

# NEWSLETTER



## Letter from the Headteacher

This week has been full of festive fun, with as many lovely events as possible to round off this busy and highly productive term.

In lieu of our usual carol concert, the children have recorded some seasonal songs which can be enjoyed [here](#). Mr White and Mr Wilkinson have provided musical explanation for your added interest in this newsletter – BJAB certainly has talented children who are challenged in all areas of the curriculum, especially the Arts.

I will look back on this term in more detail on 23rd December in a letter which will accompany your children's reports.

This term, Miss Angela's cooking has been a highlight for many children and adults in the Prep school. Her Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, was a memorable treat and gave us an excuse to have much festive fun. Mrs Johnson thought Miss Angela deserved a personalised apron and I must say she is worthy of the title, Masterchef!

**I wish everyone a very happy, restful holiday and a bright start to 2022.**



# Pre-K & Kindergarten

In Kindergarten this week we found out how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world. We talked about Christmas at our homes and who we hope to see in the festive period. We have been singing Christmas songs and playing along with instruments. We are very excited about our Christmas party and we have each made our own personalised place mat for the festivities. We have played party games, such as musical bumps, music freeze and our very favourite the Snowball game. We have made gifts for our families and completed our Christmas cards. Lilly Belle has been playing her favourite game of hide and seek: the children look forward to their daily search when they arrive in in the morning. At the end of each day we tuck her up safely in bed in the doll's house.

**We hope you enjoy watching Our First Nativity, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Merry Christmas.**



# Reception

This week, Reception has enjoyed a Christmas countdown with lots of fun activities. We read the Jolly Christmas Postman and wrote Christmas cards to our parents and friends. We practised wrapping presents and loved creating shapes with our speculoos-smelling play dough. Throughout the week we sang Christmas songs and created Christmas decorations such as ornaments, candles, elves and stockings. On Friday we had a lovely party and watched our Nativity performance together. What a great way to end our first term!

# Year 1

Year 1 has been practising number bonds to ten and twenty. We used practical resources to represent each amount. We have been using addition, subtraction and equal signs to compare values.

# Year 2

Christmas excitement is in the air in Year 2. In art class, the children have been learning new techniques with air dry clay to create Christmas tree ornaments. They have enjoyed working with the rolled shapes and experimenting with embossed decoration to create a textured surface.

# Year 3

This week the children finished reading The Iron Man by Ted Hughes, enjoying the conclusion to the story. The pupils spoke about their favourite moments from the story and created front covers for the book using bright colours. They used iMovie to create trailers for an Iron Man movie, learning how to use a new piece of software. It created an engaging and enjoyable atmosphere.

# Year 4

Year 4 pupils have completed their unit of work on

sound by designing and making their very own musical instruments from recycled materials. The children thought carefully about which instrument they would like to make and what sustainable materials they could use. Year 4 produced a variety of instruments including maracas, cymbals and even a guitar.

# 1M Assembly



Click here for the link to the video. [1M](#)

## Year 5

Year 5 has been working on portraiture this term and building on their skills in the Seven Elements of Art. This week they learned about Colour Wheels and how to use Complementary Colours to add energy and movement to a piece of work.

We have also kept the learning going with a mixture of online and in class zoom sessions. Pupils have been dancing through the decades this week taking a closer look at the 70s. They explored the fashion, music and the dance moves and grooves from that period. Mr Trivigno and Mrs Johnson led the way and introduced the Year 5s to a dance routine (complete with 70s fashion outfits!) and then the children uploaded their own groovy dance routine to share with the class. The finished routines were impressive with specially chosen music and outfits to match.



## Year 6

In their English lessons this week, Year 6 has continued studying poetry. We read and annotated 'November Night' and produced our own interpretation for December. We also wrote a collaborative poem called 'That's What Christmas Means to Me' with each of us taking our own copy home.

## Year 7

Year 7 has completed their study of the Tudors in History with a look at how the Tudors spent their Christmas and we studied what influence Tudor England had on current festivities and this culminated in the students creating posters detailing the traditions.

## Year 8

This week in History lessons, Year 8 completed their study of Revolutions across history. They have been focusing on the Russian revolution and Lenin's influence - analysing whether they felt this was more positive or negative.

Year 7 and Year 8 students have spent time this week preparing activities for their last day of term. They have independently created treasure hunts, quizzes, an iPad Olympic Games and an escape room. We wish them all a very happy festive period!

## Year 8 Snowflakes of Viruses



## Combining Engineering with Baking



## Operation Shoebox - Thank You



## Father Christmas Visits Reception





## A Message from Mr White & Mr Wilkinson

In place of live performances of songs and carols at the Christmas Carol concert, the children have recorded some songs which are available to view. Individual classes in the lower school are singing verses of the well-known carol 'The Friendly Beasts' and it is clear how children School, a variety of songs show the skills of the children. In Year 5, with reduced numbers, the challenge was on breath control, vocal range and language pronunciation for 'Silent Night'. The Year 6 team tackled " I Saw Three Ships" in a pass-the-parcel set of unaccompanied duets. Year 7 explored the driven 12/8 rhythms of William Matthias' setting of the medieval French carol 'Sir Christemas'. A big thank you to Mr Wilkinson for all the piano accompaniments and video editing. Year 8 has their own special Christmas story which I hope everyone will enjoy.



The children in the Lower School have gathered a collection of their learning to show you. They are most proud of their achievements this term and these pieces reflect some of their success. Please take time to celebrate your accomplished children!

