

Norton Hill News

Newsletter 6 - Thursday 19th December 2024



MESSAGE FROM MRS WATERHOUSE

We have come to the end of a very busy and successful term. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved together as a community; staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors. The holidays are finally upon us after a busy week of Christmas Productions from Curiosity Corner, Bumblebee, Honeybee, Dragonfly, Terrapin, Turtle, Iguana and Gecko Classes. What super entertainers they have all been! Year 3 also spent some time at the local nursing home, entertaining the new residents and sharing songs from the past and the present. We are particularly enjoying our new relationship and look forward to more shared events in the future between all of our year groups and the residents. As I type, the children are enjoying their Christmas lunch (I can hear the crackers being pulled) and are excitedly talking about their presents of choice - Santa will be busy this year!

This term the children have been involved in a World Record Poetry Day and many other events that have enhanced their Autumn Term. Norton Hill Primary has also now been officially recognised as the first Beacon School for Diversity and Equality in BANES due to our curriculum design and implementation. Something that we are all incredibly proud of-we will also be helping the Banes team by supporting other schools on their own journey.

The teaching team have also welcomed their first baby. Miss Cassidy gave birth at the beginning of December and both Mum and baby girl are doing well. With this brings staff changes and we will be welcoming some new faces for the Spring Term and also saying goodbye to old ones as they take on new challenges.

It has also been wonderful to be able to welcome so many parents, carers and visitors to the school this past term; particularly as we enter into the spirit of Christmas. The highlight for me has been seeing the overwhelming support that our families bring when we host our events- learn with me, reading cafes and performances; all have been filled with our fabulous families and I thank you for the continued support.

I would finally like to thank you as parents and carers for all you have done to support your child in school this term. Just a few minutes each day does make a world of difference. I thank you personally for your continued support to me and I wish you and your loved ones a happy Christmas and continued good health and happiness for the New Year.

HEADTEACHERS AWARD

	Friday 29th November	Friday 6th December	Friday 13th December
Bumblebee Class	Sunny	Coby	Maddie
Honeybee Class	Bobby	Rex	Theo
Dragonfly Class	Isaac	Finley	Louie
Turtle Class	Noah	Kasey	Walter
Terrapin Class	Lacey	Ralph	Noah C
Gecko Class	Amelia and Alfie	Raiden	Finley
Iguana Class	Alfie-Lee	Esme W	Theo
Leopard Class	Harry	Milena	Luna

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
Monday 6th January	Inset Day	School Closed for school and nursery pupils
Tuesday 7th January	Term 3 starts	Details to follow
Monday 13th January	Extra-curricular Clubs start	Reception to Year 4
Friday 7th February	Numbers Day	More details to follow
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day	Whole School
Friday 14th February	Term 3 Extra-curricular Clubs finish	
Friday 14th February	No After School Club	
Friday 14th February	Last Day of Term 3	
Monday 24th February	Term 4 starts	
Thursday 6th march	World Book Day	Details to follow
Monday 10th March - Friday 14th March	Science Week	
Friday 21st March	World Poetry Day	
Friday 4th April	No After School Club	
Friday 4th April	End Of Term 4	

1st Beacon School

Race Equality Charter for schools:



This Race Equality Charter has been developed for schools by the Bath and North East Somerset Race Equality and Hate Crime Task Force Partnership.

Beacon Schools are schools agreed by the B&NES Race Equality and Hate Crime Task Force Partnership to have demonstrated particularly good practice in relation to the Race Equality Charter in a specific area of commitment or across a range of areas.

To find out more click the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/race-equality-charter-schools>

A note from the PKA:

Christmas time is such a busy time of year for everyone and also for the PKA at school. We would like to thank you for supporting the PKA this term with our Christmas Raffle Draw, Santa Shop and Father Christmas visit.

Thanks to your support we have raised just over £3000.

Office Update

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School meals please click the link below to apply:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

School meals are now available to book for Term 3 all bookings need to be made via ParentPay by Thursday 2nd January for the first week back. We are unable to provide a meal if you have not booked.

Wraparound Care Bookings - Term 3

Sessions are now available to book via ParentPay.

Tax Free Childcare /Childcare voucher payments - Please allow 1 week for payments to be allocated to ParentPay.

To enable us to allocate the payments quicker please can you email the School Office with the following information EVERY TIME.

