



NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

Motivate Educate Nurture

Angel Express by Darling & Amazon Class



A huge well done to the Darling & Amazon children for their wonderful Nativity production. They have worked so hard, learning all the songs, actions and words; we are all so very proud of them.

Well, the end of term has arrived, and the weather has certainly done its bit to remind us that Christmas is coming. This final week has flown by, and I have been particularly impressed by the way the whole school community has continued to be so full of enthusiasm, they never cease to amaze us and make Stanton such a wonderful place.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the multitude of Christmassy events these past weeks. The stunning performance of 'Angel Express', a beautiful Church Service at St Giles, a scrumptious Christmas lunch and Christmas parties with a special visit from Father Christmas and Paddington Bear. They have brilliantly rounded off a very successful term. Well done and a huge thank you to all the staff who work incredibly hard to make the learning journeys so memorable.

Finally, as this year draws to a close, we would like to thank you all for supporting the school. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Matthews

Head of School

Value of the Term - Respect

This term we have been thinking about how and why we show respect.

We joined with the local community to particularly think about those who have fallen, as well as those who continue to serve our country.



Christmas Celebrations

A delicious Christmas dinner



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas Parties with a Visit from Father Christmas

Every child was given a new book especially chosen by Mrs Anderson – a huge thank you to FOSS for their contribution towards this special gift.



Church Service

We were delighted with the turnout for our church Christmas service. Bonnie and Mrs Plowright welcomed us in with carols on the recorder and Reverend Sharon Glead led a beautiful service with children from all of the classes participating. The Stanton choir sang 'First Christmas Day', orchestrated by Mrs Howarth, which gave us all goose bumps it was so moving. The service was followed with mince pies, organised by FOSS, and lots of lovely chatter back at school.



Stanton Choir sing for community

Sadly, the Stanton Choir were unable to visit the care home due to a COVID outbreak. However, that did not stop them sharing their Christmas tunes. They recorded their performance and sent it over for them to watch. Thank you to Mrs Howarth, our amazing singing teacher for making it such a fun experience.



Tihar Celebrations



This term the children learnt about the Hindu Celebration "Tihar". The 5 day festival, which includes dancing, singing and feasting, honours animals and their bonds with humans.

Children made diya lamps, tasted delicious food and watched a dancing display.

Thank you to the Nepali community for organising and creating such an immersive experience for the children.

Our new school rules



Three very powerful words and our newly worded school rules.

We wanted to capture our rules in a simple and memorable way for adults and children. Every behaviour in school (and maybe at home) can be captured by asking the children, "Is what you are doing safe?" "Is what you are doing respectful?" "Is what you are doing showing me you are ready to learn?" This is a restorative approach where children are empowered and encouraged to reflect on the impact of their behaviours.

House Captain Update

This term the House Captains did their first assembly, sharing information about themselves and their houses. They also organised the Christmas Card Competition. The winning card was shared with the local community.

Points for Term 2 - Well done Ash!

Ash – 414

Birch - 374

Oak – 383



Library Sign Competition - winner



During half term, we asked the children to design a sign for our new library door as it was looking a little bare. We were delighted with the number of entries we received and found it very challenging to choose the winning entry. After much deliberation (X-Factor style), our team of librarians narrowed down their favourite entries. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who entered our competition and a big congratulations to our runner-ups and our overall winner, Ella! Ella is a very talented artist and created a stunning design that captures our library perfectly. Ella's design will now be sent to the printers so keep an eye out for the final library sign!

Look out for the Reading Round up next term.

Mrs Anderson

Forest School

If you haven't had a chance to check out the Forest School blog, here is a little snapshot of what we have been up to this half term...

Inspired by Diwali and other celebrations that we may experience we made garlands by leaf stitching, having a great attempt at learning how to do a cow hitch...



We made our own natural paintbrushes and mud paint and used them to create pictures and paint on trees. We shared each other's handmade brushes so that we could explore the brushstrokes the different natural materials and leaves made...



We had our first foray into using tools at Forest School. We coppiced some hazel, being careful to cut the branch on a diagonal slanting away from the centre of the tree, so that rain water wouldn't fall inwards and cause the hazel to become waterlogged and rot. Then we learned how to use a peeler to whittle the hazel to create our very own magic wand ...



