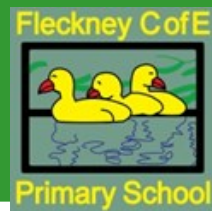


Fleckney School Newsletter

December 2023



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

Well done to all of the children and all of the staff this term.

This newsletter celebrates some of the excellent learning and extra activities that the children have taken part in over this very long half term. At nine weeks it's certainly the longest half term, that I can remember.

It has also been wonderful to see the return of the Christmas Fair and the school discos this term. These are great events for the children, parents and wider community.

On behalf of the school I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a restful Christmas break.

Best wishes

Mr. Leah

Early Finish Friday 22nd December

Please remember we finish early at 1.30pm on this last Friday.

Sponsored Walk

What a successful day we had, walking with buddy classes and raising funds to buy more books for school. We would like to say a huge **thank you** to you all for supporting your children and supporting our school – it really is appreciated. We raised a super **£2,533.85**.

Prizes have been awarded to the children who raised the most money in each year group. Thank you to EVERYONE who took part!

Mrs. Galpin



Year 6 Update

At the start of this half term, we took 51 of our year 6 children to PGL, Lincolnshire for a week of outdoor adventure. The children had a fantastic week and thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities including: canoeing, abseiling, archery, giant swing, fencing and Jacob's ladder. The staff were very impressed with the bravery, teamwork and behaviour of all the children on the trip. Well done!

In our English lessons, we have studied Berlie Doherty's *Street Child* and written argument texts about whether or not children should have mobile phones. During Maths lessons, we have looked at geometry (properties of 2D shapes) and measurement (converting between different units and area/perimeter). The children have worked really hard to learn all of the different vocabulary that they need to remember in these topics. Science lessons have focussed on the human body - our circulatory system and digestive systems. We have been impressed with the science knowledge that the children have demonstrated throughout. In geography, we have learnt about climate change and how it is affecting different parts of our planet. Finally, in RE, we have been studying Hinduism - learning about karma, reincarnation and Gandhi. It has been a very busy but enjoyable half term.



Mr. O'Connell and Mrs. Korla

Year 5 DioSing (Diocese Singing)

Over the past ten weeks, Year 5 have been learning to sing an Evensong service at church. Following the expert guidance of Leicester Cathedral's director of music, Mr Ouvery-Johns (Mr O-J), the children have learned to read music, sing in time together and hit the right notes. He taught them the meaning of the Latin words in the 'Nunc Dimittis' and the bible story of Simeon which it refers to.

It was marvellous to see the children's singing improve over the weeks, whilst also having a lot of fun singing songs such as 'Alice the Camel' and 'Roller Ghoster' at the end of each session.

The Evensong service took place at church on Friday 1st December. Father Phillip officiated, with Mr O-J conducting and his colleague Miss Vinter, playing the organ. It was a lovely service; the children read clearly and sang beautifully. Due to the acoustics, it sounded even better than it did in the school hall and created a real sense of occasion.

It was great to see many family members and friends of school in the congregation. At the end of the service, Mr Leah praised the children for their singing and thanked all of the adults who contributed to it.



Mr. Pullen

Year 2 Update

On Wednesday 6th December the Year 2 children performed 'A Miracle in Town' to a packed hall of parents and carers. After weeks of rehearsals, costume fittings and prop making, the children did an amazing job of sharing the story of Christmas. Their singing was beautiful, their acting expressive and their speaking loud and clear.

As well as performing to their families, we also held two performances to the school. It was wonderful to see all of our children thoroughly enjoy their time on the stage and take an active part in our annual event.

We hope that everyone who came to watch enjoyed the show. Thank you to Mr. Baum for coming to play the piano, and to Mrs. Holman for her huge efforts behind the scenes.

Miss Baum and Mrs Webb



Christmas Service – Let Your Light Shine

What a lovely Christmas service at St Nicholas church this year. We were reminded of Jesus being the light of the world and how we, in lots of different ways, can bring light into other people's lives. Father Philip also spoke about how the things we love about Christmas - presents, food, parties - all eventually fade away, but Jesus's light, shining in His love for us, will never fade.

Some of our Year 3 and Year 5 children led readings and prayers and lit candles on the tree – every child did a wonderful job. Mr. Baum, on the keyboard, accompanied our singing, in which we excelled this year (thanks to Mrs. Goode's regular singing practice assemblies).

Our school continues to grow and we now have four services at church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter, so that every child at Fleckney C of E can attend worship. This takes much commitment from all our volunteers, including Mr. Baum, and another 'thank you' goes to Mrs. Binczak and Mrs. Bishop for being there to support us in every service.