- **Child's Unique Reference Code**
- **Date Paid**
- **Amount £**
- **Where and the amount you would like the money allocated in ParentPay i.e breakfast club/after school club/nursery**

Unfortunately we are not able to accept vouchers to pay for extra-curricular clubs/meals or trips.

Emails to school

When contacting the school office regarding your child. Please could you include your child's class for us to be able to process your request quick.





Festive Cooking



Pupils in Year 1 to Year 4 were offered the opportunity to attend a one off "Festive Cooking" club. This club was extremely popular with all children who really enjoyed decorating a Yule Log to take home.



Curiosity Corner

"Will you read me a story?" is our current topic that we have been exploring within Curiosity Corner. With hope that this focus would encourage children from a young age to develop a love of reading and books, it is clear that we have met this goal. The children have fully immersed themselves in the classic stories we have been reading such as 'The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, and We Are Going on a Bear Hunt'. To develop the children's comprehension, we have been bringing the characters to life through role play, encouraging the children to use familiar phrases from the texts to tell the story.

With Christmas around the corner, the children have been keen to participate in our Christmas provision and activities. Sharing our books in bookvent has become a very exciting part of our day and thank you to our families for sharing some wonderful stories from home. Mince pie baking and Christmas Art work is underway, alongside nativity practice. Our 'Wriggly Nativity' has highlighted that we may have many inspiring singers within Curiosity Corner and it has been great to witness the children's enthusiasm during rehearsals.

With many budding Mathematicians in the nursery, the children have also enjoyed developing their counting skills, extending repeating patterns and being introduced to some 2D shapes. The children have particularly enjoyed taking Maths outside, using a range of concrete resources to support their learning.



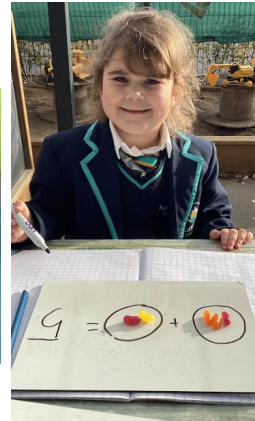
Reception

Reception has dived into the magical world of traditional tales this term! The tales have inspired some fantastic writing, retelling of stories and even allowed us to introduce twisted tales, with alternative viewpoints and endings. During 'Democracy week' we captured the children's enthusiasm for these tales by asking them whose side of the story they believed; the pigs or the wolf. The children shared their opinions and elected a spokesperson for the pig and wolf parties before the children all had the opportunity to vote.

Within Phonics the children are learning the last of the set 1 sounds and within Maths we have introduced subitising.

Our science focus has been nocturnal and diurnal animals as well as animals that hibernate.

The children have worked extremely hard this term to learn their roles in our Nativity 'Everyone loves a baby'. We truly appreciate your support in making it such a success. We hope it brought some festive joy and is something you will remember for years to come.



Year 1

Dragonfly Class have worked extremely hard this term covering lots of new and exciting topics. We have particularly enjoyed Geography this term where we have been researching 'What is it like in Shanghai?'. We participated in a workshop where we had some visitors come and speak to us all about Shanghai and the traditions they celebrate there, we even got given our own red envelopes that symbolises the Chinese New Year!

We have also been fantastic scientists and conducted lots of experiments this term, in each experiment we have been testing different properties for different materials. The children were very excited about the 'Is this material waterproof?' experiment - all children excelled in ensuring this was a fair test.

This term, the children have had lots of creative opportunities such as making windmills for their DT project, diva lamps when learning about Diwali, poppy art for Remembrance Day and plates inspired by Clarice Cliff.

We have wrapped up this term with our Nativity 'Hey Ewe!' all the children have worked extremely hard to learn their roles, songs and they have enjoyed making the performance come to life! Thank you for your support in making their nativity something they will remember.



Year 2

As we wrap up this term, we are excited to share all the wonderful learning experiences Year 2 have enjoyed.

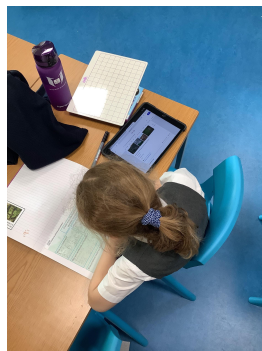
Maths Marvels: This term, our focus has been on understanding money and exploring different ways to solve problems using grouping and repeated addition. The children have enjoyed learning their multiplication tables, with lots of practice on the 2, 5, and 10 times tables. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow! Now onto the 3, 4 and 8 times tables!

