

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 39

16th December 2016

From the Headmistress

Our preparation for Christmas started with our Advent assembly when we talked about how exciting it is to wait and hope for the holy season. This was quickly followed by our beautiful Nativity production of the Donkey Seller. The Lower School amazed us with a truly theatrical performance and some remarkable individual contributions made it one of the most memorable Nativities we have had for a long time. The chamber choir were invited to sing at the Rowcroft Hospice "Light up a Life" service in Newton Abbot and gave us a timely reminder of those who are bereaved, finding Christmas a particularly difficult time of year. Our Christmas Fair raised £255 in aid of Rowcroft hospice. A big thank you must go to Mrs Cresswell-Cluer for her organisation of the event- our most successful for a few years. We finished our term in the perfect way with our carol service on Wednesday- again a team effort with all the children in the school making a contribution either singing or reading. After an incredibly busy term, it really is time for a rest for everyone. We wish you all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Carol Service

The end of the Autumn Term is always a joyous occasion, with the carol service being a highlight. This year we had solos from Lilyann Cleland and Xavier Kennington and the Chamber Chior sounded amazing with some very challenging songs. A delightful service with the whole school being involved.





This year's Nativity was the story of the Donkey Seller. The whole school were involved, with a special mention to Prep 1 who had some challenging parts. The Upper school made a great chorus. It was a brilliant and entertaining production, with some great moments throughout both nights. All the children did really well learning their parts and thanks must go to Miss Jones who produced it and to the rest of Lower school staff for all their help.





Prep 1 and 2 visited Dartmoor Zoo

"First we went to see the Capybara and they are the biggest rat in the world. Next we went to see the Ostrich, they lay massive eggs because they are the biggest birds in the world. Next we went to a big house. We all went to see what was inside, there was just little mats and then some people came in, they brought in little animals. There was a Tortoise, Gecko and a Corn Snake. The Corn Snake had scales on it. The Gecko is a reptile and the tortoise had a name-it was called Shelly.

Shelly has a long story to tell, she lived in the wild when she was a baby, but someone took her and put her in a suitcase and she broke her shell. Now she can't have babies because they won't grow into big tortoises. She is a reptile. Ostriches are birds because they lay eggs. These are the classifications; mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects and birds. Snakes are reptiles because they have scales and can unhook their back jaws to open their mouths even further than ours." *By Phoebe Wills, Prep 2*



A Pennywell Nativity!

Nursery, Prep Reception and Prep 1 enjoyed a wonderful day out at Pennywell, where they enacted a live nativity themselves. This involved dressing up, singing and gathering around baby Jesus, alongside real animals. The story of Christmas was brought alive during the magical experience. An Elf then took the children to meet Father Christmas, luckily all the children were on the good list! A well deserved treat, after all their hard work this term.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Prep 5 and 6 travelled to Exeter to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform on Thursday 1st December. The children had learnt a song entitled The Elements which they performed beautifully along with the other schools there. I was very proud of the children's behaviour and how well they listened and watched the concert. It was a lovely trip! *Mrs A Cottell*



Prep 2 learnt about household chemicals

Mrs Wadsley, the school nurse, talked to Prep 2 about how to be safe when using medicines and household chemicals. During her career in hospitals, Mrs Wadsley saw some very poorly children who has ingested chemicals or medicines by mistakes. We think it is important to reinforce the message to the children. *Mrs Allen*

Christmas Meal

Festive hats and jumpers were brought in for our Christmas meal, it was great to have all the school share in what has become a fun tradition. Many thanks to The Wild Fig for providing a lovely meal.

Prep 6 had a little festive fun decorating the Christmas tree with Mrs Reeve.



Looking Ahead

January

Wed 11th – Spring Term Begins

Wed 18th – ISA SW Netball @ Trinity

Thurs 19th – Dogs Trust Assembly

Sat 21st – ISA National Swimming Championships - Aquatic Centre, London

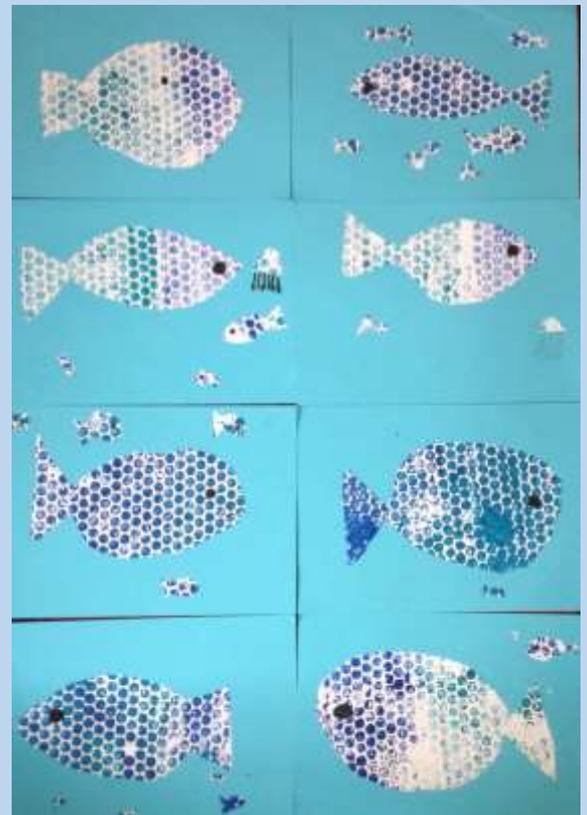
Wed 25th – ISA SW Cross Country Championships - Haldon Forest

Thurs 26th – Prep 6 - Bristol Trip - Science Museum & Hippodrome

Some of the amazing artwork from this term...



Prep 5 – Mosaic creatures inspired by the architect Antonio Gaudi



Prints by Prep 5 (above) and Prep 2 (fish)



Still Life drawings by Prep 6



A Panto finish...

This years end of term was a fun production of Dick Whittington performed by the Rainbow Theatre. A brilliantly entertaining performance was brought to life with some volunteers from the children. – A great finish to term!



Sporting News...

Swimming vs Tower House

All children in Preps 4,5 and 6 took part in a swimming gala v Tower House and showed real determination to secure a comfortable win.

ISA SW Swimming Championships

13 children travelled to Sherborne in Dorset to compete in the Regional trials to form part of the South West team to compete at the National Championships. In a tough competition, we were very proud when 3 St Christopher's pupils- Oliver Simons, Eden Cresswell-Cluer and Ava Collett (swimming up an age group) qualified. They will now compete at the National finals in January at the Olympic Pool in London.

U9 Boys Cross Country/Tag Rugby vs St John's

On 1st of December 2016, St Christopher's played St Johns from Sidmouth at tag rugby. Before that we did a cross country race and we got the top 7 places in the boy's race. In first place was Charlie Philips in second place was Joseph Edwards and in third place was Freddie Reynolds. In the girl's race Esmee Glue in Prep 2 came second beating most of the year 3 and 4s from both schools. We also had 5 of the first seven finishers. In the rugby, the final score was 16-6 to us. Our player of the match was Freddie Reynolds. This match gave us a chance to use a lot of our squad members, who played well and scored tries.

U9 Girls Cross Country/Tag Rugby vs St John's

On Thursday, we played St Johns school at girl's tag rugby. We played three halves and we won on all three and everyone at St Christopher's played really well. The final score was 21-10 to us. The try scorers were Sophie Scoot, Izzy Wills and Ava Collett.

By Sophie Scoot (Prep 4)