their sense of awe, wonder and enthusiasm for life. These bundles of innocent joy will always bring great cheer to the festive period with those magical moments of pure, uninhibited excitement.

However your plans may turn out, I hope you will enjoy some pure, childish joy & happiness this Christmas.

I wish you and your family a lovely Christmas.

Andrew Denham



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Christmas Jumpers



Christmas Lunch

There was a tremendous effort from Katrina and Geraldine cooking a Christmas lunch for all the children who tucked in, while wearing their Christmas hats.



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Nativity Play



Christmas Party Boxes for each class. Thank-you!



A very special Christmas present for Mr and Mrs Conroy...



Congratulations



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Generation EarthShot

The purpose was of Generation Earthshot Day was to nurture the innate creativity of our children and channel it towards solving our biggest environmental challenges, building optimism and confidence in their ability to change the world for the better. The children had a great day of coming up with ideas and then presenting them to a panel of judges, supported by the School Council, who chose Protect and Restore Nature for the £200 prize.



Our Wonder Wednesday Assemblies have been a great opportunity to think about national and international topics of the moment. We have started each assembly by asking the following BIG questions:



How can we help our planet?
(Generation Earthshot)

What is a bullying?
(Anti-Bullying Week)

What is Judaism?
(Global Faiths)

How can we stay safe on the roads?
(Road Safety Week)

What are Human Rights?
(Human Rights Day)

Why are PANTS great?
(NSPCC & Childline)

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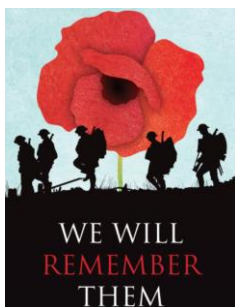
Shoe Box Appeal

Wow! Our generous families donated exactly 100 Christmas Shoe Boxes filled with gifts! It was lovely having so many parents join us for the Shoe Box Train, delivering them to the church where they begin their journey to the children we are supporting in the village of Finis, Romania. Thank you, everyone!



Remembrance Day

Thank you to all the parents who stayed on after morning drop off and joined us for our time of reflection by the Peace Garden...



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Boccia Champions!

Congratulations to our Boccia Team who won the EPA schools tournament and now go through to the West Oxfordshire final. They thoroughly deserved their special treat of hot chocolate and biscuits on the way home!



House Points Treat!

Well done to Lincoln for earning the most House Points this term. They got to join Mr Denham for Dunkin and Donuts as their treat. A special congratulations to the six children who were The Chosen Ones: children who were not in the winning house team but had shown their teacher throughout the term great work and behaviour.



Year 6: Strictly Come Dancing

Thank you to Mrs Isard who taught Year 6 Dance this term (and save the children from Mr Brown's Dad Dancing!). The Year 6's did a great performance to their parents.



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Murphy



This term in Murphy Class our topic has been 'Houses and Homes'. We have enjoyed creating homes out of a variety of materials as well as learning about different types of houses that we may find in Standlake. This term has also seen the start of our Forest School sessions where we have been bug hunting, building a hedgehog home, threading bird feeders and exploring the Forest School area.

During Literacy, we have been exploring lots of stories including Goldilocks and the 3 bears, 3 Little pigs and Last Stop on Market Street. We have been retelling the stories using Tales Toolkit, story maps and puppets. In Maths, we have been beginning to look at the number formations as well as patterns around us and have made some superb patterns using the classroom resources.

Donaldson Class

Our topic this term – 'Inventors and Scientists' – has led to lots of interesting experiments in Donaldson Class. We've learnt about different materials and their properties, as well as the clever inventions of some famous scientists. We've tried to apply what we have learnt in our Design & Technology lessons, where we have been investigating how to make a strong and stable mini greenhouse. Our English work has been inspired by the book 'Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover' and we have written our own space adventure stories! In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes in Year 2, as well as how to compare number sentences in Year 1.

Outside the classroom, we had great fun this term with the Year 6 children, who taught us to cook bread on an open fire. It was delicious! And, of course, we have been rehearsing for our Nativity performance, having learnt all about the Christmas story in our RE lessons. We really hope you enjoy the show!



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Blake Class



Fiery Earth has been Blake Class's exciting topic this term. We have learned about the formation, location and impact of volcanoes, including the story of Pompeii. In Science we looked at different types of rock - a big thank you to Rosie's grandad for sharing some of his rocks with us. We have also written our own information texts about the Rock Cycle and a piece of narrative writing from the perspective of a pebble!

