



## CHARSFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Road, Charsfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7QB  
Telephone: 01473 737347 Email: [office@charsfield.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@charsfield.suffolk.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mr Mark Taylor  
Head of School— Mrs Amie Reeve

## School News – December 2021

### CLASS 1

What a wonderful half term we have had. The children have continued with their hard work and enjoyed deepening their understanding of place value, shape and addition and subtraction. In literacy the children have written firework poetry, followed and written instructions and have written their own story based on Leafman.

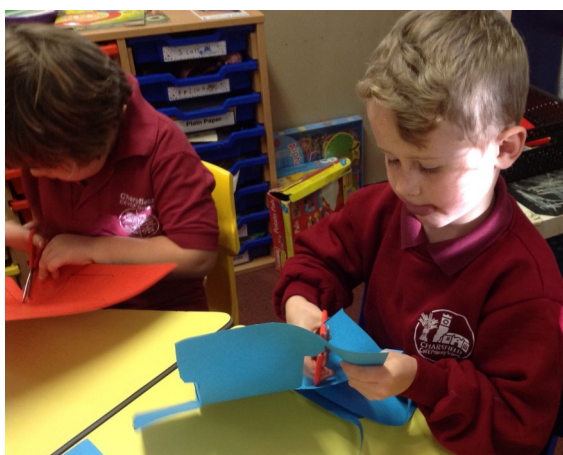


The children enjoyed baking for children in need and raising money. They also enjoyed learning about Bonfire night and the Gun Powder Plot and why we celebrate it. In forest school the children learnt about bonfire safety and roasted marshmallows to make S'mores. In PE the children had 4 weeks of learning how to play tri-golf, they thoroughly enjoyed this and learnt how to control the ball with the stick and develop their aim. As well as this in PE the children have been developing their hand eye co-ordination through various tasks, building the foundation blocks for sport games.

In science children have been exploring materials and their properties by conducting experiments to test various properties. The children have also found out how wool, glass and paper is made.

In recent weeks the children have been working really hard to learn their nativity lines, songs and performance. The children enjoyed going to The Wolsey theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk. It was great for them to see why we have performances and said they would like to do this when they are older.

Have a great Christmas break—Miss Sayer and Mrs Smith



## CLASS 2

This half term has really flown by! Class 2 have been working very hard across all areas of the curriculum. Our literacy this term was based on a book called 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. We have studied the text to help us write descriptively about Mount Vesuvius and the way in which it destroyed Pompeii in AD79. Using literary devices such as powerful verbs and adverbs, onomatopoeia, and expanded noun phrases, the children have written some very effective poems about the earthquake, which preceded the eruption. They have also planned and written their own version of the story. We also had our very own Roman artefacts day.



Our guided reading book this term has been 'The 13 storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths'. The children have really enjoyed this whacky treehouse adventure where the laugh-out-loud story is told through a combination of text and fantastic cartoon-style illustrations.

In maths, we have been getting to grips with written methods for multiplication and division and understanding the relationship between them. We are now beginning to apply these methods to a variety of word problems.

In French, we have been learning about 'Les animaux' and learning how to say our numbers to 20. We have learnt a fun song called 'Tu-as un animal?'

In their science lessons with Miss Sayer, the children have been learning about the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates. They have looked at the role of the human skeleton in protecting our vital organs and the advantages and disadvantages of different types of skeletons. They have also learnt about the importance of different food groups and the way in which they keep us healthy.

In music, we have been learning how to play the descant recorder. We have been learning how to recognise, clap and play simple 4 beat crotchet quaver rhythms and how to recognise and play simple melodies written on the musical stave in the treble clef. Next term we will be preparing for a performance at Snape in March where the children will be learning a selection of songs focusing on our planet Earth. More details to follow in the New Year!



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!

Mrs Merry

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

As we do every November, the pupils learnt about Remembrance Day and we held our memorial event on the playground and sang the song "Remember." The pupils had made some lovely poppies and wreaths that were made into an excellent display and they learnt about the history of why a poppy is used as a symbol of remembrance.





