

Holy Trinity C.of.E Primary School

Founded 1858



December 19th 2017 Newsletter

News from Holy Trinity School



Collective Worship

This term, in the run up to Christmas, we have been thinking about the message that this special time of year brings. Through songs and readings we have explored the significance of Jesus coming to earth and the importance of sharing this good news with everyone we meet.

We were delighted to be invited to Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 3rd December for their first Advent Service. We are always made to feel very welcome by Father Nick and his team and this time was no exception. It was lovely to see so many children at the service participating in many aspects of the worship. While some read prayers, others took the collection and they all sang one of our favourite Christmas songs. Then, during the preparation of the gifts, the pupils were invited up to the altar before receiving a blessing. Afterwards I received many kind comments from member of the congregation praising the children for their contribution to the service.

For the fourth year running, we held a special service of remembrance at Cookham War Memorial on 10th November. It was lovely that so many of you were able to join us on this very moving occasion. Through prayers and poem recitals delivered by Year 6, we stood together and remembered the fallen before placing a clay poppy at the foot of the memorial. Earlier in the week we had been joined by Hew Dunn, President of the Maidenhead branch of the Royal British Legion, who spoke to the children about the significance of wearing a poppy on the run up to Remembrance Day. Again the children listened attentively and asked several thought provoking questions. The respect the children showed our visitor and the understanding they demonstrated was exceptional.



Raising Awareness of Polio

It is always lovely to welcome visitors to our assembly. Back in October we were joined by two members of the local Rotary Club who came to talk to the children about the work Rotary has been involved in, raising awareness of polio and trying to eradicate it from the planet. The pupils were fascinated by what they had to say and listened attentively throughout. After their presentation they were joined by members of Year 5 who planted five hundred purple crocus bulbs at the front of school. The colour represents the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child to indicate they have received their life saving oral polio vaccine. When these plants appear in the spring they will remind everyone of the success Rotary has had in eliminating the disease from all but three countries in the world having vaccinated over 2.5 billion children. Everyone was delighted to be involved in the project and my thanks go to Margaret and Diane for taking the time to bring the Rotary message to school.



Helping Others Around the World

This term we have been active in supporting several different charities. Throughout the half term break many of you were busy putting together Christmas boxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. In assembly the children learnt about the countries and the people living in them that their gifts would be sent to. Many moving stories of children whose lives were lit up when they received a Christmas box last year were shared and, through your efforts, we were able to collect and send off 64 boxes. I have since received an email from the Area Coordinator of Operation Christmas Child, Maidenhead, thanking us for our contribution. In total 4789 boxes were sent out from the processing centre in Maidenhead to children in Liberia and Bulgaria. Thank you so much for your support.

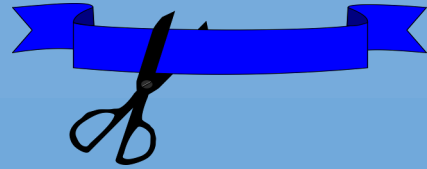


From the end of October up until Remembrance Day, we supported the Royal British Legion in their Poppy Appeal. The children enjoyed not only wearing their poppies but donating money in exchange for wrist bands, friendship bracelets, reflectors and snap bands. I was delighted to receive the other day, a postcard from the Local Honorary Organiser thanking us for collecting £404.72.

Children in Need is always a favourite in our school calendar and this year it coincided with a visit from Steve Backshall. Dressed in 'sporty spots' we raised £212 which was promptly sent off to the charity.

Thanks to your generosity this Christmas time, after the Nativity and 'Carols with the Choirs' concert we have collected £611.85 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The children too have contributed to this appeal by sending Christmas cards to one another through our internal postal service. For a penny a card, Christmas messages have been shared and everyone is delighted that together we have been able to raise such a large amount. Over the years, several children from both Holy Trinity and Lowbrook have received superb medical care from the hospital so we are thrilled to be helping them make a difference this Christmas time. In total, together with Lowbrook, we have raised an enormous £1166.33. Thank you for making this possible.

News from Around the School



The Grand Opening of our New Running Track

During half term as I am sure you have heard, a running track was laid around the edge of our school field. This was inspired by Lowbrook Academy and a project which first started five years ago at St Ninians Primary School in Stirling, the aim of which was to get children running. Since introducing the daily mile, the advantages to the children taking part have been extensive. Not only have the physical benefits been felt but improvements in the social, emotional and mental health of young people have been seen. It therefore made sense for us here at Holy Trinity to introduce the programme.

Once the track was laid, all we had to do was find someone to officially open it. With a little help from some friends, we were thrilled to learn that local resident and BAFTA winning naturalist, writer and television presenter, Steve Backshall, was willing to come along and do the honours. It was therefore with great excitement that we welcomed him to Holy Trinity on Friday 17th November.

During the morning with us, Steve shared with the children in a special assembly some amazing stories of adventures he has had before we all gathered on the field for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Having declared the track open, he then joined several specially selected pupils to run a lap. It was a brilliant day which I am sure will live long in everyone's memory.

