



Cockerham

Parochial Church of England
Primary School

December 2023



1 - December 2023 Newsletter

HT

What an amazing term it has been. A long term but one which has brought many successes and smiles.

This week's visit to Lytham for the pantomime was excellent and the children had a great time. Thank you to the PTFA for subsidising towards the hire of the coach.

Something that brought a smile to my face this week was when Christian (Aged 6) came for a BOB with his shape poem based on Autumn. I thought I would share it with you all.

Oak trees as wise as a man, as big as a giant living in a mansion

The leaves are like a fish falling from the sky quickly and quietly.

The trees like sticks, strong and fierce.

Leaves swooping like a fast bird.

The oak tree is strong as an eagle and the leaf is like a feather in the wind.

A definite BOB winner!

Can I pass on my huge thanks to everyone from myself and the staff for all your kind gifts and cards. They have certainly got us through this week! Thank you too for all your support this term and on behalf of everyone in school can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and restful new year.

Term restarts January 8th

Smart phones - if Father Christmas brings a new smart phone for your child here is the link to our website for advice as to what to set up before they use it. Please take a look.



<https://cockerham-parochial-church-of-england-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/smart-phone-advice-and-information/>

Water Aid - our charity for this year

This term we launched out fund raising for Water Aid. The raffle money from the 2 performances raised £138.50 and the Christmas jumper Fridays raised an amazing £160.20. A grand total so far of £300. What an achievement.

Thank you for your support with this project. The children are very enthusiastic and further activities and information will be coming out in the new year.

Book of Brilliance winners this month



Flo G for brilliant cutting skills

Ralph, Edward, Billy and Sofie for brilliant debate writing and evidenced arguments in relation to the character Fagin from the novel Oliver Twist.

Christian for his brilliant shape poetry and his use of similes

Ella B for a brilliant and beautiful reflection about people who have gone to heaven. You are a shining example of our school values.

Flo Gr for brilliant use of her phonics and her brilliant brain

Thomas L for his brilliant debating in English written work

George L for his brilliant poem called The Silver Birch

Sofie H for a brilliant piece of balanced argument writing about beavers

Archie, Scarlett, Noah, Joseph, George HK, Flo Go, Theo and Jess for their brilliant letters written to Mrs Brucciani to persuade her to let the class have an extra PE session this week.

Headteacher Star Pupil of the Term

Violet for her amazing hard work in her class all term and for her determination and resilience.

News from the classrooms



Robins



2 - We started December learning about weddings in different cultures.



3 - We had our own class weddings and celebrated together.



4 - We learned about traditions such as cutting the cake, wearing special clothes, giving rings and making promises.



5 - Then we had a party!



6 - We had a wonderful afternoon for Welly Wednesday. We tidied our decking and made everywhere look smart.



7 - We made leaf sculptures and a huge class snake using all natural materials.



8 - We had a wonderful time enjoying being together outside.



9 - Nativity

All of the children have worked extremely hard practising and then performing our Nativity play. They sang songs and told the story brilliantly. We are so proud of them all.



10 - We have been finding out about how Christmas is celebrated all around the world. We learned about Christmas celebrations in Spain and their special Christmas flower.

Stars of the week



Isla- for always being willing to share her ideas in our class discussions.

Myla – for persevering in her maths work. She has worked hard to develop her skills and now chooses to complete maths work independently In the classroom.

All of the Robins class for their fantastic retelling of the story of Christmas as they practised and performed their nativity.

Star Pupil of the term

Nancy - for approaching every task with a positive attitude, enthusiasm and a gorgeous smile. Nancy has worked extremely hard in all areas of learning. She is a wonderful friend to everyone in our class and she is always a willing helper. She is an absolute super star!

Polite request - please can your child bring **water** in their water bottles. We seem to have a steady influx of blackcurrant juice creeping into school. Thank you



Swallow class



Swallows (Year 1 and 2) class have been learning lots in December. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep an eye on our class webpage for more photographs and videos

<https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/swallows/>

A reminder our homework is in our Year Group Pages section of the website and from this Friday spelling lists and other homework will need to be accessed using this link. As a school, we are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use.

Year 1 - <https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/year-1/>

Year 2 - <https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/year-2/>

Key Instant Recall Facts and Spelling choice board activities are on the website as well as in Homework books.

Stars of the Week



Theo - Brilliant communication and classic comments - Q: Why do we give gifts at Christmas? A: Because God gave us the greatest gift of all, he gave us Jesus.