### CLASS 3

Class three have worked really hard this term and have earned themselves a rest for the Christmas break! We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, where the children found themselves transported back in time to Victorian England where they experienced life as a poor person seeking help at the workhouse. During their time there, they had to solve the mystery of who stole the silver candlesticks by interacting with the various characters throughout the day. Most of them got it right, so we may have some budding detectives in the making!

From our visit we were then able to imagine that we were living in the workhouse and wrote diary entries based upon our experience. Life in the workhouse was very hard and if you didn't like gruel, then it would be much harder!

In maths we have been getting to grips with fractions and will continue with these after Christmas. During the holidays the pupils can play a few games of TT Rockstars to help them remember their times tables.

Our Science lessons have involved finding out about electricity and we have been making our own circuits and experimenting with making bulbs brighter and buzzers louder! We also had a go at making our own steady hand game, which was great fun!

In music with Mrs Merry pupils have been learning to play the recorder and read music. There has been lots of beautiful singing too!

Although this term has been a challenging one, the pupils have coped brilliantly. Thank you to all parents for their support this term. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas with your family and loved ones. See you all in January.

Best wishes, Mrs Reeve



### PE IN SCHOOL

In October the whole school participated in cross country over at the recreational ground. All children raced in their classes. The children all enjoyed the afternoon to compete and support their friends. We hope to make this an annual event.

In November we took a team to the rugby tournament held at Thomas Mills High School. We took a squad boys and girls in year 3-6. Throughout the whole



tournament they showed great team spirit and that it is the taking part that counts. The children won four of their 6 matches to end up 3rd place. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was so nice to be out competing again. Well done to the rugby team. I look forward to next terms sporting events.



### **A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE HEAD**

What a busy term the children have had. I am really pleased that the staff have managed to get the children out on numerous trips and visits and their experiences have been reflected in the wonderful work produced. The enthusiasm the children show towards school has been fabulous and it is always a pleasure to talk to them about what they are doing. They are all a real credit to their parents!



I am also extremely happy that, at the time of writing, the school has not had to take additional precautions due to COVID-19. I have seen first-hand how disruptive a COVID outbreak can be in a school and the affects it can have upon the well-being of pupils, parents, and staff. Therefore, I thank you for your efforts to keep everyone safe and supporting the school in this matter, whether it is taking your child for a not so pleasant COVID test, wearing a mask when dropping off or collecting, or your patience when the school must limit some of our normal activities, i.e. the school Nativity.

On a more positive note, the staff are looking at the possibility of including the younger children in the summer school performance. Hopefully, by the summer things will be a bit more normal and any infection control measures will be easier to implement in the warmer weather conditions.

Next term the school will be focusing on some key areas. Firstly, the staff are working very hard to enhance the curriculum even more which takes a great deal of time and effort. I regularly talk to the children about what they are learning, and it is interesting to hear their feedback about school and this is being taken into consideration as we go forward.

Several of the older children for example are curious about their future education, including what happens after school. Therefore, I am planning for a member of staff from Cambridge University to talk to the children about universities in general and the opportunities they offer. This should happen at some point during the spring term.

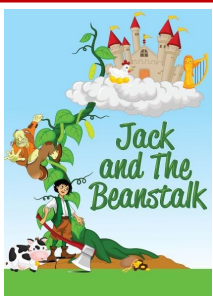
The younger children love their learning through play and the school is working with Early Excellence <https://earlyexcellence.com/about-us/our-story/> from January. The objective is look at ways we can develop our Early Years and KS1 provision to make it even better.

Another area for development is the school library. Some new bookcases are currently being sourced and the idea is to get more books out for the children to read. Help with this is being sought as we have a lot of books to sort through and to get on the shelves when they arrive. If any parents can help with this, please let me or Mrs Reeve know.

