

## Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

This half term is the longest of the academic year and is finally coming to the end. The children and staff have worked extremely hard as ever and are certainly due a restful and peaceful Christmas break. This newsletter gives you an insight into the many exciting and diverse activities that the children have taken part in over the last eight and a half weeks. As you will see, from French Speaking competitions to visits to Leicester Market, to Christmas performances, the children have shown great resilience and confidence as they have progressed through the term.

Last week's bad weather added to the mix and we were delighted to be open for four days out of five. I must thank Mr Howland for all of his efforts to keep the site open and safe. The snow was not really the problem, and I enjoyed playing snowballs with many of the children on the Tuesday. The real problem was the ice that followed at the end of the week. I know the pathways and roads were treacherous on the way to school for most of you, and indeed the playgrounds were equally as dangerous, and that was despite large quantities of rock salt being put down.

Finally, please look out for our separate Sports newsletter, prepared by our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors, with the help of Mr Scranage and Mrs Thurman.

I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone at Fleckney Primary School.

Best wishes

Mr Leah

## Christmas Services

This year, our Christmas services were held in the school hall as, due to the icy conditions, we were unable to walk down to church.

The service started with a 'Once in Royal David's City' solo by Maddie. The choir sang John Rutter's 'Star Carol' and Alice played 'Silent Night' on the piano. Our Year 4 and 5s delivered the Bible readings and

presented a 'reverse Nativity' sketch in which they 'stripped' the story of the birth of Jesus down to the true facts. What a celebration of the talent in our school!

Father Philip reminded us that Jesus and his family were homeless at the beginning of his life and talked about focussing on those who are less fortunate at this Christmas season.

Many thanks to Mr Baum who always supports the school so well with his accompaniment on the piano.

The service ended with a Fleckney favourite, "Love Shone Down". It's always a delight to see and hear the children celebrate the birth of Jesus in such a special way.



**Mrs Fremmer**

## Cathedral Advent Service

On Thursday 7th December, Mr Leah, Mrs Fremmer and Mrs Marshall accompanied eight Year 6 children: Oliver, Alice, Miley, Moti, Ellen, Liam, Sam and Rebecca to Leicester Cathedral for the annual Advent Service.

The service was all around the theme of 'Home' and the children took along special items that remind them of home. The Right Reverend Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester, spoke about God entering our homes through his own son, Jesus.

We also had time to visit the John Lewis installation 'Home' and have a good look around the cathedral.

The children enjoyed the experience and, as always, their behaviour was excellent; they were a credit to our school.



**Mrs Fremmer**

## KS1 Christmas Performances

On Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th December, Aliens landed in the school hall when the KS1 children performed 'Christmas with the Aliens' to enchanted parents and proud staff. They did such a fantastic job, speaking loudly and clearly, singing



beautifully and acting with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Thank you to everyone who came and also to all parents for helping the children learn their lines and song words.

We hope that you enjoyed it as much as the children and staff did!

We would also like to thank the FSA for our alien costumes

**Mrs Headley & Miss Baum**

## KS1 and FS Cinema Visit

On a snowy Tuesday 12th December, for the first time Key stage 1 and Foundation Stage went to the cinema to see 'Paddington 2' for their Christmas treat.

This animated adventure had enough drama, humour, emotion and marmalade to keep all the children glued to their seats. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped ensure the trip ran smoothly and, once again, the children represented Fleckney Primary School brilliantly.

**Mrs Headley, Miss Baum & Mrs Tear**

## Application for First-time Admission to Primary School 2018

All parents need to apply to County Hall for a school place for their child, even if they live in our catchment area. If your child is 4 years old before 1st September 2018 and therefore starting school for the first time, **the closing date for applications is 15th January 2018.**

Parents are encouraged to apply online at [www.leics.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/admissions) where you will find an online application form and guidance notes. This is quick and easy and an emailed receipt is sent so you can be sure the application has gone through. For more information, contact School Admissions on 0116 3056684 or email: [admissions@leics.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@leics.gov.uk)

**N.B.** Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after those received on time; if the closing date is not met it may not be possible to offer your child a place at their local school if all available places have been filled.

