



# Forward March!

## UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

*With God's help  
we will  
live kindly,  
love each other,  
learn and  
laugh together!*

## Christmas Newsletter 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

At this time of year, appreciating things, which people selflessly do for others, is more important than ever. We also have many other people within our school community who give up their time to help others. Parents who have volunteered to be readers, forest school helpers and assist on trips, Open the Book who bring the word of the Lord to life through creative re-enactments, Rev Rachel who leads us in worships and those parents and members of staff who give up their own time to help at school events run by the PTA. These are all examples we see every day at The March and we are very thankful for you all.

Life can feel very full on for all sorts of reasons. Whether it is the pace, the pressure, or the worry, it can be hard going. However, Christmas can give us the chance to take a breath and refill our own bucket as well as others. You may find that 'refilling' in reading a book, in your faith, in watching a film, or playing a game. Sometimes it is in having your own time, or by meeting up with good friends. Thankfully, refilling does not need too much money or technology – often neither! Whatever you do, I hope this Christmas season gives you and your family that opportunity to find the real meaning of rest and being refilled.

Finally, as we prepare ourselves for what is such a magical time of year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the children, parents/carers and



staff a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas (as peaceful as it can be!). And I pray that over the busy days ahead, we will all have moments - however brief - to marvel again at the mystery of the Christmas Story: a baby born in a simple stable, over 2000 years ago: Jesus, 'Emmanuel' – God with Us.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

*Mrs Metcalfe*

## Christingle

I particularly love the Christingle Service every year with the children singing, the smell of the Christingle oranges and time to reflect on how lucky we are as a community together. It is always lovely to have our service at St Peters but this year the Rain and Hail thwarted us and we had to stay in school!

With all the candles alight and glow sticks shining this was a truly special occasion. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. This year the children retold the story of the Jesus' birth beautifully and read their prayers. A wonderfully thoughtful service to lead us into Christmas.





## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thankyou to everyone who donated, helped at and came to the Christmas fair this year. It was one of the best I think we have ever had with so many wonderful things to see and do!

Father Christmas made a special visit to share his lovely stories in the magical grotto and the choir were superb, we can't wait to hear them again! The food choices kept everyone fed and happy all night with tasty treats from the BBQ boys, scrumptious cakes and warm mulled wine to chat over with friends.

Alongside that we had many craft stalls for children to take part in, a raffle of wondrous prizes, face painting, year 6 fun stalls, jolly jars, teasel mice and hedgehogs, jolly jars and knitted goods to name a few. It was a wonderful evening which was well attended and lots of fun had by everyone involved.

A big thank you to The March School Community and our fabulous PTA for making this event so special.

# We raised £3005





## Nativity

The EYFS and KS1 Nativity performance was wonderful this year!! **Children of the World** is a charming **Christmas Nativity** about different festive customs around the world. Parents, children and staff all thoroughly enjoyed watching this. The singing, acting and dancing were amazing with the children looking great in all their costumes from around the world. It was lovely to have so many parents attend and Mr Talbot CEO from DCAT and our school Governors.

Thank you to all our families for supporting with the costumes and learning of the lines, it was much appreciated.



## The History of Carols that we sing in school.

This year each class was asked to research a Christmas Carol, find out who wrote it and when, and the true meaning behind it. The children had great fun presenting their Christmas carol artistically in a hoop, sharing their research and singing the carol with the school.



Away in a manger Year R



O Little Town of Bethlehem Year 1



We three kings Year 2



Silent night Year 3



Hark the Herald Angel sing Year 4



Holly and the Ivy Year 5



Twelve Days of Christmas Year 6

## Ensuring Internet safety for Our Primary School Students during the winter months.

As we approach the winter months, we understand that our children may spend more time indoors, engaging with technology for both education and entertainment. With this in mind, we would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining a safe online environment for our students. Internet safety is a shared responsibility, and we believe that a collaborative effort between school and home is crucial.

Here are some key points to consider:

**Supervision and Open Communication:** It's essential to maintain an open line of communication with your child about their online activities. Regularly discuss their experiences, interests, and any concerns they may have.

Encourage them to come to you if they encounter anything that makes them uncomfortable

**Setting Boundaries:** Establishing clear guidelines for screen time and usage of electronic devices is crucial. Consider creating a schedule that balances online and offline activities. Setting limits helps ensure a healthy balance between technology use and other important aspects of your child's life.

**Monitoring Online Activity:** There are various tools available for parents to monitor and manage their child's online activity. Websites like NSPCC Net Aware

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> provide valuable information on popular apps and games, including age suitability and potential risks. It's a great resource to stay informed about the platforms your child may be using.

