

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

Dear Parents/Carers

What a fabulous end to the term with some magical Christmas events across the school over the last two weeks. We started the Christmas festivities with our first Christingle service in school last Tuesday. This was attended by all pupils, staff, governors and other visitors to the school. We also enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner last Friday and the children looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers. Thank you for the generous donations we received for both of these events. The donations for the Christmas jumper day will be sent to 'Save the Children' and the Christingle donations will go to 'The Children's Society'.

Our Christmas performances started last Thursday and we have put on a total of 9 shows to different groups of parents and carers over the last week. I am so proud of all the children and how they performed with such enthusiasm and joy. It has also been a real challenge to coordinate all the rehearsals, for different age groups, across the school. Special thanks to the staff for organising these events so carefully.

The KS1 performance of 'I'm Gonna Shine' was really special and the children were all stars! They all looked brilliant in their costumes and the singing and acting was incredible. For these children, it was the first time they have been able to perform live to an adult audience since they have been in school. They were not phased this and put on a fabulous show!

The Year 3+4 children then performed a brilliant production called 'Children of the World' which linked with our Collective Worship theme of Global Christianity. We were taken around the world to find out about Christmas traditions in other countries. Once again, the singing and acting was incredible with some beautiful harmonies and small groups of singers. The confidence and energy in this performance was incredible. The children looked like they really enjoyed themselves.

On Tuesday we were treated to the Early Years performances which were truly magical. The children added such personality to their lines, singing and dancing. This was their very first performance in school and they loved it! The added waves, messages to family members and joy on their faces made the performances extra special.

Finally, on Wednesday our Year 5+6 children delighted us with their Christmas performance. The children gave some interesting facts about Christmas along with telling us the meaning of Christmas and singing a range of songs. Once again, the children clearly enjoyed the opportunity to perform to a live audience and did very well.

On Thursday, the children enjoyed their party day which consisted of a range of party activities and a party lunch. We also enjoyed a special visit from Father Christmas who kindly delivered a present to every child in the school. Thank you to the Friends of the School for helping to organise this and looking after Father Christmas during his visit to us.

Today, we look forward to our end of term Christmas celebration where staff perform the nativity story to the children. This will be followed by our outstanding work assembly later today.

I have loved every minute of my first term at Worlingham and I am so proud to be the Headteacher. The children are amazing and a real credit to you all. It is such a privilege to chat to the children and hear their lovely manners and kind words. Thank you very much to the parents and carers for the amazing support and kindness you have showed me this term. Special thanks also to the incredible staff team at Worlingham who have warmly welcomed me and supported me so well this term. The staff are so caring and talented and it has been really enjoyable to work alongside them and get to know them this term. Thank you to our Governors and support from the Ministry Team of Beccles this term.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the whole school community a joyful and relaxing Christmas and send my very best wishes for a happy, healthy and wonderful new year.

Yours sincerely
Holly Marchand, Headteacher

Highlights of the Autumn Term

Early Years

This term, the Kingfishers and Greenfinches have really enjoyed learning about the Nativity story. We were so proud to perform our Hoedown Nativity to the whole school and our grown-ups. Our confidence and independence is building and we look forward to seeing this continue in the Spring term.

Key Stage 1

We have been so proud of the children this term. They all settled well into their classes at the start of term and finished the term with their amazing performances in 'I'm Gonna Shine'.

We have enjoyed learning about the seven continents in Geography and learning about explorers. We hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in the Spring term.

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 and 4 have had a fantastic Autumn term! We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to West Stow learning about the Anglo-Saxons, our spectacular Christmas play which we all had lots of fun with, and our practical circuit work in Science where we created our own switches. We have completed some amazing English work based on the BFG, and have loved learning to speak French! Feliz Navidad year 3 and 4!

Upper Key Stage 2

Another brilliant calendar year has come to an end, and Year 5/6 have been really busy with their Christmas productions during the last two weeks of term. The pupils recently enjoyed applying for a job as Santa's Elf using some persuasive writing skills. Other notable learning has been the science work on forces where the pupils made parachutes; they enjoyed learning that the Battle of Britain was a significant turning point in WWII; and in geography, they really enjoyed a field study done in the local area of Worlingham.

Other enriching experiences included our Y6 visit to Kingswood; an arts trip to Sir John Leman; a visit to Crucial Crew to learn about physical and online safety; and the harvest festival and remembrance assemblies, wonderfully rounded off by a school community Christingle service.

Update on our School Vision and Bible Verse

As you are aware from our previous newsletters, we have been discussing our school vision, including bible verse, to ensure all children and adults can remember and understand it. We have had several suggestions put forward by staff and governors. The overwhelming favourite has been:

Rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:17)

Staff and governors like this bible verse because they feel it is inclusive and can mean different things to different people. Love could refer to Jesus' love, a love of learning, love for family and friends, love of the world / environment etc. They like the link to the tree and the acorn emblem that is our school logo.

This week, the school councillors have been asking the pupils whether they prefer the above suggestion or if they would rather keep the previous bible verse which is:

Like a tree, planted by streams of water, in all that we do, we will prosper. (Based on Psalm 1:1-3)

Staff and pupils like the link with trees in this bible verse but many said they found it hard to remember. If you have any thoughts on either of the two bible verses above, please email the school office.