Mrs Mitchell bravely helped us to make our own volcanoes out of papier mâché and taught us how to play the glockenspiels. Finally, in RE and Languages we have been learning about Christmas. We have been considering the question: 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning?' and we have learned about different Christmas traditions around the world.



Dahl Class

Our topic 'Fiery Earth' this term has been great! We have been able to locate where some of the deadliest volcanoes are around the world, looking at how they are formed. We even managed to make our very own volcanoes in DT which we were able to erupt!

In English we created our own pebble characters based on the book 'pebble in my pocket,' which we wrote narratives about. We had such imaginative ideas! In RE we have been learning about whether we think Christmas has lost its true meaning and in music we have learnt to play jingle bells on the cornet! In science we were looking at the digestive system and teeth. We carried out an experiment with eggs (representing our teeth) to see what food and drink damages our teeth the most. As you can see from the photos, some of the results were quite a shock... What a busy but fun filled term!



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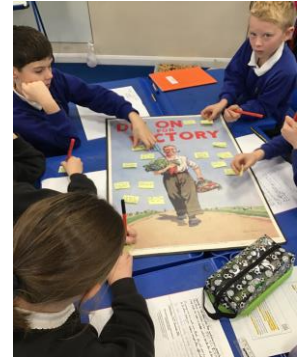
Morpurgo Class

We have had a wonderful term in Morpurgo learning all about WWII. Children have been thoroughly engaged with the topic and the texts, 'Rose Blanche' and 'Once.' I have really enjoyed watching the children be fascinated by their learning and we have had some fun interactive lessons to bring the topic come to life. We started off the term predicting what our main character from Rose Balance was going to be like by investigating what was in her bag. The writing that has been inspired from this text is beautiful! During art, Mr Pullin visited and shared what a modern-day



soldier's kit was like and we compared to what soldiers wore and had to carry in WWII. In art, we have also made tanks and we are going to finish off the term with a VE day, celebrating with food, dancing and games in topic.

In science we have learned all about light! We investigated how light travels, reflection, prisms and refraction. We made a model of an eye out of candy which helped us learn to label and explain the functions of the different parts. Children were both disgusted and intrigued as they watched a sheep's eye being dissected! Mondays have been a highlight of the week for Morpurgo where they have been learning dance with Mr Denham!



Shakespeare Class



Shakespeare Class have found our WWII topic this term fascinating. We have learnt about the reasons for war, the home front, the use of propoganda and the traumatic events of the Holocaust. Our topic culminated in our VE Day party, including music, games, dressing up and food! We have produced some wonderful writing alongside this, based on our two thought-provoking texts: *Rose Blanche* and *Once*.

In our science work on light, dissecting sheep's eyes was enjoyed by most of us, whilst we all got creative making our own shadow puppets and performing a show to the class. This term's DT project has been investigating, designing and making WWII tanks, of which we are all really proud. A visit from Mr. Pullin helped to inspire us to compare what life was like in the armed forces during WWII and today. Finally, we have loved our weekly dance lessons with Mrs. Isard and were delighted to be able to share our performance with our parents.



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Achievement Book

The following children have shown particularly impressive words or actions this term...

MURPHY

Lottie for always listening and following instructions.

Rupert for always being ready to learn.

Beatrice for always following the classroom rules and instructions

Cass for always listening, working hard and following instructions

Evie-Mae for following instructions and trying hard in phonics

Sylvie for consistently working hard

DONALDSON

Nancy for listening, following instructions and being ready

Lena for always listening, working hard and following instructions

Hayden for trying harder with his work this week and much better listening

Reggie for always working hard and thinking creatively

Shannon-Rose for a positive, can-do attitude to her work

Ava for overcoming nerves and really trying with her nativity role

BLAKE

Emilee for always being a positive and helpful member of Blake class

Elleni for fantastic progress in making positive contributions during whole class discussions

Miley for showing a positive attitude with her learning throughout her first week in Blake Class

Alexander and Rosie were also awarded the star of the week award this term!

DAHL

Benjamin for consistently showing he is ready to learn, following our school's behaviour expectations brilliantly.

Breanna for always following our school values and being a great role model within Dahl class

Joshua for having such a positive attitude to all learning this week, including assessments

William for being so helpful within class, following instructions and constantly aiming high in all his learning

Charlie for his hard work and resilience this week. Giving everything a go, including music and PE, even with a broken arm!

