



HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER

Friday 7th December 2018

*In this season of Advent, inspire us to be a people of hope.
Encourage us not be greedy for material possessions but for justice and truth.
Enflame us with a love for others which crosses boundaries of race, religion and nationality.
Stir within us a desire to fight for the integrity of creation and appreciate the immense beauty of this earth.
Be with us Lord, at this time, that we may be a people of hope.*

Susy Brouard/CAFOD



SATURDAY CHRISTMAS FETE- THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PTA!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTA for all their hard work in planning and preparing a fantastic **Christmas Fete** which so many of us enjoyed! We had a record turn-out and great fun was had by all. We know how much hard work this involved for weeks in advance and on the day itself ensuring that everything ran smoothly and successfully. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces – children with their families and many members of staff. **Thank you and well done to all!**

FROM THE LEARNING FRONT

Year 6 spent a truly memorable day last Wednesday living in the 1940s as they experienced our annual Year 6 WWII day! Amongst the day's activities was a fantastic talk led by Mr Gristwood's parents, who lived through the war, enabling all our Year 6 children to hear about what life was like.

Rose in 6MK wrote in her recent homework piece:

'I had an amazing WWII day and enjoyed every second of it! Out of the fantastic mix of activities we did my favourite - which was very hard to decide - was making evacuee suitcases, following closely by 'Back in Time for Dinner: 1940s' and making the smooth, creamy butter.'

Archie in 6MK wrote:

'Having the WWII day has made me think how grateful we need to be to those who fought in the war for our freedom.'

Bella in 6MP wrote:

'Making evacuees suitcases - a fun, challenging experience - was probably the most exciting part of the day!'

Sarah in 6CR wrote:

'I loved every part of the day, but I have to say I adored making my suitcase.'

Finally, Nethara in 6MK loved the day so much he doesn't want Year 6 to ever end!

'Down-hearted, sorrowful, depressed - why do primary schools end at year 6?'



WW1 Day at St Benedict's

On Thursday 29th of November **five children from year 5** went to St Benedict's school to take part in a WW1 centenary day. There they tried on parts of a WW1 soldiers uniform and found out just how heavy their winter overcoats were. The children also worked in groups to design a WW1 recruitment poster, they thought hard about what words and images would attract the attention of the British people and convince them to join up. Finally, the children learnt about the Battle of the Somme and how many men were wounded or lost on the first day due to the battle plans of General Hague. They were challenged to come up with better plans and on a map of the British and German trenches they laid out and planned their attack. These were then presented to all the other schools. The plans our teams came up with were brilliant and took into account all the resources available and the mistakes that were made.



Two-thirds of **Year 4** visited The British Library this week to attend a 'Map My World' workshop. The children looked at different ways of presenting maps both in the past and in the present day. They also saw 'The Klencke Atlas', which although was produced in 1660, is still the second largest atlas in the whole world! 4HD are in for a treat when they visit on the 17th. The British Library is well worth a visit as a family. Entrance is free and there are many activities that families can do. Please see <https://www.bl.uk/events?audience=families> for details. In English, the children have used the 'Man on the Moon' John Lewis Christmas advert as a writing stimulus to hone their letter-writing skills. This topic has also given them the opportunity to consider more deeply the loneliness that some people can experience over the Christmas season; sadly, some may feel as lonely as if they were on the Moon. In Geography this week, the children have given group presentations to the class on the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. They are all bursting with newly-found knowledge on our own special corner of the World!



In **Year 3**, we have been using drama to help deepen our understanding of how we are going to write our own version of The Children Of Lir. Acting out the changes really helped the children to think about how the story is going to come together with their different animals. In Maths, Year 3 have been working hard in our assessments, especially in arithmetic. Song practise has started for our Christmas carol, the children are trying to sing their carols with confidence and without the words, please keep practising this at home. Using our Bibles, we have been looking at Luke's Gospel and learning the story of the Annunciation – who was there, what happened and how they felt. The children enjoyed looking at a range of paintings to see how different artists expressed the story.

This week in **Year 2**, children have been busy rehearsing for our Nativity play. They have been learning songs and actions, rehearsing lines and stage directions and preparing costumes for the big show. Children are very excited to perform the play to parents next week, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th December at 2pm. Please remember to return the slip indicating how many seats you would like. Back in the classroom, children have been exploring multiplication and division as grouping and sharing. It is helpful to read the X sign as 'groups of' or 'lots of' and the ÷ sign as 'shared by' when helping your child to revise these concepts. By the end of Year 2, children are expected to be able to recall the 2x, 5x and 10x tables so please help your child learn these tables at home. In English, we have been reading Julia Donaldson books, beginning with Stick Man, a wonderful rhyming story about a stick that ventures far away from home and unexpectedly meets a visitor who enters the house through the chimney! Ask your child to retell the story and describe their favourite part.

This week in **Year 1** we have been reading our new book 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. It is an exciting new book and we have learnt all about the journey that The Jolly Postman has to take to deliver the letters to the fairy-tale characters in the book. During our writing session we have been improving and editing a letter that was sent Goldilocks inviting her to our Christmas party. In our Maths session this week we have been halving and doubling numbers to 20. We have also made large 3D characters from the story by scrunching tissue paper, this has helped us to improve our fine motor skills which is going to make our handwriting even better!

Our **Reception** Pupils presented the Nativity Play to audiences this week and made staff and families very proud of their brilliant efforts to deliver lines, actions and songs. The costumes and scenery made for wonderful viewing and we all enjoyed the play. The PTA have organised to have the production filmed and parents are invited to purchase this as an online digital file at a cost of £5. Orders must be placed no later than Monday 17th December. The perfect Christmas gift!

Nursery this week have been busy putting the finishing touches to our Christmas nativity liturgy- we look forward to seeing you all in Nursery next Wednesday. The classroom has become a glitter factory with a great deal of artwork going on!

Run for William!

Last Saturday, pupils and staff from St Gregory's ran the Gunnersbury's park run. The run was very well turned out - even in the torrential rain! The pupils had a great time and even finished the run by cheering their fellow runners over the finishing line. The run was the latest fundraising event to support William Blake, a year 6 pupil, and helped push the total over **£10,000!** If you would like to donate to this great cause, please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/our-wonderful-william>.

Thank you to everyone who took part and for the parents who organised the event!



Update on Brain Gym – thank you again to those Year 6 children who represented the school at the National Mathematician Championship. Unfortunately we didn't make the next round, however the judges commended our school for showing great teamwork and communication. Better luck next time!

Poppy Appeal – we have raised a total of **£547.24** in our combined total over the past two years. Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy and contributed to the collections.

Parents who drop pupils off at the Abbey on Fridays by car, should not to use the driveway leading to the church entrance. There have been a number of dangerous driving incidents reported which have put pedestrians including our pupils at risk. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

A request to parents/carers !

Dear Ms Kolanowska

I am a student researcher from the University of Leeds, and we are conducting a study to find out more about children's eating habits and food in the family home. In particular, we are interested in the views of parents of primary school aged children. I've attached an information sheet that gives more information about the research.

We have developed an online questionnaire and are trying to get as many parents to fill this in. The questionnaire takes about 8-12 minutes to complete, is anonymous and voluntary.

We would be grateful if you would consider sharing the questionnaire link (below) with parents of children at your school (e.g. in your school newsletter/bulletin)

**Questionnaire link - <https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/food-in-the-family-home-2018> **

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Mark

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Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Familyfooduk>

Please also see accompanying flyer