



Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Charity Appeal

The children listened intently to Mrs Towns and Mr Macdonald who came to share their work with the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank, explaining how our school community could make a big difference to some of the families living in the area. In particular, the Food Bank would welcome: **Christmas boxes of biscuits, sweets & chocolates, Christmas savoury snack boxes, tins of chicken in sauce, tinned salmon, tinned ham, Christmas puddings, tinned custard, evaporated milk or tinned cream, crackers, long life fruit juice, squash, long life milk or powdered milk, sugar and drinking chocolate.** Toiletries are also in need: **hand sanitisers, shaving foam, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes.** Whilst the collection date on the letter mentioned the 10th December, the Food Bank has a collection directly from our school on **Friday 30th November** so we'd appreciate all donations by this date, thank you.

Both Mrs Towns and Mr Macdonald (husband of Mrs Macdonald who is part of the Summercroft Team in KS1 and the children in Year 3 will remember him from his volunteering last year) complimented the children on their behaviour and politeness. Mr Kirby, Chair of Governors, has also asked me to share a congratulatory letter written to the whole staff at Summercroft earlier this year. I'm delighted that the hard work and dedication of our staff has been recognised by the Director of Education Services. It also helps that we have children who are enthusiastic to learn and such supportive families! Thank you.

Dear Carole,

I am writing to congratulate you and your staff on your great KS2 results. I was impressed by the percentage of Year 6 pupils who reached age related expectations in reading, writing and maths combined. Your school is one of 43 in Hertfordshire whose pupils achieved or exceeded 85% ARE. I also note your positive progress scores.

This is a great achievement and I am well aware of the hard work, commitment and no excuses culture that lie behind outcomes like these.

Please do pass on my congratulations to everyone in your staff team and thank you for your fantastic work.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Macfarlane
Director of Education Services

With all good wishes, Carole Hintridge. Headteacher.

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many of you at our consultation afternoons this week. I hope you managed to look in classrooms and the shared areas to admire the range of beautiful work on display. The children are rightly proud of their achievements—and so are we! A particular favourite of mine has been the large REMEMBER letters that proved to be a great collaborative activity. Thank you for the tremendous feedback we received about Arts Week.

Festive Season

Is approaching rapidly! Mr Jess can't wait to wear his seasonal jumper on decoration day, the trees are ordered, the stock cupboard is filling up with glitter (which I'm desperately trying to avoid) and the Christmas songs are being practised with the Orchestra sounding great! See the final page for an update on all the events in our calendar.

The Golden Folder





Tricky Questions in R.E. and Science

Year 3

Since half term Year 3 have been asked some very tricky questions in science and RE. They really had to use their learning powers to make connections and problem solve.

In science, the children were shown lots of rocks. They were asked to look carefully at the rocks through a magnifying glass and identify some of the properties. Some rocks, like chalk, were easily identifiable and already known by the children. Granite, limestone, sandstone, marble and slate were heavier and more difficult to name. The children were amazed at how light the obsidian was and loved how some of the crystals sparkled in the light.

Our RE lessons have been spent learning about Islam and Christianity. The children are very good at spotting the comparisons but were a little unsure when they were asked, "What is God like?" Having never seen God, some questioned whether He even exists. Having listened to the creation story from the Bible, they mostly felt that He was good and kind.

Then children were then asked, "If God was a food/ toy/ colour/ flower/ material, what would He be and why?" This caused great discussions and some interesting connection making.

"If God was a food, He would be an apple pie and could warm us up."

"If God was a toy, He would be a Lego brick so he could create new things."

"If God was a colour, I would paint a masterpiece with him."

"If God was a flower, He would be a poppy for peace."

"If God was a material, He would be a cloth so he could wipe away bad things."

As you can see, the children had some very thought provoking ideas about God's role within the Christian faith.

We have also started our new topic. We are going to be European Explorers! We started off with boxes containing clues to five European cities and had to work out where they were. Clues included maps, flags, postcards, currency, photographs and food. London was guessed very easily, as was Paris, but Athens, Barcelona and Rome took a little more thinking about. We are looking forward to learning to dance the flamenco and "travelling" to Europe through our writing. We have already written postcards and are working towards writing a letter to persuade Mr Jess to book a European holiday to our chosen destinations. If he isn't here next month, you will know that we were successful!



Astronauts and Art

Year 5

Year 5 mixed up their classes at the very start of the term in order to try out 4 unique techniques for arts week. Marbling, ripped-paper collage, water colour painting and silhouetting were practised before the each child decided which techniques they wanted to combine for a final piece of Remembrance art. As you can see the final results were spectacular and they were very proud of their work. We also used marbling and silhouettes as part of our whole school 'Remember' big art contribution, which can be found on display in the Laurel Room (Old Library). Our new learning has been introduced, with the children getting a taste for just how big the universe really is when looking at the 'Scale of the Universe' website. We also zoomed in on our home planet using Google Earth and focused on some of the key man-made landmarks, as well as their locations, which will form the start of our geography focus this half term.



