



Roots that Strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that Flourishes.



## Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We closed our Christmas Service with a poem by Sharon Jaynes. It is a good reminder that during the excitement, fun and busyness of the festive season, it is important to keep our greatest value, LOVE, at the centre of all we do...

### 1 Corinthians 13: Christmas Style

*If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely, patterned bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another cook.*

*If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family – it profits me nothing.*

*If I trim the tree with shimmering angels & crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*



*Love stops the cooking to hug the child.*

*Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the partner.*

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.*

*Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.*

*Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return,  
but rejoices in giving to those who can't.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.*

*Love never fails.*

*Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust.  
But giving the gift of love will endure.*



Have a wonderful, loving Christmas with your family and friends...

Andrew Denham

### Christmas Service...something for everyone!

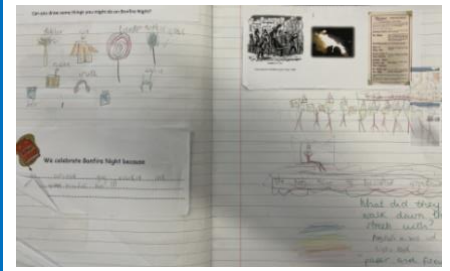
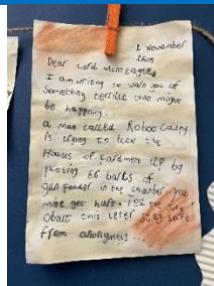
This year's Christmas Service was a smorgasbord of performances, ranging from our IRock bands to Christmas songs being performed on ukuleles to nativity play highlights. It was wonderful to see so many parents, friends and family join us for the service.



A huge, big THANK YOU to FOSS for the wonderful class Christmas boxes full of craft, games & treats. The children had great fun with them on our last day!



**Murphy Class. Mrs Harrison writes:** This term in Murphy Class our topic has been 'Celebrations'. We have been exploring lots of different festivals and celebrations including Bonfire Night, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. To help us understand each festival we have looked carefully at stories and artefacts to develop our knowledge of how the festival is celebrated. We particularly enjoyed the story of Rama and Sita, that is shared at Diwali time, and made our own clay Diyas as well as Rangoli patterns using colourful rice. We also had lots of fun learning about how people celebrate birthdays, reading stories about birthdays, finding out when everyone's birthday is and having our very own birthday party for our class bear. As Christmas is fast approaching, we have learnt all about the Christmas story, found out how Christmas is celebrated around the world and about the importance of the advent wreath. We have loved learning our Nativity play and really hope you enjoy our show. We also spent time this term exploring what bullying is and what we can do about it. We used the story Giraffes Can't Dance to explore how unkind behaviour can upset people's feelings and that we should celebrate everyone's differences.



**Donaldson Class. Miss Morton writes:** We've had a busy term, filled with interesting lessons and fun-filled Nativity rehearsals. Our topic this term has been The Gunpowder Plot. Each history lesson, we asked historical questions and used primary sources to learn what happened during the event and who were the key individuals involved. Some children did some fantastic research about the Gunpowder plot as part of their Home Learning. In our history lessons, we also discussed why and how we continue to celebrate Bonfire Night today to remember Guy Fawkes. We compared celebrations that happen today to celebrations from the past. Some children in Year 2 used their knowledge of the Gunpowder plot to recreate the anonymous letter that was sent to Lord Monteagle. We enjoyed writing this up in our best handwriting and then using tea and coffee to stain the paper. The children decided this would make the letters feel authentic. During our creative writing lessons, we have been practising identifying nouns, verbs and adjectives as well as using them in our sentences. We have finished the term by listening and writing sentences based on the Christmas story 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.' In Science, we have been learning about everyday materials. We have been sorting materials into groups, describing their properties, and discussing their suitability for different uses. We used a book and a fluffy coat to prove that they were not suitable to have out in the rain because they are not waterproof. In Art and DT, we designed, made, and evaluated Christmas decorations. We used clay to make tea light holders and ornaments for our Christmas trees. The children enjoyed painting their creations to make them unique to them. Throughout the term, we have been enjoying our rehearsals and performances of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' with Murphy Class. I am proud of all the children in Donaldson for showing great enthusiasm and courage to learn lines and act on stage in front of an audience. To summarise, it was **BONKERS!** Donaldson have also enjoyed moving to our new classroom where we are excited to learn new things next term.

