



EYFS Editorial

Nursery News

We started back after the long summer holiday with lots more friends and happily welcomed back our Rainbow group. The children settled well into their groups with new children and staff and have gone from strength to strength. We were especially delighted to welcome Mrs Bateman into our dynamic Nursery team in September; she has proved to be a popular asset.

September was a busy month; we started our new bi-weekly French lessons on a Friday with Miss Gauthier and also our PE lessons each week with Mr Snadden. Both have been a huge success with the children joining in well and learning so much. September's focus was to ensure all the new children were settled and we were pleased to see parents who attending our Tapestry Information Evening.



October was busy prior to our half term break. Our school's Harvest Festival on the 11th allowed us to donate some well received food to the Bromley Food Bank. During September and October, the Nursery team drove forward a whole school initiative – from Nursery to sixth form – to create a fitting tribute to mark the centenary since the end of WW1. Families, staff and pupils across the school made felt poppies, knitted and crocheted poppies to adorn a large scale cross. The final piece took centre stage at our Alumni Remembrance Service and then spent a week in St Edmund's Beckenham, where our fellow parishoners could enjoy this emotive piece. My thanks go to Ms Scicluna and Mrs Tomkins for helping to arrange and pull this big project together; it has been quite a talking point.



November brought us back rested after the two week break, relaxed and revived for what promised to be a very busy and exciting half term. The first week started with Diwali and fireworks galore. Two lovely parents were kind enough to come in and share their Hindu culture with us and explain to the children all about the festival of lights.



Our Centenary commemorations ended in style on Friday 9th November, when the EYFS as a whole, lightened the mood and celebrated our thanks to those who have fought for our freedom since the end of WW1. The children dressed up in Commonwealth colours and as young evacuees and had our very own Commonwealth street party. We had some tasty treats and danced to some music from WW1.



Some of the children in the Nursery took a trip out with Mrs Bateman and Ms Ludlam – a ride on the 227 bus to Waitrose in Beckenham, where we did a little shopping. The children selected fruit to buy, which we took back to Nursery and made a delicious, healthy fruit salad. They behaved impeccably, using their excellent manners when speaking to the public and looked very smart in their uniform. We were even spotted on our travels by current parents and retired Bishop Challoner staff – Ms Ludlam was very proud indeed.



During half term, the EYFS ran a Tapestry online journal challenge based on the theme “independence” - the winner for Nursery, after much deliberation, was Oliver. Well done Oliver; some great independence skills.

December, as always, has been a very busy month. The children have worked industriously to make cards, mementos, paper chains and learn their lines and songs for the Christmas nativity play.

On 7th December the EYFS celebrated in style. The children were treated to a Christmas Nutcracker themed drama workshop by Perform and then sat down to a delicious party lunch. Many lovely Christmas jumpers were worn and donations went to the Jimmy Mizen Foundation. The children had a fabulous time and before they went home they were treated to a visit from the big man in red himself; presents all round.





The term ended with the gala performance of “A little bird Told Me” a delightful nativity about a flock of birds who hear that a very special baby has been born. The children performed excellently and made both staff and parents very proud indeed. Well done children.



We have had an exceptional term and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January along with some new friends and families to get to know.

May I wish you a very blessed and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Your constant support in all that we do is very much appreciated.

Ms Ludlam



Reception News

The Autumn term has been very busy for the children in Reception and they have settled so well. The importance of outdoor learning and play across all areas of the EYFS curriculum is very evident in the children's weekly routine.



The topic for the first half term was 'Autumn' and 'Marvellous Me'. The children learnt about our '5 Senses' and the season of Autumn, through many fun hands on science and outdoor learning experiences.





Autumn walks and Forest school adventures saw the children use so many of their key characteristics of learning, such as critical thinking, problem solving, playing and exploring, working in a team and essential independence skills.





'Show and Tell' on a Friday is a circle time that the children really look forward to. They take turns and listen to each other as they talk about what they have bought in. When a child has shown what they have bought in they have 'question time' about their 'Show and Tell'



This half term the topic has been 'Light/Dark' and 'Space'. The children started the term learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali and how it is celebrated. Through many art and drama activities, they gained an insight into this wonderful festival.





In maths we have been learning about 2D & 3D shapes, where the children used role play activities to describe the shapes and their properties. Using talk partners in maths activities helps the children to explain to each other how they are going to work out a concept and they are encouraged to use the correct mathematical vocabulary.





The children have loved the topic of 'Space' this term; learning about the solar system has been fascinating. They have learnt many fascinating and exciting facts about the planets. In art and literacy, the children enjoyed making their own blow paint aliens and using their increasing phonic knowledge to make up names for them.



Our nativity play was a great success. I was so proud of our little mice and hens; they were so confident and enthusiastic on stage, singing and doing all the actions.

Next term we look forward to an outing to our local theatre with Year 1 to see 'Elmer the Elephant'.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Mrs Salisbury