Writing Wizards: In our English lessons, the children have been busy crafting a non-fiction piece, focusing on commas, adjectives and adverbs. Each child has researched owls and created an informative fact file. This tied in beautifully with our class text, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The creativity and enthusiasm during these sessions have been truly brilliant!

Geography Explorers: Our geography lessons took us on an imaginary trip around the world. We've been comparing hot and cold countries, learning fascinating facts about Kenya, the UK, the Arctic and Antarctica. We discussed their weather, climate and where to locate the equator and its links with the climate. The children have loved exploring these diverse parts of the world!

Science Detectives; In science, our young detectives have been delving into the fascinating world of habitats and ecosystems. We looked at various environments around the globe and discussed the impact humans are having on these habitats. The children showed a keen interest in protecting our planet and its creatures.

We ended the term with our fabulous Nativity, "Lights, Camel, Action!" The children shone brightly, and it was truly a joyous occasion. Thank you for your support in making this event a success.



Parents Meetings 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -6.30pm
Wednesday 23rd April	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	3.30pm -5.30pm
Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 25th April	Parent Meeting Reception - Year 4	

We look forward to welcoming parents to school for parents meetings. Please be patient if your appointment is at 3.30pm, we need to ensure all children staying for After School Club have moved around the school and are settled before adults enter the building. Please arrive through the front entrance and make your way into the main hall. You will find your child's book on the table please sit and look through these while you wait for the class teacher.

Please arrive to your appointment on time, if you are late your time with the teacher may be reduced.

Year 3

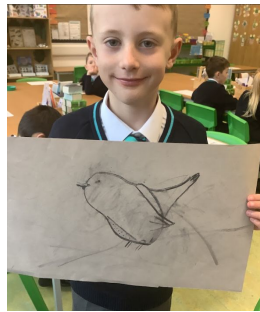
Across Year 3 this term, we have been exploring writing our own fantasy stories based upon 'The Winter's Child'. Firstly by creating our own characters and settings, before building a narrative mountain, featuring a build up, problem and resolution. I have been blown away by the creativity of the class and the rich characters they have introduced into their writing!

Within maths, we have put real focus on building our multiplication and division knowledge, specifically into consolidating our 2, 3, 4 and 8 times tables. We have explored this in many ways, including using concrete resources and representing our mathematical thinking through pictorial representations such as bar charts and arrays.

In our science topic we have learned about contact and non-contact forces. We have been excited to conduct several investigations and engage in some hands-on learning, including testing for magnetic materials, analysing magnet shape and size to see if it correlates with magnetic field strength, researching uses for electromagnets, and exploring how different materials generate different amounts of friction. We were so intrigued to find that some of our assumptions were challenged by the evidence and it has allowed us to get a deeper understanding of the world around us!

In history, we have been fascinated to learn about and compare the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We have looked at many primary and secondary sources to make deductions about how people lived in these times. This has tied perfectly with our art topic this term, where we have been modelling our own prehistoric cave paintings on textured surfaces.

Finally, we dived head first with enthusiasm into our Christmas performance, where we have really tested our singing skills with several beautiful performances. The children did an amazing job and should be incredibly proud of themselves! Thank you for all your support with the learning of lines and preparing of costumes, it was a great success!



Year 4

Leopard Class have been exploring the features of a diary entry during their English lessons, and writing from the perspective of a character from their text this term, 'Leon and the Place Between'. They have blown us away with their handwriting effort this term, and many have achieved their pen licenses; we're looking forward to continuing to hand more out in Term 3 and beyond. During Maths, the children have been learning how to multiply and divide increasingly large numbers, and represent their mathematical thinking pictorially in their books. The children have been gripped by our Guided Reading text, 'The Train to Impossible Places', and are thoroughly enjoying learning new vocabulary within this book. In their Science topic, Leopards have enhanced their understanding of electricity and circuits, and can explain how to form a circuit, suitable conductors and insulators, and how to make a bulb dimmer or brighter. Within their Geography, Year 4 have learned about the Amazon Rainforest and the impact of human activity on this biome. DT is certainly a favourite subject in the class, and Leopards have tested prototype cars, designed and then built their own cars. During Music lessons, the children have been learning about the history of rock n' roll; they certainly have rhythm!