**Checking Game Settings:** To ensure age-appropriate settings for games, consider exploring websites like Internet Matters (<https://www.internetmatters.org/>) for step-by-step guides on adjusting privacy and safety settings on popular gaming platforms. These resources can empower you to make informed decisions about the games your child plays.

**Educational Resources:** Consider integrating internet safety into your family discussions. Websites like Childnet International (<https://www.childnet.com/>) offer resources specifically designed for primary school-aged children, promoting a positive and safe online experience.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding internet safety, please feel free to reach out to the school. We are here to support you in promoting a safe and enriching online experience for our primary school students.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to the well-being of our students.

Mr Willson

## Cultural Diversity Bags

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, the school came together to celebrate cultural diversity in our community. It was such a joy to see the children engaged in celebrating diversity. The children had the chance to share more about their lives, culture and traditions with their peers within the classroom by bringing in their own culture bags. It was great to see the children's enthusiasm when talking about what makes them unique and special. The children also had an opportunity to learn more about different cultures, and how this looks from first-hand accounts. It truly was a celebration of our wonderful school community.

A huge thank you to all families for your involvement in this great day! The response to our cultural diversity bags was amazing!

## Lunchclub and Mrs Horn ( Family Liaison Officer)

Lunch club runs in the rainbow room every day and has been busy this term! It has been wonderful to see children from reception to year 6 playing together with the wide range of board games and toys such as marble run, duplo and small world that are on offer. We always have drawing and colouring available, and have been learning how to make origami 'fortune tellers' and paper aeroplanes. The children have also been busy making bead and loom band bracelets or keyrings as well as decorating Christmas cards.

The festive session is definitely upon us, and while for many it is an exciting, much looked forward to time, for other it can be an overwhelming or stressful time. It is important to build in to holiday plans time to think about wellbeing and mental health.

Try to remember to:

- Celebrate your way - don't feel pressurised to have the 'perfect' christmas.
- Talk about your feelings - whether to a family member, friend or professional, try not to let emotions bottle up.
- Take time for yourself - a warm bath, a quiet walk or just 10 mins with a cup of tea each day can make a huge difference.
- Eat a balanced diet - try to include your 5 a day and limit excessive alcohol.
- Get outside - go for a wintery walk, fresh air and exercise is great for boosting your mood!
- Stick with familiar routines -this is especially important with young children or those that are becoming overwhelmed with excitement.

There are a number of organisations that can offer further advice about coping with christmas

including: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) [www.headstogether.org.uk](http://www.headstogether.org.uk) and [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

## Year R

We have come to the end of our second term, and it has been another great one. Thank you to all of you for being so helpful and cooperative with our 'Starry Night' topic, and with all the Christmas preparations. The children have worked very hard this term and I hope you have enjoyed seeing them develop and grow.

The children are continuing to make fantastic progress in phonics and are becoming more confident in their independent reading. The children are

clearly applying the skills they have learnt in Phonics sessions and from reading 1:1 with an adult, both in school and at home.

We have continued to enjoy Forest School this term. We have linked our learning from school and have used the space to explore more about Nocturnal animals and night-time routines.

We have been hard at work learning lots of new songs and dances for our Nativity this term. The children have practiced and performed so well! We have had so much fun teaming up with Y1 and Y2 to deliver a great Nativity play.



## Year 1

Year 1 has had a very busy half term! We enjoyed our topic of Enchanted Woodland and learnt a lot about animals and their habitats. We loved playing in our small world woodland area and have told stories about woodland animals using talk for writing to help us. Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Renouf are very proud of how well we are doing with our writing!

In our art lessons we have been learning about abstract art and looking at the work of Kandinsky. We have learnt to use a lot of different media and work collaboratively with others.

Learning about Maps in geography lessons has helped us to understand more about where we live, we even had a go at making messy maps with

classroom objects. We loved making poppies for our school Remembrance service too.

We have been really busy practicing for our Nativity and enjoyed learning all the songs! We are quite tired now though!!



## Year 2

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful learning experiences and achievements of Year 2 during this past half term.

One of the highlight topics of this term has been our immersive exploration into the world of pirates. The children have delved into the real facts and history of pirates, expanding their knowledge through a variety of engaging activities. The topic was ignited with a memorable Pirate Day, where the children fully embraced the spirit by dressing up and participating in activities that brought the history of pirates to life. We were honoured to have special guest and historian Paul Ullson (AKA Dr Paul Bones) visit us to share his historical expertise and fascinating pirate artefacts, enriching the children's understanding and igniting their curiosity.

