



Newsletter — Term 2 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

What a wonderful time of year this is! It is an absolute delight to see our pupils' excitement as they take part in the Christmas preparations and events. Christmas decorations went up at school on December 1st and we have a beautiful tree just inside the front door that has entranced a number of pupils as they have arrived at school with its twinkling lights and baubles. In addition, all classes have created a piece of work to add to our 'Christmas Art Trail'. There is a chimney with a pair of black wellington boots poking out outside Junior 2 and Christmas tree (made out of twigs collected and painted by pupils) with pupils' photos as baubles outside Junior 4. If you are in school, do wander round to find the other pieces.

It was wonderful to see a number of you at both the Infant and Junior sharing of Christmas Songs. The event clearly brought out the performance skills of Niamh, Tayden and Rogan - it was joyful to watch them! I was also really proud of our youngest pupils who managed to be part of such an event for the first time - a particular well done to Reggie.

Later today, I am awarding 'Headteacher Star of the Term' to Jared (J1). Jared has been asking for things he wants at home and school. He has also been out shopping with teachers and Mum!

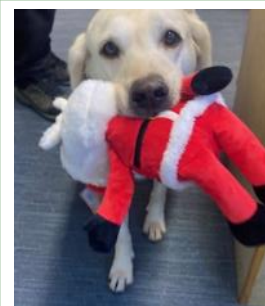
Evaluated termly goals will be coming home this/next week showing your child's learning over the term. Do talk to your child's class teacher with your thoughts for next steps.

It is our Christmas Service at St Michael's Church (Glassenbury Drive) on Tuesday (12th). It starts at 10am and all (parents, carers, grandparents, siblings) are welcome - hope to see you there. It is quite a special experience if you have never been before. Christmas Lunch will be served to all staff and pupils on Thursday 14th.

Please note - the first day of term 3 for pupils is Thursday 4th January.

Christmas love to you all and very best wishes for a peaceful New Year.

Kirsty



Thank you Maggi!

This is Maggi, our therapy dog, in true festive spirit! Maggi comes in weekly with her owner, Alan, and really brings glad tidings and joy to all she meets!

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 12th
December at 10am

End of term 2

1pm on Friday, 15th
December

Pupils return to school

Thursday,
4th January

Planning ahead:

School will close at 1pm
on the following dates
to facilitate staff
training:
Tuesday, March 12th
Thursday, June 6th

Celebrations in Junior 1!

The Junior Department topic this term has been "celebrations". In Junior 1 we made candle holders for Diwali, using clay and then chose how we wanted to paint them, we explored decorating each other's hands with a form of body art known as Mehndi and also made some Indian sweets called Coconut Burfi which were delicious! We have had lots of fun with our learning.



Jack (left) choosing the food colour he wanted to use and then pressing the mixture into a tray to set. Tayden and Alfie (right) making/painting their candle holders.

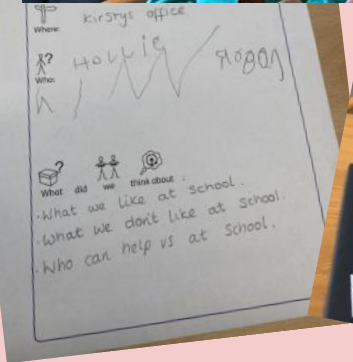


School Council

This term pupils were invited to share their views at School Council. They met with Jayne (Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead) to think about the following questions:

- Things we like at school.
- Things we do not like at school.
- Who can help us at school if we feel worried?

We found out that assemblies are sometimes too loud. Kirsty will have a think about how to make this better. Thank you team for sharing your views and ideas about how to make school a happy and safe place for everyone.



Diwali Delights in Senior 2



Senior 2 have been learning all about Diwali—the Hindu festival of lights.

We've been looking at symbols used in henna tattoos and recreated these into our own mandalas. We have created some firework paintings using toilet rolls and we also made some Diwali clay pots. We have also learnt a new Diwali dance in our Senior integration afternoon session which has been great fun!



Junior 3—Super Work for Supergoals!



Junior 3 have been working hard on their Supergoals this term. Whether it's been community learning, dressing ourselves, using the toilet or independently completing jobs, pupils have astounded the team with their progress! Here you can see Jared out on a shopping trip and queuing patiently at the checkout, Olivia putting on her coat independently and Willow carting laundry to be loaded into the washing machine. We're super proud of you Junior 3 - keep up the great work!

Junior 2's Dragon Visit!

Spiro, the bearded dragon, made a welcome visit to Junior 2 this term. Pupils really enjoyed their reptile experience and Spiro's calm and passive nature. He had different textures all over his body and seemed very comfortable to be handled in a quiet and peaceful environment. Thank you Harvey for allowing him to visit.



