



Newsletter

December 2020



Tuesday 15th December, Christmas Dinner and.....



It has been really good to read so many positive things happening in school this term in spite of all the restrictions. I am really proud of the pupils' hard work and it is lovely to see them enjoying themselves with their friends. As always it is a credit to the staff who have worked so hard to provide work and fun activities to make school as normal as possible and to parents and carers who encourage and support their children to come to school.

Remote learning

We continue to provide work for any of our pupils who may be self-isolating. We have a learning platform in place called Google Classroom so teachers can send work and feedback to pupils. We use this sometimes in lessons, so pupils are familiar with it. We also use TEAMS so that pupils are able to say hello and chat to their class. For those pupils who prefer to use paper we have packs of work to send out too. If you have problems accessing Google Classroom or the Internet or want to find out more then please ring school or email as we can help you!

Have a lovely and safe Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs C Clay



Merry Christmas from the office team!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their support throughout such a difficult year. We have had lots of lovely donations towards our Christmas raffle which we are really looking forward to drawing next week on Christmas dinner day.....don't forget your jumpers!!!

*Wendy, Michelle, Lesley,
Sue, Emily and Rozi*



We want all our students to remain safe and well during the Christmas Holidays.

Whilst they may spend more time at home, some students may miss the routine of school - even more so after an extended period of time away from us. Help and advice for issues such as loneliness, arguments at home with siblings and other problems, can be found on the Childline website and can be accessed by children as well as parents and carers. For more information, please visit <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/seasonal-events/christmas/>

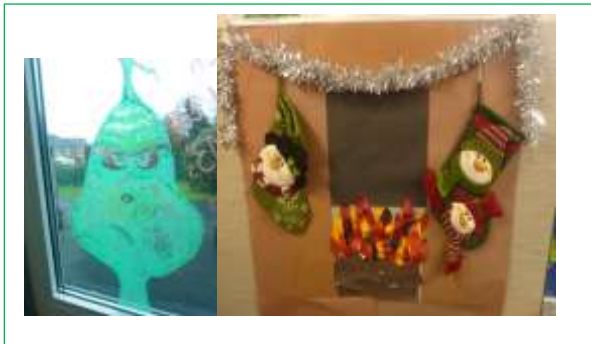


Class news!



U1 D&T

We are super pleased to be able to begin cooking again, this term we have been cooking curry, some of the children are looking forward to baking cakes next term and others making a 'real' cheesecake and a fake one so Mrs B can sample it.



M3

M3 have been working hard over the last half term – algebra, war poetry and weather and climate to name a few things. However, we have found plenty of time to turn our classroom into Santa's grotto, albeit a little earlier than normal! Miss Gardner and the pupils have really enjoyed decorating the classroom and making homemade decorations. We have even had a bit of competition with Maple, who were so bitter, that they pinched some of our decorations which is where the inspiration for the Grinch came from! (Thanks Miss Lewis and Maple children!!)

We are looking forward to celebrating our good behaviour and the Christmas season, with our class party on Friday 18th December.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas!

Miss Williams, Mr Bastow and Miss Gardner

Maple

Hi everyone,

**IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS
WOOHOO!!**



Maple are in full swing of their Christmas celebrations. We have our classroom decorated and have lots of arts and crafts planned to see us through to the end of the school term. The class are still doing well and are coping excellently with all the small changes still happening around school, staff in Maple are super proud so keep up the hard work guys!

We are all looking forward to our Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day to get us in the full Christmas spirit.

We hope that you all have a great Christmas, celebrate with family and friends the best you can and eat all the lovely food that Christmas brings.

We will look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year!

From Miss Hopewell, Miss Lewis & Miss Chilton.

M1

Another great half term for M1 pupils, so well done!

This half term we have covered interesting topics across the subjects. Science has been a favourite, as we have looked at the topic of Energy. We have had the opportunity to bake, in which the children made cupcakes, pizzas and focaccia-yummy! The pupils have now fully settled in and are thriving with their work, so let us keep this up!

We hope you all have a magical Christmas and indulge in lots of food, we look forward to seeing you next year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Miss Chaggar, Miss Hopps and Miss Staton



Beech

In Beech class this term we have enjoyed making Christmas decorations and some socially distanced games. We even found out we were all quite good at sewing.

Mrs Birkin



M2

We have had another great half term in M2, all children are coming out of their shells and enjoying school. We have made use of the DT kitchen and made many tasty treats. We have also had chance to learn archery in the forest school and chill out in our hammocks.

M2 are looking forward to doing Christmas activities as the term comes to an end and wishing for a positive new year.

Merry Christmas everyone!!



M4



This term M4 have all been working very hard and produced some lovely English work! The boys have also taken part in group reading and learning about the war in poetry.

The class have enjoyed making Christmas crafts and had a great time making models with our new Lego sets. It has been a strange year for everyone and M4 have adapted well to the changes in School.

Enjoy the Christmas holidays and we will see you in 2021!!

Merry Christmas from all in M4!

U3

Wow! What an unusual year 2020 has been!

