

17 December 2021

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

What a busy term we have had! Students and staff have all been working very hard and we are definitely ready for a well-earned break.

As you are aware, this week we have had a small number of confirmed cases of Covid in school which led to us putting extra control measures in place to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support with this. Over the school holidays, we ask that secondary aged students continue with twice weekly lateral flow tests please. When we return on Tuesday 4th January, all secondary aged students with consent will also be tested in school.

We will be watching the government guidance closely over the break and will contact parents by email if there is anything you need to know regarding any changes in school.

Thank you for all your support this term and thank you to all the parents who have sent in such lovely Christmas gifts.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you in the new year.

Sarah

TFA Interactive Christmas Fair!

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Christmas fair in person this year. Students have worked very hard in their curriculum choice groups to develop an interactive Christmas fair which you can all enjoy from the safety and comfort of your own homes. Please click on the image below to enter the fair. The interactive fair is on a google slides document and instructions for making it interactive are on the first slide. We hope you enjoy it!



PHOENIX

What a way to end a superb first term in Phoenix!



We spent a 'survival' morning in the forest taking part in a variety of activities. Students lit their own fires using flint and steel. This took an enormous amount of perseverance and determination, but all students succeeded in the end! We then had to continue to stoke the fire and carefully add wood to keep it going. Once we had a steady fire, we heated up some chocolate to dip our marshmallows in and to add to our hot chocolates!

The whole of Phoenix Class found the campfire incredibly relaxing so this was a good opportunity to talk about our term and reflect on all the positives and huge amounts of progress the students have made. We also came up with lots of exciting ideas for next year's learning!

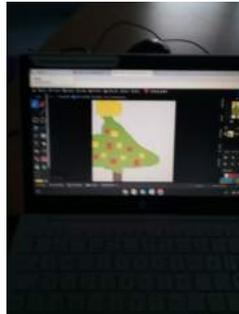


DRAGONFLY

We enjoyed Christmas Jumper Day on Friday and had a visit from a very naughty elf!



We continued the Christmas theme and designed our own Christmas Trees using Pixel Art:



Hopefully you have enjoyed sharing our Stained Glass Window biscuits. We certainly enjoyed making them! And we decorated chocolate biscuits for our party today.



POLAR



We had an incredible time this week and engaged in so many different activities linked to Christmas. Fortunately, some of these moments were captured on camera! It was so much fun creating reindeer cones filled with chocolate powder, marshmallows and using googly eyes, pompoms, pipe cleaners. We enjoyed making Christmas cards to give to someone special and a Christmas handprint wreath. It was lovely to see the tables decorated and pulling crackers before eating our Christmas dinner together in the hall. Some of us spent a long time decorating ornaments with fillable festive baubles to hang on our class Christmas tree. We also made dog biscuits for charity and cupcakes for ourselves which we decorated with sprinkles before eating them all, as they were delicious! It was great to use the Christmas props to demonstrate different emotions as a group with different coloured backdrops to represent the zones.





In Europa this week, we have focused on our home care skills of making a bed, so there are no excuses at home now!

The students learned some tricks from Elyssa, including how to turn the duvet cover inside out to make it easier to put on the duvet, although the students thought she looked more like a ghost!

We have worked hard to make Christmas special for us all. We have made some papercraft ornaments, of which Camron was particularly proud because he made the Home Alone house and The Wet Bandit van.



On Thursday, the students had the chance to work on three different recipes. Unfortunately, Kate forgot the tablet, so you will have to make do with taste testing - if the students share! Caleb made some white chocolate fudge, Caden made some gingerbread and pizza whirls, Jayden made chocolate fudge and pizza whirls, and Steph and Camron made some gingerbread.

To finish our week, the students have made some decorations and Christmas crackers before enjoying a film version of our class book, A Christmas Carol.



We've had lots of fun this week in Odyssey. Our timetable has been a bit different to the usual week, but students have managed the changes really well. We had a fun PE session on Monday with lots of games. During the second session, we tried a bit of gymnastics.



I challenged the students to jump over the box on the highest setting. Some struggled to start with, but their perseverance was amazing. They just kept going until they found a way to achieve their goal. Theo and Bradley were particularly pleased with themselves!



We've been busy in the kitchen this week, decorating Yule Logs and making shortbread biscuits. Science on Wednesday was lots of fun and very messy. The class conducted lots of experiments. One of them involved making different kinds of fake snow to find out which one was the best.



It was a shame that we couldn't hold the Christmas Fair as planned as everyone had worked hard to get things ready. Again, the students responded really well to the changes and



adapted their plans to fit in with what was achievable.

Connie's jewellery stall has gone online and the drama group (Damon, Bradley, Callum and Theo) filmed their production so that it could be shared with parents. Connie also gave some packets of reindeer food to younger students today as we couldn't sell them.



