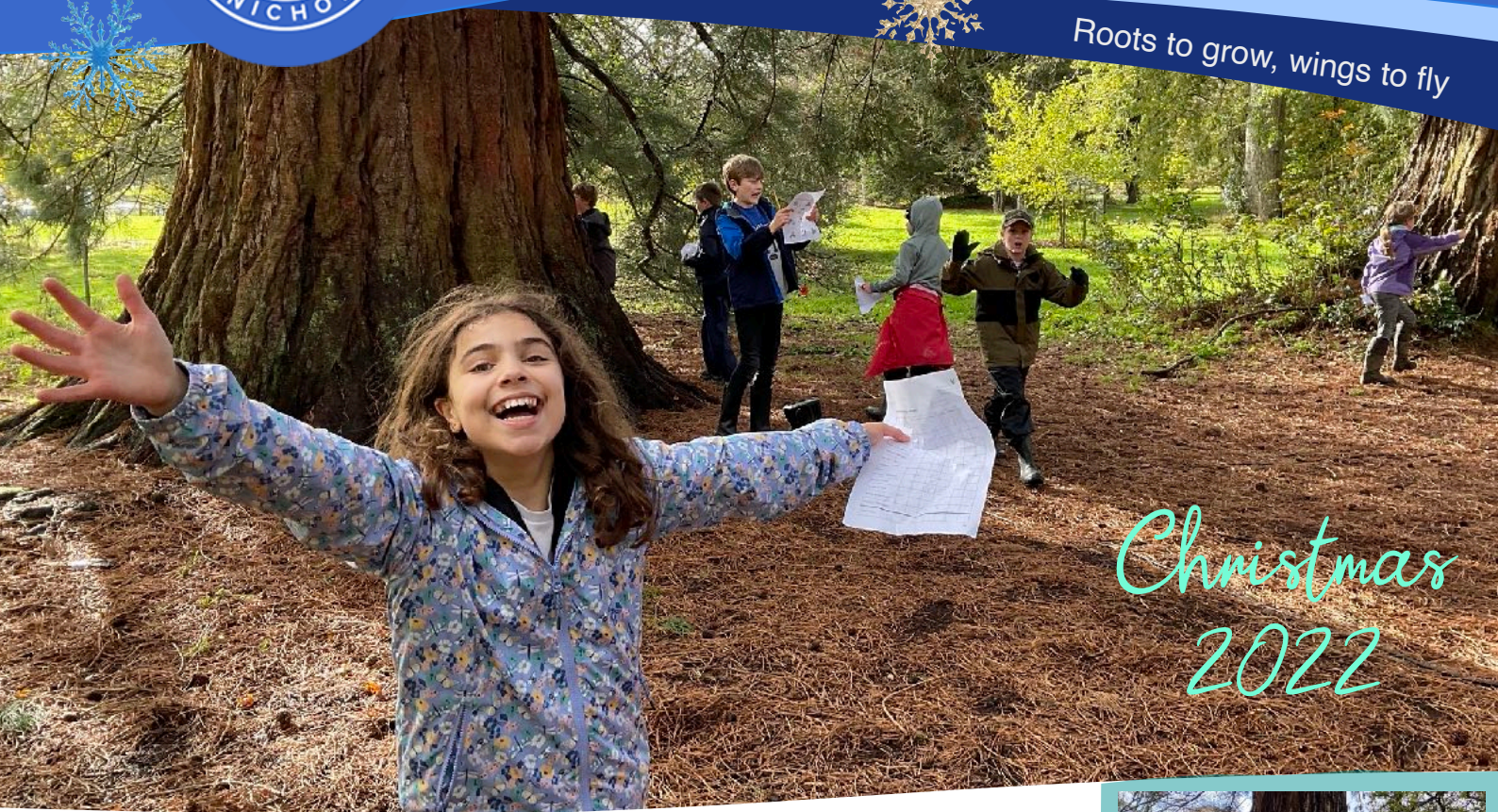


Roots to grow, wings to fly



Christmas
2022

What a fabulous time we have enjoyed at Baydon since September, packed full of exciting opportunities to enhance our learning.



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 Daisy, Logan, Harry, Ollie, Edith, Leo, Oskar, Rupert, Chloe, Tilly and Lilly.

It has also been great to have new children in our older classes and we extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us.

Westonbirt Arboretum

In November the whole school headed out on a trip to the Westonbirt Arboretum to enhance our work, particularly in geography and science throughout the school. Pupils really enjoyed the day; my thanks to all the volunteers who braved the weather in order for the trip to be possible.

Forest School

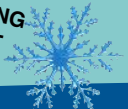
Forest school began in September with our new forest school leader, Morgan, supporting our KS2 class sessions (Kites and Skylarks so far this year). Our intervention group also discover the delights of the forest school area each week.



INVESTIGATING TREES ON OUR SCHOOL TRIP



SKYLARKS HAVING FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL





DANCING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



WORKING ON MATHS IN GOLDFINCHES

CREATING ART FINAL PROJECTS WHEN LOOKING AT ILLUSTRATION



Charity Day

Each of our Year 6 House Captains and Vice Captains organise a charity day during the year. This term Newton House did an excellent job of raising money for Children in Need, and even arranged prizes for pupils participating in the day. The leadership skills and the care and support they give to the younger pupils is exceptional - fabulous work!

New Phonics Scheme

This year, following Government requirements to change from our previous scheme of work we have adopted to use the Twinkl Phonics Scheme in our younger year groups. Staff training started in September and pupils are enjoying using the materials. Whilst we are still in the early days of implementing the scheme we are pleased to see progress in all pupils' sound knowledge. Keep looking out for the mini story books that are given out each week in Robins and Goldfinches to know which sound your child is currently learning.