I am also very keen to have more conversations with parents about the school and how we move it forward. Personally, I really enjoy talking to parents, but with all the recent restrictions this has been much more difficult. I know we have two wonderful parent governors and a fantastic PTA, but I would also like to give parents the opportunity to talk through about what we do in school, whether it be projects, policies or how we develop the wider curriculum. I will put out more suggestions on how we go about this in the new year, but in the meantime please feel free to catch me at the end of the day - I am at one of the collection points at least twice a week.

Thank you again for your support during this term and I wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year with your families.

Mr Taylor (Executive Headteacher - Charsfield and Fressingfield C of E Primary Schools)



### **PANTOMIME VISIT**

In early December, we were delighted to take the whole school to watch the pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk at the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a wonderful experience for many of our pupils who had not visited a theatre or watched a pantomime before. A huge thank you to our fabulous Friends of Charsfield (PTA) who paid for all of the pupils tickets.

## THE FRIENDS OF CHARFIELD SCHOOL (FoCS)

# FUNDRAISING



The Friends of Charsfield have been a little limited to what they have been able to fundraise with this term, but they do have some news for you.

Thank you to those that sifted through their houses and filled countless bags for their Bags2Schools collection earlier in the term. This raised a fantastic £120.00 so a definite event to run again.

The Christmas Treasure Hunt that ran this week raised £22.50. Well done to Charlie Coulter who successfully identified where the treasure was hidden and won himself a box of festive chocolates. Thank you to Frankie for helping adjudicate this.

The Christmas Hamper Draw was also an event that did well and raised £50 for the funds. Thank you to Luna who helped Mrs Butcher pull out the prize winners. They are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize (An amazing festive food and drink hamper) Pearl

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (A beautiful hamper of indulgent toiletries & Christmas Cards) Freddie

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (A voucher from The Bengal Wickham Market) Harry

With this money the Friends have very kindly paid for all of our pupils to attend the panto at The Wolsey Theatre, an event enjoyed immensely by all. They have also paid £10 per pupil for the Class 3 trip to Gressenhall Hall, something that the FoCS pride themselves in offering every year to every child in the school.

We thank all of the members of the FoCS who work behind the scenes for the benefit of all of our children and those that spend their money supporting them. They do hope that next year may bring more opportunities to fund raise.

### CHILDREN IN NEED



In November we learned all about the work of Children in Need and the pupils decided that they would like to raise money for the charity. We came up with the idea of making biscuits and selling them to parents and family members to raise some money. The biscuits were very tasty and we managed to raise an impressive £52.

Well done to everyone!

### PAT DOG IZZY

We have been delighted to welcome Mrs McArthur and Izzy the PAT dog into school this term. Pet as Therapy (PAT) Dogs are used in many different settings and have proven to help improve wellbeing and maintain positive mental health. The pupils who have been able to meet with them are really positive about their time with our visitors and look forward to their sessions. During the next two terms, every child will get the opportunity to spend time with Izzy should they wish to do so. We look forward to welcoming Mrs McArthur and Izzy back into school after Christmas.



**Our next term's Values for Life themes are: Compassion & Peace**





## Available Clubs



Days / Dates	Times	Name of club	Session Cost	Club Leader	How to book in
Daily (Mon-Fri)	8am to 9am	<b>Breakfast Club</b>	£2.50 for the first child — £2.25 for additional siblings	Mrs Crane	With the club leader/ school office on an ad-hoc basis
Monday	3.15pm to 5.15pm	<b>Cookery Club</b> (Includes food to take home & a snack)	£6.50 per child	Mrs Hood and Mrs Crane	Please sign up for the half term with the relevant form from reception
Tuesday	3.15pm to 5.15pm	<b>Crafts After School Club</b> (Includes a snack)	£6.50 per child	Mrs Hood	With the club leader/ school office on an ad-hoc basis
Wednesday	3.15pm to 5.15pm	<b>Cookery Club</b> (Includes food to take home & a snack)	£6.50 per child	Mrs Hood and Mrs Smith	Please sign up for the half term with the relevant form from reception
Thursday	3.15pm to 5.15pm	Sports Club (No food is provided please send children with a snack / drink)	FREE to all pupils as funded by our PE Premium	Education Through Sport (Our PE Company)	With the school office on an ad-hoc basis
Friday	3.15pm to 4.30pm	Tri-Golf Club - (No food is provided please send children with a snack / drink)	FREE to all pupils as funded by our PE Premium	Premier Sport	With the school office for the full 6 weeks