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**Dahl Class. Mrs Conroy and Mrs Fleet write:** We have found our World War II topic interesting and thought-provoking. We have learned about when and why the Second World War started, how the home front contributed to the efforts of the war, the roles, and responsibilities of the armed forces and the importance of the Battle of Britain. We concluded this topic with a fantastic WWII day: we dressed up, danced, baked, cracked codes and even built our own Anderson Shelters (to varying levels of success!). In English, our class text, 'When the Sky Falls' has really helped us to understand some of the impacts of WWII on the cities and people of Britain. We were immediately drawn into the story; we were intrigued to know why young Joseph was sent to London in 1941 rather than staying in the safety of the countryside. Our empathy for Joseph shifted as we read the book: from finding him angry and disrespectful to wanting to help him. After reading about Joseph escaping from an air raid shelter, we wrote our own version of what happened next. Then, thinking about the children that were evacuated from our cities during the war, we worked really hard on creating an information text about Evacuation.

Our science topic this term has been all about electricity. We discussed how electricity is used in our everyday lives. Working in small groups, we built circuits. We investigated how many components were needed to make a circuit, the role of a switch and the conductivity of different materials. During this topic, we developed our resilience skills as things did not always go to plan! We have been very creative in RE this term while learning about promises. We learned about the promises God made between Noah, Abraham and himself. We then discussed the promises that are made at a wedding and even had our own class wedding which all the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Thanks to Mrs Lee's enthusiasm, we have produced some ambitious, eye-catching pieces of artwork this term – all linking with our WWII topic. In French we have learned to talk about ourselves and our families and have learned a catchy little song about the whale with slightly stinky breath (which you may have heard us perform in the church on Tuesday).



**Morpurgo Class. Miss Bridgeman writes:** What an amazing half term we have had in Morpurgo class! This term we have been studying World War Two and I think it's safe to say that the class has thoroughly enjoyed this topic. We have studied evacuation and propaganda, as well as code breaking and the Blitz. We rounded off the topic with a fantastic World War Two-themed day. The children looked amazing in their costumes and I was so proud of them all for getting stuck in and having a go!

In English, we have been basing our writing around our class novel, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. The children had the opportunity to write a missing person's report for one of the characters in the book, as well as re-writing a section of the novel from the perspective of another character. The children have been really engaged in their writing and have produced some wonderful work.

In Maths, we have been very busy, covering perimeter, fractions, and decimals. Although some aspects of fractions can be tricky, the children got stuck in and gave it a really good go! All the children have shown a really good understanding of decimals, and we are excited to develop our understanding further in the spring term.

Within our science topic this term, we have been studying space. The children have loved this topic and have shown a particular enthusiasm for the 'Planet's Song' – I am very sorry if this has been played on repeat at home! We had great fun making our planet 'Top Trump' cards and even creating the moon phases out of Oreos (which we managed not to eat until the end of the lesson!).

Mrs Lee has continued to do a fantastic job with our art lessons this term. The class had great fun making some silhouette pictures of St Paul's Cathedral during the Blitz, before making their own propaganda posters inspired by those produced in WW2. Their artwork is so colourful and eye-catching and they should be very proud of the work they have produced.

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**Shakespeare Class, Mr Brown writes:** Shakespeare Class have joined the rest of Key Stage 2 in learning about World War 2 this term. We started by considering the significance of events leading up to the start of the war on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, before thinking about life at home while battles raged abroad. We analysed the role of women during the war, through comparing their role during the war years to prior to it starting, and after it finished. This helped us to consider how WWII shaped society, allowing women the freedom to carry out roles that before would not have been possible. We then discussed the impact of rationing, before learning about the harrowing events of the Holocaust.

Our two class texts *Rose Blanche* and *Once* – both linked to our topic – inspired our writing this term. We used, *Rose Blanche*, the story of a child's view of war, and rewrote it in from a different character's perspective. Then we applied our topic learning to write persuasive letters, encouraging the British public to take up rationing, before writing a non-chronological report to share the knowledge we have gained throughout our topic.

In maths, we have spent a large amount of the term focusing on comparing, ordering and calculating fractions, before applying this to decimals and percentages too. Meanwhile, our science learning focused on electricity: we created a range of electrical circuits and then designed and carried out our own experiments.

In our other subjects, Miss Bridgeman continues to brave teaching us the ukelele(!); Mr Weaving encourages us to fulfil our potential on the sports field during PE; Mrs Fleet uses her fantastic language skills to inspire our French speaking and listening; and Mrs Lee has taught us to design and create models of tanks in DT.



### Whole School Reading Achievements

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you will go."

