

**Message from Principal**

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well.

This has been a very challenging term for everyone and the school has been required to take some very difficult decisions to keep everyone safe including rota systems, class closures, postponement of events and of course the reintroduction of face masks. However, throughout all this, the staff and pupils have still continued to smile and produce some amazing work. I and my colleagues are appreciative to parents/carers for your continued support and co-operation with the changes that Covid related issues have thrown our way.

We held our first Covid vaccination clinic in school this term and the pupils were so grown up and all supported each other, I was very proud of just how well they coped, they were a credit to you and the school.

Our creative pupils, together with support from George Taylor, designated art teacher, have created some stunning Christmas decorations and I know many of you have purchased these but we still have some remaining. The details are on Weduc and our website but please feel free to ring the office if you would like to purchase last minute decorations.



It is hoped that some of the events postponed due to Covid will be rescheduled for Term 3 and we will, of course, keep you updated.

I have recently been advised by the local authority that due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the summer term, Term 6 will end a day earlier on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July rather than Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. An updated version of the terms dates is on our website.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Warmest wishes.

Jill Palmer, Principal

**Message from Chair of Governors**

Well we have made it to the end of Term 2 and hopefully looking forward to a relatively normal Christmas break.

Governors, like parents/carers, are still meeting on Teams but looking forward to getting back into school soon. We recently held our Teaching and Outcomes meeting and it is great to see and hear how hard the staff and pupils are working in school and at home.

We are hoping to hold an informal meeting in January for parents/carers to come in and find out about being involved in governance and fundraising.

Have a great break. Merry Christmas.

Roberta Kane, Chair of Governors

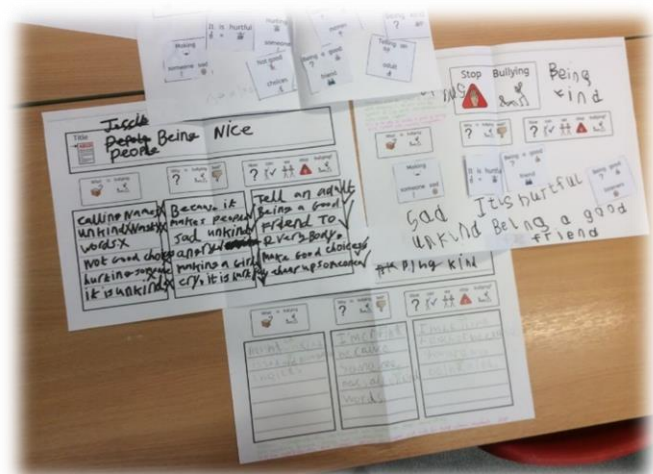


### Robins Class

This term Robins have been continuing to look at the world around them, particularly the festivals, celebrations and events that happen around the world. The children have been investigating what it is like to celebrate Thanksgiving, Diwali and Hanukkah. They have also been looking at celebrations in the United Kingdom, such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas. We have marked these events in all our lessons from looking at light in Science, different cultures in PSHE and inclusion in English. The children are particularly proud of their 'playdough' Thanksgiving dinner that they created as a collective.

The children looked at a book called All are Welcome where they explored the ideas of inclusion, kindness, different cultures and friendship. From this stimulus they have created their very own anti-bullying posters, which we would like to display in our classroom on our WOW wall. Robins have continued to impress both myself and the rest of the team with all their achievements.

We hope you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing our little team in the New Year as we start term 3.



### Foxes Class

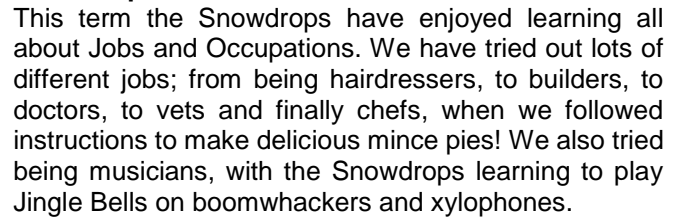
This term Foxes class have been learning about celebrations and what this means to them. The children have made some lovely art work to cater for the colours of the different times of year. One celebration was Thanksgiving and they chose to make a leaf man where they gave him clothes using the leaves and the autumn colours.

We looked at the celebration of Christmas and the children have made some wonderful Christmas decorations which they will be able to share with their families.



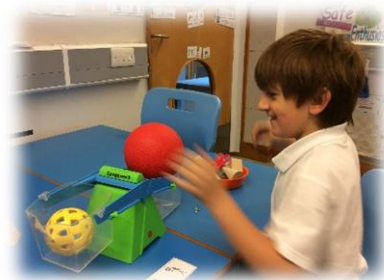


Nightingale class have been very busy in term 2 learning about pirates in English and shape and patterns in maths. We have also been busy making Christmas cards and decorations.



