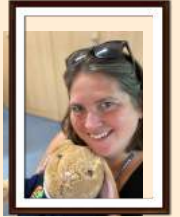




WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER TERMS 1 & 2 2023



Message from our Headteacher



Dear all our families and friends,

This is our first newsletter of the year (things were a bit frantic in the office at the end of term 1 to get one out then) and what a busy Autumn Term we have had!

The pages below will give you a flavour of the exciting things that have been going in across the school and in each class.

We like to think of our school as a family and, like all families, we have our highs and lows but the important thing is that we go through them together.

An unexpected high for us, this term was our SIAMS inspection which is an inspection by representatives of the church. Their remit is to evaluate how well we are living out our vision. If you read the report ([here](#)) you will see it is full of positive statements about how hard our staff work to nurture our children: "The passionate staff team wholeheartedly serve and nurture every member of the school community. As a result, pupils thrive and grow, especially the most vulnerable."

As ever, in the autumn term, I have shown a lot of potential new parents around our school. All visitors comment on the positive feel in our school and that is something of which I am very proud.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our school throughout 2023. We all wish you a fantastic 2024!

Best wishes,

Miss Debbie Johnson
(Headteacher)

STAFFING UPDATES

This term we have welcomed Miss Crossman, Mr Harvey and Miss Payne to our teaching staff. It has been great to have new teachers with us. We were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Hanley and Mrs Humphrey in October but wish them both well. I am sure they will pop back to see us. In December, we welcomed Mrs Martin to our office team. She and Ms Stone will be working closely together to ensure that the school runs smoothly!

Sadly, just before the holidays, we learned about the passing of Mrs Gosling. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at the especially difficult time of year.

Learning, growing, achieving... our journey together with God.



This term's value:



In Term 1 our worship sessions focussed on our value of **LOVE** and we looked at the story of The Good Samaritan and the lessons we could learn about how we treat each other in school. We always focus on love in the first term, as it is the key value for our school - as shown in our SIAMS report.

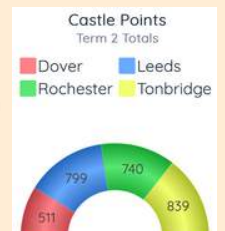
In the run up to Christmas in Term 2, we based our worship on the value **JOY**, especially the joy experienced by those involved in the birth of Christ and how we can spread joy to others during the holiday.

Luke 2:10 I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.



CASTLE POINTS

Our new castle captains have done an amazing job of managing the castle points over the first two terms.



There have been different castles winning each week, although Leeds had a bit of a run in Term One and ended up winning the overall points for that term. However, in Term Two, the other castles gave them a run for their money but Tonbridge ended up winning for this term. Pupils in Leeds and Tonbridge will have an own clothes day next term as a reward. On our last day of term, we held our own 'Big Fat Castle Quiz of the Year. Thanks to Miss Colyer for organising and comparing, and well done to Dover Castle for winning the quiz.



FAREWELL MRS HUMPHREY!

Dates for your diaries:

Term Dates:

- Term 3 2.1.24 - 9.2.24 (inset 2.1.24)
- Term 4 19.2.24 - 28.3.24
- Term 5 15.4.24 - 24.5.23
- Term 6 3.6.24 - 23.7.24

NO CLUBS FIRST WEEK BACK

Thursday 11th Jan: Year 4 trip Maidstone Museum

Wednesday 17th Jan: Young Voices at O2

Thursday 25th Jan: High Hopes Assembly

Friday 9th Feb: Last day of term



Nurture Camp

Hi everyone.

This term went so fast and what a term it has been.

We have had lots of fun and laughter in Nurture Camp and enjoyed many activities. Our wellbeing team are really happy to be here for your wonderful children every day.

Thank you for your continued support with your children, it means a lot to us and we could not continue to do what we do to without this.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and wishing you peace and happiness for the new year.

Warmest wishes to you and your families,

Mrs Henry and Mrs Bryant

PS I have included a picture of our wonderful reading dog, Chewie, with two of our amazing Key Stage One students.



Trips & Events

We are so lucky to be near the station, have lovely grounds and have children who love adventures. Here are some of the opportunities our children have already had this year.



Y5 Team Building Day



Remembrance Sunday



Harvest Festival



Looking after the ducks



Year 6 Residential



Sponsored Athlete Event



YR Outdoor learning



KAB Visit



Y1 outdoor learning



Clover Class Egyptian Day



FOWPS Bonfire Night



Reception balanceability



Reception theatre trip



Y3 river fieldwork trip

THANK YOU

to everyone who helped make all these opportunities! possible!