Mrs Fremmer

Year 6 Football

On Tuesday 31st October, the Year 6 football team assembled for their first Rice Bowl match of the year. Unfortunately, the opposition did not arrive to play the match. Undeterred, the children played a six-a-side friendly match against each other. Both teams played well, demonstrating some good passing skills and teamwork. Thank you to Mr. Freeman (the team coach), Max (an ex-pupil) for refereeing, Mrs. Cordiner and Miss Philp for first aid and support.



Thank you to the parents who came to watch the match and the children, who played with such enthusiasm. Well done!

Mr. Pullen

Girls' Football

It has been a very busy term for the girls' football team. We have played in three tournaments this term. On Tuesday 17th October we took a year 5 team over to Market Harborough to play in the first league event of the year. The girls worked really hard and didn't give up against some tough opposition. It was a good first experience for some of our year 5 girls who haven't played competitive football before.

On Tuesday 21st November we took a team of Year 6's to the second league event. The girls played superbly as a team and came away with three wins! We are doing well in the league



and our final tournament for this will be played in March. Some of the Year 5 and 6 girls took part in an additional tournament this term with Leicester City in the Community. This is organised by the Premier League and gives Primary Schools a chance at

representing their county at a national event. The girls won all their games in this first Leicestershire round playing primary schools across Leicester including Braunstone, Knighton and Gaddesby. They go on to play in the Leicestershire Final in January to see if we can be the Primary School to represent Leicestershire in the regional event later next year. Well done girls!

Mrs. Thurman

Dojo Points

Wow children – another incredible half term. This half term you have worked so hard collecting positive behaviour points. This half term alone, one child gained an impressive 113 Dojo points!



The entire school staff team have enjoyed spotting children behaving beautifully and following our school rules. Children, you are so polite and kind as well as being ready and eager too – keep this up! Even if you didn't score the highest this time, we're proud of all of your

efforts - you make our school a special place to be.

The children who have obtained the highest dojo reward points for this half term have been invited to share cookies with Mr. Leah. I think Mr Leah enjoys this reward time as much as the children!

Mrs. Allen

October Cross Country

On Thursday 12th October, thirty-six children travelled to Market Harborough to take part in the cross country running event. As always, it was a great event with schools from around the area taking part.

All of the children demonstrated great enthusiasm and determination to run as quickly as they could. The pace of the races seemed to have increased, particularly for the older children but it was great to see Fleckney children striving to be the best that they can be. Staff also commented upon how polite the children were and the good manners they used. It was particularly good to see a real team spirit among our runners. They encouraged each other before the races, cheered each other on and ran alongside their team mates as they finished.

We are often asked how many children compete in each race. We now have the numbers for this event. Y3 girls: 58, boys: 87, Y4 girls 59, boys 88, Y5 girls 60, boys 76, Y6 girls 50, boys 48. Thank you to Mr. O'Connell, Mrs. Pullen and Mrs. Hughes for helping me at this event. Well done to all who took part. We look forward to seeing you all at the next races on February 8th.



Mr. Pullen

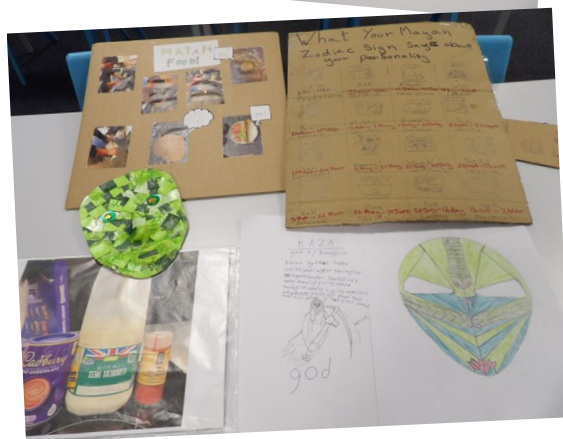
Year 5 Update

In Year 5 we have been discovering how metaphors and similes are used in poetry and have had fun using them in imaginative ways. We have studied the life of Harriet Tubman, who was an American civil rights activist and written our own biographies of her. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions and using our multiplication skills to find equivalent fractions. This term, in PE, we have learned to pass effectively in Tag Rugby and Netball and been creating our own version of the Maori Haka.

Year 5 have been enjoying our recent science lessons on the topic of Earth and Space. Our recent science lesson involved exploring our universe. We learnt about how the Earth and other planets in our universe move around. We studied works of astronauts such as Copernicus and Kepler. We also found out how the gravity of the Sun keeps the planets in their orbit.

We have also been studying Mayan history and comparing how their history related to other societies of the period. We have learnt about their society and culture. This culminated in our history Showcase where we were able to display and discuss our models, drawings, masks, and Mayan food.

