



We have been thoroughly enjoying the festive season at Hayfield Cross. Last week we started things off with Year 2 performing an absolutely wonderful Carol Concert at Christ the King Church. It was so wonderful to have our concert there again and because of the size of the church we were also able to have parents join us. The children were amazing and really made us feel Christmassy. Year 2 had also been to the Church a couple of weeks ago to learn all about Christingle with Reverend Eleanor (who had also dressed as a Christingle!) Special thanks to Rev. Eleanor and Miss Douglas for organising these events and all of the Year 2 staff for a wonderful Christmas Treat.

This week it was the turn of Reception to have their annual Nativity. Although our plan to have parents join us wasn't possible this year the children were still able to put on two performances for the whole school (split so that the classes could be socially distanced in the well ventilated hall). It was a fabulous retelling of the greatest story ever told and the children were so confident, spoke so well and with brilliant acting as well. Thankfully we were able to film the show so that parents could also enjoy it on Tapestry. A fabulous job by Miss Rose, Miss Beswick and the Reception team! We are very sad that our Reception families haven't actually been into school yet but are working on a plan for this in the spring if we can't start having events again.

Last week we were really pleased to be able to have the Big Bubble Theatre Company perform A Christmas Carol production for us. We really didn't want the children to miss out so we paid for an extra performance so we could split the children into smaller groups (Year 1-3 and Years 4-6) which meant we could get them in the hall with large gaps between them. The 'stage' area was set up in the studio which gave us a lot more room. The children really enjoyed the show and it was great to have a performance in school again.

We had a very nice gift from David Wilson Homes last week as they donated 30 grow your own Christmas trees for Year 6. This is an initiative to encourage people to be eco-friendlier and re-use Christmas trees if they like having a real one, rather than throwing them away after Christmas. We hope our Pioneer Class will grow their trees over the next few years and enjoy them well into the future. Another great initiative benefitting our school from one of the builders in our developing community.

To finish their History based learning experiences this term Upper KS2 (Year 5&6) had a dress up event day. Year 5 were fabulous dressed as groovy Greeks and Year 6 as excellent Egyptians. They looked awesome and it was a fantastic way to bring together all of their learning.

Our team of Spiritual Ambassadors had an interesting meeting recently with Rev. Eleanor. Based on our school values of Joy, Integrity and Fellowship they have decided that we should have a school song so they had a session composing. I'm not sure when it will be done (or even if it will be three songs?!) but watch this space!

As part of their RE learning about the Jewish faith Year 4 had a very special visitor join them. Jo Elijah is a member of our local Jewish community who has visited us before. She talked to the children about the Jewish faith and the weekly celebration of Shabbat which they got to experience with her.

As we come to the end of term we are saying goodbye to some of our lovely staff. Mrs Dolling, one of our cleaners who has been with us for many years is leaving. She has been fantastic in making sure our school is clean, tidy and safe and she will be missed. Many of you will remember Mrs Gibson who was a TA in KS2 but has been away for a while battling a serious illness. We are very pleased to share that she is now in recovery and is going to take some time out from work to enjoy life with her family. Also leaving us are Mrs Bury (Y4 TA) who is moving on to another school where she is extending her role she already has there and Mrs Dowler (Badgers Class Teacher) who is taking a break from teaching. We wish all of them the very best for the future.

We had hoped after the summer that we would be returning to normality this term for the school. Although we are still missing our parent events and collective worship together the children are not missing out and have had an amazing term of learning experiences and enrichment. Thank you for all of your support and to all of our amazing staff and community. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone 😊

*Craig Charteris* Head Teacher