This term Enterprise and Endeavour have been taking part in a sponsored walk to raise their awareness to leading a healthier lifestyle. They walked laps of the playground, (0.5kms) some even enjoyed pushing themselves a bit harder and ran their laps.

We raised £35 to go towards buying some sports equipment to be used in their leisure and break times. Next term they will be completing a sponsored basketball shoot out. WATCH THIS SPACE for more news and photos!



### Kahlo Class

Term 2 has flown by in Kahlo class. The highlight in November was Remembrance Day, infused by our teaching assistant, Jack, who shared his wonderful memorabilia, and together we created our very own cenotaph. From a seven-foot monument to a seven-foot Christmas tree we don't do things by half in Kahlo form!

For December we took a lead role with making and stringing 450 ceramic Christmas decorations for sale via Weduc and the reception - snap them up if you can!

Our learning focus has been reading, led by our teaching assistant, Dawn who has been running weekly small group interventions focused on comprehension. This has been complemented with additional individual phonics sessions led by Caitlin. We are super proud of all the effort the pupils have put in and high attendance, especially in the last few weeks. On behalf of the Kahlo team, we wish you all a very special Christmas.



### Daisies Class

This term Daisies class topic has been celebrations, amongst the celebrations they have looked at are, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Remembrance Day, and Firework night.

The pupils have all made a different piece of artwork for each celebration, some of which was independent work and other being group work. The children all worked well together and enjoyed learning about different celebrations and festivals and what they mean to them.



### Buttercups Class

In Buttercups this term we have been learning about different celebrations and festivals. The children have enjoyed using a range of materials and medias to create different pictures relating to the festivals. We have also used our fine motor skills to use printing sponges, pipets and glue sticks. The children in Buttercups have become more confident and independent with these skills. Merry Christmas from Buttercups Class.



### Butterflies Class

At the beginning of this term, we explored fireworks and looked at the words to describe them. The children made their own pictures and had fun using different objects to make the firework. They chose words to help them to describe their fireworks! They were very proud of what they had done.





### Hawking Class

In Hawking class this term, we have had lots of fun decorating our classroom ready for Christmas! We celebrated Shape Day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and really enjoyed adding decorations of different shapes to our paper chain Christmas tree. We have also been deepening our understanding of 3D shapes by creating characters and presents out of nets and keep adding to our collection as the days go on. It is feeling very festive in our classroom!



### Hedgehogs Class

This term in Hedgehogs our topic was space. We learnt about gravity in science and in English we thought about what we would take with us on a trip to the moon when we read Bob the Man on the Moon. We also played out what we would do and shared ideas with our friends during a role play game of going to the moon. The children lead this activity and used a table as their spaceship some of them even shook the table when they shouted 'BLAST OFF'. This week we have been very festive making decorations, Christmas cookies and reindeer food. Hedgehogs wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to the New Year for more learning and fun.



### Diamonds Class

In Diamonds Class this term we have been getting creative. We have worked together to produce beautiful art work which we display in our classroom.

We have been walking through our own winter wonderland.



We made our very own Poppy field, in honour of Remembrance Day.



We brightened our walls with fireworks, flying across our classroom.



**Emerald class** have been very busy this term. We have been exploring the sensory story and songs from 'The Sound of Music'. The students loved listening to the songs from the story especially 'Do-Rei-Mei'. The students enjoyed exploring all the instruments on the one-man band! We had fun celebrating Halloween and Fireworks night. The students explored pumpkins and loved seeing them light up with battery candles. For Fireworks the students used lots of bright colours to mark make onto black paper. We also added glitter to the fireworks picture.

As Christmas is upon us we have been listening and engaging in the sensory story 'Twas the Night before Christmas'. Students have enjoyed exploring the objects of reference from the story such as presents, tinsel, baubles, Christmas stocking and sensory snow. The students have enjoyed listening to songs, Silent Night, Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer and Santa Claus is Coming to Town.



### Sapphire Class

In Sapphire class we have had lots of fun using our communication, cognition, fine motor and technology skills to take part in cooking lessons. We have had to choose which food colouring we want from a choice of 2/3/4 using eye pointing or reaching. Some of us had to confirm our choices with yes/no switches or symbols on an E-tran. We then had to hit a switch to activate the mixer. Next we chose which cutter we wanted from a choice of 2/3/4/5/6 using our preferred communication method.