Since September U3 have been in school, in isolation (over half term), back into school, in isolation again and then back to school – it's no wonder we are all a little more crazy 😊

Well done to all of you, you have taken the changes in your stride and made the best of what we can offer in school. As a class team, we laugh every day and have learned not to take things too seriously. You have put up with Miss Slack and Mr Rowland, with a sprinkle of Mrs Moulton and Mr Carty – you all deserve a medal!

We have learned how to work remotely using google classroom and even got our parents involved – The support and patience you have shown to Miss Slack as she learned how to add new work to our virtual class has been amazing – it hasn't been easy at times as learning something new never is, but you have stuck with it and produced some lovely results. You have also learned to laugh at Mr Rowland's jokes – the older he gets, the worse his jokes are.... just imagine what is to come 😊

Whilst we haven't had a full class as yet, we have gained a lovely new boy and are keeping everything crossed that we have our full compliment very soon. We have some exciting things planned for 2021.

We would like to say a massive thank you for just being you!

Have a lovely Christmas, don't forget to check that Santa is wearing his face mask!

Miss Slack, Mr Rowland, Mrs Moulton, and Mr Carty.



U5

Yay to making it through another difficult term!

The pupils in U5 have been absolute superstars dealing with all of the changes throughout school.

In English, the pupils have been preparing for their Entry Level exams by completing practice papers and conducting research projects about healthy eating and making a leaflet to promote it; 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away.'

Maths has been testing our brains as normal, the pupils have been excelling at Numeracy Ninja and have understood percentages and can work out a method to find percentages of an amount independently. 100% effort guys, well done!

In history pupils have been studying Black History Month and have learnt about the lives of some important black figures throughout history such as Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Dr Martin Luther King. *U5 all have a dream that they want life to be back to 'normal' again as soon as possible.*

Pupils have begun learning about different religions and the lives of Gandhi and Buddha, although I'm not sure any of them will be living under a Bodhi tree eating only berries any time soon.

PE is getting rather frosty now but that still hasn't stopped the guys getting out playing basketball, slam dunking like Michael Jordan. They have also been out for short walks off-site which they have all really enjoyed. Freedommmmm!!

In the week leading up to Christmas and half term we have lots of festive activities planned such as baking, making snowflakes and sparkly Christmas cards. We are getting into the Christmas spirit. Jingle Bells!



U1

It has been another strange half term in many respects, but our U1'ers have made great strides to catchup and build on our learning and successes. This has been particularly evident in maths and English. We have been reading Skellig in English this term, students have been reading aloud, listening to the audiobook read by the author David Almond and listened 'intently' to Mrs Burford and her different accents. They have created their own poems and combining English with art to build a 3D model of Skellig himself.

We challenge ourselves with numeracy ninja twice a week with great anticipation waiting for each student and each member of staff to reveal their scores and what belt they have achieved. We sharpen our maths skills on the two other sessions.

In Physics we have been learning about circuit building with PHET simulations designing series and parallel circuits. Fireworks came into our chemistry lessons with flame tests showing how they can be so colourful.

In Biology we decided to design our own specialised cell to help our immune systems fight COVID 19.

History saw us hold our own court to decide what punishment we would have had to deal with now and how this was different in medieval and Victorian times. In PE we have practised our football and basketball skills with the odd game of golf thrown in for good measure.

As a class we have recreated the Nottingham Christmas market, as we couldn't visit this year, we brought the market to us in our classroom. We had waffles, doughnuts, hot chocolate, sweeties, cookies, cheese and hot dog stalls – the children really enjoyed it and got into the Christmas spirit, needless to say their bellies were full that day.

We have had a magical half-term with a birthday and as many Christmas experiences as we can under the current circumstances.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in January.

We'll leave you with the lovely poem
Mckenzie wrote:

"Christmas is fun,
when you decorate the tree,
eat the food
and meet family".



Mrs Burford, Mrs Findlay and Mo



U2

U2 have had a productive half-term, having re-established friendships and routines in class they are now once again settled into their 'school routine.' Unfortunately, because of the ongoing situation, they have still not experienced the normal Sherbrook timetable and the variety of activities that are usually on offer. Hopefully, it won't be too much longer before they are able to.

In maths we are currently studying algebra which initially appeared difficult for some but is now going really well. In English, we have completed 'Stormbreaker'; read the book, seen the film and are working on comparing the two. We will be studying a completely different type of literature after Christmas. All will be revealed!

Geography has been about tectonic plates, whilst in Biology, we are learning about cells. History is still focussing on the 1920s but will shortly be moving forward a few decades to the 1960s. Social studies is providing an insight into world religions, and physics is concentrating on electrical circuits.

Chemistry has been a revelation in more ways than one! Because the lab is currently designated as the Covid isolation room, the resourceful Mr Muskett has decided that if the class can't go to the lab, then he will bring the lab to the class! He can be seen wandering the school corridors pushing what appears to be a tea-trolley. However, far from being piled high with cup-cakes and other teatime delicacies, it delivers to us mysterious scientific equipment and chemical concoctions in all colours of the rainbow. There has also been an element of alchemy in recent lessons when the class were shown how to chrome and copper-plate metal items.