In English, the children embarked on a captivating journey of pirate story writing. They showcased their creativity and language skills as they crafted imaginative tales of high seas adventures, treasure hunts, and encounters with infamous pirates and terrifying creatures. The stories they produced

were truly impressive, demonstrating their growing proficiency in writing and storytelling.

Furthermore, as we prepared for the festive season, the children dedicated themselves to rehearsing for the upcoming Nativity play. It has been a joy to witness their dedication and enthusiasm. Their hard work and commitment have truly shone through, and I am immensely proud of each and every one of them.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. I hope that this Christmas brings joy, warmth, and cherished moments shared with loved ones. I am incredibly proud of the progress and achievements the children have made this term, and I look forward to seeing them return in the New Year.



### Year 3

It's been a very busy half term in Year 3! In English we focus our learning on the story Kai and the Monkey King by Joe Todd Stanton. We loved the story and learning about Sun WuKong and this journey to become king. In maths we have been learning our times tables as well as adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers. In history we have been learning about what life was like in children in the past, looking at Roman, Tudor and Victorian times. Not only have we completed lots of wonderful topic work related to Heroes and Villains, we have also had special days this half term such as poppy making morning and Remembrance Service, Diversity morning and Christmas themed hoop decorating based on our song Silent Night. We also had a lovely RE day in which we focused on one panel, People of God, from the Big Story of the Bible. We were lucky enough to have a Book Fest author visit our school again this week. Patrice Lawrence visited and held an assembly all about her book, Is that you Mama. We greatly enjoyed our work with Patrice and reading her story in class. When we return in the new year our topic will be Scrumdiddlyumptious! It's going to be a delicious learning journey.



## Year 4

This half term Year 4 have been learning about a range of subjects as part of our Unit 'Misty Mountains'. The children have been writing a rescue story based on a famous mountain range from the text 'Touching the Void' and we are about to publish an explanation text on the water cycle. Supporting our learning in Destination Reader we have been using the book 'Mountains' where the children have explored the different types which can be found on Earth. In Maths, we have been exploring the key relationship between multiplication and division whilst continuing the progress in times tables knowledge.

In Science, we have looked at the changing states of matter producing our own water cycle experiment, which were on display in the classroom. We had a familiar visitor in the form of Mr Willson who brought in his climbing equipment for the children to explore as he explained the various expeditions he has been on.

In Geography, we have been looking at the different layers of the earth, types of volcanoes and why earthquakes happen. In Art, we have been mark making, drawing reflective images along with playdough and stamp printing.

For Computing, we have completed some further coding with Scratch, which, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this half term. Our unit for PE was a focus on Hockey as a part of Invasion Games where we have moved to small-sided games with attacking and defending tactics.

Finally, we also brought in bags from home as part of Cultural Diversity day! We look forward to Spring 1 where our Topic will be on Traders and Raiders.



## Year 5

In Class 5 we have had a fun, busy and successful term of learning in class and out, working hard and enjoying several exciting visits and visitors.

In History we have been detectives, using primary sources to find out about life in Tudor times, focusing on what happened to Anne Boleyn and what it was like to experience Elizabeth I's Royal Progress in your town. In Science we have been learning about forces and how to carry out fair tests. Parachutes, car ramps and racing boats are some of the investigations we have carried out. We have also been predicting and learning to conclude what we have found out. In DT we have been learning about different bridge structures. We have investigated which are stronger and why. We have even made our own bridges out of spaghetti! After Christmas we will have our DT Day to bring what we have learnt together through designing and making our own bridges.

We really enjoyed ourselves on our '5 Ways to Wellbeing' day, learning strategies to support good mental health as well as having fun together with singing, group presentations and parachute games! We even learnt some hand reflexology and meditation. Every child in the class is to be commended on their teamwork on this day and their excellent behaviour on our trip to the Cathedral and Pallant House Gallery - as well as on the stunning artwork they created during the printing workshop. A group of Year 5 children have also made us proud on their visits to Dovecote View nursing home, being kind and caring companions to the elderly residents there.



## Blood Heart: Year 6

This engaging topic has enabled children to learn more about the human circulatory system. Children have discovered the key role of the heart and lungs and how the average human heart beats 2.5 billion times in a lifetime! Children have also made blood 'smoothies' from raspberries and white 'squashies' to help them understand the different elements contained in blood-such as white blood cells and blood plasma.

More recently they have been designing experiments to explore the effect of exercise and rest on pulse rate and thought carefully about the changes that occur during exercise. It has been interesting to see how quickly heart rate changes from resting to 180 beats per minute during exercise!

Blood Heart certainly been an engaging topic with lots of memorable learning experiences!