Today, we are going to have lots of fun activities to end the term. We will be setting off the volcanoes we made, holding a big Christmas Kahoot quiz, playing games together and enjoying a movie.



We hope you all have a great Christmas and a happy and healthy new year! Best wishes to all our students and families from Rachel, Jan and Rhiannon.





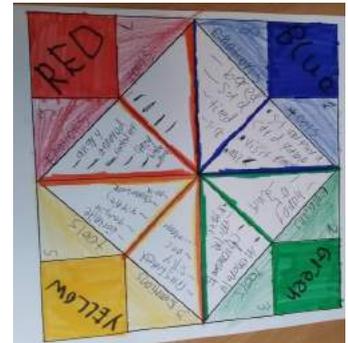
What a last week of term! So much excitement running up to Christmas, but lots of giggles with the opposite characteristics of Henry "Ebonhenry Scrooge" and Jacob "Buddy the Elf"!! Despite Henry's negative view of Christmas during the run up, he has transferred his understanding of characters in A Christmas Carol to drawing Godzilla in the likeness of the 3 ghosts! Lewis and Ade have also done well to match the



characters to each other looking at their relationships and to use evidence from the text to describe each character.



We have developed our Zones of Regulation to recognise which emotions we feel in each zone and then which



strategies and tools will help to regulate us. We made personal fortune tellers/ cootie catchers which was also fun!



Jacob has worked really hard to develop his experience with the guinea pigs and has worked up to holding them and picking them up independently in a week, which is amazing!

We've also worked on our Fine Motor skills and Whole Group Plan to build things with bricks and Lego - really good team building activities within our class and peers who don't usually work together working very well and respecting each other.



APOLLO



We finally managed to get back into the kitchen this week (much to Josh's delight!) to make some Christmassy (but also dinosaur-shaped) gingerbread. Tom's example batch caught in the oven a little bit, but Josh's were absolutely spot on, crunchy on the outside and chewy in the middle.



On Tuesday, PE was well received with students playing football, dodgeball, badminton and mini golf too.



We enjoyed Christmas dinner on Wednesday, with a few taking the opportunity for

"seconds" as well. Tracy's pigs in blankets were the star of the show according to the staff and students.



Finally, Leah has been practising new Christmas crafting skills, particularly looking at decorating jars that would have been used for the Christmas fair (they are tealight holders).

It has been a great term (but a long one) with lots of progress made across the class. Students have been getting more and more confident each day and the work they have been doing, in English and Maths especially, has been excellent.



Merry Christmas everyone!



Christmas tips for autistic people and their families

The NAS have released some advice on supporting autistic people and their families over Christmas: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/leisure/christmas/tips>



Diary Dates

- ★ Friday 17th December - Last day of term
- ★ Tuesday 4th January - School opens
- ★ Monday 10th January - Swimming starts for Polar class



Happy Christmas from Rosie, Bella and Oreo!

Glenfield COVID-19 vaccination clinic for 12-15 year-olds over Christmas school holidays

Young people aged 12-15 who haven't yet had their COVID-19 vaccine are invited to come along with their parent/ guardians to have it at a specialist temporary clinic at Glenfield Hospital during the school Christmas holidays.

The clinic is being held on Tuesday 21 December from 10am – 6pm. Booking is required and can be done so via Swiftqueue using this link:

[https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=\\$2y\\$10\\$WeE48pMxLpzZufbdyjQXnekD.PV2loncUq8cN9TgEBXEmODtT59QC](https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=$2y$10$WeE48pMxLpzZufbdyjQXnekD.PV2loncUq8cN9TgEBXEmODtT59QC)

It is an ideal opportunity for students to get the vaccine if they missed getting it at school, for example because they were absent on the day. Young people who are eligible to get their second dose can also have it at the clinic – so long as they had their first vaccine more than 12 weeks ago.

Vaccinators are all specially trained to work with young people and strict safeguarding protocols will be followed.

The vaccine used will be Pfizer-BioNTech.

Healthy children who have tested positive for COVID-19 need to wait 12 weeks before they can have the vaccine.

Parents and guardians of 12-15-year-olds will need to attend the vaccination with their children so consent can be obtained.

If you would like to understand more about the benefits of young people receiving the vaccine, watch Dr Wadhwa's short video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCyTl6V9A6Y&t=12s>

Young people can find out more about the vaccine by watching our new COVID-19 vaccine facts explainer video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNeEMgf7zSA>

Other vaccination clinics for young people will be available over the school holidays. To find what is available you can either:

- visit the NHS website for walk-ins:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>
- view the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) #GetVaxxed website, with a full list of walk-ins in the area:
<https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/>

- visit the NHS National Booking System:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>
- Call the LLR central booking team on 0116 497 5700 who can help you to book an appointment.

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/fusion-academy/>

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