Noah - Perseverance

Amaya - For thoughtful suggestions and comments in RE

Star Pupil of the Term - Jessica C - For always trying her best, being helpful to her friends and setting a good example for others.

News from the Classroom





11 - We had a great time learning about the present perfect tense and using the stem sentences to create present perfect sentences. We have played this game many times.



12 - Everyone enjoyed using water soluble pens to create Christmas trees and extend that into our Spirals project.



13 - Our display of spirals using oil pastels looks fantastic. I am sure you will agree the children worked so hard to produce their artistic masterpieces.



14 - Worm Charming



15 - We have had a brilliant time rehearsing and performing our 'Big, Little Nativity'. Thank you so much for all your kind words, supportive comments and practical help.

"What I have enjoyed this month" from a child's perspective



I really enjoyed the pantomime and shouting out. I enjoyed it because Jack got the princess.

I really enjoyed the art work we have done because we got to learn something new. I didn't know you could use water and felt tip pens. It's really cool!

I really enjoyed our Christmas party because I won a game.

I loved working on our gymnastics routine in PE.

I loved worm charming!

I really enjoyed Welly Wednesday and making our spirals outside.

I really enjoyed writing our fables and showing the moral of the story.

I really enjoyed learning about shape in Maths.

It really enjoyed our Christmas play. I loved learning the songs. I enjoyed being the leader and leading Mary and Joseph around.

I enjoyed making and opening the advent calendar.

I loved everything!

Kingfisher class



Merry Christmas from Kingfisher Class. We have played our ukulele concert to the rest of the school which was a great success. Well done to all the children. They were brave and confident. Look out for our concert for parents next term. We have begun to learn to program simple games in computing and have completed our woodland winter charcoal scenes which are displayed in the corridor. They look amazing. We have been investigating the effects of certain drinks on our teeth and experimented with egg shells. We found that cola, orange juice, vinegar and lemon juice damaged the egg shells and so would cause damage to our teeth. We drew pictures to depict the incarnation and we learnt about Emmanuel: God with us. We considered how Christians believe God is here on Earth with us through each other and the kind helpful ways we support others. We made 'Emmanuel' Christmas greeting cards for anyone in the community who may need some cheer or is lonely at Christmas and gave them Rev. Gary to hand out to the congregation. We thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime and the Christmas party which flew by as we played lots of games. Thank you for all the sweets, biscuits and crisps. We will be using some for the house treat and next term for the children.

In the Forest Garden, we made our own pizzas and learnt to play a new team game called 'Standing Sticks.'

Next, term Year 3/4/5 will be swimming each Thursday morning so please make sure they have their swimming stuff and ukulele with them every Thursday. Please see the letter regarding swimming. We hope to take the learning outdoors as much as possible, even though it is winter, so please ensure your child has a warm school uniform with tights/trousers and a warm coat and gloves each day. Children will also have a PE session on Wednesday so please bring their PE kit.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Stars of the Week:

Florence: For always trying hard and being determined to complete her tasks.

Theo: For always giving thoughtful and compassionate answers in RE.

Star Pupil of the Term: Theo for always being a pleasure to teach and know. He is always kind, tries his best, works hard and thinks of others.



16 - We learnt about the German tradition of Nikolaus and Krampus. Violet kindly baked some cookies in the shape of Krampus and Nikolaus to share with the children. Luckily, no one received a stone! (Given as a reminder to change your ways).



17 - Mmm!



18 - Enjoying our Nikolaus biscuits.



19 - Yum!



20 - The digestion process!



21 - Our science experiment.



22 - We had a visit from Water Aid who told us all about the work they do to ensure everyone can have access to clean drinking water, toilet facilities and washing facilities.



<https://sway.office.com/2Y6FpF6353sxDz1q#content=AAoJCq5VdkPw0k>

23 - Our first concert.



24 - Whole school concert.



<https://sway.office.com/2Y6FpF6353sxDz1q#content=CKKp95VK7HAfnH>

25 - Watch us play!



26 - Concentration



Kestrel class



Kestrels would like to wish all our families a very merry Christmas Christmas, we hope you have lots of fun making memories this festive season. It has been a busy December in Kestrels class, learning lots of new skills across the curriculum. Welly Wednesday was great fun the children all took part in lot's of different outdoor learning opportunities and worked together as a whole school. The children loved the trip to the Pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk, there was lots of singing and laughter throughout. We have also been extremely busy getting ready for our Christingle service. All the children have learned songs and made their own Christingles in preparation.