### DCAT Voice



Earlier on this term, two of our own School Council members: Eli (Yr6) and Aiesha (Yr 4) took part in the first trust wide council meeting. Here children from across all schools in DCAT were represented and discussed what they were learning and what makes each school unique. For the next meeting we have been asked by the trust CEO mark Talbot to think about: How can we all achieve our God given potential?

We look forward to hearing from the other schools and how they have approached this 'big question'!



## Reading

We will soon have our end of term prize draw where children who have earned Golden Tickets for reading at home will have the chance to win a brand-new book. Well done to all those children who have earned several Golden Tickets this term and thank you to parents for supporting this vital learning at home. We are enormously proud of those children who are now sporting a reading badge for getting 10 Golden Tickets. We now have assorted designs of our reading badges, so there is no need to stop there – another 10 Golden Tickets and they can collect a badge with a different design!



**Golden reading ticket winners!!**



# Craft club say THANK YOU!!!



Rolls Royce provided some great craft items for Mrs Dentons Christmas Craft Club and the children loved making them and decorating the school Christmas tree.

Young minds Wellbeing calendar 2023 can be used through the holidays

## The YoungMinds Wellbeing Calendar 2023



Looking after your wellbeing as you count down to the winter break.

27 - MONDAY

### Belly breaths

Take a big deep breath in and fill your belly up with air. Then slowly breathe out through your nose.

28 - TUESDAY

### Affirmation station

Spread some winter joy to your classmates by writing positive messages on cards. Then get your teacher to collect and pass them around. For example 'I am loved', 'I can do this.'

29 - WEDNESDAY

### Stretch it out

Stretch your body from head to toe. Roll your neck, spin your arms and flex your toes!

30 - THURSDAY

### Gratitude snowman

Draw three circles on top of each other to create a snowman. In each circle, write something you're grateful for today.



1 - FRIDAY

### Dance party

As a class, get the month off to a great start by singing and dancing along to tunes that make you feel happy!



4 - MONDAY

### Mindful colouring

Enjoy some quiet colouring in time and let your creative juices flow.



5 - TUESDAY

### Feeling grounded

Silently, name five things you can see. Four things you can feel. Three things you can hear. Two things you can smell. And one thing you can taste. Use this exercise whenever your emotions feel too big.



6 - WEDNESDAY

### Get crafty

Draw, paint or craft your favourite animal that reminds you of winter. Polar bear? Penguin? Reindeer? Or even just a cat with a funky scarf on!

7 - THURSDAY

### Worldwide winter

Learn how other cultures and countries celebrate different things about winter.

8 - FRIDAY

### Random act of kindness

Do something nice for someone else today. Doesn't it feel great?



11 - MONDAY

### Signs of winter

As a class, take a silent, mindful walk around the school grounds. Noticing signs of winter along the way. Such as frost, falling leaves or even robins.



12 - TUESDAY

### Body scan

Try a body scan meditation to help you let go of stress or worries. There are lots of free videos of this on YouTube!



13 - WEDNESDAY

### Self-soothe session

Create your own self-soothe box to take home and use whenever you feel sad or worried. Include things like sensory toys, sour sweets and photos of things that make you happy. For more tips, check out the 'How to make a self-soothe box' blog on our website.

14 - THURSDAY

### Get the giggles

Give laughter yoga a go. It's said to make you happier and less stressed! There are lots of free videos on YouTube.

15 - FRIDAY

### Your 2023

Write down your favourite school moments of 2023 and any hopes or goals you might have for 2024.

## Finally

If you would like to talk to me about anything, please do stop and chat or make an appointment if you would like more privacy or a longer length of time. I am here to help and support you all.

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always 'Open'.

**Wising you a Very Merry Christmas**

*Mrs Nicky Metcalfe*

**Head Teacher**

Dates for the Diary

## January 2024

- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Inset day**
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> First day of term
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> SEN parent meetings
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Year R trip to the library

## February 2024

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Fantastic finish 2.45pm
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Year 4 book look 2.45pm, Year 5 book look 8.30am
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Year R book look 8.30am, Year 2 Fantastic finish 2.45pm
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Year 1 book look 8.30am, Year 6 fantastic finish 2.45pm
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Half term**
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Inset day**
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Parents evening
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Year R Local outing – Traffic survey
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Parents evening

## March

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> World book day – Dress up for all children
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Year R mother's day celebration 2.15pm
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Year 2 book look 8.30am, Year 5 Fantastic finish 2.45pm
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Year R book look 8.30am, Year 3 book look 2.45pm

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Year 6 book look 8.30am, Year 4 book look 2.45pm
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Fantastic finish - 2.45pm
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April Easter Holidays**

## **April**

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Return to school

**Please note that occasionally, dates are subject to change due to unavoidable events taking place.**