Inspired by the amazing and intricate webs in the hedgerows and the story 'Walter's Wonderful Web' we accepted a group challenge to create a web that would catch an abundance of flies...



We have also had a lot of fun using our imagination, creating our own games and role play ...



FOSS UPDATE

Hi everyone, many thanks to you all for supporting the FOSS events this term, and all the money raised goes towards providing fantastic facilities at our lovely school. We tried a pre-loved sale for the first time at our Winter Fayre, where we sold pre-loved festive jumpers and other items. The sweetie bag tombola, made from your donated Hallowe'en sweets was really popular! Thanks to your support and donations, we raised £250 from the Fayre. And our Festive Goody Bags were also a success, making a profit of £160. Thank you to Mrs Anderson for organising the teachers' cosy Christmas stories - we loved seeing all the different Christmas trees! Now that the library is fully up and running, we will be launching the next exciting whole school project to work towards, so look out for further announcements about that in January!

FOSS wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thanks,
Yvonne



Sporting Update

On a beautifully fresh morning, Team Stanton girls have enjoyed Footie Fun at Abbeyfield School. The girls really shone at working together as a team, refining their football skills and supporting each other. Well done to all the girls who took part- the next England Girls Team in the making!



Key Stage 2 have also taken part in a football festival in Corsham. We fielded both a girls and boys team and both represented the school brilliantly. The girls were playing with one less player and so we were loaned a player by the opposition the always made the new recruit feel welcome and complimented the other team on their play. The boys also became used to giving three cheers to the opposition and trying to outdo the opposing team with delivering this with gusto. There were a mixture of results with some wins, draws and losses but in the end I think everyone who took part enjoyed themselves and got a good work out. They also got the chance to play and work together as a team, a really important life skill.



Darling Class Update

We have had a very busy and happy half term. Here is a little of what we have been up to...

At the beginning of the term we visited Westonbirt and revelled in all of the Autumn colours. We went on a scavenger hunt and enjoyed challenging ourselves in the outdoor area.



As Autumn turned to Winter we began to learn to orally tell the story 'Polar bear, Polar bear, what do you hear?' Learning a story by heart helps to embed story language. The Reception children were then able to adapt the story with their own ideas to produce their own story. We have also had a lot of fun with our post office role play area, taking on the role of a post lady or postman and writing letters and messages to our friends and family.



In Maths, Nursery have been learning counting rhymes, subitising numbers to 3 and counting and recognising numbers to 5. Reception children have explored thoroughly the composition of numbers to 5, gaining a deep understanding of numbers within numbers and also properties of 2d shapes and positional language.



This term we have seen the children's imagination and creativity come to life as they prepared shows for each other. They were also inspired by the scaffolding that they saw going up, creating their own building sites, designing and working together to build hospitals, aeroplanes, offices and houses!



Forest School will be on **Mondays** for **Nursery** and **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** for **Reception**. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing clothing suitable to the time of year: extra thick socks, layers, gloves and hats please.

PE next half term will be gymnastics and will take place on **Fridays**. On Fridays please ensure that your child comes to school in **joggers** and **trainers** (no laces). They will be bare foot for gymnastics so please help your child to practise taking off and putting on socks and shoes in readiness for this.

We would like to thank you all for the support that you have given us and we hope that you all have a happy and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Amazon Class Update

Amazon Class- Term 2, Superheroes in History

What a fantastic end to a very busy and exciting term we have had! The children were absolute super stars in our nativity performance of 'The Angel Express' and we were so very proud of each and every one of them for the hard work and sparkle they put into this very special performance. Rehearsing songs, lines and stage directions started at the beginning of Term 2 but all the super efforts certainly paid off!

At the start of Term 2, the children skipped into class, excited to see the new topic board within our classroom. This term we have



been learning about superheroes from history;

Rosa Parks, Emily Davison and Florence

Nightingale. We learnt about each figure from the past individually and then reflected on the huge impact these wonderful women have had on our lives today.

