



December 2021 Newsletter



December 2021

Dear Parents,

As we finish 2021, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support during this term, it has been challenging in many ways, with rising Covid cases in pupils and staff!

Our pupils have still enjoyed Christmas parties, lunch, performances and so on. Their smiles have said it all!

Our Christmas nativities and carol services, were great, with singing in French, German and sign language! It was a real shame that we could not perform in person.... Lets hope next year we can!



The photographs are from our school candlelight services held on the last day of term. This is a lovely occasion where children and staff read from the Story of Christmas. It is a quiet and reflective time and very special, including traditional carols. We do not practise this event, as it is not a performance, but a time of coming together and being thankful! This year we had class bubble candle services rather than a whole school one. The service finishes with a candle being left in the office window as symbol of hope—this is left lit until the last person leaves school.

I would also like to say a HUGE thank you to the whole staff team who have worked so hard throughout this term to ensure that school has stayed open and that your children get the very best at Water Street.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and restful new year!

See you all in January

Stuart Anslow
Headteacher

headteacher@waterstreetschool.org.uk

Reception:

Wow! The end of the first term already! Where did the last 4 months go?

I hope you all enjoyed our performance on YouTube. We are so proud of the children, who all sang so beautifully and looked adorable. You can see the photos of our gorgeous sheep, donkey, stars, shepherds and angels! Beautiful!

Throughout December Reception enjoyed the opportunity to incorporate Christmas into all of our areas of provision. Christmas has inspired super writing, great opportunities for number and shape work, a range of amazing art and craft activities as well as many more activities both in and out of the classroom. Each day our 'story vote' became a 'Christmas story vote read by the lights of our Christmas tree. 'Mrs Busfield and I loved watching them in 'Santa's workshop' wearing Elf hats using the construction toys to design and make toys – adorable! The party was lots of fun too.

However the highlight has been making our life-sized Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeers. Something to keep forever...

*Lean this reindeer against the wall,
To remind you of when I was this small.
Fingerprints made the mouth and eyes.
This reindeer is just my size.
So take him out each Christmas and see,
I'm not as little as I used to be!*

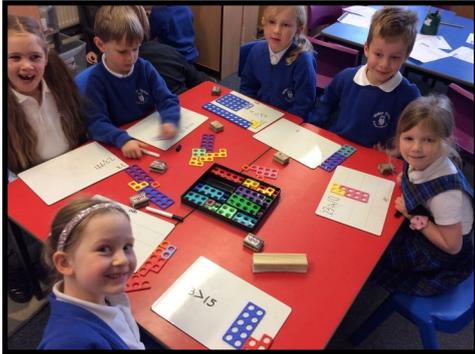
All of the Early Years team wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



**You all look great
Reception ...**

Year 1:

Year 1 has been very busy as always - having lots of fun in our learning and doing all sorts of different skills this past month and a half. It is wonderful to see the progress the children are making and we are very proud of them all. Here are some highlights of our learning:



In our maths we have done lots of consolidation of learning as well as using different manipulatives to explore number - it's sometimes not easy to change to counting different objects or pictures but as you can tell from our photo we are doing every well!



We have been working hard learning about Instructions and how to use 'Bossy Verbs'. Here Linnea is showing off her very beautiful Stickman that she made following our instructions.



We have done lots of Christmas themed making including a beautiful display for our Nativity as you will have seen in our video.



We also had a LOVELY time exploring the Ilkley Toy Museum - so many different types of toys to see - the children behaved brilliantly too and were a credit to our school!



As part of National Bullying week our children learned about the importance of Being Kind. We decided it would be great to remember all year and have created these WONDERFUL calendars - the children all learned how to use the beautiful oil pastels and have done an excellent job as you can see!

Have a lovely Christmas
The Year 1 Team



Due to children & adults in our school with nut allergies we kindly request that you do not include nuts or nut related products in your child's packed lunch or mid morning snack. Thank you

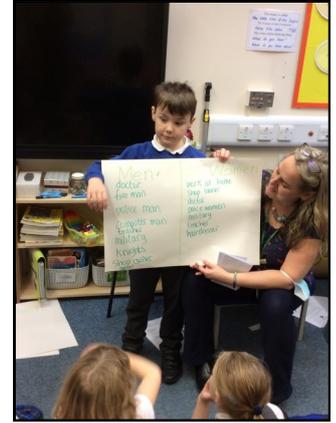


**PLEASE REMEMBER
WE ARE A NUT
FREE SCHOOL**



Year 2:

In Science we have been investigating ways that we can keep our bodies healthy. We investigated the best way to wash our hands – was it with hot or cold water, and with or without soap?! We predicted that warm water and soap would be the best way to wash away the germs. We used cinnamon and oil as ‘visible germs’ and we talked about how important it was to wash our hands for the same amount of time so that it was a fair test. We found that our prediction was correct! We also used some petri dishes to find out where the most germs were in our classroom. We thought that the dirtiest place would be the toilet handle, but surprisingly it was one of the cleanest places! The dirtiest place was Otto’s fishtank. Now Mrs Jackson cleans the outside of his tank regularly so it is MUCH more hygienic!



