

St. Margaret's Newsletter



Friday 15th December 2023

Learn every day, help each other and be happy.

We made it to the end of term! A huge well done to all of our children, staff and parental community—what a team effort it has been! I feel like we have accomplished lots together this term: the learning that the children have covered, showcased through the fantastic way that they talk about what they have done; the level of kindness and compassion that the children are showing towards each other; the workshops that took place to help let our parental community to know how we learn at school and the level of care and pride that our children continue to take in everything that they do.

This has been exemplified this week with the fantastic Christmas performances. It has been a real pleasure to invite you all into school—we sincerely hoped that you enjoyed seeing your child on the stage. It has been a privilege to see the pride and excitement that our children have taken in their performances—the little moments of eye contact with a grown up in the audience when they realise that ‘they’d done it!’ are really special. A huge well done to all of our children and to all of the staff who worked so hard to put the performances together.

The Christingle service today is yet another example of us coming together as a school family to celebrate this special time of year. A huge thank you to FONS for your help with this—you have been such a great help this term! It has been great for us to be able to continue to develop our links with the church. Our work within the community is something that I really want to continue to develop next year.

Well done to Appledore Family Group, who incredibly managed to beat Instow and Clovelly by only a few family group points! I know that all of the family groups are looking forward to taking the title from Appledore next half term.

Thank you for everything this half term. I hope that you have a restful holiday with your family and friends. Take care—we will see you in 2024!

Sam Malyn

A sad goodbye

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Miss Vowden today. It is an exciting time as she is moving on to an exciting new opportunity but this doesn't make it any less sad to say goodbye! Miss Vowden has been a great help in supporting our children and families and will truly be missed. Good luck with everything, Miss Vowden.

Messages from the Office

- **Remember: We return to school on Tuesday 2nd January. We are looking forward to seeing you all then!**
- We have had quite a few cases of sickness in school this week as part of a bug that seems to be going around. Can we remind you that it is our school policy that children stay off school for 48 hours if they have been sick. Many thanks.
- **The HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) website is now live and gives a programme of events for the Winter. Places are available for children who are accessing benefit related free school meals. Please visit <http://devon.cc/haf-winter-23> to find events in our area and to book a place. Previously issued HAF codes remain valid.**
- Please could we ask that all dinner money is paid up to date consistently.
- **Please remember to send a coat into school each day with your child. If they do not have a coat they will be unable to go out to play at breaktime and lunchtime.**
- A big thank you to FONS who provided the resources for our Christingle service. This included gaining donations of oranges from Morrisons in Bideford. Thank you to all of the FONS team who gave up their time to prepare the oranges and candles. We really appreciate your support.

Our learning this week

Home Work

We have had some fantastic home work shared with us in the past week. Thank you for your continued support with this. We are keen to celebrate the children's efforts as we realise that balancing home work with all of the other busy events throughout a half term is a real challenge. We will be sending out a new homework sheet at the end of the first week back—if there are any questions about this please do let us know.

This week in Year 3, we have written our own poems to do with the colours of Christmas. In maths, we have improved our multiplication and division skills by competing with each other on TTRockstars! Friendship got the better of Trust Class for now so currently possess the TTRS Year 3 champion trophy! In Art, we've now added the detail to our John Constable piece. We also completed our singing performance which we hope the parents enjoyed. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

This week we have been extremely busy completing maths assessments, publishing our poetry and of course performing our Christmas play. We really enjoyed performing to the rest of the school and our parents. We are extremely proud of how well we did. We have also finished our class story of Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo which is about a young boy who gets lost in the jungle after surviving a tsunami. We have really enjoyed listening to this story together.

This week in Year 5 we have been getting ready for Christmas by rehearsing for our Christmas performance, making Christmas cards and enjoyed watching the other year groups' fantastic performances- can you spot a theme?! We have also enjoyed reading 'Wonder', a great book that encourages us to celebrate our differences. The classes have continued to work hard—we are really proud of them. Have a great Christmas.

We have been having a very creative week in Year 6. Alongside our Christmas performances, we have been using clay to model dragon eyes. Once they dried, we used semi-precious stones for the pupils and then painted them. We have also been taking inspiration from Gustav Klimt and his famous piece 'The Kiss' to create our own piece in this style. We have used gold paint to really make them 'pop'. These will get sent off to the Burton Art Gallery for part of our schools' exhibition submission. Have a lovely Christmas everyone!

Class Teacher Awards

Trust: Corey S.

Peace: Luciann N

Friendship: Charles B

Forgiveness: Georgie B.

Hope: Polly S

Wisdom: Beau R.

Thankfulness: Maisie P

Compassion: Evie T