Since the official opening, the track has had a lot of use. The children are all enthusiastic to learn when, during the day, they will be out running the mile and already some spectacular times have been clocked. I do hope your child has shared with you the enthusiasm they show in school for taking part.



THANK YOU STEVE!

Stanley Spencer Gallery Christmas Card Design Competition

Back in October, Christmas seemed a long time away but that didn't stop Year 5 from showing enormous enthusiasm for entering the Stanley Spencer Gallery competition to design a Christmas card. Aware that designs had to be inspired by the work of the great artist, the children set about sketching. Once they were satisfied with initial drawings, they used water colour to add detail and bring their creations to life. Sometime later we were delighted to receive news that two of our pupils, Lula Parker and Tilly Stockdale, had been chosen as runners up and Ava Knight, with her work entitled, 'Stanley Spencer and his Pram', had won.

In a special award ceremony at the gallery, the girls' achievements were recognised with letters of commendation and a prize of a Stanley Spencer book. We were also delighted to receive a book of his art work for school. The Christmas card designed by Ava can be purchased in the gallery and in shops around the village so do ensure you look out for it. Congratulations to Year 5 for working hard to produce work of such quality.



Carols with the Choirs

There is nothing more special than hearing our Junior and Senior Choir perform so I was particularly excited about their 'Carols with the Choirs' concert at the beginning of December. All term they have been rehearsing hard for the event, meeting early before school to learn a new repertoire. The evening was indeed magical; I hope that those of you who were able to come along enjoyed it as much as I did. My thanks go to all the performers and Mrs Laraine Brown for sprinkling Christmas cheer over everyone that night.



Superstars Take to the Stage!

The hall was full of superstars as Cygnet, Swan and Kingfisher Class entertained the older children and their families during our performances of this year's Nativity play. With confidence and great enthusiasm, the children danced, sang and acted to retell the story of the first Christmas in their own inimitable way! Thanks go to all of you who came to support the children and for your generous donations to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital which were collected after each performance.



A Busy Term for Goslings

Year 3 began a very busy term by presenting their first class assembly as Key Stage 2. They performed wonderfully and made both their teacher and parents incredibly proud.

The class have continued their swimming lessons this term with great progress being made. Instructors at the Magnet rounded off the term with a fun session on 7th December as a reward for the children's continued hard work.

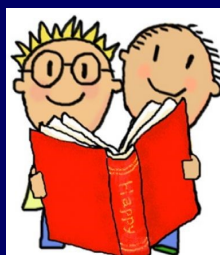
On November 22nd, as the evenings were drawing in, Gosling Class had a valuable and informative lesson in road safety. They were taught the importance of not only crossing roads safely, but also how vital it is to be visible when out walking near roads to ensure they remain safe.

Throughout the term, Year 3 have been exploring how light is used as a symbol, particularly during religious festivals and celebrations. They began by focusing on Diwali and were very lucky to have Dilraj and his Dad deliver an excellent presentation and answer questions. Next they explored the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and once again invited Rabbi Zvi into school to retell the Hanukkah story. In the lead up to Christmas the pupils have been looking at Advent and the Nativity, making Christingles and exploring Christmas traditions around the world.



We all Love Reading!

Thanks to everyone who visited the Scholastic book fair last month. It was wonderful to see all the children enjoying some new reads on offer. The fair was a huge success allowing us to spend £173 on new books for individual and group reading in classes across the school. Look out for posters advertising the next book fair later in the year!



Holy Trinity Rocks!



Last Wednesday, the whole school and some of you were treated to an amazing concert by the children who have been participating in Rocksteady music lessons this term. What the children had learnt since beginning their weekly lessons in September was impressive! As well as learning how to play an instrument or how to project their voice as a lead vocalist, they played together superbly as a band. It was a shame that the helicopter had to come and whisk them away so soon!



Magical Trip to Norden Farm

On Thursday 24th December, Cygnets, Swans and Kingfishers went to see 'Miki' at Norden Farm. The story was about Miki, Polar Bear and Penguin who live in a faraway place. It was set in an icy world where nothing ever grows. One midwinter eve they make a wish and Miki embarks on a magical adventure in search of a star. It featured amazing underwater creatures, enchanting music and extraordinary puppetry. The children were totally absorbed by Miki from start to finish and were completely enthralled with the story line. They remained engaged and enthused throughout which was a delight to see; they behaved beautifully and were a real credit to the school. It was very exciting having time away from the classroom, especially for the Cygnets as it was their first school trip out!





There was much excitement in the air at the beginning of December in anticipation of our PTA Christmas Fayre. In the run up, Laura Huish and her team worked tremendously hard planning the event and ensuring all was in place for a successful afternoon. With school suitably decked out and Father Christmas comfortable in his grotto, we were ready to open! I do hope you enjoyed perusing the stalls and participating in the events we had laid on. The children certainly seemed to delight in spending their money. This year it was lovely to have the Junior and Senior Choir welcome everyone with their festive song and our young entrepreneurs from the school Gardening Club were pleased to make a profit of just over £50 for projects next term from selling homemade items on their stall. Overall it was an enormous success in raising £2,117 for future school initiatives. My thanks go to Laura and her team for all their hard work and you for supporting them in this venture.