In PHSE we thought about different jobs with Mrs Soddart-Hall. We thought about how some people see certain jobs as ‘for boys’ and certain jobs ‘for girls’. We had some great discussions about this and decided anyone should be able to do whatever job interests them!



We’ve been working hard to earn marbles in the jar for great learning behaviours. Our reward for all the marbles being in the jar this time was biscuit icing. We all really enjoyed it – especially ‘taste-testing’ them afterwards!



On Friday we filmed our Nativity play and can’t wait to share it with you. It was also Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner which was DELICIOUS! Well done to Jake for winning the KS1 competition with his light-up jumper!

Have a lovely Christmas

The Year 2 Team

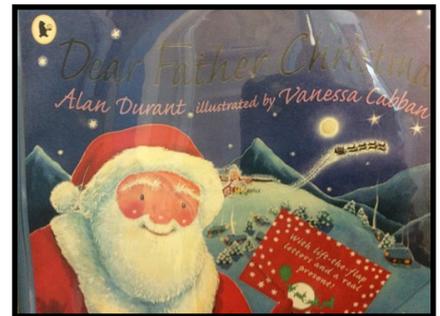


Year 3:

Well we've had a great end to the term and have really got into the Christmas spirit in Year 3. They have worked really hard practising and performing our Christmas poem 'A Recipe for Winter' and loved learning the Makaton Sign language for Child in a Manger born. I hope you have enjoyed watching them on our YouTube channel, we had great fun acting out the poem and they were amazing learning all the different signs. Getting to wear Christmas jumpers for two days in a week was a real highlight! We have also loved making our Calendars and Christmas cards and they worked so hard making the different mechanisms for their card.



In English we finished our fabulous Stone Age Fact sheets and they worked so hard using Headings, organising their facts and finding some interesting 'Did you know' facts. We also finished our Class story 'The Boy who grew Dragons' and we have put in a request to Father Christmas for the next book in the series. We all decided that a dragon would be a great pet but also lead to some tricky situations. We then moved on to our Class Story 'Dear Father Christmas'. It really did help us when writing our own letters to Father Christmas. We have also been enjoying daily chapters from Winston Delivers Christmas, a most beautiful book for this time of the year.



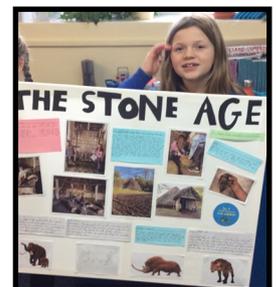
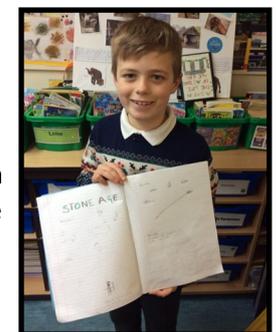
In Maths, Year 3 have been working hard learning their 3 and 4 x tables and looking at multiplication and division facts that go with them. They have also loved working out puzzles and word problems linked with these times tables and have also enjoyed partner work testing each other on their multiplication facts. Another highlight has been some fun times tables songs that I have put on SeeSaw.

The topic homework has been really fabulous and there have been so many brilliant models, Fact sheets, booklets, Fact boards, some great dyeing using berries and leaves, and not to mention quizzes, which we have thoroughly enjoyed. It has been great to see their enthusiasm build as the weeks have gone by and it has really helped the children to secure their Stone Age knowledge.

Well they really have worked incredibly hard this half term and have been a joy to teach. It has been lovely to see them grow in confidence in their own abilities and their hard work has really paid off.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to hearing all about it in the New Year.

Mrs R & The Year 3 Team



Year 4:

Well, what an amazing couple of months we have had in Year 4. My return to teaching after being off on maternity leave has been made brilliant by having such a wonderful class – your children are a credit to you!

We have been so busy and have managed to fit in lots of learning over the last few weeks. Once memorable day for the children has got to be the trip to Murton Park – it sounds like an incredible day was had by all and the knowledge they gathered from that trip is phenomenal. I have attached some pictures from the day.

Not only did the children enjoy the trip to Murton Park, but the entire History topic this half term has been a huge success. The interest and engagement in the Anglo Saxons and Vikings has been second to none, some fantastic choices homework has been produced and all children have had the opportunity to present their homework to the class. I'm looking forward to this level of interest and engagement for our next topic.

Our English topic has been loosely based on the Vikings, with a writing unit inspired by 'How to Train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. The class has loved listening to this story and has produced some fantastic writing throughout the course of the unit.

In maths we have been battling subtraction, perimeter, rounding, balancing equations and multiplication to name a few. Every child has hit challenges head on and has never let 'tricky' work defeat them.