Mr Muskett had us all shivering in the quad whilst he conducted a series of outdoor experiments (battling against the elements in a high wind), to demonstrate how fireworks get their colours.

Art has seen the completion of our project on Paul Klee and U2 have produced some very competent pastel artworks in the style of the artist.

PE and sports lessons have been curtailed for the whole school as a result of Covid restrictions, but U2 have been lucky in that it was their turn to go swimming this term and that particular activity has still been allowed to go ahead. Other sports have continued to a limited extent, but as the hall and indoor gym have been out of use at Sherbrook, PE has been less exciting than usual.

Undaunted by all this, the male members of the class have still managed to play football on regular occasions within their school 'bubble'...not as much fun whilst they are constantly reminded by staff to keep their distance and not to tackle!

Finally, as Christmas draws closer, we will be concentrating our efforts on activities with a more seasonal and festive feel. Decorations, Christmas- crackers, Christmas biscuits and Christmas cards are all activities under consideration, and there will definitely be a more relaxed approach to work in the final few days of term.

U2 Team: Mr Carter, Ms Ashford, Ms Holder.

U4

As we get closer to the countdown to Christmas and lockdown 2 comes to an end (fingers crossed) U4 have been taking current conditions in their stride. We would like to thank our class and their carers for bearing with us throughout what continues to be a bizarre time in school. Especially notable is the care U4 have been taking to adhere to Covid guidelines most of the time. Good work indeed!

Our bright lads have been focusing on transactional writing skills in English and plotting and drawing straight line graphs in Maths, all putting in a great deal of effort and brilliant work output. This term's focus in PSHE has been on financial decision making, so that pupils can feel more confident in managing their money and the financial costs of adult life! We plan to delve into the world of online safety during the run up to Christmas.

As recovery curriculum continues during the afternoon, we have been able to explore our creative sides in art whilst also learning a little about artistic movements and inspirational artists such as Pablo Picasso and Roy Lichtenstein. A firm favourite art session has definitely been fantasy map making, with some excellent, authentic creations being produced. We have also continued on our toe-tapping journey through the history of music, discovering the anarchy of punk, pop and glam rock of the 70's, and even the origin of synth! We have even found time to fit in some physical geography, 1960's history and reading for pleasure.

Furthermore, U4 have been developing their independent learning skills by completing weekly goal setting forms, to focus them for the week ahead. We are proud of the effort they have been putting in and we plan to enjoy some Christmas based activities together in the latter part of this term.



Keep up the good work U4, from Mr Muskett and Alex!

P16

In these uncertain times, it's quite reassuring to have some certainty in life, and during this school term, the certainty has been provided by the Post 16ers as they arrive in school each day full of energy, bright-eyed, full of mature conversation, as well as being raring to do their best and work hard.

And I write this without a hint of sarcasm... honestly.

Seriously, being couped up indoors like non-free range chickens a lot of the time has not been easy, but for the majority of the students, most of the time, they have been... errr angelic (which is coincidentally seasonally apt).

When the students have not been working hard, applying themselves whole-heartedly in their GCSEs and Functional Skills work, they have been incredibly productive in Adventure School; replenishing the bark chipping floor, insulating the shelter with recycled plastic bottles and bubble wrap, as well as attaching guttering, cooking on an open fire and having the (ahem) occasional nap in their hammocks – well it does keep them quiet and out of mischief.

As I write this end of term reflection, the Bambinos have just taken their first mock English exam and Functional Skills test and I am pleased to say they did themselves proud. Fingers crossed they come back after Christmas and build on the good start they have made.

So, all that's left to say is have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Oh, and this term wouldn't be complete without a picture of a monkey (please don't ask).



U6

'Tis the season to be jolly here in U6 with exam season almost upon us! Festivities this half-term have included: revision packs, flash cards, highlighters, formula sheets and mock exams!

Keeping our minds free of stress, exasperation and anxiety hasn't always been easy, or possible. Plenty of deep breaths have been taken, along with footballs kicked, keyboards hammered, banana research faculties constructed (in-joke!) and choice words used during a term which has tested all of us as a group.

Our philosophy of "it's okay not to be okay" has helped support each other through a challenging half-term, where our collective spirit of general good will, humour, understanding and empathy towards one another has shown our rapidly developing young people in an impressively strong light.

This level of growing maturity is extended and reflected in the sustained engagement in the core curriculum. The group continue to understand the importance of as GCSE's loom ever larger on the horizon, which has been great to see.

As we approach the end of tumultuous 2020 for us all, we'd like to wish you all a richly deserved Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

P.S. well done U6, couldn't be a prouder tutor!
Mr Paterson



School Council



Well done to all the school council members who have been brilliant taking part in meetings on teams, so we have not had to mix with other pupils that are not in our bubbles.

The pupils have continued to discuss things within their class sharing ideas.

Miss Hopps.