Mrs. Wright, Mr. Pullen, Mrs. Headley & Miss Ganda



Kindness Cup

This half term, Mrs. Marshall (our former chair of Governors and benefactor of the cup) joined us in a special assembly to present the kindness cup. The award was presented by Mrs. Marshall and the previous winner Maisie to our new winner for this half term, Mia in 2HB. This is what Miss. Baum had to say about Mia:

Mia is a quiet, thoughtful and valued member of 2HB. She treats everyone in the class with kindness, respect and is always looking for a way to help others. Whether it is quietly following instructions, locating lost items or supporting other children on her table, Mia uses her empathetic skills to sensibly support everyone. She does so in an unassuming and non-showy way, not seeking praise and just being the superstar she is. We see you Mia and we appreciate all that you do and all that you are.

Well done to Mia – what a worthy winner, we are so proud of you!



Mrs. Allen

Wellbeing Ambassadors

We are two of the wellbeing ambassadors for Fleckney School along with Joe W. and Imogen D. We applied for this position by writing a letter to Mrs. Dodwell explaining why we would be good to do this particular role. After we were selected, we attended a training session at Kibworth Grammar School Hall to learn about how we can help all the children in our school with their wellbeing and to help make our school a better place to be.

Since we have come back from our training, we have been super busy planning and having a weekly meeting talking about different things that we can do to make our school a better place.



So far, we have given every child in school a protective handprint to help them to remember the five people that they can trust if they are struggling with their wellbeing.

We have also designed a care bear to be our mascot. This bear has kind features including a heart on the eye and chest. It has also been designed in the Fleckney School colours. We wanted to have the whole school to vote what the care bear's name would be. After the vote, Winnie was a clear winner with 89 votes in total.

Winston, Willow and William however, were very close behind.

We are very happy to be part of this role; hope to see bigger and more exciting things to come in the future.

This article has been written by Ned M. and Sophia L. from Year 6

Year 1 Update

What an amazing half term we have had in Year 1!

The children have been very busy with their learning, along with the special activities we have had too.

The children were really excited to perform their special assembly of 'Christmas Traditions' to parents and carers. They really impressed us with their willingness to speak in front of an audience, learning their lines and singing our festive songs to the delight of all.

We are so proud of their hard work and the super performance they gave.



Mrs. Pullen

Foundation Stage Update

Foundation Stage have spent this half term learning about Traditional Tales, the characters within them, acting out the stories, getting involved in the activities on offer linked to these tales, such as practicing our cutting, writing about the stories and making Gingerbread Man calendars.

We celebrated the Hindu Festival of Diwali, by dressing up in saris and making a diva lamp. We used the rice and sequins to make Rangoli patterns. In our Maths we went on a shape hunt



around school to see if we could spot circles and triangles. We found quite a lot! We had to talk about, "why is this shape a triangle?" As we prepare for Christmas the children have had the opportunity to make salt dough decorations, make paper chains, and take part in our Tree of Advent every day. We have also had to wait to see what the "Naughty Elf" has done each morning!

Mrs. Teear

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, support and teaching staff were in the hall helping the children and the office team were the washing up squad!

A huge thank you to our kitchen team for such an amazing meal, their hard work is much appreciated. Yet again the food was of a superb standard. We are very lucky to have such a talented kitchen team.



Mrs. Jones

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



We were pleased to be able to support this year's Poppy appeal, raising the fantastic sum of £461.92.

We held a remembrance assembly on the playground which included a two minute silence on Friday 10th November.

Year 3

We have had an incredibly busy, fun and productive half term in Year 3. The children have been looking at some absolutely fabulous literature under our English 'Wonderfully Wild' theme. Books have included: The Butterfly Lion, Who are you calling Weird? and The Great Kapok Tree. Children have explored: life on the African Plains, the fantastic creatures which make up our world, and have created their own weird and wonderful creatures. Writing outcomes have entailed: informal letters,



non-chronological reports, character and setting descriptions. Also on an African theme, our children have been studying the work of Kenyan artist Gakonga and have produced their own compositions reflecting the joy of the Kenyan tribal lifestyle through colour, dance and music.

Our children took on the role of Seismologists in geography this half term studying earthquakes. In science, we have been

focusing on rocks and soil where our Year 3 children became geologists and took part in a chocolate challenge comparing the structure of different types of rock to the structures of Twirl, Double Decker, Mint Aero, Ripple, Chunky Kit Kat and Crunchie chocolate bars. In R.E., we have been thinking about what it is like to follow God, in particular looking at the lives of Noah and Abraham in the Old Testament and thinking about modern day Christians who give up everything to follow God's call. The children are beginning to show a wonderful ability to think carefully and discuss issues sensitively. Maths this half term has included formal calculation methods and hands on practical work using equipment with the skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also visited 2-d shape, looked at angles and turns and studied parallel and perpendicular lines.