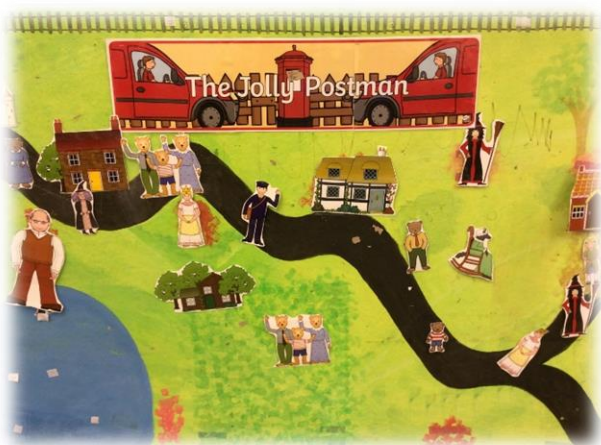
We used our fine motor skills to explore the dough before pressing our chosen cutter into the dough. Cooking lessons have been a great way to put the targets we have been working on into practice!



### Bluebells Class

In Bluebells Class this term we have been reading, The Jolly Postman Story. The pupils have enjoyed using the display board in the classroom to retell the story. They have used the characters as puppets and worked together to create their own narrative.

We have also been learning how to create a sentence to describe what is happening in a picture from the story.



### Caterpillars Class

We have been having lots of fun with our learning in Caterpillars, this term. We have continued to learn our shapes and numbers and have shared lots of stories. Our Christmas book has been 'Father Christmas Needs a Wee.' We have loved sharing the book and using it for our learning. We have sequenced the story, made sentences about the story and used it to learn our numbers. Each child has also made choices to select decorations to put on our Christmas tree.



### PE Department

In Term 2, Meadowfield have invested in new ways to get our students up and moving, specifically targeting break times. This period of the day is a particularly challenging time for some of our students. This is why the PE team are working towards providing some amazing opportunities for our students to engage and stay active.

So far, we have introduced Go Set Blocks, Skip 2B Fit as well as plenty of new equipment for student use at break times through the day.

We hope to continue this trend into Term 3 and encourage all students to lead active, healthy lifestyles.

Best wishes

Ian, Conor & Deanna, PE Department Team



### Fawns Class

What a busy term we have had in Fawn class. We have been learning about celebrations and we have all had lots of fun exploring and creating! We have focused on the books "Room on the Broom", "Kipper's Birthday" and "Father Christmas needs a Weel". We have focused our Maths and Literacy around celebrations too which we all enjoyed.

During the term we made sandwiches and had our own party. It was great to share this time with our friends. In the lead up to Christmas we have done lots of singing and making. We all enjoyed creating ice cream cone Christmas trees and decorated them with marshmallows, strawberry laces and sprinkles. They were delicious!

We have had a great term and are looking forward to a good rest before our new term in January.



### Badger's News

Badgers have looked at the topic of "Festivals and Celebrations". The students made a firework display with paint, string and glitter. We have been busy making cards and Christmas decorations for our classroom.

We have enjoyed making Christmas decorations to take home out of clay.



### Wrens Class

It has been a busy term for Wrens Class who have learnt how to play games with one another. They have shown themselves to be marvellous measurers, designed houses using shapes and created some brilliant bike art. They even had time to take part in some exercise with Joe Wicks as part of Children in Need followed by some Pudsey Bear designed cakes and biscuits.



### Ladybirds Class

This term in Ladybirds, our topic has been 'Festivals and Celebrations.' We have learnt about Diwali, making lanterns, Rangoli patterns, trying spicy food and listening to stories about good versus evil! We held a minute silence and made Poppies for Remembrance Day.

Our writing has covered making lists, writing invitations and posters and, of course, narratives to support a story sequence.

Lastly, we have finished our topic with the delights of 'Christmas' and all the fun activities such as making decorations, decorating the tree and a party! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and see you in Term 3!



### Music lessons

The pupils have been having lots of fun learning to play Jingle Bells on the Boomwhackers and Xylophones!



We also learned an uplifting Christmas song called Together at Christmas Time in Music lessons this term. Particular shout outs go to Alfie, Sasha, Holly, Kenzie, Kobihan, Archie, Harry, Thomas and all of Snowdrops for listening very carefully and singing so enthusiastically!

### Living the Dream

Some secondary age subject-led students have been given a wonderful opportunity to take part in a performance called 'Living the Dream' in collaboration with other special schools from across Kent. These students will work in conjunction with a professional musician, choreographer and artist to compose a piece of music, build a puppet and choreograph a dance.

Students will workshop the composition, choreography and puppeteering with the professionals in January and February, and these will all appear in the final performances of the show in March 2022.

The below artwork, created by two of our KS4 students, will go into a commemorative story book which is being specially made to accompany the show! Well done to Georgina (Year 11) and Oliver (Year 10) for producing such wonderful, high-quality work!



