



Bird's Bush 2023 Autumn 2 Newsletter



It has certainly been a busy and fun half term at Bird's Bush! The children have worked incredibly hard in class and have enjoyed preparing their Christmas shows to share with parents.

We thank everyone for their ongoing support and wish all families a happy and peaceful break. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!

DOJO winners



Well done to our Dojo winners who enjoyed 'STARBOOKS' this half term. The winners enjoyed luxury hot chocolate in the library, with a chance to enjoy a special story time. Keep up the hard work Bird's Bush CHAMPIONS!



Thank you for your kind donations for BBC Children in Need. We raised £84.90 for this excellent charity.

Staffing News

We say goodbye to Miss Collins as she leaves to join her new school. She has taught many children from our Bird's Bush families over her years at school and know that you will all join us as we thank her for all she has done for the school and wish her the best in her new adventures!

We are delighted that Mr Wheatley will be joining Bird's Bush as Year 6 teacher from January. We are also thrilled to share that Miss Swain will be staying with us teaching Reception class. Mrs Hathaway is excited to be moving to join Year 3 from January.

As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your child's class teacher.

The Premier League Primary Stars Visit Bird's Bush

What a special day we had in school when the Premier League Primary Stars team visited Bird's Bush. All children joined in a special assembly to find out about the values of the Premier League. We reflected on how they linked to our Bird's Bush values.

- Be ambitious – work hard and never give up on their goals
- Be inspiring – set a great example to others
- Be connected – work well with others and in a team
- Be fair – treat people equally and think of others



There were then workshops in classrooms, focussing on learning poetry, writing techniques and developing reading skills. The Premier League Primary Stars then kindly opened the new school library which has been a huge hit with children visiting with their classes.



Friday Club Fun

Take a look at some of the fantastic Friday Club fun that has taken place this half term! Children have had opportunities to learn more about celebrations such as Diwali and Christmas, and have designed some creative crafts such as Christingles, poppy biscuits and road signs. They have spent time playing together outside. Children love having the opportunity to play with children from different year groups during Friday Club! If this is a service you require as working parents, please contact the school office to discuss this further.

Christingle





Christmas at Bird's Bush!



How exciting that Santa visited Bird's Bush in our grotto! The children were delighted to have the opportunity to meet Father Christmas and share their wishes for the Christmas season.



What a delicious Christmas dinner! Thank you to our catering and lunchtime team.



Well done to all children for such fantastic Christmas performances this year! Your singing was beautiful as always. Thank you to all families who were able to join us



Winter Wonderland

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 loved their visit to Winter Wonderland at the Snowdome. They spent time playing in the real snow on sledges, sliding down the slopes, making snow angels and even having snowball fights! The children found the Cinderella pantomime show hilarious, and particularly enjoyed it when Father Christmas made a special appearance. Finally, the children made it to Santa's Christmas Village, where each child wrote a letter to Santa, took a ride on the carousel and saw the Christmas animals. What a wonderful experience to share with friends!



We all enjoyed Christmas craft evening and the Rudolph Run!




**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
AND
SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR**

Thank you on behalf of the staff for the kind Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. Wishing you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. See you back in school on **Tuesday 9th January**.



Reception - Robins

What a fantastic half term we have had in Robins. We are becoming very confident and motivated learners!



We have really enjoyed reading The Little Red Hen, The Enormous Turnip and The Gingerbread Man. We can retell those stories using Talk for Writing actions. We have begun to create our own stories that have a beginning, middle and end.



I am so impressed with all the progress we have made in phonics this term. It has been amazing to see you all trying your best. We have been practising segmenting and blending words using our

Fred Fingers. All of us are learning the new 'Special friends' and we will continue after the Christmas break.

In PE we have practised moving in lots of different ways and playing games that help us learn to take turns and work as a team.



In Maths we have been learning how to make 5, 6 and 7 using a double die. We have practised the 5 little speckled frogs and the 5 little men in a flying saucer.

We also went on our school trip to the Snowdome, where we played in the snow, slid down the slope, watched the Cinderella show, looked at all the animals and we were lucky enough to write a letter to Santa.

I am amazed at how much reading and Numbots is happening at home. A very big thank you to parents and well done to the children. Please keep it up over the Christmas break.

Year One - Woodpeckers

The Woodpecker Class have had a fantastic term being Historians. We have explored our family

trees and the history of our local area including our beautiful castle. In English

we have been developing our understanding of what a sentence is and using our

storyteller voice to write our own story. We also wrote a recount of

our amazing trip to Winter Wonderland which we

published and shared with our

grown-ups. We finished

off our term with a Christmas singing celebration and made yummy mince pies.