## French Café

In celebration of the European Day of Languages, a French Café was held in the school hall.

Selected pupils from Year 6 were put to work for the morning, taking on the role of waiter or waitress.

Children from both Year 1

and 2 enjoyed French music, sampled fruit and croissants, listened to traditional French music and held basic conversations in French.

The school hall was filled with enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards foreign language learning.



**Mrs Galpin**

## Flag Quiz

Key Stage two children had an exciting time in a recent assembly which involved a flag quiz. Four children from each year group, one from each of the house teams, battled it out to name the countries of the flags.

After a nail-biting and very close finish, Churchill were named the champions.



**Miss Panter**

## Safe and Considerate Parking

We have again been contacted recently by a number of our neighbours regarding parking around the school. We always strive to maintain a good relationship with our neighbours, and so to this end we ask that you park considerately and do not



obstruct driveways of nearby houses. We have also had reports of parked vehicles being knocked and damaged by cars driving past.

We regularly discuss with the children about the importance of being both community minded and a good neighbour. We hope that you will support us with this by giving careful consideration to where and how you are parking.

## Parentmail Tips

**Mobile App.** We would recommend that you download the Parentmail app to your mobile phone as it enables parents to see messages, make online payments, book parents' evening appointments and give consent for trips and visits. Please search for the free Parentmail PMX app in the App store on an iPhone or Play Store if you have an Android phone.

**Dinner Money Payments.** When you wish to top up your child's dinner money account, you will need to enter the amount you wish to pay. If you do not enter an amount the system will assume zero and so the account will not be topped up. Lunches for children in KS2 currently cost £2.20 per day and are free for children in FS, Year 1 and Year 2.

**Additional Help.** The school office staff are happy to help you if you are experiencing any difficulties with Parentmail.

**Miss Copson, Mrs Jones and Mrs Chapman**

## School Uniform Orders

We have arranged for the school to place a uniform order with One Stop Schoolgear on **Friday 12th January** without any delivery charge.

If you would like to order any school uniform please either visit the One Stop Schoolgear website [www.onestopschoolgear.com](http://www.onestopschoolgear.com) or complete the order form sent on Parentmail and return it to the school office, with a cheque made payable to One Stop Schoolgear, before **Friday 12th January**.

The ordered uniform should arrive at the school by the end of January and will be handed to your child to bring home. Any orders placed on the website after 12th January will be subject to the usual delivery charge.

## Artsmark Award

On 13<sup>th</sup> October we were delighted to be awarded the Artsmark Silver Award. The award reflects the hard work and enthusiasm put in by children and staff in the creative arts over the past two years. It recognises our commitment as a school to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding of arts and culture.

**Miss Bennett**

## Year 6 Team Maths Competition

On Tuesday 21st November, Daisy, Isobel, Jack and Spiros took part in a team maths competition at Leicester Grammar School.

The competition consisted of four rounds: a speed round, countdown, problem solving circus and a relay.

The maths was challenging but our pupils excelled themselves and finished in 2nd place out of 12 teams. They were just two points behind the overall winners.

Well done to our Year 6 pupils!



**Mr O'Connell**

## Dogs Around School

Please can we remind parents to refrain from tying their dogs up around the outside of the school grounds. We have recently been advised of an incident when an unattended dog snapped at a child walking past. Having children constantly walk past is often very exciting for the dog but can be quite threatening for many children.

## Year 5 Visit Saddington Grange Nursing Home

On Friday 13th October, Year 5 walked to Saddington to perform some World War Two songs to the residents of Saddington Grange Residential home.

The residents and staff all commented on the children's fantastic singing and their exemplary behaviour. We have

been invited back to sing at a future date (to be confirmed).

One of the highlights was, as we were leaving, one of the residents told us that hearing the songs brought back his fond memories of his time as an evacuee during World War Two.

Well done to all the children and a massive thank you to the parents and relatives who walked with us.



**Mrs Goode**

## Year 6 Warning Zone

Earlier this term, Year 6 went to Warning Zone in Leicester. Warning Zone aims to teach children about risk, the consequences of their actions, peer pressure, e-safety and personal responsibility. It is designed specifically for Year 6 children to help prepare them for increased independence and the transition to Secondary School.