Finally, I want to thank you for being so supportive and patient with regards to home learning and Covid cases. It has been a challenging couple of months for the staff in Year 4 but your support for the staff has made it that bit easier.

I hope you have the most wonderful Christmas break and make lots of wonderful memories with your families.

See you in the new year,

Mrs Taylor, Mrs Procter, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Jardine



**School re-opens for pupils on:
Wednesday 5th January 2022**

Year 5:

December hasn't fully gone to plan but we have still managed to pack lots in and do most of our usual Christmas activities albeit in a slightly modified way. The pupils, as usual, have been great. They have kept us smiling and laughing and made us proud with their efforts and all that they have achieved. We hope you all enjoyed listening our rendition of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' and watching our musical stick performance. The pupils worked very hard to learn both of these and to co-operate and perform in time as a whole class.

We have finished making our Worry Monsters in CDT. Following our designs, making patterns to cut the felt to size and then sewing them up has kept us busy (thank you Miss Reed!) but each class member has produced one to take home. They are all completely unique.

We have made our Victorian themed Christmas cards, patiently cutting out lots of holly leaves to produce a wreath, these look fantastic and we are sure the recipients will be thrilled to receive one. Our calendars are based on the work that we have been studying by David Hockney. We have enjoyed putting into practise the elements that we have been learning about and we hope that you agree that they look really effective.

In English we have been working on character description. We picked out the good parts of a description, then improved a given description. We finished the area of work by using what we had learned to write a description of Fagin (from Oliver Twist). We wrote some great descriptions that brought the character alive to the reader and helped them to picture what he looked like and what he was like.

In Science, we have started our new topic learning about the lifecycle of plants, We have learnt about seed dispersal and completed lots of activities to help us learn and remember the names for the different parts of a flower. This topic will be continued after the holidays.

In PSHCE we have been thinking about stereotypes and the impact they can have. We focussed mainly on gender stereotypes but after listening to Sam's Reading Shelfie about the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' we had an interesting lesson thinking about refugees and economic migrants. As always in our PSHE lessons the pupils showed sensitivity and thoughtfulness in their contributions.

In History we have been finishing off our Industrial Revolution topic. We had a walk around Skipton looking for the evidence that showed how much it had affected our area and ended up at the museum where we did a fact finding activity.

In Maths we have been focussing on geometry and learning how to work out the area and perimeter of compound shapes. We completed some good problem solving activities that allowed the pupils to put their knowledge to the test.

We hope you all manage to enjoy the holidays, whatever you are doing and we look forward to hearing all about it when we welcome you back in January.

Have a lovely Christmas

The Year 5 Team



Year 6:

Welcome to the Year 6 November and December News!

November was packed full of exciting events- the month started with a great Basketball event down at Sandylands. It was good fun joining other schools to practise our basketball skills and to play some games in the sports hall. Our afterschool Year 6 Friday football sessions have continued with some great games taking place against other schools.



It was a pleasure to invite Dr Smith back into school this month. We shared with him our WW1 choices homework. Many children had undertaken research on their own family members, whilst others had found out more about areas of interest to them. Dr Smith went as far as saying the Year 6 had set the "Gold Standard" of WW1 history research and follow-up work following one of his workshops. We were also fortunate to be able to attend the 2 minute silence at Holy Trinity of 11th November, following this we visited inside the church and looked at the war memorials.



In December we have loved undertaking some lovely Christmas Crafts including making frames and sewing geometric designs for our Christmas decorations, as well as making wreaths and helping to decorate the Christmas Corridor. We hope you enjoyed watching our clapping version of Jingle Bell Rock, just as much as we enjoyed performing it. It took a few weeks of practise....but we got there in the end.



At the beginning of the month we returned to a few days of remote learning, some children continued to do this for the rest of the week-Well done to all the class for their dedication and hard work in joining the morning of zoom lessons every day- we were so proud of you. During this time the children wrote some amazing WW1 poems in the style of a poem we had studied by Marien Allen.

We have also started our topic on Natural Disasters,as part of this we have been studying disasters caused by Tectonic and Climatic events and made a class book which includes amazing facts and case studies.



Before finishing the entry for this year I should also mention the wonderful impact that Year 6 have had throughout the school- to list but a few this has included: The Poppy Collection, organising Christmas jumper day, being amazing reception buddies, tidying and sorting out the library, ready for it to re-open in January, being organised and busy house captains, and finally on a daily basis making sure that the lunches have been served with a smile, down in our school canteen. Thank you to the whole class for all the hard work you have put into all these jobs.



We are all looking forward to the Christmas break now, and are excited about all the great things that the spring term will have in store!

With our best wishes, Mrs Macnab,
Mrs Hopwell and Mrs Gaunt.



What parents & carers need to know about...

AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.

18+

Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

PRIVATE

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.





**The Pupils, Staff & Governors of
Water Street School
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

