

Our Christian Value this half term is Hope. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

This term seems to have raced by, especially the last few weeks! School has been a very busy place indeed and it has been such a pleasure seeing so much learning going on in our school and the lovely work the children are producing. Our children are very engaged in lessons and show such positive attitudes to their learning; visitors to our school, including Local Authority Advisers, often comment upon this. We are very proud of all of our children.

Thank you parents for coming to share your child's work with them on Open Afternoon and for attending Parent Consultations. I know from parental feedback that a majority parents appreciate the online consultations, which we are now "old hands" at using technology to our advantage!

Attendance – I am sure parents are probably now aware that the government expectations for attendance have become much stricter this year, with attendance expectations set for schools being 95%. Of course, children will become ill at times and at those times should be at home. However, as a school we look for specific patterns e.g. repeatedly broken weeks, specific days on which a child regularly is not in school, what their attendance was like the previous year etc. The government is now tracking attendance for every child electronically and it is my responsibility, to contact parents when we have concerns about a child's attendance. Holidays are always unauthorised (except for any Reception children, who are not yet at statutory school age) Please be aware that parents could receive a fixed penalty for taking holidays in term time, or if their child's absences are considered excessive by the Local Authority. I would also like parents to be aware that school does not benefit in any way from the fixed penalties issued by the Local Authority.

Cuckfield Bonfire – I would like to thank the Holy trinity Primary 'dads' who are part of the Bonfire Committee and support school through attending the meetings, organizing the fireworks & bonfire & also are there on the day & the day after, preparing the bonfire, marshalling during the evening & clearing up the next day. We appreciate your hard work. Special thanks go to Mr Wells & Mr Stewart, who have supported school for so long in this way. Also thank you to Mrs Husselmann, who prepared the lunch for the Bonfire Committee and the PTA who supported school on the night. I would also like to thank our staff, who gave up their precious weekend too, on the night. The children made some wonderful guys again this year, which took a starring role on the bonfire!

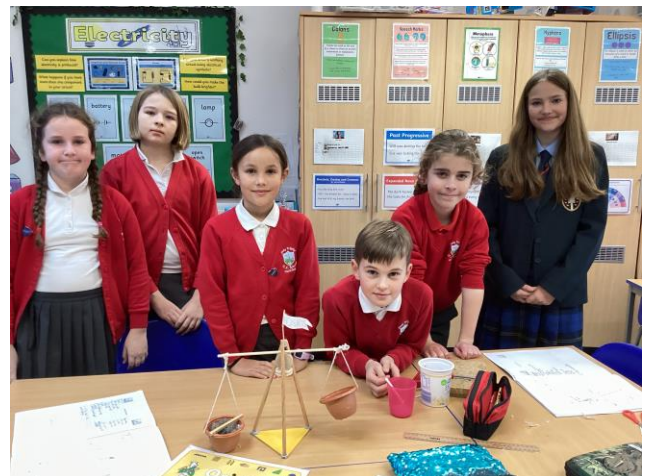
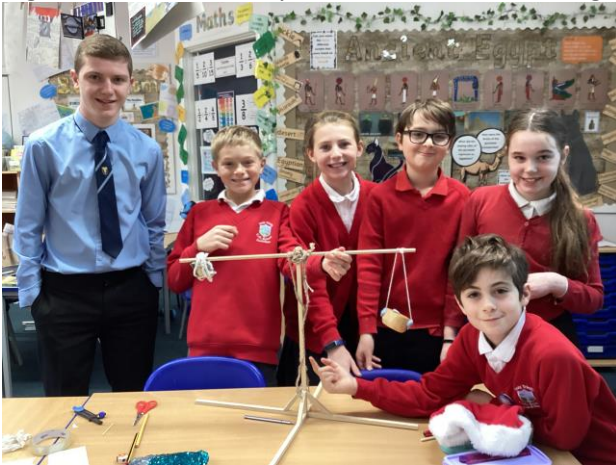


Year 6

Year 6 children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about World War I and the contributions animals made during the war to the war effort. Our Year 6 children made a poppy wreath & laid it in the churchyard for Remembrance Sunday. They also had the opportunity to try lino printing, to make poppies in this media.