Poppies and Remembrance

Reception

Over the past two weeks, Reception have been learning and thinking about Remembrance during our Armistice Arts week, and then we learnt about Diwali. The children noticed the colours and music when they watched an animation 'Poppies' from CBeebies, and gave responses to how the rabbit felt when he was skipping, when he was hiding under the soldier's helmet and when the poppies grew at the end. This inspired the children to express their thoughts and ideas through movement and many forms of art work. In maths we used poppies for counting and finding one more.

During our week of learning about Diwali, the children began by listening to the story of Rama and Sita and understood that Diwali is a celebration of light.

We looked at rangoli patterns and noticed that they were symmetrical. In maths the children were challenged to create their own symmetrical patterns.





Performance, Topics and Multiplication

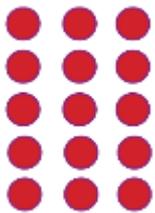
Year 2

Rehearsing for our Christmas performance has started in earnest in Year 2. The children are very excited and are doing very well remembering their lines and practising the songs for the show - no doubt you will hear a few over the next few weeks! We would appreciate if you could support your child when they are practising their lines at home by reading a few parts before and after their line so that they are aware of where to come in.

We started our new topic with a 'train trip' to London. The children thoroughly enjoyed the role play (and on board snacks) and are excited to learn more about the 'world around us' and our feature text, 'Paddington and his Adventures in London'. We have written recounts of trips to the capital detailing what we can hear, see and feel and extended this into our artwork by creating skylscapes of London and researching famous London landmarks in computing.

In maths our new area of focus is multiplication. The children are being introduced to the concept as 'groups of' or 'lots of' and are recording their calculations as arrays. Arrays are a pictorial representation which help children understand times tables. For example, a child may be given the following word problem: I have 3 bags, there are 5 pennies in each bag. How many pennies do I have altogether?

The array for this problem would show how the first bag has five pennies and would be drawn with five pennies in a line. Then they would explain that the second bag also has five pennies, and draw a second line. They would continue until they had drawn 3 lines of 5 pennies like this:



The next step is to count the total, where we would encourage the children to count each line in 5s, rather than count all the pennies individually.

In science we have continued looking at the human body and had great fun labelling our partners' body parts. This week we will be carrying out an investigation to test a hypothesis.

Ms Lynch & Mrs Fuat





Bonjour!

Year 1

This half term started off with an exciting delivery. Year 1 had received a postcard from Barnaby Bear; he is currently in France. We decided to pack up our bags, grab our passports and head to the airport! The children were greeted by inspection officers Mrs Bennett and Mrs Carter before taking their seats with cabin crew Miss Cheer and Miss Roach. The children were ready for take off with Summercroft Airline. When landing in France, the children learnt a variety of words such as 'bonjour', 'merci' and au 'revoir'. We explored different landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Notre Dame cathedral.

Following on from our French theme, the children recreated Henri Matisse's famous painting called the 'The Snail'; they ripped paper to create their masterpiece!

To end our week in France, we had a delicious French breakfast where the children tasted croissants, Pain au Chocolat and Jus' d orange - it was yummy!



Admissions Consultation Process



Summercroft Primary School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2020/21 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

'To amend the wording and definition of Rule 2 – Medical and Social to include children previously from abroad who were cared for by the state because they would not otherwise have been cared for adequately and subsequently adopted.'

The consultation period runs from 19th November 2018 – 6th January 2019. Please send your comments regarding the proposals to the school direct at admin@summercroft.herts.sch.uk.



Against the Odds

Year 6

On Monday 12th of November, Year 6 had our topic immersion. We went into the hall and were told to go into pairs to list five things we would take if our plane crashed and we were stranded on a desert island. We were put into bigger groups of 6 (or 7) and narrowed down our fifteen items to five of the best items, for example: a flare gun, flares, an axe or a knife. Then we chose three items at random out of a box which had 'floated in from the sea', meaning each group had eight survival items. Next we chose the name for each of our groups. We were given a map of the island and a sheet of sugar paper and chose where we should set up camp on the island. We were told about the rules of three; you can survive roughly three minutes without oxygen, three hours without shelter, three days without water and three weeks without food. We could earn additional points for: food, water, health, escape and shelter.

We wrote a survival plan about how we could get shelter, food, water and escape. The next day we were looking at a variety of methods to preserve food using salt, water and vinegar and we are monitoring how well our fish, fruit and meat will preserve. We have also looked at how we could filter dirty water to produce fresh, clean water that would be suitable to drink. To do this we used filters, sieves and old socks. We managed to produce clear water, but not very much of it!