-Dr Seuss



These children have read 25, 50, 75 or 100 times since the start of the year...

**MURPHY:** 25 reads: Tommy Lee, Remy, Asa, Ted 50 reads: Juniper, Brooke, Spencer  
75 reads: Freya, Eve, Joey, Finley, Kydan 100 reads: Chloe, Harvey, Isobel, Dottie, Evie

**DONALDSON:** 25 reads: Ezra, Evie Mae 50 reads: Thomas, Felix, Molly, Sophie, Gracie, Lottie, Axel  
75 reads: Beatrice, Patrick, Erges, William, Sylvie, Aidan, Ori, Seren

**DAHL:** 50 reads: Robyn, Immi, Seb, Arthur L, Kyle, Layla, Mari, Ava, Arthur P, Shannon-Rose  
75 reads: Jenna, George, River, Lexi, Lena, Nancy, Arthur P, 100 reads: Finley, Isaac, Martha

**MORPURGO:** 25 reads: Jasmine, Rosie, Kaleb, 50 reads: Henry, Arlowe, Eadie, Elleni  
75 reads: Annie, Fin 100 reads: Sienna, Charlotte

**SHAKESPEARE:** 25 reads: Leila, Charlie, Ben, Vienna 50 reads: Finn, Will, Aaron 75 reads: Ezra, Oscar, Mara-Jade, Archie, Alfie

## World War II Day

To finish off their topic for this term, Key Stage 2 have had a World War II themed day. Learning to dance the 'Lindy Hop' was a highlight! The children also enjoyed cracking the 'Enigma' code, baking scones, creating poppy art and building model Anderson shelters.



## Nativity

Well done to all the children in Nursery & Reception and Year 1 & 2 who took part in our Nativity play. They did so well to 'sparkle and shine' on stage! Also, a big thank you to the staff who worked so hard to make the magic happen. The very next day, the children got to go and watch a pantomime at The Oxford Playhouse. Such fun!



## Remembrance Day

Thank you to everyone who joined us by the Peace Garden for our time of reflection as part of the Remembrance Weekend. A special mention to Aiden, Sienna and Miss Bridgeman who read the poems so well.



## Water Safety

We were pleased to welcome Andy and Callum from the Windrush Leisure Centre to our Wonder Wednesday assembly. They spoke to the children about 'Water Safety', focusing on how to stay safe around water and what to do if they fall in.

## Athletics

Congratulations to our U11 Boys and Girls Athletics Teams who absolutely 'smashed it' at the EPA indoor athletics competition. Both teams won by a huge number of points and now go through to the West Oxfordshire Finals at Marlborough College in March.