KODAK PORTA 400

It's Chriiiiiiiistmas!!!!



Whole school panto trip



Christmas dinner day



Nativity play



Carol singing at the Christmas Fair



Y2 singing at a care home



Christingle service

Bramble Class

Bramble Class have had a fantastic first term at school and have settled very quickly into our daily routine. They have already made so much progress and have loved making friends with the rest of the school! Our theme this term has been Terrific Tales.



We went on our first school trip to The Hazlitt Theatre to watch a production of The Tales in Acorn Wood. It was brilliant and the children loved the train journey to get there!

Every Thursday, Bramble Class have outside learning sessions. In one session, the children worked in groups to build a house for the 3 Little Pigs. We then tested to see if we could blow them down like the Big Bad Wolf!



The children did their first performance in front of the rest of Wateringbury at our Harvest Festival. Even though some were a bit nervous, we were so proud that they all stood on the stage to sing.



This term we started our Balanceability sessions. The children are getting more confident on the balance bikes now!



TERM 1

Bramble Class

Term 2 has been incredibly busy in Bramble Class and the children have made some much progress in their confidence and their learning. Our theme this term has been Come Outside; here are some of the highlights of the term so far.



This term, we have introduced our daily handwriting sessions and the children have got so much better at forming their letters.

In maths, we have been concentrating on numbers 1-5 and the children can now recognise, order and make the numbers. We have introduced them to the whole/part model.



Every Thursday, we have been looking after the ducks and making sure they have new bedding, water and food. The class have got really confident at approaching the ducks and handling them appropriately.

This term we rehearsed and performed our class Nativity. The children sang beautifully and showed great confidence on the stage.



TERM 2

DANDELION

TERM 1



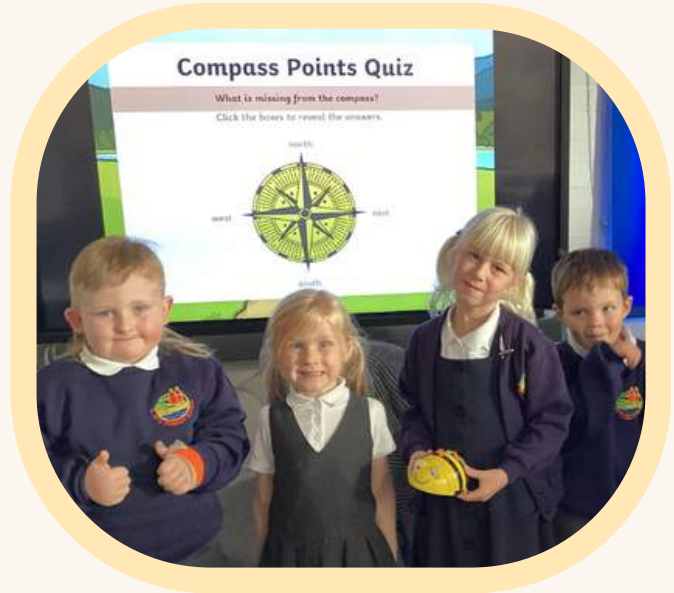
In this term our topic was the history of toys! Across the term we gathered facts about toys from the past, starting with the toys our adults played with... all the way back to the Victorians. We then used this learning to make our own mini museum with real historical toys!

We particularly loved art this term where we experimented with different materials to make spiral designs! We learned all about the artist Kandinsky and made gigantic chalk spirals to make our own versions of his art.



TERM 2

In term 2 our topic was our local area! We learned about the 4 countries of the UK and decorated our classroom by making our own flags! We learnt to make maps and give clear directions - even using this to direct a beebot around a map we made.



In science we learned about different materials and became very good at sorting them! We used our material knowledge to investigate how windmills are made. Then in art lessons, we designed and made our own moving windmills!





HONEYSUCKLE CLASS



This term has been a whirlwind of excitement! The children have been sinking their teeth into the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel, penning descriptive paragraphs, crafting instruction manuals, and even building their own gingerbread houses! In maths, we've been laying down some solid foundations to take on the challenges of addition and subtraction. In history, we've been taking a trip through time, exploring how toys have changed over the years. We've been getting wild in science, brushing up on animal groups and their survival tactics. Honeysuckle Class even choreographed their own circus-inspired dance and explored the fundamentals of ball games. In RE, we've been pondering the big question about Creation and what it means to Christians. And, last but not least, our little artists have been investigating spirals and created their own shell art.



