

## Year 4 Update

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

### RE

In RE this week, we have continued with our Advent topic and have been thinking about what Isaiah said about the coming of the Messiah and how this was a gift from God. We have been using our Advent Calendars in class daily to help us to prepare for the special time ahead.

**Key Vocabulary:** Advent, gift, prayer, intention, prophet, messiah.

### RE Mission of the Week:

We will be setting a religious based mission for you each week from now on. Each week, we send children out with a 'Mark 10 Mission.' As we encounter Jesus, he invites us to live our lives differently. The weekly mission is a suggestion of how we can do just that.



### English

This week in English we have begun reading the story "The Night Before Christmas." We read this as a class and answered some comprehension questions using on the text. We then wrote descriptive paragraphs to describe our own homes on Christmas Eve.

**Key Vocabulary:** description, comprehension, adverb, expanded noun phrase.

### Pre-Teaching

After the Christmas break we will begin with some diary writing.

## Maths

This week in maths we have begun to look at using the bus stop method for division. Please see the example below on how we do this method.

$$\begin{array}{r} 186 \div 6 = \\ 0 \quad 3 \quad 1 \\ 6 \overline{) 1 \overset{1}{8} 6} \\ \underline{6} \phantom{0} \\ 18 \\ \underline{18} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

no groups of 6  
can be made       $3 \times 6 = 18$        $1 \times 6 = 6$

Key Vocabulary: division, groups, multiples, exchange.

## Pre-Teaching

After Christmas we will be learning to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and the nearest minute. This would be good to practise over the Christmas holidays.

## Additional Information:

### Homework:

There is no home learning this week. Please continue to read with your child over the Christmas break and record this in their homework diary.

## Times Table Rockstars

Please continue using TTRS at home as we are really seeing an improvement in fluency with those children who are consistently using it. We will be setting up another competition between the two classes for all children to participate in over the Christmas break.

## School Closure

As you will have seen via email, the school will not be open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> or Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 due to building work taking place. **School will be open as normal on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

Home learning tasks will be set for these days and will be available on Teams from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## Early Finish

A reminder that the children will finish school for the Christmas Break at **1:30pm** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Forest School**

This week the children took part in their final Forest school session. They have loved taking part in it over the last few weeks.

Below is an email from their session this week:

Hi,

And so we have reached the last week of the year! This half term has really flown by and I can't believe we have come to the end of our time with Year 4 already.

We started today with a body check in, giving time to move and stretch our bodies and get them ready for the session before our welcome routine.

Next we introduced a new game called Squirrels. This is a fast paced game where the children need to perform the different squirrel actions that are called out. If 'fox is coming' is called, they have to quickly find a partner to hold hands and form a tree and then get another 'squirrel' to get inside their tree to be safe. The children were so fast at getting in pairs to form trees, that the fox didn't have a chance of catching any!

After this, we gathered back at the log circle to listen to Emma tell the story of The Christmas Pine by Julia Donaldson. This story tells the true tale of how a pine tree is gifted to the people of the UK every year from the mayor of Oslo in Norway as a sign of peace and friendship. The children were very excited to recognise the images of Trafalgar Square in the book.

For the rest of the session, the children followed their own interests to meet different needs. Some children worked together to build a giant den out of several tripods connected together with further logs and covered in tarps. They showed an enormous amount of collaboration, teamwork and problem solving skills whilst busy with this task, which was great to see. Other children showed caring for our Earth as they worked together to dig holes and plant more trees in our Forest School area. Connecting with the environment in this way gives them a deeper appreciation of the importance of looking after our Earth and increasing biodiversity. Those that had a need to be creative today sat by the fire, bending willow branches into willow hoops, which they tied pieces of red, green and white fabric around to create rag wreaths. Once again, this took a lot of care, time and patience. Finally some children enjoyed being by the fire, building it, lighting it and then preparing a Christmas Poppity Ping mixture to fry on the fire. They needed to take turns in measuring, weighing and mixing the mixture and then turning the little doughnuts over as they cooked. As always, cooking around the fire brings a community together, sharing stories of different cultures and traditions, which is always joyous to hear.

To conclude our session, we enjoyed tasting our Poppity Pings and hearing the children's reflections of their time at Forest School. Contributions included that they now enjoy being outdoors, they have made new friends, they are more trustworthy, creative and respectful to creatures and other people. One of our particular favourites was from one child who said they enjoyed Forest School because they get to be whoever they want to be and nobody minds. We had to finish with a song or two, so we sang 'In the Forest' at the end which made us all laugh.

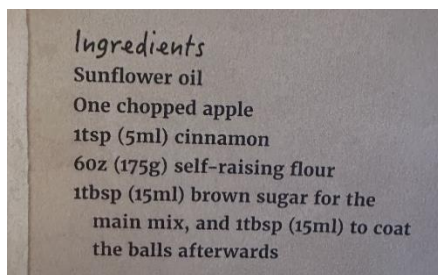
Enjoy the Christmas holiday break when it gets here. See you in the new year.

Kind regards,

Emma and Carrie

P.S.

I attach a photo of the recipe we used today as many of the children were keen to give it a go. We also added some gingerbread mincemeat to give a festive flourish.



### **Five Ways to Wellbeing**



### **GIVE**

Think about a special Christmas present that you would like to give someone. It could be a gift that you make. Think about all the reasons why you would like to give this person a Christmas gift.

Well done for all of your hard work this term. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break.

From

Abbie and Orla