Thank you also for supporting the PTA in their Christmas mug and card project. £300 was raised through the efforts of Mrs Evans and her team for which I am extremely grateful.





KS1 Christmas Party Fun

What's not to love about a festive jumper, musical statues, a rocking Christmas playlist and a plateful of chopped carrots and cocktail sausages? The children of Cygnet, Swan and Kingfisher Class certainly had a whale of a time at this year's party.

The dancing was spectacular and the games were played in truly wonderful spirit. When fit to flop, the children sat down to a feast fit for one of the three kings. They loaded up on both healthy and indulgent treats alike before festivities were brought to an end and they rolled out the door to meet their parents.



KS2 have a Wonderful Time Too!

A fun filled afternoon was had by all of KS2 last Wednesday during their Christmas party. As is the case every year, the children had to pick a party theme which they base their fancy dress, food and table decorations around. Everyone went to town with elaborate table decorations and outfits. Themes included Star Wars, Hawaiian days, The 80s and Sporty Santa to name a few. As always, the highlight was going to the hall to play games and it was wonderful to see the children enjoying the festivities.



Teals Enjoy at Trip to the British Library

On 13th November, Year 4 visited the British Library to support their learning around maps and atlases. The day began with a highly informative workshop led by three of the library's education leaders. Then the children enjoyed exploring the library and drawing a map of the specific route they took around the building. Once the workshop was finished, the pupils had a chance to further explore the library in smaller groups and look out for some of the 4 million maps held there. It certainly was a mind boggling day!



A Scrumptious Christmas feast!

At the end of term everyone enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch! Spirits were high and with festive music in the air, good food was shared. It was certainly a time to celebrate!



Success in the Young Mathematicians' Award

What an amazing achievement it was for the Year 6 children who entered the Explore Learning Young Mathematicians' Competition. With their incredible problem solving and number crunching, Jack Pain, Lily Gibson, Thomas Moorhouse and Sadie Huddleston made it through the first two rounds winning the regional final. Unfortunately, they weren't quite able to make it to the grand final but they can be immensely proud of their achievements. Well done on an amazing result, maths team!



A Very Festive Christmas Church Service

The end of term finished with our Christmas service at Holy Trinity Church. Through readings and songs, the children retold the Christmas story while the scene in the stable was slowly recreated. It was lovely that so many of you were able to join us for this very special service. Both the senior and junior choir performed superbly, the senior choir with the help of staff who joined them for some tricky harmonies while Miss Davis provided cello accompaniment. The children who read, did so with great professionalism and it was lovely to hear again some of the songs from the Reception and KS1 nativity. It certainly was a magical way to share the message of Christmas.



Sporting Updates

Football

With plenty of football to look forward to in the new year involving the under 11s teams, both sides have made assured starts to the league season and are in the mix at the top ends of their respective divisions.

In the Berkshire FA Under 11s Cup our team has qualified for the knock out stages as group winners.

2018 should be an exciting year!

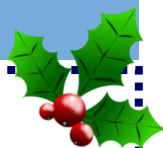


Rugby

What a term it has been for the rugby team. Unbeaten in 16 matches, they have scored some unbelievable tries playing an exciting brand of rugby. The teamwork and spirit amongst the children has been second to none and Mr Gosling couldn't be more proud. Holy Trinity have also hosted our first ever tournament which was another roaring success. Bring on the rest of the season starting with the girls' tournament in the new year.

Netball

The determination, perseverance and dedication from the netball team was evident this term. Working hard as a team and training Wednesday mornings come rain or shine proved dedication pays off when they secured a win against Cookham Dean! Next term the netball team can look forward to more practices and matches.



Dates for your Diary

3rd Jan - Start of new term

3rd Jan - Yr.6 School trip to War Horse

15th Jan - Applications close for Foundation Class new children

2nd Feb - Yr.3 Class Assembly

5th Feb - Maths Week

Holiday DT Challenge

With the Church festival of Epiphany occurring soon after our return to school, your child's Christmas holiday Design Technology Challenge is to make a creative crown.

Their inspiration may be one worn by a wise man who worshipped the baby Jesus .

They may choose any materials to use.

Crowns should be brought to school on Friday 5th January, when the children will be photographed wearing them. Photographs will be displayed on the screen in the school foyer.

The end of term ends on a happy and positive note. With summer Key Stage results now confirmed, we have been named as the third best performing school in the borough behind Lowbrook in first place, something we are all particularly proud of. I am also equally delighted to announce that Baby Cora Christy was born on Thursday 14th December weighing 8lb 4oz. Both she and mum are doing well. I am sure you will join me in sending love and best wishes to Mr Christy and his family at this very happy time.

I do hope you all have a wonderful holiday spending time with friends and family. From everyone here at Holy Trinity, we wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Anna Smith

Follow us on twitter and see more of what we are up to! @HTSchoolCookham