Chef Tom

We had another wonderful visit from Chef Tom of The Vineyard, Newbury. This year pupils in Year 4 and 5 will be benefiting from his cooking sessions, spaced throughout the year. They are very much looking forward to the next session!



Watermill Visit

The whole school set off on an adventure in early December to watch the production of Rapunzel at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. The performance included musical sections which the children loved. All pupils from Baydon were, as always, exceptionally well behaved during the visit. Many thanks to all parent volunteers who supporting this trip.

FOBS

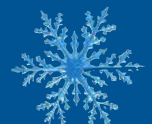
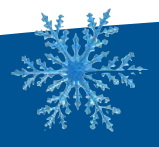
FOBS (Friends of Baydon School) have continued with providing excellent experiences for the pupils this term whilst raising funds vital to making our school the best it can be. Events this term have included a very successful disco at the end of term one, a Christmas Crafternoon, a raffle bursting with prizes and finally the Christmas film popcorn night. Funds raised by FOBS have been used to re-equip classrooms with new furniture and in the creation of our very own school library, which I am thrilled to announce will be opening very soon in the new year. Many thanks to all involved.

School Council

Congratulations to all those who have been elected to represent their year group on our School Council this year. School Council have been busy this year already instigating work on anti-bullying and a system for KS2 pupils to be able to support younger pupils during playtimes each week. The School Council have also expressed that they would like to support all members of the school in caring for the environment this year. They are already presenting a slot in each celebration worship, are educating pupils in how to look after the environment and have created posters around the school. During the new year they have plans to expand their work out into the community further, and we are really excited to see what they have planned next!



YEAR 6 SHOWING SOME OF THEIR CURRENT READING BOOKS



Keeping our children safe

As the school opened in September it was through new gates that were installed over the summer. We also added extra fencing to the KS1 playground in October to ensure our youngest pupils are further away from the busy road at playtimes.

Flu immunisation took place in November for all pupils with prior parental permission. The nurses who visited the school were impressed with the pupils' politeness during the morning.

As part of our online safety education we have taken the decision to appoint digital leaders in Year 6 to add pupil voice to the ongoing discussion on how best to keep everyone safe at Baydon.

Bikeability took place for all willing Year 6 pupils in Term 2. I am pleased to announce that all participating pupils passed Level 1 and 2 during the sessions.

Playground Equipment

New playground equipment for both playgrounds was purchased and set out for pupils to be responsible for in term one. The equipment has been used enthusiastically and pupils are more active and engaged with each other during playtime sessions.

Church and School

October this year saw the Harvest Festival service return to the church for the first time since 2019.

In December the youngest children had the pleasure of creating Christingles for the church and families who attended reported that it was a lovely service. We also used the church for the KS2 carol

services and finally for the school crib service on the final day of term.

Data

Though national data from last year for schools will not be published, as a school we are happy to share our results from last year.

In PHONICS, which is a word reading test containing real and nonsense words at the end of Year 1 we had **76.5%** of pupils achieve the standard, which was above the national percentage of 75.5%.

In Key Stage 1 data (end of Year 2) our **READING** percentage was **93.8%** compared to the national of 66.9%, in **WRITING** we had **66.8%** reach expected standard compared to 57.6% nationally and finally in **MATHS** we had **75%** achieve the expected standard compared to 67.7% nationally.

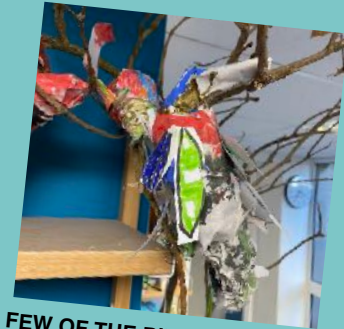
At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) our **READING** pupils meeting expected standard was **77.8%**, compared to 74.5% nationally, in **WRITING** **83.3%** achieved the expected standard at Baydon compared to 69.5% nationally, and finally in **MATHS** **83.3%** compared to 71.4% nationally. Comparing all areas together (**COMBINED RWM**) for Year 6 we had **72.2%** of pupils meeting this standard compared to 58.7% nationally.



BIKEABILITY - USING THE PLAYGROUND FIRST BEFORE SETTING OUT AROUND THE VILLAGE



INVESTIGATING STRUCTURES (BRIDGES) FOR DT IN ROBINS



A FEW OF THE BIRDS CREATED IN ART BY GOLDFINCHES



ONE OF THE PUZZLE PURSES SHOWING KITES WORK ON PATTERN IN ART



THANK YOU FATHER CHRISTMAS FOR VISITING OUR SCHOOL



THE PARTIES WERE LOTS OF FUN



LOOKING AT THE NATIVITY SCENE AFTER THE CRIB SERVICE



CHRISTMAS DINNER ALL TOGETHER

Christmas at Baydon

Christmas was in full swing during December. The last week included performances of the nativity by our youngest children (Robins and Goldfinches), KS2 performing their carol concert in the church, Christmas parties and a visit from Father Christmas. During each of the performances the pupils sang beautifully, and acting skills were superb. Thank you to all pupils for creating such special performances to bring the meaning of the Christmas story to our audiences.

Looking ahead

Our whole school theme of 'Inventions of the past and future' will be explored by all classes from January, and will include mechanisms in DT, programming in computing and forces in science. It is going to be an exciting time of exploration!

Finally...

What wonderful and action packed terms we have experienced so far. It has been a pleasure to have witnessed the progression and



enjoyment of pupils in all areas of learning throughout the school.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas, a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back to our school in 2023.

Mrs Gilbert and the team at Baydon.