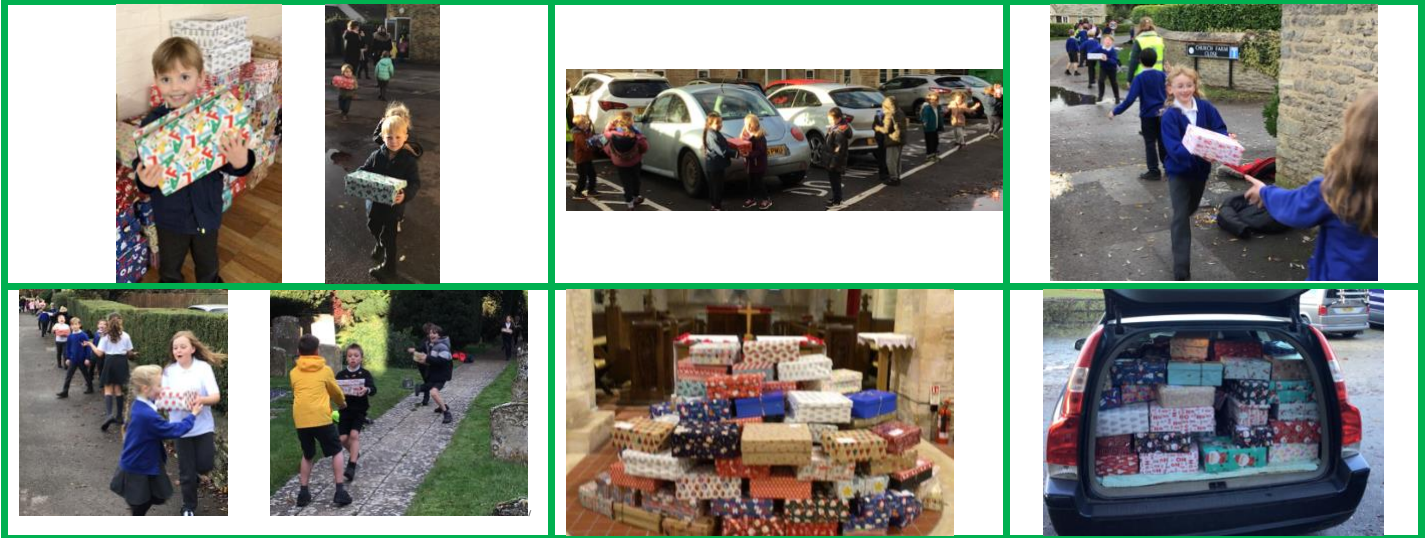


Well done to our U11's Girls Football Team who took part in the West Oxfordshire final. They had to be BOLD, BRAVE and COURAGEOUS to take on the strong teams and awful weather conditions (and one player needing to go home because she was unwell!). As always, the girls made us very proud!



### Shoe Boxes!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 116 Shoe Boxes that we were able to send off to our friends in Romania. We had great fun passing them down the 'human chain' to the church!



### Inter-House Competition

Poor weather meant a last-minute change to the inter-house competition but the children still enjoyed the 'just for fun' challenges that tested their ambition, resilience and team-work skills!



### Boot Camp!

Mr Weaving led a staff and children work-out on the last day of term so we could work-up an appetite for all the festive food we are about to eat!





## Wonder Wednesday: Anti-Bullying Campaign

Our weekly Wonder Wednesday assemblies focus on local, national or international topical events that are taking place at the time. This term we have had several assemblies thinking about the national anti-bullying campaign that took place in November and launched our new Anti-Bullying Policy

**“Behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.”**



Roots that strengthen.  
Branches that reach.  
Fruit that flourishes.

Following our school values...



...and stay happy and safe in school and flourish!

**Unkind, mean and bullying behaviours can stop you from flourishing:**



**Unkind**

When someone says or does something upsetting not on purpose and just once



**Mean**

When someone says or does something upsetting, on purpose and once or twice



**Bullying**

When someone says or does something upsetting, on purpose and keeps doing it, even when you have asked them to stop.

**Tell them to STOP.**



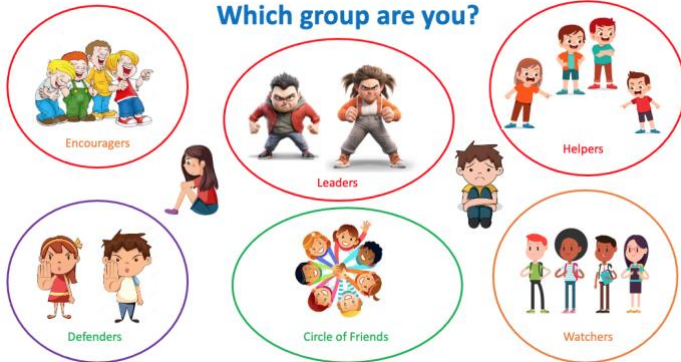
**Tell an adult (or write a Worry Note)**



**Tell someone...**



**Which group are you?**



Thank you to the following groups who helped inform the writing of our policy. Your input was so valuable:

- All Children (via a questionnaire)
- School Council
- Parenting Working Group
- Governors
- Staff

This policy was a community informed policy



**A polite request:** If you have any concerns about bullying behaviour (or anything else), please come and speak to us. Using social media to share your views counters everything we teach the children about being ‘kind’ online. It sets a poor example to your own children, rarely gives a balanced view of events and causes upset to individuals and groups named or otherwise in the post. Note: private social media groups are rarely ‘private’ because screen shots are taken and openly shared with others...

**SPRING 2024 Standlake Superstars: Playful and Purposeful Provision by Professionals**

A one-stop-shop of children's clubs & wrap-around care for working parents, for children aged 4yrs+  
Please contact Standlake school office for further details and/or to receive sign-up instructions:

**office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk**

Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning Session</b> 7.45 to 8.45am	<b>Wake &amp; Shake</b> <i>Fun games to start the week</i>	<b>Dodgeball</b> <i>Fun &amp; fast team game</i>	<b>Group Exercise</b> <i>Kids circuit class with music</i>	<b>Multi-skills</b> <i>Movement team challenges</i>	<b>Go Wild</b> <i>Indoor climbing frame course</i>
<b>Afternoon Session 1</b> 3.15 to 4.15pm	<b>Dance</b> <i>Learn a Street Dance routine</i>	<b>Tag Rugby</b> <i>For KS2 &amp; Robust KS1!</i>	<b>Football</b> <i>Fun drills 4skills and games</i>	<b>Dodgeball</b> <i>Fun &amp; fast team game</i>	<b>Fun &amp; Games!</b> <i>Team games and challenges</i>
	<b>Tabletop Games</b> <i>All the classics</i>	<b>Forest Craft</b> <i>Exploring &amp; building dens</i>	<b>Lego Animation</b> <i>Stop-Start Film Making</i>	<b>Art and Craft</b> <i>Cutting, sticking and making</i>	
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.15 to 5.15pm	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>

**2023-2024 Key Dates**

Outlined below are the key dates for the rest of the year. Dates highlighted are **NEW** or **AMENDED** dates.

**Spring Term**

**Term 3**

8<sup>th</sup> Jan: INSET Day  
9<sup>th</sup> Jan: Term Starts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb (9.00-10.20): Open Classroom (Parents)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: (after school, time tbc): West Oxfordshire County Final: Cross Country (Y3-6)  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb (School Time): Big Bang visit for Y6  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb: Dare to be Different Day (FOSS)  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb (am & pm): It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 3.15pm)  
11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February: Half Term

**Term 4**

19<sup>th</sup> Feb: Term Starts  
20<sup>th</sup> Feb (evening): Oxfordshire Dance Festival @ New Theatre  
29<sup>th</sup> Feb: (after school, time tbc): West Oxfordshire County Final: Boccia  
23<sup>rd</sup> Feb (All day/evening): Year 3-6 Young Voices Concert @ Birmingham Arena (Approximately £25)  
7<sup>th</sup> Mar (am&pm): World Book Day (Whole School)  
7<sup>th</sup> Mar (after school, time tbc): West Oxfordshire County Final: Athletics (Y5/6)  
7<sup>th</sup> Mar (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y3&4) TBC  
4<sup>th</sup> Mar (3.45-5.30pm): EPA Netball Tournament (Y5&6)  
18<sup>th</sup>&19<sup>th</sup> Mar: Parent Meetings (Whole School)  
SEND Pupil Reviews  
26<sup>th</sup> March (2.30pm): IRock Concert  
28<sup>th</sup> Mar (9.00am): Easter Service (Whole School)  
Easter Event (FOSS)  
The Last Day (finish 1.15pm)  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-15<sup>th</sup> Apr: Easter Holidays

**Summer Term**

**Term 5**

15<sup>th</sup> April: INSET Day  
16<sup>th</sup> April: Term Starts  
18<sup>th</sup> April: Year 6 Bartholomew Transition  
3<sup>rd</sup> May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y1&2) @ Barth.  
6<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday  
8<sup>th</sup> May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y3&4) @ Bartholomew  
9<sup>th</sup> May (9.00am): Little Loaves Service (Whole School)  
w/b 13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 SATs Week  
w/b 13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 2 SATs Week  
20<sup>th</sup> May: Whole School Sports Day (Nursery to Year 6)  
21<sup>st</sup> May (3.45pm): EPA Cricket Tournament (Y5&6)  
23<sup>rd</sup> May: Year 1-5 Overnight camp on the school field  
24<sup>th</sup> May (am&pm): It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 3.15pm)  
27<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June: Half Term

**Term 6**

3<sup>rd</sup> June: Term Starts  
3<sup>rd</sup> June: Year 6 Residential (£355)  
12<sup>th</sup> June (9.30-11.30): Year 3&4 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Bartholomew  
18<sup>th</sup> June (11.30-2.30): Year 5&6 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Tilsley Park  
25<sup>th</sup> June (9.00-12.00): Year 3&4 Rugby Festival @ Bartholomew  
2<sup>nd</sup> July (9.00-11.00): Year 4&5 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew  
w/c 8<sup>th</sup> July: SEND Pupil Reviews  
10<sup>th</sup> July (9.00-11.30): Year 1&2 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew  
13<sup>th</sup> July (All Day): FOSS Summer Fete  
16<sup>th</sup> July (2.30pm): IRock Concert  
17<sup>th</sup> July: Move Up Day  
19<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 Air Tattoo Trip  
School Reports go home  
22<sup>nd</sup> July (am/pm): Year 6 Leavers Play and Funday (6.00pm): Awards & Presentation Evening  
23<sup>rd</sup> July: Last Day (1.15pm)

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