We are also extremely proud of our Year 3 children's artistic skills that were called upon for our school's entry to St Nicholas' Church Christmas Tree Festival. Working with Mrs Watt, they created the decorations for our winning Artistree.



Mrs. Styles

Fleckney School Association

Thank you to the FSA for all the fundraising they have carried out this term.

It was wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces as they attended the first Christmas discos since 2019. The Christmas Fair at the end of November was a great hit with both children and adults. Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, the FSA raised over £2000. The samosa sale on 11th December was a big success, 300 samosas were sold in under 15 minutes!

Thank you to all the FSA team for giving up their time to support the school, your efforts are much appreciated.

If you think you might be able to support the FSA then please do get in touch with them at fsateam@outlook.com (even the smallest, infrequent offers of help go a long way to help).

Mrs. Jones

Primary Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Kian, Ella, Bradley, Imogen, Oscar in Year 6 as well as Vyan, Azalea and Noah in Year 5 who took part in a national competition - the 'Primary Maths challenge' at Welland Park Academy over two successive Wednesday mornings in November.

All eight of our Fleckney children conducted themselves brilliantly during the competition in terms of their attitude to learning and all of them achieved fantastic results in the competition. A huge well done – we are very proud of you all and your amazing maths skills!

Mr. O'Connell

Year 4 Update

Year 4 have had a super half term and have all been working very hard - from travelling back in time to Ancient Rome, learning the technique of pointillism in art, to studying all about animals and their habitats in science. We have had many exciting experiences including a Zoom call with the author Nicola Davies and a video link with the CEO of the RSPB. We all thoroughly enjoyed talking to both of these fascinating people about their jobs. It left us all feeling very inspired.



The children have been working very hard in PE and Music – learning a dance routine and studying Musical Theatre. We are very excited to show all our hard work off to parents at the end of term in our 'Nativity' showcase.

The whole team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to another successful half term in the new year.

Mrs. Galpin, Mrs. Hipkin and Miss Battersby

Children in Need



We had a fantastic day with lots of spots and Pudsey bears. The children had a great time searching the school and counting how many Pudsey bears they could find hiding! The cake sales proved very popular too, with our Year 6 volunteers doing a tremendous job running the stalls. Altogether we raised £477.53 for this worthy cause. Thank you to everyone for their support and to Mrs. Pullen and Mr. Pullen for arranging the Pudsey hunt and the cake sales.

Mrs. Jones

Diary Dates

December

Thurs 21st Yr4 Christmas party am
Yr5 Christmas party pm
2.30-3.10pm FS parents
singalong
Fri 22nd Last day of term — school
closes at 1.30pm
Yr3 Christmas party am

January

Mon 8th School reopens
First KS2 Science club
Weds 10th First 3RF swim session
Tues 30th Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm
Weds 31st Parents' Evening 3.30-5.00pm

February

Sat 3rd KS2 STEM conference at RSA
Weds 7th to Yr4 Edale residential
Fri 9th
Weds 7th Final 3RF swim session
Weds 14th First 3JS swim session
Fri 16th Last day of half term
Mon 19th to Half term
Fri 23rd
Mon 26th School reopens after half term

Stop Press! Year 6 v. Staff Football Match

The annual Year 6 v. Staff football match took place on Wednesday 20th December ending in a win for the Year 6 team, the final score was 3:2. The match was won with a last minute penalty by the Year 6 team.

Mr Baum, our referee, stated that it was a keenly played match with great skill displayed by both teams.

We would like to thank Mr Baum for refereeing the match for us again this year.

Mrs. Jones

School Terms and Holidays 2023—2024

Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

School Opens

Tues 29th August

Mid Term Break

Mon 16th—Fri 20th October

School Closes

Fri 22nd December **1.30pm**

Spring Term 2024

School Opens

Mon 8th January

Mid Term Break

Mon 19th—Fri 23rd February

School Closes

Fri 22nd March

Summer Term 2024

School opens

Mon 8th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Mon 6th May

Mid Term Break

Mon 27th — Fri 31st May

School Closes

Tues 9th July **1.30pm**

Provisional Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

School Opens

Tues 27th August

Mid Term Break

Mon 21st—Fri 25th October

School Closes

Fri 20th December **1.30pm**

Spring Term 2025

School Opens

Mon 6th January

Mid Term Break

Mon 17th—Fri 21st February

School Closes

Fri 11th April

Summer Term 2025

School opens

Mon 28th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Mon 5th May

Mid Term Break

Mon 26th — Fri 30th May

School Closes

Tues 8th July **1.30pm**

