

Headteacher's Update – 8.12.23

Dear Parents,

The lead up to Christmas is always a busy time in schools and this year is no exception. As well as the preparations for plays and performances, we have also had a week of workshops too.

Christingle and Carol Service

Year 3 and Year 4 held a beautiful Christingle service on Tuesday, and the glow of the candles in the dark hall reminds us how Jesus is about to bring light to the world on Christmas day.

Year 5 and Year 6 made their way to the St Clare's Church on Wednesday where the readers led us in the story of the first Christmas and the nativity scene was built on the altar. The singing was beautiful by all present.

As you know from previous updates, we are very restricted to numbers in our hall which prevent us at present from inviting parents to these events. We approached Canon John to see if we could invite parents to join us at St Clare's this year, but unfortunately he is bound by the same fire regulations as we are and so this was not possible. Our aim was to try and involve parents through the live streaming of the event, but we know there were timing issues with this, for which we apologise.



Outdoor carol concert – 18th December – all invited

To overcome the issues with capacity inside, we are once again holding our outdoor carol concert to which you are all invited. This will take place on the front playground (Y5 and 6) on Monday 18th December at 2.40pm. For those who missed the live stream, this will be an opportunity to hear in person some of the carols and readings from the Year 5 and 6 service. We also hope to encourage you to join in with a few traditional carols at the end, so bring your singing voices.

Apart from the children in EYFS or KS1 who have already been collected from their classrooms by an adult, **all other children will go back to their classes at the end of the**

carols to be dismissed in the usual way. You will then be able to take them to see the PTA stalls which will be open after the carols.

Please note, both the front and back gate will be open from 2.30pm.

Choir singing at Churchill's Retirement Home

We are very proud of our lovely choir who visited a local retirement home on Thursday to sing carols to the residents. Thank you to Mrs Boughton and Mrs Prosser who run our choir. The children received such positive feedback and did a wonderful job of spreading Christmas cheer with their beautiful voices.

Workshops

Y4 Robot workshop

On Monday, Year 4 enjoyed a Stembotics workshop run by Hyett Education. The children were able to get creative and build their own Iron Man inspired robots. Once built, the LEGO robots were capable of moving and detecting other objects by using motion and tilt sensors and by using icon or block coding. The children were fully engaged during the sessions and really impressed the workshop leader with both their Lego building skills and their ability to code their robots using the iPads. Some children even recorded their own messages for the robots to say.



Y6 WWII workshop

Monday also saw a visit from Portals to the Past to lead a workshop with Y6, consolidating learning from their World War II history topic. It was great to see the effort so many of them made to dress up in costumes inspired by the era and to be so engaged with their learning.

Y1-Y6 Skipping Workshop

It was great to see our children getting so energetic in a skipping workshop led by an expert skipper who had lots of skills and tricks to teach the children. Hopefully lots of them will now practice these during playtimes. A big thank you goes to Mr Wassell who has organised these recent sporting workshops which the children have greatly enjoyed.

Pupils' Outside School Achievements

Well done to several of our children who have been achieving some fantastic things outside of school too.

Ella in 6L performed with her Spotlight Musical Theatre School (Aylesbury group), at The Venue Theatre in Milton Keynes on Sunday evening (3rd December). After many weeks and hours of rehearsals, Ella and her fellow performers danced, sang and acted out a scene from 'School of Rock' and 'Matilda'. I hear that Ella was absolutely phenomenal along with the rest of her group. Although it was a long day, she had an amazing time and enjoyed every minute! She's already looking forward to the next one!

Finley in 5L took part in the Oxford Open Champions Kick Boxing championship where he gained a silver medal in the points fighting category.

Also, Cali in 3L participated in a Cheerleading Competition at The Winter Wonderland in Colchester on Saturday, as part of the Aylesbury Cheerleading Academy (ACA). It was the first competition of the season and although they were all very nervous, they did an amazing job.

Cali and her "Mazarine" team mates competed in their group division, and after much hard work and dedication they won first place, making them overall Divisional Champions! They came away with the winning trophy and hearts full of pride.

They are now preparing for their next competition and hope to retain their title.



Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis



Reception

We have been learning: how to recognise and name 2D shapes.

You can help at home by: taking your child on a shape hunt to find 2D shapes around your house.

Year 1

We have been learning: about money.

You can help at home by: identifying different coins. Can your child add some of them together?

Year 2

We have been learning: songs for our Nativity.

You can help at home by: typing 'Stable Story Sheila Wilson' into YouTube and practising the songs. It is also available on Spotify.

Year 3

We have been learning: about Christingles in preparation for our service.

You can help at home by: asking your child what each part of the Christingle represents.

Year 4

We have been learning: how to make Christingles and what each part represents.

You can help at home by: asking your child how they made it and what each part means.

Year 5

We have been learning: to read the time.

You can help at home by: asking your child to read the time on an analogue clock and convert it to a 24 hour digital time.

Year 6

We have been learning: to use four quadrant co-ordinate grids in maths.

You can help at home by: asking your child whether the x and y co-ordinates are positive or negative in each of the four quadrants.