Honeysuckle Class

It has been a busy term for Honeysuckle! Our main topic has been all about being 'out and about'. We did some amazing poetry based on the book 'Out and About' and we did some learning based on 'The Lorax'. In maths, we have completed our addition and subtraction unit and we moved onto shape. We looked at our local area in geography and made our own maps. In science, we have investigated materials and which are best for certain situations. In RE we have done lots about the Christmas story. We have made some Ferris wheels in DT and did gymnastics in PE.



Foxglove Class

Term 1

This term, the children in Foxglove Class have been studying the Stone Age, learning about the changes from Palaeolithic to Neolithic times. We looked at how basic the tools and weapons were in the Palaeolithic times, compared to the thinking behind actions in the Neolithic times. The children were excited to hear that Stone Age people created the first version of farming! We have also had a brilliant time exploring Stone Age cave art, and exploring different techniques using charcoal.



The children have also started learning the ukulele and have already learnt the different strings, some chords and songs relating to this. They have also been playing some singing and rhythm games to help them understand the components of music.

Term 2

In term 2, the children tried their hand at making savoury tarts. They learnt how to peel and chop fruit and vegetables safely, before completing a taste test of food that could have been included in their tarts. Finally, they made a mock up of their tarts before making the final products!



The children also have also learnt all about rivers, looking at water sources, different parts of a river, changing landscapes and completing a river study of a local river. They had a great day out at Horton Kirby Education Centre, where they were taken on a guided tour of the river and completed practical tasks and challenges.



CLOVER CLASS

TERM ONE

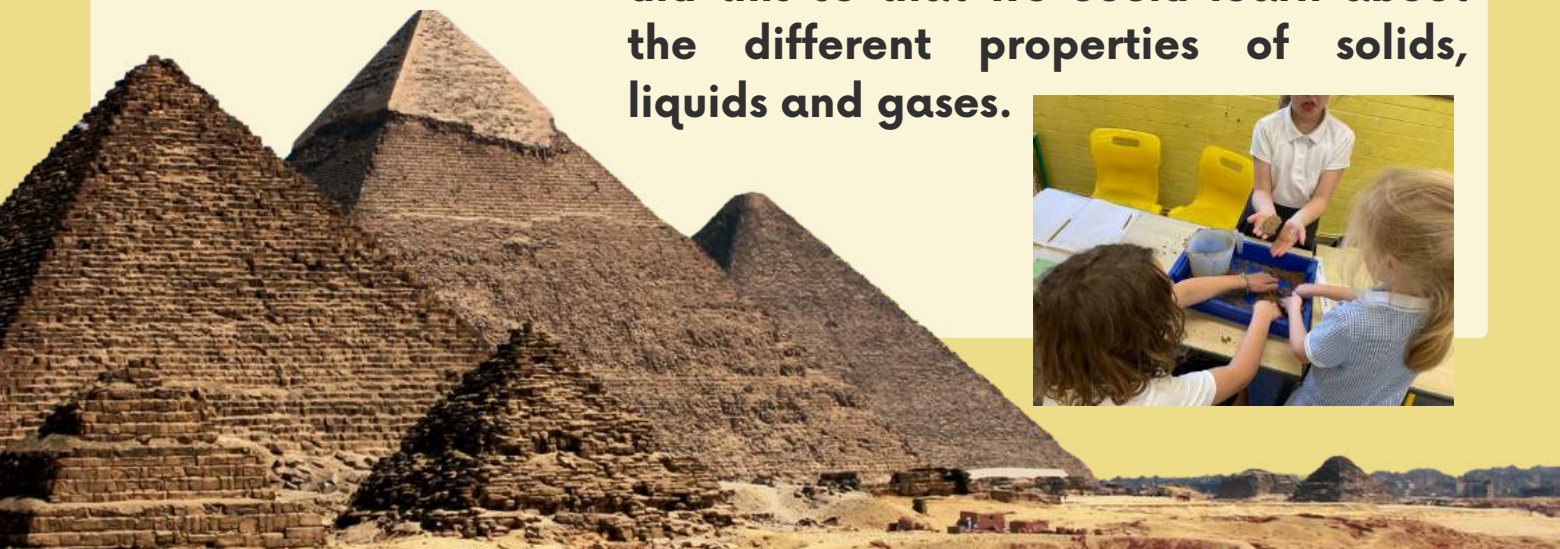


In history we have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We looked at how important the river Nile was to everyday life and how it flooded every year, making the soil fertile for farming. Then we made spinners to show the months of the year and the different farming seasons.

