

Yox Valley Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 | December 2024



Dear parents and carers,

As we draw to the end of this autumn term, we reflect back on what a busy term it has been. The last few weeks in particular, have seen children shine in nativity plays and carol services, PTAs coming together in our communities to raise funds for our schools and children continuing to try their hardest with their learning. We appreciate everybody's continued support of our three schools and would like to thank parents, carers and PTAs.

As we conclude all our learning for this term we look forward to the new year and a new theme – 'Planet Earth'. This currently very topical issue will give our pupils an opportunity to explore human impact on our planet. They will learn about animals and their habitats, the impact of natural disasters and consider how human activity is impacting our planet's future. More details will follow about the different key stages programme's of learning. If you would like more detail in the meantime, please visit our school websites and visit the tab 'Pupils and Their Learning'.

In January we aim to provide you with our termly plan for our daily assemblies. It is a statutory requirement that each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. Our policy is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act. We try to cover in our assemblies a range of topics and themes. We have Christian based groups called 'Open the Book' who visit each of schools regularly. Open the Book (OtB) is an exciting storytelling project initiated by the Bible Society where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. They believe a Bible story well told has the power to spark the imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations. More information can be sourced from this link - [Open the Book - Bible Society](#) . If you have any connections to any other multifaith communities that would be willing to do a regular assembly slot or indeed a stand-alone assembly we would be very keen to hear from you. Similarly, if you have any concerns regarding the OtB assemblies please don't hesitate to contact me or Miss Garnett. We would be only too happy to discuss with parents.

I think that's all for now and it just leaves me to wish all our families a happy festive break and a peaceful New Year.

With very best wishes at this special time of year,

Katy Last and Jo Garnett



Diary Dates

2 0 2 5

Christmas holidays 23rd- 3rd January | PD Day 6th January | Back to school 7th January

Middleton

- 16th January Reception Starters Open Evening
- 20th January PTA meeting
- 31st January Celebration Assembly @ 8:45am
- 6th March World Book Day
- 21st March Celebration Assembly @ 8:45am
- 20th June Class Photos

Southwold

- 7th February Celebration Assembly
- 6th March World Book Day
- 21st March Celebration Assembly @ 8:45am
- 20th May Class Photos

Yoxford & Peasehall

- 14th February Celebration Assembly
- 6th March World Book Day
- 4th April Celebration Assembly @ 8:45am
- 20th June Class Photos



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Middleton Primary School News



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Ash Class



This term, Ash Class was infiltrated by not 1, but 2 sneaky elves, who have been enjoying themselves jumping into the children's wishes, writing foreign letters and kidnapping Kevin the Carrot!!

The children have also had fun creating their own castles using junk modelling - where they ensured all of the features were included and even added some of their own special tweaks included personalised flags with their initials on.

In Literacy, the children have written a letter to Santa and emphasised their reasons for being on his 'good' list. We hope he agrees with their reasons and they all have a holly-jolly Christmas!



Spruce Class

We've had a very busy half term in Spruce class.



Our Science topic on Earth and Space has been very interesting, investigating the size and mass of the planets in our Solar system through practical activities. We also loved singing a song to reinforce the facts we've learned. Children had fun in our DT lessons making catapults and finding out how machines can help us with different tasks and how they have developed through time.

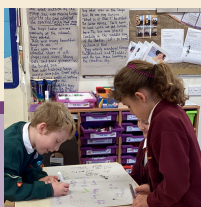
We have been thinking about ideas to support our well-being and enjoyed a mindfulness session where we carried out a range of calming activities. The children also came up with great ideas for resolving conflict and being kind to one another in our RSHE lessons.

Our class books have been very exciting. We loved reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar and *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans. We have had great discussions about each book and the class have demonstrated a good understanding of the stories.

In English we have been looking at the features of newspaper reports and writing our own about the conquering of Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. The children did a brilliant job of writing in the style of a newspaper and including eye-witness accounts. In groups we became news anchors, roving reporters and experts to make our own news reports about an imagined discovery, it was fun presenting them to the class.

In Y5 and 6 we have been learning about fractions and although this has been tricky at times, the children have all shown resilience and have made great progress. As a class, Spruce are working on the rapid recall of their tables with a weekly timed challenge. It has been fantastic to see everyone beat their own personal best week after week!

We are very proud of everything the children have achieved and their positive attitude to learning. Well done Spruce!