Violet and Fin enjoying their reptile experience.

Wrens — Exploring Light and Sound

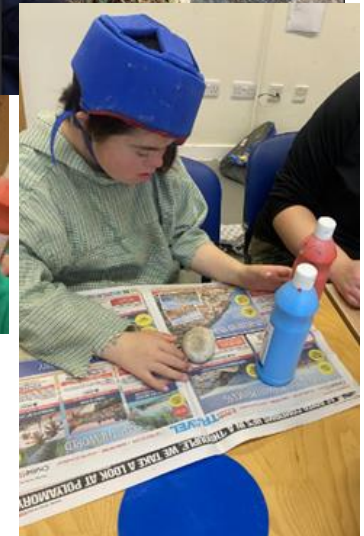
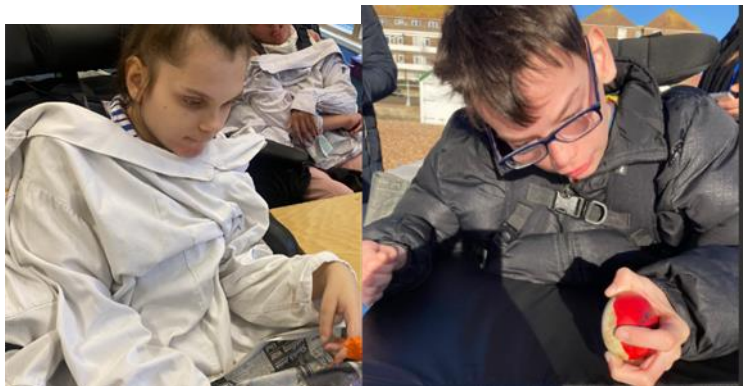
Term 2 in Wrens started with a bang as we celebrated and learnt all about Halloween There was lots of music, dancing, dressing up and, of course, pumpkin carving! We then enjoyed learning about Bonfire Night as we explored the sights, colours and sounds of fireworks. We also enjoyed creating some great artwork for this topic. In the past few weeks we've been learning about Diwali and enjoyed learning all about this very important Hindu festival and created some fantastic Rangoli patterns to celebrate it! And finally..... CHRISTMAS! Wrens have been in their element learning about Christmas; learning songs, going out into the community to explore Christmas displays and we've even made our own advent calendar. So much to celebrate this term, it's been a cracker!



FE1— On a Mission!

FE1 have been thinking about our friendships this term. What does it mean to us to be a good friend? What qualities do we have to maintain and build positive relationships?

We have been looking at kindness within our friendships, how we can contribute to our networks and community and show kindness within our everyday life. FE1 decided to embark on a kindness mission! Phase 1 of the mission was to go on a hunt for some stones from our local beach, bring them back to class, where we painted and designed them so they were bright and colourful and then wrote messages on them. Our community-learning group then embarked on phase 2 of our kindness mission and hid our kindness stones within our local community in Bexhill, with hope that these will be found to brighten up someone's day!



Hello Everyone!

Christmas is fast approaching and it's a time when lots of different things happen and our usual routines may change for a few days. There can be family gatherings, decorations up at home, parties to go to and presents appearing under the Christmas tree! It can be quite confusing and un-predictable for our pupils: When will they be allowed their presents? Why do we give presents to other people? Why do we have to share?! There are lots of things to try and understand all in a short space of time.

Here's something for you to try at home..... here are some signs you can use to help your child understand what's going on and what you expect them to do at Christmas. You could use them to help your child understand that they may have to take turns in opening presents or playing a game, so you could say 'now (see sign below) it's Dad's (point to Dad) turn, next (see sign below) it's your (point to your child) turn'. Plus, here's the signs for the tricky concepts of sharing and giving! I hope this is useful and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.



now

Hands move
down in
short sharp
movement



next

Hand faces
down with
thumb out
then turns



share

Palms face up,
alternate hands
moving back
and forth



give

Move both
hands to-
wards the
recipient

Communication Stars

We have seen some fantastic learning this term across the school and some huge progress being made. We want to celebrate some of our wonderful Juniors this term.



Larkin has made great progress with his listening and attention skills this term, which has enabled him to be more independent and organised on arrival into class each morning. Larkin follows a sequence strip to complete his morning routine with minimal support, taking his belongings out of his school bag and placing them in the correct trays and boxes before heading off to Sensory circuits. Well done Larkin!

Lilly has been consistently targeting and pressing her switch (within her visual range) in a wide range of functional tasks this term including shredding, cooking and hoovering. In this photo (right) Lilly is making sweets for our Diwali buffet by melting chocolate in the microwave. Go Lilly!