Our Year 6s have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Ancient Egyptians, especially about mummification and how to make a shaduf! We were delighted to have some of our old students, now at Warden Park, back in school to support our Year 6 children in making the shadufs. Thank you to Mr Atwell for arranging this visit – it's always lovely to see our old students back again.





Silver awards – Zoe, Sophie, Martha, Joshua S, Harry, Amine, Sienna & Millie H



Gold awards – Aaron, Jackson, Thomas, Sean, Harriet, Amir, Caris, Max, Poppy S, Paige, Jacob & Morgan

Congratulations to some Year 6 mathematicians, who recently entered the Primary maths challenge, which is a nationwide competition. All of those who entered, completed tasks at school and home and we are pleased to say all children achieved a silver or gold award. Well done, we are very proud of you and how hard you have worked for these awards!



Well done to our cross country team

PTA – I would especially like to thank our wonderful PTA for all the events they do to raise money for school and for children to enjoy. It has been such a busy time for them and we all appreciate their generosity in giving up their time and the effort they make in running such successful events.

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas Fair and I think it is fair to say that the donkeys were such a hit! From table top games, to the raffle, live singing, Father Christmas' grotto, marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate and many other stalls, there was plenty to do and lots to enjoy!



Last week was our Christmas Shopping day and there was great excitement in school, as the children shopped for their family presents. I'm not sure Pets at Home have any dog treats or toys left! Huge thanks to Mrs Lawrence and her team of helpers for organising, buying and helping during the day. It is definitely one of the children's favourite events of the year!



We are always proud to sponsor two Christmas trees in Holy Trinity Church every year and as always, our efforts were much admired. Our school choir also sang at the Festival and at the Cuckfield Pensioner lunch. Thank you again to Miss Newton for running our junior choir. Our infant choir also sang beautifully at the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to Mrs Houghton for leading the choir, with Mrs Halsey supporting!



Our Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativities were again this year an absolute triumph! Our very youngest children sang beautifully, performed their lines confidently, clearly and acted like the professionals they were! Their hard work and teamwork was reflected in all performances and their sheer joy in taking part and performing to an audience was very evident. I know parents, grandparents and other family members really enjoyed watching them. Thank you for supporting the children in learning their

lines and providing costumes where needed. You were also great audiences in all performances, thank you! It always makes such a difference to have an appreciative audience.

Reindeer Run – we would like to thank our families for their generosity towards others at this time of year. Thank you to Miss Pullen who organised the Reindeer Run, in aid of St Catherine’s Hospice! The children enjoyed this activity very much. We have also raised money for St Peter & St James Hospice & for Save the children. We would also like to thank Holy Trinity parishioners & also you for your support of families in our local community, who have received food donations & hampers this year. We are truly grateful.



Chestnut class



Damson class



Year 3

Christmas Party Day – This was very much enjoyed by all of the children after working so hard all term. Our Reception children had a great time, playing party games, having fun together. Thank you to all parents for sending in party food contributions – the children in all Year groups certainly ate a lot that day and enjoyed themselves!



Finally, the last day of term arrived, but like every day, it was an extremely busy day, with two Christingle Services and Christmas lunch. Despite the icy conditions, we managed to get to Holy Trinity Church for this very important occasion in our calendar. Both Christingle Services were very moving and again the children sang beautifully, read poems, prayers and stories, acted the Christmas stories and showed paintings of the birth of Jesus. Again, this was very much enjoyed by parents. Thank you to Father David, who led both services cheerfully and with such enjoyment. We were fascinated to hear that as a child, he had lived near a safari park, so had the opportunity to get to know some baby elephants and lions!

We would also like to thank our kitchen staff, who work so hard all year round and on the last day of term, did us all proud by cooking a magnificent Christmas lunch for over 300 people! The children all really enjoyed the lunch. There was very little food left over by the time we had all finished eating! I would also like to thank our governors who came in to help us serve the Christmas lunch to our children.



Reception & Key Stage 1 children's Christingle



Reception children showed their paintings



Year 1 children read the Christmas story



Year 2 children holding their Christingle candles



The Infant Choir performed beautifully



Year 3 re-enacted the Christmas Story



Year 4



Year 5





On behalf of all of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