Mrs Etteridge and Mrs Parker





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ASTRONAUTS

We are working on developing our fine motor skills this week. The children have been making Christmas puppets and pictures, while also using their scissor skills to cut up tinsel and ribbons. We then also created our Christmas post box together.



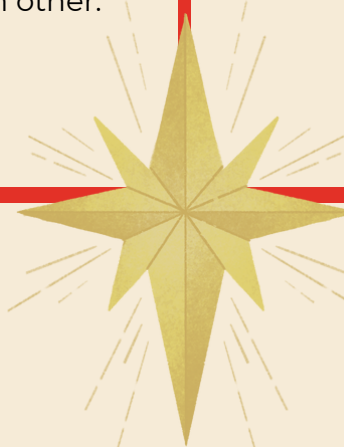
APOLLO



OPEN THE BOOK AT CHRISTMAS TIME

It has been an exciting first term in Apollo class with lots of curriculum enrichment opportunities such as Choir and Swimming. They have also enjoyed learning about The Solar System as you can see from these photos in the lesson where they made models of the Sun, Earth and Moon as they were learning about how these orbit each other.

The children look forward to the 'Open the Book' assemblies and in a special Christmas story lots of children got to take part in a variety of roles as anything from Mary and Joseph to angels and sheep!



MERCURY



In DT and Science our big question has been 'How can we build a durable castle with modern materials?' The children in Mercury have been busy exploring, sorting and testing materials to see which would be most durable for a castle. They then have taken this knowledge and designed their own castles which they have then created from everyday materials.



Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary School News



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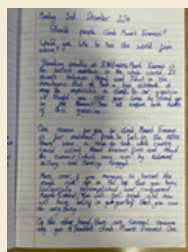
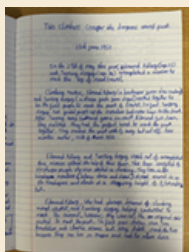
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SILVER BIRCH

In English this term, we wrote a newspaper article about Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's amazing expedition to the summit of Mount Everest. Next, we explored the balanced argument: should mountaineers climb Mount Everest? Finally, we are writing an innivation of Carol Ann Duffy's story 'The Tear Thief'.



ELM CLASS



Elm class have been busy getting ready for Christmas. Performing in the Nativity and making us very proud, making a class advent calendar, Christmas cards, mince pies, decorating gifts for the school fair and much, much more. They especially enjoyed having their adults in for 'Come and Share,' where they shared lots of Christmas fine motor and phonics activities. Wishing you all a Merry

Christmas



WILLOW CLASS



I can't believe how fast this term has flown! We are now just a few short days away from Christmas and what a busy few weeks we have had.

In English we have written a narrative about the Lord of the Forest, diary entries from the point of view of evacuees and we are now finishing off our newspaper articles about D-day.

We have also had some fantastic music experiences - visitors from Catherine's College, Cambridge University came to sing with us and Mrs Jean-Jaques treated us to a sound bath!!



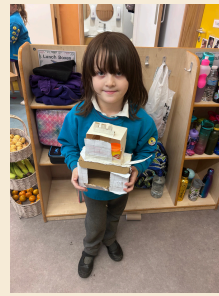
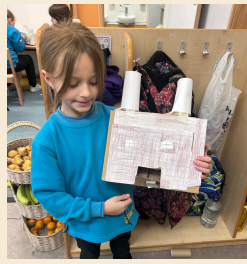
OAK CLASS



Oak class has had a busy time with their Nativity, which was a great success, building castles in DT/Scouts and evaluating them, along with bridge building in Science.

We had a wonderful time learning all about Christingle and making pine cone decorations. Oak and Elm relaxing and enjoying a sound bath from Mrs Jean Jacques.





The Beavers have been working towards their Builder badge. They worked collaboratively to build castles using multiple materials and enjoyed the challenge.

The Beavers planned to build a castle they planned what materials they would need and then build the castle using junk modelling.

They worked independently to build a castle many with working draw bridges.

The Beavers worked collaboratively to build a bridge using tape and lolly sticks. Their challenge was to get the knight and horse across the bridge and then test to see how much weight it could withstand before it broke.

This term the Cubs have been working towards earning their digital citizen badge. In order to earn this badge, the cubs had to learn about how technology has changed through the ages, understand how to stay safe online from phishing and how to create a strong and secure password. They also had to decrypt codes like a hacker in order to answer an online safety quiz.

