



**HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## **NEWSLETTER 13**

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

With just three weeks of the Autumn Term remaining – before we close for the Christmas and New Year holiday – there is, as you would expect, lots going on in school. Here is a flavour of some of things that have been going on over the last two weeks:



In **Reception** the children have had another forest school/outdoor learning session this week. They enjoyed lighting the fire with Mr Thorpe and toasting marshmallows. They also hunted for bugs again (worms are clearly their favourite) and used the saw to cut wood with their teachers.

In PE they have visited the jungle and pretended to be jungle animals. They enjoyed moving in a variety of ways and talking about exotic fruit.

Last week they learned about Diwali. They learned that it is the festival of light, coloured Rangoli patterns and some of the children made a Diya (using play dough).

The children in **Year 1** have become authors this week and have been busy retelling the story of Rapunzel. They have thought carefully about each sentence and have been applying their knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words accurately. They have even published their stories in their own story booklets.



In R.E. they have read the Christmas Story and thought about who visited Jesus in Bethlehem. They have also impressed their teachers with their singing, whilst practising the Christmas Nativity songs.

During their science lesson, they have been exploring properties of different materials and developing their technical vocabulary. Whilst in maths, they have been doing lots of practical activities to add and subtract.

They also took part in their first Forest School session on Wednesday and had great fun making homes for lots of different animals, learning how to use a flint and steel to create a spark that can start a fire, and toasting marshmallows on an open fire.



The children in **The Fawns** also enjoyed taking part in Forest Schools this week – and had a great time making dens.

They have been completing a number of balancing challenges and have amazed their teachers by how well they can now do each of these very tricky challenges!

The children have been sharing their special memories too – and placing these on a timeline of their history – as well as learning about and discussing The Human Life Cycle.



**Year 2** have been working hard learning different methods for the addition and subtraction of two digit numbers – and comparing how efficient these methods are to use – in Maths. They have also been finding out about diary writing in English, acting and writing in role as the young character, William, from 'The Night Gardener'.

They have had their second, very rainy, forest school session this week too – where they collected and discussed signs of autumn before using these objects to make hanging mobiles.

The Christmas Play rehearsals have now started and the children in Year 2 are enjoying learning the songs, performing dances and practising the speaking parts to their part in this year's production.

As you will see, we have taken the decision for the children in **Year 1** and **Year 2** (including the children in **The Fawns**) to take part in a **Christmas Nativity Play** this year. The production will be performed – and recorded – in three parts (so the children will remain in their year group (class) bubbles for all rehearsals and the final performance). At no time will they mix with children from another bubble!



Afterwards, we will piece together the videos and make this available to the families of the children involved – and anybody else who would like to view the children's performance – via the school website or Seesaw (depending on the length of the play and size of the file once it is complete).

The children in **Reception** will also be taking part in their own production of **The Christmas Story**, which we will also record and make available to the families of the children involved – on the school website and/or Tapestry.

We hope this is one way that we can help to spread some Christmas cheer at the end of a very difficult year.

*The children in each of the KS2 classes will be given the opportunity to watch the final version of the videos, in school, during the final week before Christmas.*



**Year 3** have had a great time investigating fossils as part of their work on 'Rocks and Soils' and have produced the most amazing prayer mat (using printing techniques and using wool to create tassels) as part of the work they completed on Islam (as part of their Inter Faith Day).

In addition to completing a series of tests and assessments, to demonstrate what they can do and what they have

remembered about everything that they have done this term, so they can focus on their Topic Week – learning all about Volcanoes – next week, they have also been writing their own fables about a fox. We clearly have some great writers in Year 3!



In **Year 4** the children have been reading 'Train To Impossible Places' by P G Bell, which is about a girl who gets whisked away on a magical journey to delightful and enchanted places. They have really enjoyed finding out what happens next, exploring the wonderful vocabulary that is used and making inferences (and predictions) based on what they have read.

The children have also been writing stories that incorporate direct speech and fronted adverbials – demonstrating that they can be great writers too – and have been investigating 'Sound' as part of their science lessons, learning about pulse and beat, as well as understanding the importance of vibrations when sounds are made.

After a lot of thought and consideration, we have taken the decision to allow the children – if they wish to do so – to bring **Christmas Cards** into school to pass on to their friends. However, it will be done very differently this year as, as you will be aware, we need to be very cautious about items from home being brought into school.



The Public Health Team in Halton have spoken to schools about this issue and have confirmed that children handing Christmas cards to children within their class bubble is very low risk (as it is akin to reading books being taken home, returned to school and then handed to another child). However, should any Christmas cards be handed to a child from outside of their bubble then these should be quarantined.

**With this in mind, we will be having three collection days – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. These are the only days that Christmas cards can be brought into school! *If you miss one date, then please wait for the next one.***

We will have collection boxes for the children to place their cards in – for each of the classes – as the children arrive on a Monday morning (starting next week).

Each class will then determine how they will distribute these cards. Some will allow the children to take home any Christmas cards that have been delivered every Thursday, while others will have a sorting office (with each child having a brown paper bag that they will decorate) and these will be stored until the final week when the children will bring home ALL of the Christmas post that they have received.

If your child does bring in any Christmas cards, could you please ensure that the name of the child they are sending these to is very clearly written on the envelope and if, for any reason, the person they are sending these to is not in their class, it **MUST** have the class name in the top right hand corner too.



As part of Inter Faith Week, **Year 5** have compared the different versions of the Nativity based on Matthew and Luke's gospels. They created stained glass windows based on their findings and have learned two Christmas carols: Away in a Manger and We Three Kings (accompanied by music played on the glockenspiels).

The children are also very excited about being part of the live class chat: 'I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here!' later today. They will have the opportunity to ask scientists questions about space and what they do as part of their job to find out about life on other planets.

The children in **Year 6** are continuing to show a really good attitude to their work and a fantastic work ethic – that is impressing all of their teachers. They have been writing their own Flashback Narratives based on 'A Story Like The Wind' by Gill Lewis.



They have also been taking part in some practical maths investigations outside, to explore the internal angles of triangles, and have been working hard to understand and use fractions.

In Science they have been learning more about the circulatory system, focusing on the impact of cardiovascular activity on their heart rate and other parts of their body.



As we will be having our **Christmas Lunch** in school on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, we have decided to combine this with our **Christmas**

**Jumper Day.** Instead of wearing their school uniform, all of the children may come into school on this day, wearing a Christmas Jumper and any other clothing to match. (Please be aware that if your child is taking part in Forest Schools on this day, they will need suitable outdoor clothing!)

Although we would normally request £1 towards Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day, we are asking each family who wishes to make a donation to a charity over the Christmas period, to do this themselves – rather than through the school - as we want to reduce the number of objects/items that will be exchanged between home and school during the run up to Christmas.



**On the final day of term – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – we will be closing at:**

- **1:30pm for the children who start school at 8:40am (Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6)**
- **1:45pm for the children who start school at 8:55am (Reception, The Fawns, Year 3 and Year 5)**

**The children will exit the school from their usual entrance/exit point.**

