

December 2021

We have had a great term in spite of the ongoing Covid challenges. We have had a full curriculum, with all subjects being taught and a lot of great learning going on in all classes.

We are grateful for the cooperation and support of parents in keeping to all the changing guidance. We have been very thankful to have had so few Covid cases, and no spreading of these cases, this term. It has been especially lovely to have been able to have a proper school Christmas! We have had a beautiful nativity performance and Christmas lunch with amazing table decorations. Father Christmas made a special visit & children loved going to see him in the grotto. This morning we had the very moving signing to the carols that Miss Bishop has taught at the Christingle service and then finished with Christmas parties this afternoon! And we still have the pantomime trip to look forward to!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, a restful break, and we look forward to the coming year in school.

Mrs Rushbrook



Head of School

2022 Term Dates

JANUARY

- Tues 4th — PD Day
- Wed 5th— Children return to school
- Fri 7th — School Trip to the pantomime
- Tues 14th—Parents evening

FEBRUARY

- Mon 21st to Fri 25th — Half Term

MARCH

- Thurs 3rd —World Book Day: come dressed as favourite book character

APRIL

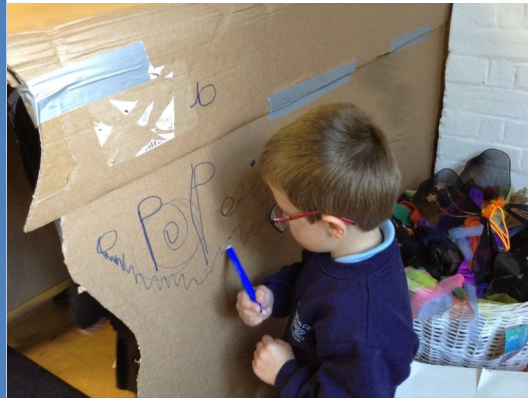
- Thurs 7th— Last day of term
- Fri 8th — PD Day
- Mon 11th to Fri 22nd — Easter Holiday

MAY



grasp of the school routine, becoming more independent – and most importantly they are happy!

The children have worked very hard in their first term at school but have also had lots of fun and made many memories! We have busily been practising our phonics and have nearly completed Phase 2. We have been putting our newly acquired skills to read and write basic CVC words! A wonderful achievement for everyone! Within Maths we have looked at basic number, pattern, addition and shape.



In History the children have compared their modern toys to those of their grandparents, examining the design of the toys and materials used. The children went for a walk and explored Dennington, looking for the familiar land-marks of the village. The walk helped our class learning about maps in Geography.

At this present time we are practising for our Nativity Play; Chaffinches love the singing and dancing. The Chaffinches classroom is a 'hive of activity', we are industriously Christmas Crafting using lots of glitter!

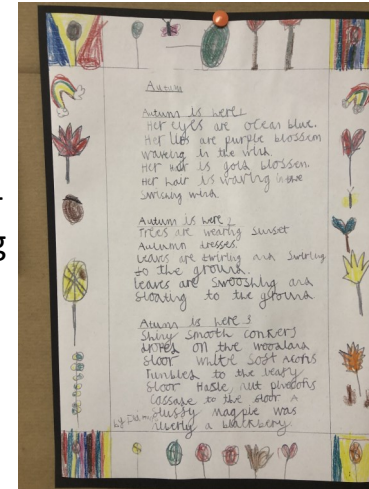


Well done Chaffinches for a fantastic first term - have a



topic we were really inspired by the story of the Celtic warrior Boudicca and her rebellion against the Roman army. Our visit to Colchester Castle really brought her story to life.

We have been working really hard with our writing this term, learning lots of new words to including in our stories and poetry. It has been lovely to see the children's enjoyment of writing flourish and the pride they take in the presentation of their work.



In Design Technology, our learning was based around jam tarts. We first tasted a variety of tarts from different shops to decide which we preferred. We made our jam tarts for somebody in Swallows class, so first we had to interview them to find out why type and shape of tart they would like and then we designed our product. We finally made and cooked the jam tarts and had a tasting session. We all decided that they were delicious and thought of ways to improved them.



tures they could find.



They also had a royal visit and had a chance to interview the Queen to inspire their story-writing.