They also learnt about e-safety and what some online dangers are. They had a fantastic day, heard lots of important messages, thoroughly enjoyed joining in with all of the activities and behaved brilliantly throughout the day.

**Miss Panter and Mr O'Connell**



## Musical Notes

The KS2 choir have been extremely busy over the past half term, preparing for our various Christmas 'gigs'!

Our first performance was at the school's Christmas Fair, where the children sang a variety of traditional carols and songs to a warm and enthusiastic audience. We then enjoyed sharing the joyful Star Carol by John Rutter with the congregation at the school's Christmas services.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to a final festive 'hurrah' at Leicester Grammar School, where we will perform carols accompanied by Kibworth Centenary Band. A huge well done to all of our wonderful singers!

**Miss Hamilton**

## Foundation Stage Blog

We have set up a new blog for Foundation Stage which allows us to keep parents updated with everything that happens in our Foundation Stage.



The blog will be updated regularly with new pictures of our exciting role play areas, special events and activities and pupils of the week.

To find our blog just go to our school website, click on Useful Information, Key Stage Information and then the Foundation Stage blogger link.

## Book Fair

The magnificent sum of £1410.26 commission was raised which will enable us to have even more books in school. Thank you to everyone for your support.



## Year 2 Visit to New Walk Museum and Leicester Market

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Year 2 staff and children went on a very special day trip to the New Walk Museum and also Leicester Market.

Half of the day was spent exploring the museum, finding facts and investigating Dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, the

Wild Space and Leicester's local artists in the gallery. The children learnt a lot and particularly enjoyed seeing the mummies and tombs!

The other half of the day involved a fun, festive visit to Leicester Market, the food market and the new Christmas Market. We were met by the Market Officer who showed us around the market, telling us all about the different produce.

The children were also given the opportunity to go and purchase some fruit to take back to school. We chopped the fruit during our Design and Technology cutting skills lesson.

A wonderful chilly day was had by all! We were very impressed by the behaviour and enthusiasm of the children during the cold day and received some very complimentary feedback from the market staff. Well done Year 2!

**Mrs Headley**



## French Speaking Contest

For the second year running, Fleckney children took part in the local schools' French Speaking Contest held at Robert Smyth Academy. Four children from Year 6 – Izzy R, Isabelle B, Ruby P and Kian competed against children from our local network of schools (St Cuthberts, Billesdon, Hallaton, Church Langton and Foxton). All children were outstanding; we are extremely proud of their performance.

A special mention to Isabelle who was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Bravo!

**Mrs Galpin**

## Christmas Dinner

Children and staff enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13th December. Christmas songs were playing, lunchtime staff wore festive hats and decorations, and support and teaching staff were in the hall to help, many sporting Christmas jumpers too!

A huge thank you to our wonderful cook, Ann, and her team for an amazing meal .

Thanks to all children having a set meal pattern, we were able to ensure that everyone had their full complement of turkey, sprouts and pudding!



## Year 4 Trip to Sparkenhoe

Following our successful Year 5 link with Sparkenhoe Primary School in Leicester, a link between the Year 4s has now been established.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Year 4 was invited to spend the day at Sparkenhoe Primary School.

The day consisted of a morning of 'team building' activities; the children made new friends and worked on character

strengths such as perseverance, collaboration, kindness, creativity and communication.

During the afternoon, the Sparkenhoe Year 4 children put on a superb performance (in their community theatre) about Diwali.

Yet again, it was a fantastic day and the Sparkenhoe children and staff were all fantastic hosts. We now look forward to the return trip in the spring term, when the Sparkenhoe children will visit us here in Fleckney.



**Mrs Galpin**

## Gym Club Trip to Kettering Gymnastics Club

All members of the School Gymnastics Club spent a morning at Kettering Gym Club, taking part in a training session run by three club coaches.

The children got to use a range of specialist equipment; competition apparatus as well as the air-track and trampette.



It was a truly successful morning, the children, Mr Scranage and Mrs Larvor thoroughly enjoyed themselves, whilst learning and achieving some new moves.