This is an enjoyable topic that we are carrying on over the next few weeks. By the end, we will find out which group has the best chance of survival!

By Patryk and Aaron



Sport at Summercroft

On Thursday 25th October our hockey squad, consisting of our A and B teams, competed in the Birchwood School Partnership Quicksticks tournament against 26 other teams. The teams were split into two competitions, with our A team competing in the Gold Cup and our B team in the Silver Plate. Throughout the whole tournament, both of our teams were a credit to their school and families, competing with great skill, determination and respect. Both teams won their first three qualifying games and progressed to the semi finals of their cups - where unfortunately they had mixed fortune. Despite playing their best hockey, the B team were narrowly defeated 0-1 and were extremely unlucky not to at least take the game to extra time, whereas the A team won their semi final and then progressed to win the Gold Cup with a hard fought 1-0 over Windhill21 in the final.

We are extremely proud of all of the children's efforts and attitude and now look forward to our A team representing the Bishop Stortford Partnership in the county finals in July.





Diwali

Nursery

Last week Nursery were busy learning all about Diwali. We looked at how people prepare for the festival and how it is celebrated. Throughout the week the children made their own Rangoli patterns using coloured rice, created their own Diva lamps using a recycled CD and have very carefully painted Mehndi patterns onto a hand outline using a cotton bud! Throughout the week the children were very keen to recall what they had learnt.

Elsie told everyone, "It means good luck the Rangoli. They do Diva lamps at the windows because so everyone can see."

Aisha explained, "They decorate the door with Rangoli patterns. They give people sweets and they have fireworks and put Diva lamps on the windows."

Rudy told the class, "They do fireworks for Diwali and they put candles in the windows. They make Rangoli patterns and they put Mehndi on their hands."

Helena explained, "They put Rangoli patterns on the doorstep for good luck. They put Mehndi patterns on their skin. They make Diva lamps for Diwali because Diwali means row of lamps."

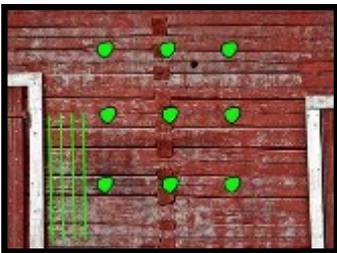
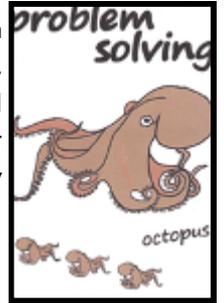




Problem Solving Learning Power

Mr Jess

This month we have been focusing on our Problem Solving Learning Power. This started by the children listening to the story of Octo the Octopus and how he helped solve problems for the other sea creatures. This was followed up by further assemblies where the children have had to solve logic problems and discuss what different skills they need to be prepared for real life problems they will face in school and at home. The children shared some really interesting problems they have had at home and how they collaborated with family members and showed resilience and resourcefulness in order to solve them.



Here is one of the problems the children faced in assembly – see if you can solve it without asking them how to do it. House points are up for grabs for anyone who can show me they've completed it (without their child's support).

The problem – join up all the dots. You can use up to 4 straight lines. You can't take your pen off the paper once you have started drawing and you can't go back on yourself. Good luck.



Poppy Collection

Well done and congratulations on this year's total, £256.06.

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, thank you.

December Calendar



Monday 3 rd December	Decoration day – wear a Festive Jumper	
Tuesday 4 th December	Hockerill Drama Group – Slick Man performance to Nursery & Reception	
Wednesday 5 th December	Puppets Galore Christmas Assembly	
Thursday 6 th December		
Friday 7 th December	Year 4 Music Festival at The Barnabus Centre	
Saturday 8 th December	PTA Christmas Fair	15:00 – 18:00
Monday 10 th December	KS 1 Dress Rehearsal for N,R, Yr 3, 4 + siblings	9:30
Tuesday 11 th December		
Wednesday 12 th December	KS 1 Production to parents EYFS Production to parents	9:30 14:00
Thursday 13 th December	Orchestra Rehearsal for parents Orchestra Assembly for Yr 3 – 6 EYFS Christmas Production KS 1 Production to parents	8:30 9:00 10:00 13:45
Friday 14 th December	Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime – whole school	
Monday 17 th December	Carol Service at All Saints Church	14:00
Tuesday 18 th December		
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch served by Mary and her little helpers Year 1 Barnaby Bear presentation to parents	11:30 14:30
Thursday 20 th December		
Friday 21 st December	Early lunch School closes	11:30 13:15

