

VILLA REAL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - 2023

S2A

This term S2A have been using food and cooking to help us improve our Maths skills. We have been making Naan breads with various fillings and also looked at quantities and weights to allow us to create amazing breads. We then explored cutting our dough in halves and quarters to share with our friends. S2A then tried the Naan breads at snack time.

Pupils have also, as part of their Maths, been setting tables and collecting the correct equipment for their task. Developing from this they have been setting two places: one for their classmate and one for themselves. So now they can all help set the table at home for Mam, Dad or grandparents!!



S3A

This term the pupils in Senior 3A have been top bakers, where we have focused on using Maths through food technology. We have enjoyed baking different things and even getting into the festive spirit making Christmas biscuits.



CE2

We have had a busy half term, as always running up to Christmas. We prepared Christmas games for the Fair in Grinch-style; Pin the Heart on the Grinch, Find the Lucky Who-hash, Shoot the Cans etc. We loved testing our games while we used our number skills and lots of counting. We have all enjoyed reading and listening to our class text 'How the Grinch stole Christmas!' by Dr Seuss and students worked so hard starring in our part of the Grinch performance.



CE2 also went to Consett Empire Theatre to see the pantomime which was lovely and funny with lots of lively music and with a brilliant visual section. After the panto we went to an Italian restaurant to spend our dinner time there and improve our independence, by ordering and paying for our food.

CE3

CE3 have been working hard during WILD Passport sessions practicing one of our favourite skills – safe and effective fire lighting! We recognise and explore the different materials we can use to light a fire as well as maintain it and cook over it.



During Maths week, 3 has been the magic number. We have had lots of fun playing number games and counting in 3's. During CE motor learning programmes we have been stepping, rolling, crouching down etc. 3 times.



HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

Dear all,

Thank you all for your support and care of our wonderful school. We appreciate every day the joy of sharing these special moments with all the children. We remember those we have lost this year and we wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

GOVERNOR COMMENTS

We have had many visits into school this term. Our monitoring has been looking deeper into the progress of pupils over the last year, and how the staff are developing the curriculum for the year ahead. There are some very exciting new schemes of work and projects that our young people are involved in. Now though we look forward to the Christmas productions, that promise to be wonderful as always, and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Suzanne Bailey, on behalf of the Governing Body

SCHOOL NEWS

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended the VRSA Christmas Fair, despite the snow it was lovely to see so many people there and we raised almost £900. Thanks also to everyone who sent in donations, sold raffle tickets, or helped on the day. We are always keen to have new members so if you'd like to get involved then let your class staff know and they'll pass on your details to us. Merry Christmas!

Many thanks to David and Kate from Consett Gas who again donated a Christmas tree to the school. This year we have decorated the tree in remembrance of our school cook Larissa.



EYFSA

EYFSA's first half term at school has been amazing! We have had a number of new students and staff join us, so we have been focusing on getting to know one another. The topic we explored this term was 'Me and my Family', which really enabled us to learn about ourselves, each other and our families. Our sensory story this month tied in well to our topic; 'A Handful of Buttons'. This story explains that although all families may look different, there is an invisible thread that connects us all together.

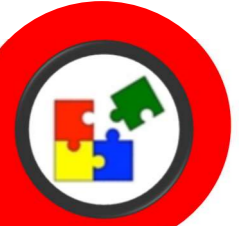
We have worked very hard this term, and our efforts have paid off, as we have won a number of awards! First, we won the 'Eiffel Tower Challenge', with our magnificent recreation of the Eiffel Tower. Then, we won the 'Wellbeing Wizards' trophy for our outstanding approach to supporting one another's wellbeing. Our students demonstrated their kindness, eagerness to learn and ability to work alongside others, which was recognised by the whole school! We have been very adventurous this half term, visiting many different places as a class, including; Jesmond Dene, Gibside and Bowlees

Farm. We have many more planned visits going forward, with lots of discoveries waiting for us!



CE1

CE1 had a fantastic trip to Bowlees Educational Farm. We were all so happy inside the indoor classroom, surrounded by all the different animals which included guinea pigs, fishes, a tortoise, a rabbit and a parrot. We used all our senses to look, touch, listen and smell the different animals. We all had a hold of the guinea pigs, rabbit and tortoise and we learnt about the different food they like to eat. We also met Happy the sheep and Angel the goat. They both loved to be stroked and petted and they ate food from our hands or from our laps. We all really enjoyed being so close to the different animals and we had an exciting day on the farm. We will look forward to returning to the farm in the spring term for more adventures.



P1A

In P1A, we went on a trip to Gibside Estate. We explored the local environment and discovered the den building area. We experimented with different shapes and found the triangle was the best shape to make sturdy dens!

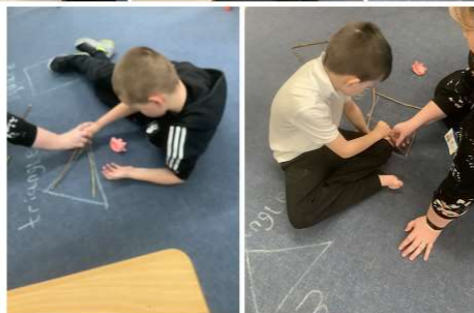


Here we have been getting in the festive spirit this term and as a class we love the '12 Days of Christmas'. We used this song as inspiration to design our own Christmas jumper. Everyone helped design each element and used our numeracy subitising skills to recognise the numbers too.



