



# Baydon St. Nicholas

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Succeeding Together



## End of Term Newsletter December 2017

**Welcome to the December issue of our school newsletter! It has been action-packed since September with lots of wonderful experiences for all our pupils. So please enjoy a look back over the last two terms ...**

### New Faces

It has been great to welcome all our new pupils in Robins and throughout the school this term. The school is thriving and already those who are new are making a positive impact in our school family, so hello and thank you!

### Whole School Experiences

Food day happened all the way back in September to celebrate our new topic as a school family. Throughout the day

pupils worked in their school houses and experienced many different activities - you might remember the apple crumbles that came home - yum! We also took a whole day (though this time within our classrooms) to explore the concept of the Trinity. The day ended with all classes joining together with Rev. Sue to share our work and to explore the relevance within baptisms. Each class explored Trinity in creative and thought provoking ways.

### Keeping Safe and Healthy

Year 2 and Year 6 pupils were able to explore fire safety in more detail when they were visited by the education officer for the Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Brigade. At their levels of understanding, they thought through how to be safe in the event of a fire. At the end of November, all pupils in the school visited the Life Education Bus over the course of two days to learn about how to be healthy and at the top end of the school develop their decision-making ability.



STIRRING UP THE APPLE!



EXPLORING TRINITY THROUGH WINDMILLS IN GOLDFINCHES

## Celebrating Harvest

Harvest was celebrated in the school with our annual Harvest Festival this year. The children performed well in the service and all the wonderful donations from our families benefited the local Food Bank in Swindon lunch to older members of our community with help from some of our Governors. The visitors to our school benefited

from entertainment from higher up the school at the end of their meal. Many thanks to the Governors involved in creating and supporting the Harvest lunch event.

## Sport

The past two terms have seen lots of competition against other local schools. In September, we hosted the small schools tournament of Dodgeball for Years 5 and 6, and in November we competed in Handball for Year 4 and Netball for Year 5. Our teams, as always, showed excellent sportsmanship of which we are very proud. Tara and Charlie M in Year 6 have also been trained this term as Sportsleaders and have already represented us well at the Handball tournament. Many thanks as always to all the adult supporters, from transporting our teams to staying and looking after teams... It is hugely appreciated as we could not manage without you. Sports clubs including Tennis, Football and Karate have continued to run over both terms. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm of pupils participating in these clubs, especially those footballers when it is so cold and muddy outside!

## Bikeability

Pupils in Year 6 were able to participate in working towards Level 2 and 3 with the help of Natalie (our instructor) again in November. This is a course that we offer all pupils at the top end of the school should they wish to participate. We are thrilled to announce that all pupils passed both levels this year, well done Year 6!

## Supporting Charities at Baydon

Over the past two terms we have supported Macmillan Cancer by holding a tea party in September (many thanks to Mrs Blackwell for hosting) and holding a non uniform day for Children in Need. Both events were very well supported, thank you.

## Braeside Residential

The first of our residential trips took place in October for Years 4 and 5 when they



A HUGE THUMBS UP FOR BRAESIDE!

went to Braeside Outdoor Education Centre in Devizes. Pupils were able to enjoy lots of outdoor activities including canoeing (see below) and hiking (above). Pupils reported back that they had so much fun. Year 6 are now desperate for their week long residential in the summer!



1,2,3 JUMP!



SERVING SUPPER, YUMMY!



ENJOYING A GAME OF DODGEBALL IN THE RAIN!



SOME OF OUR SUCCESSFUL CYCLISTS!

## Salisbury Cathedral Trip

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 in early November visited Salisbury Cathedral. Pupils were taken on tours around the Cathedral as well as completing fun activities. All pupils enjoyed the day and even made links back to our school during the saying of the Lords prayer - "that's our school prayer!"

## Ramsbury Estates Visit

Years 3,4 and 5 loved being able to visit the River Kennet at Ramsbury Estate during September. They looked at the use of land around this area and also the living things the river is home to. Not to miss out, Robins and Goldfinches will also be visiting the Estate in Spring. Many thanks to Ramsbury Estate and Action for the River Kennet for their support in arranging and financing these visits.

## New Playground

After lots of support from parents and FOBS, we were thrilled to have our new adventure playground installed for the start of Term Two. Children of all ages are enjoying using it and are so excited when it is 'their' day to use it!

## The Borrowers

The whole school left the building on the 12th December to go and watch a production of the Borrowers at the Watermill Theatre. We virtually filled the theatre and loved every minute of the performance from the musical instruments being played to the giant props! As always, thank you to all our adult helpers.

## Music and Christmas

Drumming and Guitar lessons have continued since September. In December, we were even treated to a performance by some of our pupils learning guitar and their teacher (Graham) in worship. We all loved listening to the instruments. If your child is interested in having lessons, please speak to Shireen in the office for more details.

Pupils in Robins and Goldfinches created the Christingles for the Church service in December. The service went ahead despite the snow and lack of power!

As many of you will be aware, our Christmas performances this year have been wonderful as always. Key Stage Two performed in the Church (with thanks to Anthony Bracey on the organ) and Key Stage One and Reception on the stage in the school hall. Both performances told the Nativity story in different ways. We hope all who came to support these performances enjoyed them as much as the pupils have creating them.

Christmas celebrations also took place in school on Friday 15th December. The Christmas dinner involved all children (and a lot of cracker jokes) followed by Christmas parties in the afternoon. We were even fortunate enough to receive a visit from Father Christmas (supported as always by our wonderful FOBS who have also held discos and grottos during December). Thank you to all those adults who made this happen.

## Looking Ahead...

We are starting the new year at Baydon with a bang (or maybe several large knocks) as our building work to turn the small room on the side of the hall into a workable classroom begin. It will mean disruption for the school but we are hopeful that we can make the best of the situation! We can not wait to use this new room, and it will really help our use of space within the building.

## And Finally...

None of these opportunities would have been possible without the help and support of our families and community of volunteers. Thank you to you all. If you feel you could support the occasional trip, please let Shireen know in the office.

And last, but not least, thank you to all the staff who make Baydon the wonderful school that it is - their tireless enthusiasm and dedication is much appreciated. Have a wonderful Christmas, a well deserved break and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

*Mrs Knighton, Mrs Gilbert and all the Baydon school staff*



EXPLORING WHO LIVES IN THE RIVER KENNET



CONCERT TIME IN WORSHIP



A HOST OF HEAVENLY ANGELS