**Mrs Galpin**

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



We were pleased to be able to support this year's Poppy appeal. We raised the fantastic total of £481.84.

We held a Remembrance assembly which included a two minute silence on Friday 10th November.

## St Nicholas Assembly

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, Year 4 presented a special assembly to parents, visitors and the remainder of the school, in which we remembered and celebrated St Nicholas. This kind and caring saint has special significance for Fleckney's St Nicholas Church and for our school.

The children dramatised a couple of the many legends surrounding St Nicholas, performed a St Nicholas rap, watched a video clip of our visit to the Church and highlighted St Nicholas' key message of the importance of giving to those in need without seeking thanks or praise. All of the children enjoyed learning about this important figure and did a fantastic job of sharing their knowledge with their audience. Well done!

**Mrs Allen**

## LOROS Yellow Day

Following an assembly when we heard about the magnificent work that LOROS carry out, we were pleased to be able to support this worthwhile charity by joining in with their Yellow Day. The children and staff came to school in a wide array of yellow clothing and accessories, raising £223.86. Several of our Year 6 children also organised a cake sale after school, raising an additional £62.05!

## FSA Christmas Fair

There was a wonderful, festive atmosphere in school at our well-attended Christmas Fair, with a wide variety of stalls and activities as well as Father Christmas in his grotto.

The magnificent sum of £1281.92 was raised which will be used to fund projects and extras to enhance our children's learning experience. Thank you to our FSA for the effort they put in throughout the year.

The FSA certainly appreciated all the volunteers who came forward to help at the fair.

## Children in Need



To offer our continued support to 'Children in Need' this year on Friday 17th November, children were invited to come to school wearing something to represent what they enjoy doing, as this year's Children in Need theme was 'Do Your Thing'. We raised an impressive £288.21! Several of the Year 5 and 6 children organised cake sales which raised an additional £110.00!

## Diary Dates

### December

Weds 20th Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children  
Last day of term

### January

Tues 9th First day of term  
Weds 10th First Yr2 swim session  
First Yr6 group 3 cooking session  
Thurs 11th KS2 cinema trip  
Fri 12th Yr6 Leics Police workshop  
First Yr3 Mandarin lesson  
Mon 15th First Yr2 gym club session  
Closing date for FS 2018 primary school admissions  
Tues 16th First archery club session  
First spring term Taiko club  
Thurs 18th First Yr6 touch typing club  
Sat 27th Yr 4,5,6 STEM Conference  
Mon 29th Yr5 Aylmerton residential  
to Fri 2nd

### February

Tues 6th FS & Yr 6 National Child Measurement Programme  
Weds 7th Final Yr2 swim session  
Final Yr6 Group 3 cooking club  
Yr4 Edale residential  
Weds 7th to Fri 9th  
Fri 9th Final Yr3 Mandarin lesson  
School closes for half term  
Half term  
Mon 12th to Fri 16th  
Mon 19th School reopens after half term  
Final Archery club  
Weds 21st First Yr5 swim session  
First Yr6 Group 4 cooking club

## School Terms and Holidays 2017–2019

### Autumn Term 2017

*School Closes*  
Weds 20th December

### Spring Term 2018

*School Opens*  
Tues 9th January  
*Mid Term Break*  
Mon 12th—Fri 16th February  
*School Closes*  
Fri 23rd March

### Summer Term 2018

*School opens*  
Mon 9th April  
*May Day*  
Mon 7th May  
*Mid Term Break*  
Mon 28th May—Fri 1st June  
*School Closes*  
Fri 13th July

### Autumn Term 2018

*School Opens*  
Weds 29th August  
*Mid Term Break*  
Mon 15th—Mon 22nd October  
*School Closes*  
Fri 21st December

### Spring Term 2019

*School Opens*  
Tues 8th January  
*Mid Term Break*  
Mon 18th—Fri 22nd February  
*School Closes*  
Fri 12th April

### Summer Term 2019

*School opens*  
Mon 29th April  
*May Day*  
Mon 6th May  
*Mid Term Break*  
Mon 27th May—Fri 31st May  
*School Closes*  
Fri 12th July