P2A

P2A have been exploring 2D shapes. We have enjoyed learning through hands-on interactive sessions which we can feel the different shapes to learn about their properties. Our favourite activity was finding shapes in different substances such as flour and jelly.



P3A

This half term the pupils had a great time exploring the Gruffalo Trail in Hamsterley Forest and even found two Gruffalos! During Maths Week, students explored the concept of '3 is the magic number'. They counted out three bun cases, three beats on a drum made a triangle using three people. The students had a wonderful time at the Forest School area, where they prepared the willow branches before weaving them. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed our dance sessions with Cassie from Little Movers. In their science class, the students created musical instruments by filling glass bottles with varying amounts of water, which resulted in some delightful melodies.



S2

Outdoor Education Adventures

Our Senior 2 students have been embarking on fantastic outdoor education adventures with Wild Passport, discovering the wonders of nature and honing their teamwork and leadership skills. The children have had the opportunity to experience incredible walks, conquer challenging climbs, and embark on thrilling adventures.

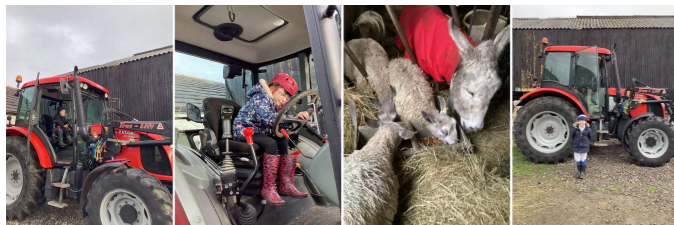


Getting into the Christmas Spirit

With Christmas just around the corner, we're spreading cheer and festive vibes in Senior 2. From heart-warming singing and signing rehearsals to creative arts and crafts sessions, our students are diving into the spirit of the season. At the Christmas fair, our STEAM arts and crafts kits were a huge success, selling out completely and raising a significant amount of money for our school.

P2

P2 had an amazing time at Bowlees Farm to learn about the roles and responsibilities of a farmer, caring for farm animals and exploring their habitat. We explored the farm and had opportunities to feed the animals which was very exciting. Pupils got hands-on experience by exploring the field where the sheep were. They met a sheep called Happy and pupils stroked his thick wool before feeding him. We looked at the bigger animals like the horses, goats and sheep. Then, we compared them to the smaller animals such as the guinea pigs, rabbit and parrot. The children were fascinated by the tractors on the farm. We were able to discuss our learning from Harvest. P2 have had a lovely term!



P3

P3 have been undertaking their weekly swimming lessons at Consett Leisure Centre since the beginning of term. These lessons have helped the pupils develop their water confidence and also aimed to improve their technical skills within the water. Several pupils have completed a number of steps within the Swim England framework. The lessons are always a favourite and popular time of the week and the pupils have really enjoyed and engaged with their Swimming Teachers to improve their overall swimming ability.

P3 have also been on a number of interesting educational visits this term including to Consett Christ Church and also the Winter Gardens in Sunderland. These visits have allowed the pupils to experience culture, arts and religious education from different perspectives and also learn about how these topics are inter-linked and important for society. At Consett Christ Church for example they were looking at the Christmas Tree Festival and also the stained-glass windows. P3 have been working hard on developing their literacy and numeracy skills and have also studied a range of topics such as addition and subtraction with determination and a positive attitude and also poetry and a range of poems linked to different authors and themes such as Bonfire Night and the Winter Season.



S3

S3 have had a busy and productive Autumn term. We have enjoyed learning about different genres of story, including the mystery story 'Ottoline and the Yellow Cat', and Shakespeare's drama 'The Tempest'. The pupils have been learning about a variety of topics including; coastal erosion, life in Tudor times, habitats and inheritance and the story of St Cuthbert. Some of our pupils enjoyed a visit to Durham Cathedral and Museum, where we examined the museum exhibits and even saw St Cuthbert's treasures. Pupils explored Durham Cathedral, the shrine of St Cuthbert and the locations where parts of the Harry Potter movie were filmed! Some pupils have also enjoyed going out for weekly outdoor education sessions, and our KS4 pupils began their involvement with the Durham Agency Against Crime project (DAAC).



S4

Students from Senior 4 grabbed a fantastic opportunity to discuss careers and jobs with range of different employees. Monique, a countryside ranger for Northumbria Water, explained what her job involved and the different jobs she had done since leaving university. Students were particularly interested to discover that Monique had a wide range of responsibilities including protecting ground nesting birds and dealing with members of the public who were breaking laws that ensure Derwent reservoir is a safe place for everyone.

While in Tesco, carrying out a survey, students chatted with staff about their job and their careers. They learned that people often try a range of jobs before they settle into a role they enjoy and excel at.