Jack for putting 100% effort into all his learning this week, consistently showing he is ready to learn.

MORPURGO

Freddie for constantly showing the school behaviour expectations and helping friends out with a gentle reminder when they need it, so they are ready too

Grace for always being ready to learn and following expectations to the highest standard

Olivia for showing determination and putting fantastic effort into her tasks

Annabella for always being so smiley and a pleasure to have in class

Eliza for always trying her best throughout the school day

Milo for super listening and having a great attitude in class

SHAKESPEARE

Cameron for looking out for and supporting others in their 'ready for learning' behaviour

Kassia for always listening attentively and being 'ready for learning'

Jake for blowing me away with his positivity towards this week's assessments, producing some fantastic results

Niall for consistently impressing me with his attitude, readiness to learn and high-quality work

Abi for always working incredibly hard, being 'ready to learn' and producing an excellent standard of work

Kate for always working hard, being 'ready for learning' and making me laugh!



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Star Writers

The following children have shown some great writing skills this term...

MURPHY

Erge for superb sentences on fireworks using finger spaces.

Gracie for superb letter formation

Beatrice for great segmenting when writing a letter to Father Christmas

Axel for superb letter formations

DONALDSON

Mari for some excellent sentences in both maths and English work this week.

Robyn for a fabulous start to her adventure story and some excellent written questions in maths this week

Sienna for working hard on her adventure story and improving her handwriting

Ella for carefully and accurately answering questions about a poem

BLAKE

Mark for a great story and ideas for The Gruffalo

Daxyn for showing great focus when writing about the rock cycle

Tilly for working hard to include a range of features in her information text about the Rock Cycle

DAHL

Jude for fantastic enthusiasm and input with his creative writing

Ferris for creating real suspense in his pebble story

Alfie for some great paragraphs in his non-chronological report about rocks

Freddie for showing resilience and passion towards his diary planning this week

MORPURGO

Archie for trying really hard to use great vocabulary in his narrative

Laycie for independently writing her narrative and having a good attitude to editing it

Darragh for a great plan on a persuasive poster with creative ideas

Lucy for a very persuasive advert to join the home front!

SHAKESPEARE

Yilin for her outstanding score on this week's GPS assessment

Ava for carefully developing tension and building a plot in this week's narrative writing

Anna for a fantastic narrative, written from a different character's perspective

Milly for her desire and determination to improve her writing

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Marvellous Mathematicians

The following children have shown some excellent maths work this term...

MURPHY

Patrick for wonderful work on finding all the ways to make 5.

Aidan for great part-part whole work.

Lucy-Marie for superb ordering of numbers

Cass for lovely work on finding the missing number in a sequence.

DONALDSON

Arthur P for some excellent work on describing turns

Martha for working hard on subtraction this week

Arthur L for some fantastic work on comparing numbers

Kyle for careful work comparing number sentences

BLAKE

Luis for great effort and achievement in our quizzes this week

Finley H for great independent work on adding calculations

Fin for applying different addition strategies with confidence and accuracy

DAHL

Leila for great effort with our times tables activities this week

Sophia for persevering with fractions this week and having a few 'lightbulb' moments!

Finn for challenging himself with tenths and decimals this week

Olivia for continuing to challenge herself, and providing great input with angles this week

MORPURGO

Autumn for showing great understanding of fractions and trying to move onto the next task

Rosie for starting her tasks straight away and well thought out explanations

Lucy for great understanding of decimals and fractions

Harry for perseverance and enthusiasm learning about percentages

SHAKESPEARE

Louie for impressing me enormously with his maths assessment attitude and results this week

Emilia for quickly grasping and applying our new learning about algebra and ratio this week

Grace for fantastic investigation work this week

Cameron for super progress in our work on multiplying fractions this week

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FOSS update

THANK YOU for all your support over the last term. We've had so much support for the fundraisers relative to donated items as well as family participation. Below are just a few of the updates.

COOKBOOKS – These have received an amazing response, most of the cookbooks have sold; however, there are a few remaining. If you haven't already seen one, please stop by the office to have a look. They make memorable and unique gifts and keepsakes. Available in the office or by sending 'friends and family' payment via PayPal (FOSSpayments@gmail.com) – £5 each.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE – Most of the Christmas cards have been delivered/ picked up. If you've not yet received, please see Mrs. Barker to pick it up as she is holding onto the last remaining few.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – The Christmas Fayre was an absolute success! We had so many creative and festive school and community stalls as well as lots of smiling faces. We are pleased to announce that the proceeds from Fayre raised £970.11 for the school!!! THANK YOU!!!