### Ducklings Class

Over the past few weeks, Ducklings have enjoyed learning about the topic "festivals and celebrations". We have looked at the story 'Room on the Broom', where the children created their own witches and broomsticks. We then looked at the story 'Kippers Birthday'. We acted out the story using a range of sensory media and pretended to make our own cakes! We followed some instructions and decorated some yummy biscuits.

Finally, we looked at the story "Father Christmas needs a Wee". We all giggled lots during this story and really enjoyed dressing up as Father Christmas ourselves!

We have all formed lovely friendships within our class and have all bonded together amazingly. I am very proud of Ducklings first few months at school!





### Tree Planting – Nightingale

We have been working very hard in Nightingale class planting trees that were provided by the Tree Council as part of their initiative to plant more trees. We planted 40 trees in one day, including creating an orchard in the new sensory garden area in one of the playgrounds and lots of hedging around the red corridor playground.



### Pankhurst Class

It's been a very turbulent last few months in Pankhurst Class, with Covid hitting the class hard over half term, and with a few forced absences in the weeks that followed. But we've certainly pulled together and have managed to keep focused on what's important and have made good progress in accreditation subjects and particularly with our individual target work in form time.

Chess and Uno continue to be popular past times in class, with the latter being the subject of a few well-observed class tournaments recently. And though most Christmas activities were put off because of Covid, we've still managed to get into the spirit in the run up to the big day, with crafts, fun and games and a little class party to finish the term. We're looking forward to a busy term ahead in the New Year, but for now, from all of the Pankhurst pupils and staff... we wish you a very Merry Christmas!



### Woodpeckers Class

In Woodpeckers this term we have been covering the Journeys topic. We listened to lots of different stories including The Gruffalo, The Jolly Postman and The Stickman. We loved making pictures of the main characters using food to improve our communication skills including making requests and asking for help. This activity also helps improve our fine motor skills.

We have been learning about sound in Science and exploring how we hear things and how to change the way things sound! In Art we have explored a variety of mediums and materials to make different pieces of artwork.



### Poppies Class

This term in Poppies class we have been learning about different festivals and celebrations and the reasons why we celebrate them. We have learnt about Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving, why we celebrate our birthday and Christmas.

The class have enjoyed engaging with different activities linked to each such as, describing what they saw when watching a fireworks display. Making poppies to remember the brave people who have helped to keep us safe, making a birthday invitation and learning about the nativity.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



### Swallows Class

Term 2 has been very busy for Swallows class. Our topic has been Festivals and Celebrations. During this time, we explored lots of different festivals. We used food art to create remembrance poppies and during PSHE we investigated road safety where we created road safety hedgehogs. We also enjoyed using role play to re-enact how to cross the road safely.

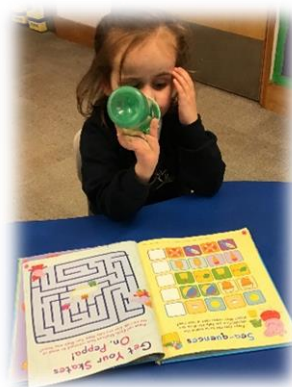
Moving into Christmas time, Swallows class had the opportunity to work with clay to create 3D baubles to hang on our Christmas trees. Swallows class have continued to show their love of learning and as always we are very proud of all their hard work!



### Tadpoles Class

This term in Tadpoles class we have been encouraging pupils to engage in messy play and turn taking activities while attending soft play. This term books have gained popularity amongst our pupils and they enjoy looking through them independently.

We have made lovely Christmas cards and projects to encourage fine motor skills. Have a lovely Christmas from all Tadpoles staff.



### Wildflowers Class

This term in Wildflowers, we have been focusing on independence, self-reflection and self-esteem building activities. We have explored our likes and dislikes and our personal strengths as well as our sense of belonging. We *did* try to continue our walks to the park, but some days, the weather was just *too* cold, or wet, or both!





## Jays Class

What a lovely Term 2 it has been in Jays. Everyone has really settled in fantastically and have shown some high levels of resilience during what has become a bit of a topsy-turvy last couple of weeks.

Our theme for the term was Festivals and Celebrations. We learned about Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, Thanksgiving and, of course, Christmas! In Maths, we have been exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes as well as positional and directional language and instructions. We have also been learning about healthy and unhealthy eating choices throughout the term. I think this picture perfectly summarises all of this! Have a lovely Christmas break.



## Transport Staff

A huge thank you to all the parents/carers/taxi drivers/mini bus drivers for bearing with us over the last two terms! A huge thank you for the Christmas gifts they will certainly keep all of us going in the New Year! We genuinely love our job and love seeing you all morning and afternoon come rain or shine! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Percy and the MIDAS STLS team wish all of you a very Happy Christmas.

**BBC Children in Need** – thank you everyone who supported this event, we raised £190.38. Thank you