In the second half of the term, they enjoyed a fully-fledged design project, designing and making their own box of mince pies. They thought carefully about packaging, where their mince pies would be sold and the flavours they used.



Finally, the Robins and Chaffinches put on a fabulous show with the nativity!



had the trip to Crossenham Workhouse, where we all got into character and learned about what life was really like for a Victorian child there.

We have loved reading and watching Oliver Twist - the children have been so in-

vested in the characters and they were wide eyed when we finally found out Oliver, Bill Sykes and Fagin's fate! We have done some pretend pick-pocketing, like the Artful Dodger and discovered a few hidden talents!



Through Dickens' literature we have learned so much about the lives of Victorians, especially the lives of poor children.

As well as history, we have worked really hard in the Design Technology lessons, designing and making a sewn stuffed toy. In geography we have learned about Mount Everest, its geological properties, how it was formed and the challenges people face in attempting to climb it. Swallows have been introduced to the game, "Where have I hidden my lama??", when you have 20 geographical questions you can ask to find out any location on earth. This has led to lots of requests for this game!



The science visit to Sizewell was really interesting and I was proud to hear from the Sizewell staff group leaders that our children were especially engaged and asking intelligent and interesting questions! This linked to the work we have done this term on electricity.

ALL the children in Swallows have worked so hard this term, showing commitment and



at Debenham Leisure centre



All the KS2 children completed the cross country run and some have gone through to the County finals.

Our dance team took part in a competition with “Connection” as the theme. They gave a stunning performance to The Greatest Showman’ song “This is Me”. The results will be announced early January.



Christmas Table Decorations

FODS have been very happy to donate prizes for the Christmas lunch table decorations. The children have put so much effort into making table decorations this year. There were some amazing entries and it was so hard to judge. Congratulations to our winners: R Maybel; YR1 Oscar Mackenzie; YR2 Fletcher; YR3 Thea; YR4 Edward; YR5 Evie Stevens; YR6 Henny



After School Club & Breakfast Club

After School Club is available everyday from 3.15-5.15pm. £5 per session.

Monday— Crafts

Tuesday — Film & Cooking Club

Wednesday —Sport with Frazer until 4.15pm (£3—to be booked and paid for direct with Education Through Sport) , followed by Construction Club with Laura until 5.15pm (£2 only)

Thursday — Cookery

Friday — Games



Breakfast Club is available 8am-9am from Monday to Friday. £3 per session.



school council have already organised a second-hand uniform sale to raise money for the guinea pigs and a non-uniform day for Children in Need.

Snowy Days

If we have to close the school due to snow, we will alert parents via email as early as possible on the day.

If the school is open (which it will be, if at all possible) then we will want to let the children have a play in the snow. To be able to go outside in the snow the children will have to have in school on the day:

- Wellies or snow boots
- A warm coat
- A change of bottom half clothing—trousers/skirt, socks/tights and pants! OR a pair of waterproof trousers



If children do not have these things, they will not be able to go out and play as we do not want the children to have great fun but then be wet and cold for the rest of the day!

Fundraising

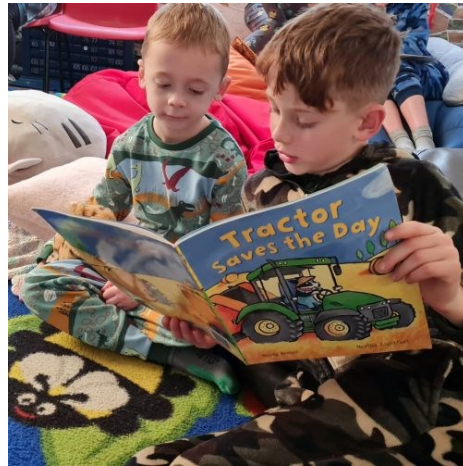
Thank you for donating so generously this this term.

We raised £124.50 for Children in Need by bringing in £1 to wear something spotty and we covered Pudsey bear with lots of coins.

The Royal British Legion were delighted that we raised £155.13 on their behalf through the sale of poppies and



Dennington School. We spent the day feeling very cosy in our pyjamas, sipping hot chocolate and reading books.



Christmas At Dennington