SCHOOL DISCO – We've unfortunately had to postpone this again, but we are keeping it on the calendar and will find a time when it is safe and sensible to proceed, hopefully in the coming term. We know this is something all the students look forward to!

Please also remember that FOSS have set up several ongoing fundraising efforts via EasyFundraising, AmazonSmile and the textile donation box outside the school. Both EasyFundraising and AmazonSmile cost nothing extra to users, simply log into your accounts and shop with a portion of the proceeds going to our lovely school. To link our charitable cause to your account (via website or app), use "Standlake Primary School - Witney" for EasyFundraising and "Foss Friends of Standlake School" for AmazonSmile.

And, finally, a reminder of why we do this...

All fundraising FOSS organise are to benefit the students of Standlake Primary. This term we were able to continue for the second year to provide Christmas Party boxes for each of the classes for their last day of term. Without your generous donations, the school would not be able to make these special one-time purchases to further enrich the pupils' experience.

We know that this is a particularly busy time of the year and truly appreciate the continued support!

The FOSS Committee

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School Uniform

Order from: www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk

We have noticed an increasing number of children not wearing the appropriate uniform to school. Please use the holiday to make sure your children start next term in the appropriate school wear:



Gingham Dress



Pleated Pinafore



Pleated Skirt



Dark/Grey School Shorts



Dark/Grey School Trousers



White Polo Shirt



Sweatshirt



Cardigan



Y6 Sweatshirt



Y6 Cardigan



Children must wear black shoes with their uniform; buckles, velcro or laces are fine.
Children MUST NOT wear trainers (unless it is a PE day)

PE Kit

Similarly, a number of children are not wearing the correct PE kit. Now that children are wearing PE kit for the whole day they have PE, it is important that it is the official school clothing:



White T-Shirt



Dark Black/Blue Shorts



Dark Black/Blue Joggers



School Blue Hoody
(or different sweatshirt to normal day)



Children must wear trainers or plimsolls
(Children MUST NOT wear the same shoes as a normal school day)

If there are any families who find the cost of the school uniform a barrier to getting it, please speak to the school office because we may be able to help. We will be monitoring uniform next term and sending home letters if children do not have the appropriate schoolwear...

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Other Information

Term 2 Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 4 th January:	INSET DAY
Wednesday 5 th January:	Term Starts
Wednesday 12 th January:	Dental examinations (Reception & Year 1's)
Friday 14 th January:	Swimming starts for some Year 4, 5 & 6 children
Monday 17 th January:	U11 Hockey Match
Wednesday 2 nd February:	Year 1/2 Dance Festival
Thursday 10 th February:	Year 3/4 Dance Festival

More details about the events outlined above will come out closer to the time...

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

SPRING TERM 2022

INSET Day: 4th January
Term 3: 5th January – 18th February
Spring Half Term: 19th – 27th February
Term 4: 28th February – 8th April (1.15pm finish)
Easter Holidays: 9th – 24th April

SUMMER TERM 2021

INSET Day: 25th April
Term 5: 26th April – 27th May
Summer Half Term: 28th May 5th June
Term 6: 6th June – 20th July (1.15pm finish)
EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY: 4th July*

** Schools will miss the official Bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 3rd of June due to the half term holiday so we have been given permission to take another date in term time.*

TUCK SHOP

Please complete the payment item that will have come through to ParentMail for your child's Friday Treat Tuck Shop

YOUNG VOICES

Sadly, due to the ongoing COVID situation, Young Voices has been postponed. We will give you more information when we get it.

THANK-YOU & GOODBYE

This term we said goodbye to Ms Lewis and Mrs Ind who have moved on to new jobs. In January, we will also be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs Barker who will be moving on to a new job within the Eynsham Partnership Academy.

Vicky's After School Club

We will not be running any clubs after school in Term 6. However, **Vicky's After School Club** will be running from Monday to Thursday 3.10-5.10pm. Please contact Vicky directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07887 711454 or vickyhickman1@gmail.com.

Morning Club

John Andrews **Morning Club** is also available to parents who need to drop off their child a little earlier in the morning. It runs from 7.45-8.45am. Please contact John directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07917 444498