As part of our place value unit in maths, we have been finding out about different number systems. We looked at Roman numerals which are made up of combinations of letters from the Latin alphabet. The children used lolly sticks to show these different letters and make the numbers they were given. It really helped the children to pick up this tricky number system quickly.



To explore solids, liquids and gases, in science, we put our hands into some different mixtures, some didn't feel very nice! There was toothpaste, cornflour water and damp sand, we did this so that we could learn about the different properties of solids, liquids and gases.



TERM TWO



CLOVER CLASS

In history we have continued learning about Ancient Egypt. We also had an Egyptian day where we made clay scarab beetles, pyramid gift boxes with hieroglyphics, shadufs and canopic jars. We all got to dress up as Egyptians too!



In Design and Technology, we started the term by looking at the taste, texture and design of existing biscuits. We then adapted a basic recipe, focusing on our target audience and designed packaging for our biscuits. In the last week of term we finally made our biscuits to eat after our yummy Christmas dinner!



In the lead up to Christmas, we also had our Christmas jumper day. We spent the morning decorating our biscuits, making festive photo frames for our class Christmas photos and creating Christmas decorations for our class lunch.



BLUEBELL CLASS

term one

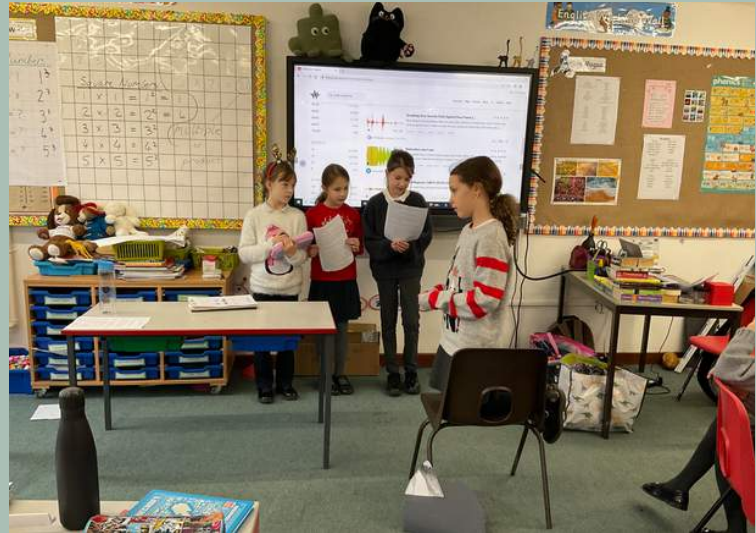
ALEXIS'
FAVOURITE
DAY WAS...

Team Building Day

On a Thursday, a few weeks back, we had a day of team building doing fun games and plenty of outside activities. We started inside with the lights off; playing a game with a torch to give us our next clue, for a game. Later in the day, we made a map whilst others built a den; for us all to go on a hunt later and win chocolate bars each. At the end of the day went under into the den.

