



Baydon St. Nicholas

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Roots to grow, wings to fly



Christmas
2020

What a difference a year makes! Whilst 2020 has not been what any of us expected, Baydon School has continued to flourish! So enjoy our update about the past two terms in school!

Welcome

In September, we welcomed our lovely new members of Robins class into our school! They have settled in so well and we are all incredibly impressed at their attitude to learning, so a big welcome to Arbor, Elaina, Albie, Tilly, Harry, Edward, Matilda, Florence, Lily-Rose, Gus, Oliver, Ashton, Zach, Phoebe, Fred, Pepe, Mollie and Edward.

It has also been lovely to have new children in our older classes and we

extend a warm welcome to Sophie and Claire in Kites and An ni in Goldfinches.

Finally, we are delighted that Ms Dunn and Ms Hayhoe have joined us as our intervention teachers, Mrs Cooper as an MDSA and Mrs Hallsworth to work with Mr James in the forest. We hope that they will be very happy with us.

Here We Are

Right at the start of the year all classes explored the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers.

Through this fantastic picture book, children explored their place in the world. As part of this work every class added work to a whole school display in the hall. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring us together in our learning whilst we were unable to be

together physically.



ROBINS HAVING FUN
AT FOREST SCHOOL!



CHILDREN IN NEED IN
GOLDFINCHES!



Charity Days

Each of our Houses host a charity day within school each year led by the House Captain and supported by the teacher assigned to their House. Genes for Jeans was the chosen charity for Newton House and the school celebrated by wearing jeans to school raising over £100 for this important cause. Our second House charity day in November was in aid of BBC Children in Need. The children 'dressed down' for the day and the house captains ran an excellent competition to guess the amount of sweets in a jar. The total raised amounted to £220. Thank you to all who supported both these worthwhile charities as well as our

House Captains for their excellent leadership.

Printing throughout



school

After using part of a Teacher Development Day (TD Day) to look at the progression of printing throughout school and to extend our own subject knowledge, staff were excited to begin printing with their classes and wow! The work produced by all year groups was fantastic and of a very high standard.



Fundraising super stars!

We cannot thank our FOBS committee enough. Throughout the

term, they have worked tirelessly to help raise funds for our school. October was sponsorship month and thanks to our children and your generosity, FOBS raised an extraordinary £3,957. The Christmas raffle was a huge success raising a further £898. Our thanks to all our sponsors as well as those who bought tickets and even donated additional money. We are most grateful to everyone for their time, effort and generosity. Funds raised will go towards purchasing a new set of iPads in school as well as improving and updating our reading books. Thank you to everyone concerned.

Panto time!

Thanks to the generosity of FOBS, despite not being able to visit the Watermill this year, we were able to give the children the opportunity to enjoy a virtual pantomime. All the children loved watching the story of Jack and the Beanstalk with a 2020 lockdown twist. Excellent jokes included why the characters had run out of toilet paper, references to 'Hands, Face, Space' and a request from the giant to 'Stay at Home'. 'It was very funny and entertaining; the best alternative to not being able to see a show live.'

During the festive day, we were excited to find that footprints and a sack of presents for each class had been left at each classroom door. Thank you Father Christmas for this special delivery!



BUSY AT WORK SKETCHING IN
PREPARATION FOR ART WORK



USING A COMPASS AROUND
OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS AS
PART OF GEOGRAPHY



Keeping Children Safe Beyond the School Gates

Despite the restrictions, we have been able to host Bikeability (learning how to use a bike safely on roads) for Year 6 and virtual Walk Safe sessions for Year 1 and Year 3. Many thanks to our visitors who support and take these sessions.

Cooking in School

Mrs Furber, one of our school Governors, has continued her work in school supporting pupils to progress in their cooking skills. Since September, pupils in Robins have loved having regular cooking sessions and in Term Two our Year 6 pupils created and made their own individual Christmas cakes - fabulous work!

Church and School

Although the Clergy have not been able to join us in person, we have much enjoyed our virtual Wednesday Worship as well as our weekly Open the Book sessions creatively filmed in individual gardens. Thank you! Harvest was celebrated in individual classes and our thanks to you all for your donations to Swindon Food Bank. Thanks also to the Church for putting on a virtual Christingle service which many of you enjoyed as well as giving children the opportunity to search for Nativity Rocks!

Forest School

Forest School continues to be a success and our year 6s and Thursday group have much enjoyed their Wednesday afternoon sessions lighting fires, cooking, swinging in the hammocks and exploring the woods. Our youngest children have also had the opportunity to

experience Forest School type activities in the paddock and spend each Friday afternoon exploring, cooking and enjoying their enormous swing and hammock! Many, many thanks to all the volunteers without whom we simply would not be able to run these sessions. Quotes from children include: 'I feel safe and happy - like I'm a wild fox; I feel really free; I feel excited and happy that we can do what we like without many rules.'

School Council

Congratulations to all those who have been elected to represent their year group on our School Council. Meeting, at a distance, in the rainwater garden, School Council have worked with Mrs Dixon to look at changes children would like in school and discuss anti-bullying week. They then led an excellent assembly on anti-bullying helping everyone understand what bullying is and giving us strategies as to how to deal with it should it ever happen.

School Council

11am on 11th November was certainly a day to remember this year with the whole school gathering - at a distance - to remember those who have given their lives for us. Our thanks to Sam for playing the Last Post so brilliantly and to Evie for reading 'They shall not grow old' so beautifully.



GOLDFINCHES LEARNT ABOUT DIWALI, ACTIVITIES INCLUDED LEARNING A DANCE!



CHRISTMAS CAKE MAKING WITH MRS FURBER



MUSIC MAKING IN SKYLARKS





ANGLO-SAXON DAY WAS A HOOT!

Anglo-Saxon day

A huge thank you to Mr James for helping us run an Anglo-Saxon day in the paddock. Kites and Skylarks were delighted to spend half a day in the paddock learning about the life of an Anglo-Saxon cooking venison over an open fire, learning all about Anglo-Saxon runes and spending time weaving just as they might have done in the past.

Christmas at Baydon

Whilst we never thought we would have to film our nativity, we hope you have enjoyed watching from the comfort of your own home! Robins and Goldfinches acted out the Gigantic Star and sang and danced beautifully. Key Stage Two also told the nativity story in school with classes each taking a section of the story. Brilliant acting and beautiful singing with the added excitement of a short piece of animation from Year 6! Well done everyone and many thanks to Mrs Gilbert for filming each section and putting it all together so brilliantly (as well as Mr Gilbert for lending us all the kit!).



Looking ahead

Our whole school theme of 'Unlocking the magic' will be explored by all classes in January, which will include textiles work in DT and sculpture in art. During Term 4 we will be holding another Shakespeare week after the success of last year (hopefully without lockdown at the end of it like last time)!

Finally...

Whilst school has not been 'as normal', it has been wonderful to be able to be back in school and the past two terms have flown by packed full, as always, with fantastic learning experiences. More than ever, many thanks to our wonderful staff, parent helpers and Governors, without whom none of this would be possible.

We wish everyone a happy Christmas, a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back to our school in 2021.

Mrs Knighton, Mrs Gilbert and the team at Baydon.

