



Pupils of the Week

AWARDS

	Betty Bee	Wilbur Woodpecker	Olive Owl	Samuel Squirrel
Kingfishers	Phia	Mikey	Louis	Harrison
Jackdaws	Oscar	Harper	Arli	Caroline
Ospreys	William	Oscar	Isabelle	Ellie

Dear Parents

CHRISTMAS

From Monday 9th December children can bring in cards for their friends which can be given out at breacktimes. Please ensure that cards do not come in any earlier – we try to keep the festive fun to the last two weeks otherwise everyone just gets over-excited too early! On the last day of term children can wear Christmas non-uniform, this can include a range of festive accessories (within reason!) Jackdaws and Ospreys will be doing their usual secret Santa – more details about that will come out with your child.

The Christmas Concert will be held at 2.30pm and 5.30pm on Wednesday 18th December this year. This is to ensure that the event is not too late for some of our families with younger children. We do expect the children to attend both the afternoon and evening performances, so we are only doing it on one day.

Part of the celebration will involve a collection for the local Food Bank. The idea came about when Jackdaws class were learning about money in their PSHE lessons. They were extremely thoughtful about people who have less than themselves and came up with a wonderful idea. They decided that they would like to do chores at home to earn money so that they could buy something to donate to the food bank. The school staff were so touched that they had such a lovely idea that we decided that we would have this as a school-wide initiative and link it with our Christmas celebrations. So, each child needs to do some chores at home to earn a pound (or more if they wish) to purchase an item that can be brought in to the service and donate. We hope that you will agree that this is a lovely idea and will support your children with this venture and really bring out the ‘gift of giving’ as part of our celebrations.

PIPITS’ NEWS

Pipit class goes into hibernation!

Last week the Pipits came to school in their pyjamas with cosy blankets so they could explore hibernation. The children learnt which animals hibernate in the UK, Dormice, Hedgehogs and Bats. They then spent the day building cosy nests, caves and spaces to hibernate in. In the afternoon we ate biscuits and drank hot chocolate so that we would have enough energy for a long winter sleep.

KINGFISHERS’ NEWS

In Kingfisher class, we have been busy learning about animals in science this half term. We have learnt that vertebrates are animals that have a backbone inside their body. The major groups include fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We have made ‘messy maps’ of our classroom and looked at aerial photographs of our school in geography.

In English, we have been reading about penguins and this week we are producing our own non-fiction/fact page about a polar animal of our choice.

In maths, we have been ordering, comparing and deepening our understanding of number to 100. We have been working very hard and trying not to mention a certain festive word.....until December (which of course is very difficult!!!)

Kingfishers also tried Challah Bread and grape juice whilst finding out how Jewish people celebrate Shabbat with Mrs Burleigh.



JACKDAWS' NEWS

Jackdaws Class have been focusing on poetry in English this month, looking at 'A River' by Marc Martin: this beautifully illustrated picture book has really inspired our creative writing. We are going to share our poems with each other on Monday over a nice warm cup of hot chocolate as a bit of a treat.

In Maths, we have been focusing on our multiplicative knowledge, exploring our tables from the 2s to the 6s... and beyond! This is really helping to prepare the Year 4s for the Multiplication Tables Check that we will be administering in the Summer Term.

Our French learning has really taken off this year: the class (and Mrs Shaw!!) are really enjoying learning a new language. We are currently learning how to answer the question, "Quelle est la date de ton anniversaire?"

This half term also sees us being able to use the wonderful Outdoor Learning site! We've already created some artwork using viewfinders, and we are going on to look at map symbols too. It's always brilliant being able to take our learning outside - even when it's chilly!

We've also just starting practising our singing for the performance at the end of term. We are very keen to learn our songs!

OSPREYS' NEWS

We have had a huge focus on learning times tables which has resulted in children making PHENOMENAL progress. This has been extremely rewarding for the children as it has had a knock-on effect on improving confidence in daily maths lessons. Thank-you parents for supporting your children at home with this. We have also been learning about fractions: ordering, comparing and adding and subtracting. Towards the end of this term we will be focusing on multiplying and dividing.

We spent a couple of weeks reading and writing poetry. We wrote Kennings poems and examined how poets use personification. We later wrote our own personification poetry – imagine a paintbrush having human qualities; imagine how an earthquake would move; imagine what winter would be thinking! Grammar and spelling have continued to be an integral part of the week and this week we have been looking at ways of avoiding comma splicing. We have just started a new writing unit based on the book Fourteen Wolves by Catherine Barr.

Our Maya topic is now coming to an end and we have explored the different possible reasons why the Maya left their cities; an issue that is still a mystery today. We looked at the recent discovery of an Ancient Maya city that cropped up in the news. As well as learning about the Ancient Maya, we have been comparing this time period to Anglo-Saxon England in the 8th – 10th centuries. A lot for the children to get their heads around but they are interested, still questioning why things are and their knowledge is expanding.

Science work has involved experimenting with electrical circuits and varying the components. We are currently coming up with ideas to investigate and will plan fair tests so that we can be true scientists.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been working hard learning to play the cello. They are doing so well Mr Jevons and Ms Ashby from Axe Valley invited them to join the Primary School Orchestra Day. This was an opportunity for instrumentalists of any standard to find out what being in an orchestra is like. They played pieces by Grieg, Vivaldi and Dvořák and a piece that Mr Jevons wrote on the spot. The day finished with a performance to the parents and was brilliant fun though very tiring! As ever, Year 6 behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school.

POPPIES

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised £77.16 for the Royal British Legion, boosting the district total to £2238.98. Thank you everyone, and thank you to the Year 6s who kindly maned the stall each afternoon.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS - Message from Tempest Photograph

*Have you ordered your **Individual** school photos yet?*

*A polite reminder that the closing date to order for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 8th December**.*

Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit

www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3)

Should you miss the deadline or wish to have your photographs delivered to your home there is an additional charge for delivery

School Diary Dates

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *News & Events* section.

More specific details can be viewed online by clicking on the relevant event, this will then display the letter content or additional information

www.kilmington-primary.org.uk