### Booking For Clubs

To book in for Breakfast or After School Clubs please speak to Mrs Crane or Mrs Butcher in the office. Please try to book ahead where at all possible as this helps with organising resources for the clubs. We are aware that situations do happen that necessitate adding your child at late notice. Please do let us know if anyone other than normal guardians are due to collect your child from a club.

### Arbor Parent Payment System

We do hope that you have find the new Arbor Parent Payment system fairly easy. Dinner are added to the system daily. Any clubs are added to the system the week following the clubs being taken. Other payments for trips / uniform are added on as and when taken.

**Could we politely ask you to log into the Arbor system and clear your child's payment during the Christmas break.**

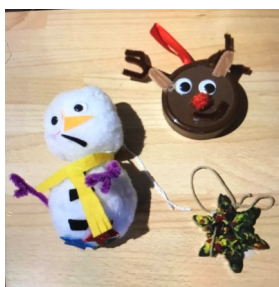
If you have any issues with logging in, please do speak to Mrs Butcher who will be able to help you.

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION**

A huge congratulations to all pupils who entered this competition and earned a house point, Mrs Butcher had a really hard job judging this, the winners were:

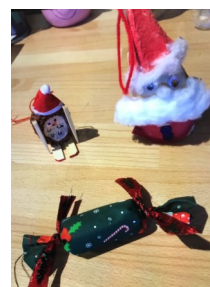
#### **Key Stage 1**

- 1st Place—Jess
- 2nd Place—Millie
- 3rd Place—Scott



#### **Key Stage 2**

- \* 1st Place—Harry
- \* 2nd Place—Ozzy
- \* 3rd Place—Frankie



### **REVERSE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CHARITY**

A huge thank you to all families that donated an item or two for our Reverse Advent Event this year. We had some lovely food and gifts and all of these have been donated to The Lighthouse Women's Refuge in Ipswich. Debbie from the charity came to visit the pupils and ran a collective worship on The Lighthouse and the work that they do. She thanked the pupils for their kind donations that she then took back with her.

Every year, the pupils here at Charsfield all design a Christmas card, Mrs Crane then sends these home and

families are able to place orders to buy their child's designs in packs complete with envelopes. The money that is raised from these is donated to a charity of the pupils' choice. This year the pupils wanted to help buy presents for children less fortunate than themselves that end up in The Lighthouse over the festive period. Debbie gratefully received the amazing £80 that you all managed to raise from this. A big thank you to the pupils for their hard work, the parents for purchasing them and also to Mrs Crane for organising and copying these in her own time.



### **AFTER SCHOOL AND BREAKFAST CLUBS**

We have had a great first half term in After School Club - In Cookery Club on Monday's we have cooked lots of yummy things. In Wednesday's Craft Club we have enjoyed making lots of autumnal and festive things including these Conker Snails. The following are the crafts that we have planned for the next half term. Please do book in ahead of time; where possible; for the sessions that your child might like to allow us to source the resources.

- Week 1 - Small clay bowl
- Week 2 - Turtle mosaic plate
- Week 3 - Cloud rainbow and rain cloud
- Week 4 - Cardboard Turkey/peacock
- Week 5 - Hand print heart tree
- Week 6 - Pipe cleaner flowers and dragon flies
- Week 7 - Hand print flowers.



Please note that both Cookery and Craft Club have had to increase by 50p a session from January 2022.

Breakfast Club continues to run from 8am every day, we have decided to charge this at the flat rate of £2.50 (£2.25 per sibling) regardless of if your child has breakfast or not, as again the club still needs to break even.

Wishing you a great Christmas holiday — Mrs Hood and Mrs Crane