Remember to keep checking our 'Kestrel' class page for regular updates on our learning.

<https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/kestrels/>

A reminder our homework is in our Year Group Pages section of the website and from this Friday spelling lists and other homework will need to be accessed using this link. As a school, we are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use.

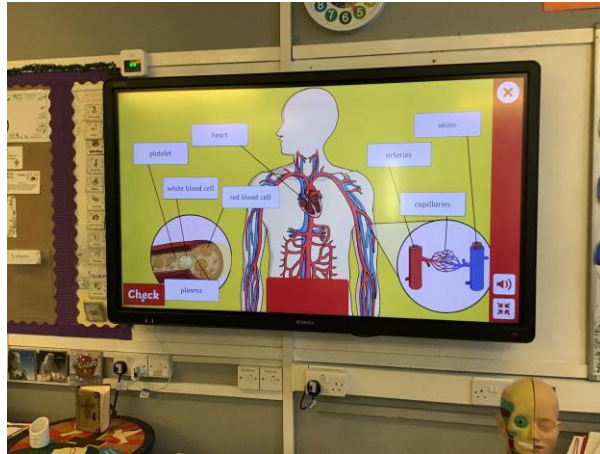
Year 5 - <https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/year-5/>

Year 6 - <https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/year-6/>

News from the Classroom



27 - In computing, we have been focusing on coding. We have learned how to programme BBC Microbits to make our own emotion badges and we even created a step counter. We used our step counters to collect data on how many steps we took while exercising for 5 minutes around the school. We have been learning about healthy relationships and how to show respect online in our internet safety lessons.



28 - In Science, we have been learning about the circulatory system. We have looked at the different parts of the heart and how the heart pumps blood around our bodies. We have been thinking about different ways to keep our bodies healthy. We conducted experiments based on our pulse rate when resting and how this changes during exercise. We created non-chronological reports all about the body and how to stay healthy.

In PE we have been developing our team work skills through a series of different challenges.

In PSHE, we have been looking at being responsible with Money. We have discussed different types of tax and how we can help our society, community and our families at home through helping with jobs, fundraising and helping the elderly in our communities.

In Maths, Year 5 have been learning about prime numbers, square numbers, common multiples and common factors. Year 6 have been looking at fractions this month.

In English, Year 6 have been writing their own chapters for Oliver focusing on narrative writing skills. We completed our own Christmas inspired creative writes.



29 - Welly Wednesday art work using leaves and stones.



30 - Welly Wednesday fun.



31 - Team work in PE.

Stars of the Week



Leon for Spanish. Leon for being able to count in Spanish confidently.

Tamara for perseverance. Tamara persevered with her spellings in English, correcting them all and not giving up.

Sofie for RE. Sophie was kind and considerate when lighting the candle in the RE lesson. She always show the school values.

Edward for Star Pupil of the Term. Edward has made good progress in all areas of the curriculum. He always tries his best in everything he does. Edward enjoys learning new knowledge and is always enthusiastic to share his knowledge with others.

Internet Safety

Here is a link to our website where you will find some useful E-Safety guidance and information for parents, to help keep your child safe online.

<https://cockerham-parochial-church-of-england-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/internet-safety/>

School diary dates are uploaded for parents to access on the website so you will be able to see what is up and coming in advance:

[https://cockerham-parochial-church-of-england-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/ School diary](https://cockerham-parochial-church-of-england-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/School%20diary)

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/hsf>

Please find below the flyer link for the Household Support Fund, administered by Lancaster City Council. This might be of use to you with the cost of energy bills as you can apply for help over the winter months from the Household Support Fund.

The fund aims to help with short-term living costs such as paying energy and water bills or for food or essential household appliances such as heaters and other items

Forest school updates - take a look at the website for new photographs of this in action



<https://www.cockerham.lancs.sch.uk/the-forest-garden/>

PTFA Christmas Fair raised £1420 which is absolutely fabulous. Thanks again to everyone who came on the day, bought raffle tickets, played the games, bought Christmas crafts from the classes as well as those who donated, supported and helped organise.

Sports Events



32 - Cross Country Team



33 - Tamara's horse riding achievements



34 - Netball League - Our first competitive match



35 - Year 3/4 Glo Dodgeball



36 - Y5/6 Glo Dodgeball

Admissions 2024 - if you know of anyone who has a child who will be joining a school in Sept 24 please let them know we can still take them round our fabulous school!



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me



Prayer for Christmas

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- *Lord Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. Amen.*
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Growing in knowledge

Growing in faith

Growing in God's love