



The Hayfield Herald

Merry Christmas Everyone

Joy - Integrity - Fellowship

Just when you thought 2020 had nothing left to give, we started the festive celebrations with a bang by having an emergency closure because ... well ...because the developer and water company made a complete hash of it to be honest. Good job Team Orange are so amazing and we managed to evacuate the school, set up activities for the children for the following day and make emergency provisions to get re-opened the following day. Thank you all for your support and help, we are just sorry that you had to be inconvenienced in this way!

Since then we have been full of Christmas cheer in school and although we haven't been able to do all of our usual Christmas activities there has still been lots going on for the children to enjoy. At the front of the school TOPs have built a wonderful Santa display which has brought a smile to us all. They have also held their raffle and raised a phenomenal amount for the school. Great work TOPs.

The biggest thing we have missed this year has been the Reception Nativity and Year 2 Carol Concerts. Fortunately, we have the technology nowadays to be able to video these and share them online but we hope we will be able to return to the stage next year. Reception nativity is always a lovely event and they have done a lovely job creating a filmed version that has been shared with parents and watched by all of the classes. Year 2 have filmed their carol concert (I have been hearing them practice and it sounds amazing) and are just resolving some technical difficulties before sharing it with parents.

Yesterday we had another kind of carol service where a choir group from Christ the King came and sang (socially distanced) outside on the playground for Key Stage 1 & 2. It was lovely to hear Christmas songs being sung and it was enjoyed by the children and adults. CTK have very kindly provided food hampers for families who would benefit from a little extra for Christmas and we have also had a lovely thank you from the Kettering Foodbank for all our weekly TOPs and staff donations that are making a real difference to those who need it.

On Tuesday we had our annual Christmas Extravaganza organised by Mrs Plesca. Usually this entails lots of singing and dancing together in the hall. This year it was all done through Teams so although we stayed in classes the children were connected across the whole school enjoying this together! Today we are supporting Festive Feet Day to raise money for Cransley Hospice. The children are having an exciting time showing off their Christmas socks and having loads of fun in their class bubbles doing all sorts of Christmassy things!

Even though you may not be able to celebrate Christmas in the way you usually would and will be restricted on who you can see and where you can go, we hope you will still have a wonderful time. We hope that you will all also take the time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and it seems very apt that Jesus' arrival on earth was God's plan to address the things that were wrong in the world. As our school vision from Joshua tells us we need to be strong and brave and we will get through it and hope for better days in 2021!

Since returning in September it has been a real challenge for all schools to manage the ever changing guidance from the government and deal with the restrictions that we need to keep everyone safe. I believe the team at Hayfield Cross have done a remarkable job throughout and managed brilliantly through the most difficult times. We have been very lucky, and one of very few schools who have not had a partial or full closure but it has been a real struggle. We are very grateful for your kindness, understanding and support you have shown throughout these times. It may seem insignificant but the messages and notes of thanks, no matter how small they seem to you, make a huge difference to us. Through this year our school has faced the most unbelievable challenges but we remain undaunted and I can honestly say that our staff are phenomenal. For me, personally, I feel extremely proud of our school and it is seeing the staff team and the brilliant children each and every day achieving amazing things which is why I love my job.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas and hope that 2021 brings us all joy and happiness.

Craig Charteris Head Teacher

*Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid.
The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go³ (Joshua 1:9)*