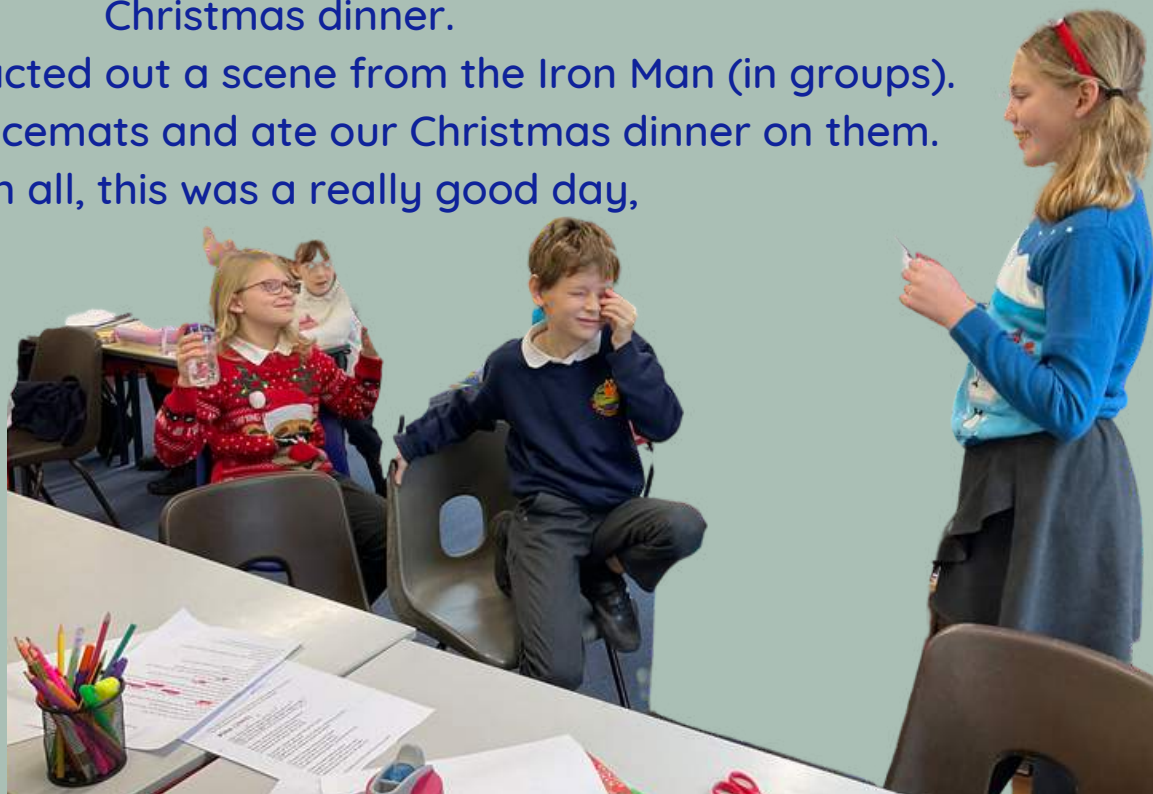


term two HENRY LOVED...



On Thursday 7th December we had Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner.

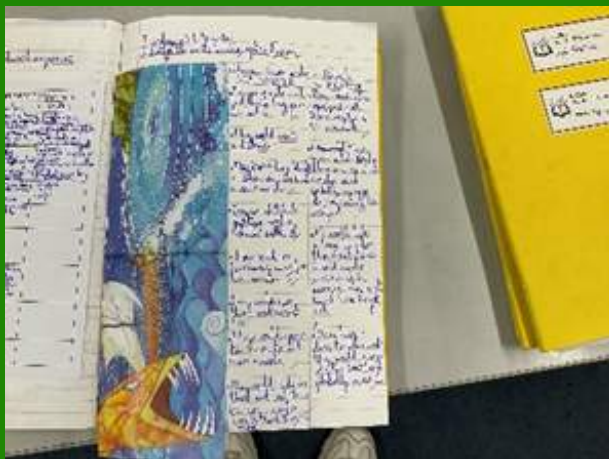
In the morning we acted out a scene from the Iron Man (in groups). Then, we made placemats and ate our Christmas dinner on them. All in all, this was a really good day,



This term we have been reading The Adventures of Odysseus. We have written informal letter from Odysseus's wife calling for her husband to return home. During our shared reading, we have written down our own thoughts and ideas about the book.



Further on in the book, Odysseus and his men faced a dilemma whilst sailing. They were trapped between a sea creature and a whirlpool. Year 6 wrote balanced arguments titled, 'Should Odysseus battle the sea creature or face the whirlpool?'



Our Understanding Faiths topic involved discussing Creation verses science complimentary or conflicting. Whilst discussing this, we considered how we would interpret creation. The pictures below show our thoughts.



PRIMROSE CLASS

PRIMROSE CLASS

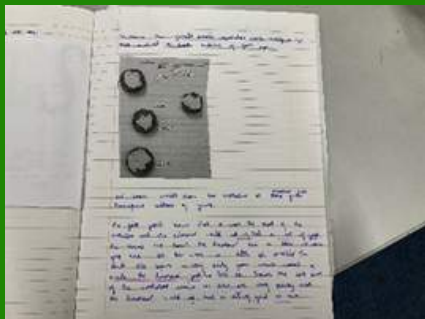
We have had a number of visitors this term. Firstly, we had ... from Kooth to talk to us about our mental wellbeing. We then had a team called IRIS who gave us information about our eyes and how we can care for them



In PE, Year 6 have completed our sportshall athletics. We have concentrated on improving our skills of throwing javelin and shotput as well as long jump and standing jumps



Mrs Pain led us in our sports leadership. We learnt about how to be a good sportsperson as well as how to design a game to teach younger children.



In our science work, Year 6 looked at a series of trace fossils and what they can tell us about how animals changed over millions of years ago. Our DT topic was building structures. Year 6 designed and built their own playgrounds.