In English, we explored the fantastic book, 'After the Fall' by Dan Santat and it was a delight to see so many of the children enthused and excited by this story, with many asking for their own copies of the story at home! We practised our storytelling skills, learning and performing the story with expression and intonation. We have explored lots of new vocabulary from our story, with children keen to delve into the thesaurus to find "better words!" We have also used this story to link to our own experiences, thinking about how we might be braver and 'come out of our shell'.



Throughout this unit, we have built up to the children writing a diary entry as Humpty Dumpty using our new vocabulary. I have been absolutely blown away by the writing outcomes and I know the children too are super proud of themselves. Many of our Year 1 children have been heard saying, "This is the most writing I have ever done!" with the most wonderful beaming smiles! We have also been enjoying the library each week and had a great time at the library Christmas party this week.



In maths the children have been developing their calculation skills across Year 1 and Year 2, including lots of problem solving and resilience as we learn new ways to solve tricky problems! In science on a Friday, the children have been learning about the seasons with Mrs Brown, exploring seasonal change and linking their artwork to autumnal and winter scenes.



This week we have enjoyed a wonderful trip to watch 'The Five Children and It' at The Egg theatre in Bath. After reading the story, the children were able to link the book to the play. We've finished off the term with a Christmas party, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch, a library Christmas party and a visit from someone very special!

We couldn't be prouder of Amazon Class's achievements this term. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and special family time together during this winter break.

Please visit our blog to find out more about the exciting things we have been learning about during the term: [Amazon Class Blog](#).



Rhine Class Update

This term to link with our topic on rainforest the children have been busy writing persuasive letters to the Brazilian ambassador trying to persuade them to act on protecting the rainforest, as well as researching the Yanomami tribe who live deep within the rainforest in order to write the script for a radio broadcast. Finally we had a super day out at the Living Rainforest learning more about the plants and animals that have adapted to the environment.



We then created a rainforest in a box to show all the 4 different layers.



In Art, we studied Henri Rousseau's 1891 painting, Surprised! Looking at its composition, line and colour. Did you know he never visited a jungle and used house plants for inspiration? We also spotted that the plants are all leaning to the right, some of the plants echo the tiger's claws and the red plant pops.



In Science we have learnt more about the three common states of matter: solids, liquids and gases and experimented with how to move from one state to another by either heating or cooling. They have also learnt about the water cycle and created their own living model of the water cycle. In Computing they have been busy learning how to create a PowerPoint presentation and have enjoyed adding images, hyperlinks, shapes, and experimenting with different transitions and animations.



To help us get in the festive spirit, the whole class took part in the festive Christmas fun run around the playing fields between Hardenhuish and Sheldon. We warmed up to the 12 Days of Christmas as the hosts put on a festive show complete with a visit from a very fresh faced Father Christmas and some reindeer (or were they moose?) There was plenty of tinsel, sparkle and glow from Rhine and they really put in a huge effort to complete the course without stopping. Awaiting us at the end was some hot chocolate and marshmallows. Then a chance to thaw out our feet on the bus ride back to school.

In our R.E. we have been studying festivals such as Diwali and Christmas we were lucky enough to have a visit from some of the members of our Nepali community who gave an interesting explanation to the festival of Tihar which has many similarities to Diwali. This was made even more memorable as they also provided some delicious traditional food for the children (and adults) to experience.



Please visit our blog to find out more about the exciting things we have been learning about during the term

Dates for next term

Date	Class	Activity/Event	Notes
Tuesday 3rd Jan	Term 3 Begins		
Tues 3 rd Jan	Y2-6	Dance Club	3pm-4pm
Wed 4 th Jan	Y2-6	Football Club	3pm-4pm
Thurs 5 th Jan	Amazon	Gymnastics Club	3pm-4pm
Thurs 5 th Jan	Rhine	Netball Club	3pm-4pm
Mon 9 th Jan	Rhine	Lacrosse Club	3pm-4pm
Friday 13 th Jan	Year 3&4	Multi-Skills	More details to follow
Tues 7 th Feb	All	Safer Internet Day	
Friday 10 th Feb	END OF TERM 3		
Monday 20 th Feb	TERM 4 STARTS		