Year Two - Kingfishers

What a busy half term Year 2 have had! We have been history detectives this half term, thinking about our local area and how the Ancient Romans affected Britain and the area we live in. We looked at why they invaded Britain and what they did while they were here. It's thanks to them that our country developed so quickly. They designed so many things from sewers to heating and roads! We talked about what they left behind when the Roman Empire fell. Did you know that Watling street was actually a Roman road? We have had some great fun

in art making our own sculptures based on an artist called Alexander Calder — there is going to be an art installation in our classroom, where our plant-like sculptures can be seen. We had a fabulous Christmas



Celebration when we visited the Snowdome for our trip this half term. The snow play was super, snowy fun and the pantomime was a Christmas wonder. We liked the animals in Santa's village and thought about bringing one back to school as a pet but decided they needed to stay with their animal friends. We have worked very hard this half term and can't wait for the new term to start!



Year Three - Kestrels

What a busy half term in Year 3! We have been inquisitive scientists learning all about cycles in nature, including the

seasons, frogs and birds. We have also enjoyed learning about settlements in Geography, including having the opportunity to design their own. In art, it has been great to study Cezanne and how different mediums can be used to create still life art.



We have enjoyed our writing based on The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. We had to create our own suspense stories based on this.

In maths, we have been learning lots about shape and measurement. Knowing how to use our rulers accurately has helped us to measure in maths learning but in other subjects too! We have been working hard to develop mathematical reasoning, using our sentence opener

"I can prove this by..." to help us!



Year 4 - Owls

Year 4 have really enjoyed Art this half term as they loved learning about sketching foreground, middle ground and backgrounds. We have also learnt how to layer card to make a picture showing depth. In Science we have found it really interesting that some plants can be classified using flowering and non-flowering. Year 4 have also tried to recreate botanist illustrations. We have also been challenged by classifying animals.



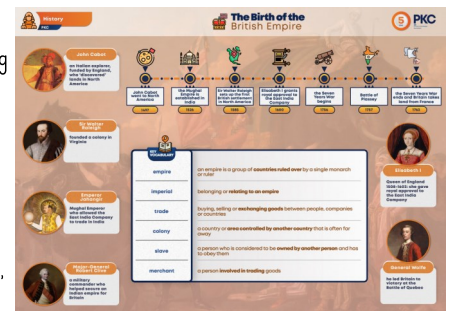
In Geography we tried fruits that are mainly grown in Mediterranean Europe, grapes, oranges, apricots, figs and olives. Most of us didn't like trying the olives as they weren't as nice as the oranges and didn't seem as fresh. We have looked at Venice in Italy and the canals that surround homes there. Writing our information fact file was a highlight.

In Maths we have recapped the division bus stop method and column method for solving multiplication problems. Our favourite area of Maths is practicing our Masters of Multiplications, we love to see our names moving up to the next level on our learning wall.



Year 5 - Eagles

We have had an amazing Autumn term in Eagle class. There has been lots of lovely learning happening and the children have been working hard. In history, we have learnt about how the British Empire grew over many years between the 16th and 20th century and discussed the impact it had on our country and our relationship with others. In Religious education, we have been studying peace and what it means to different people. We focused on what inner peace is and how



we can promote community cohesion within our local area. In our writing, have been inspired by Greek Mythology and having a go at writing our own myths and legends. Year 5 shone in PE, practising our net and wall skills in badminton. We finished the term by performing our Christmas songs at the local church and making our Christmas themed cams toys.



Year 6 Falcons

This term, we have enjoyed lots of elements of our learning. One of our favourite memories will be going to the fire station to learn about being safe and sound at home. We found out lots about dangers in the home and local environment. It was fascinating to learn how to perform chest compressions (although we hope that we never have to use it in an emergency!). Our class showed what magnificent ambassadors we can be for the school while on a school visit. We have written excellent stories in English using a warning theme and have started to learn how to write formal discussions (it is quite hard not to use contractions when we are writing but we have not given up yet!).

We have expanded our knowledge of art and sculpture this term and our teacher is incredibly proud of the clay tiles that we produced. They are intricate and each one is beautiful! Our teachers have said that we excelled in our science assessments, creating sublime information pages all about classification. Our class has shown an exceptional attitude towards our maths learning this term and we have learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Some of it has been tricky (like long division and percentages) but we never gave up and this has been shown in our attitude towards our latest assessments (Miss C says we will be experts by the time the real SATs come round in May, and we won't be as worried about them!). Although we were not sure about learning about the suffragettes in History, we were confident at debating the issues of the times and we were able to use our knowledge of WWI and the Home Front to help us. We are brilliant at noting in our jotters. We are officially ready to learn about World War II next year!

A note from Miss Collins: It has been a privilege to teach year 6 this year. The class have shown an excellent range of CHAMPIONS characteristics and deserve all the amazing things that I know are in their futures. I wish each and everyone of year 6 the very best in the New Year! Their futures are very bright indeed (just remember that those SATs are just a snapshot of how truly amazing and unique you all are!).

