

Ursuline's end of Autumn term Newsletter

Following in Jesus' footsteps we love, learn and grow together.

Reception

Reception children have had such a busy term learning so many set 1 sounds in phonics and starting to blend them into words. It has been a joy seeing the progress they have made since they started school. Reception is so much more than reading and writing though. It has also been wonderful to see their confidence grow in lots of other ways, from speaking and listening to being able to self-regulate. This culminated in a fabulous Christmas nativity where the Christmas message was loud and clear. We were so proud of them for their beautiful singing and performing in front of many people - not an easy task when you're 4 and 5! Well done Reception children and a special thank you from Mrs Long and Mrs Bryce to Miss Anderson, Mrs Walmsley, Mrs O'Brien, Miss McNulty and Miss Holland for supporting the children so well in everything but particularly in the Christmas nativity. We wish all our families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We will start our new year delving into fairy tales and thinking about celebrations in Come and See.



Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed a fabulous experience at Kingsley and Co's amazing bookshop. Alongside solving some tricky puzzles they also enjoyed choosing their own book to keep and a hot chocolate treat. The highlight of the visit was meeting two elves and helping them to complete Santa's list before all receiving their own gift. Our design and technology topic was inspired by moving pictures, including sliders and levers. We began by learning how these parts work and then designed



and produced our own finished moving pictures. In history we have really enjoyed exploring leisure from the past. The children had a wonderful time interviewing Mrs Moody about her childhood and then exploring a range of different toys from different time periods before sorting them. We then used different sources of evidence, including picture postcards to explore how holidays have changed over time. Year 1 worked together with their friends from year 2 to produce a fantastic performance of 'Twinkly Nativity'. After two fabulous performances we were then asked to visit Mencap to spread some Christmas cheer.

Year 2

Year 2 have learnt lots of new skills in D&T this term! We designed and made our own zoo enclosures for an animal. We thought about what our animal might need. The children were very happy to take them home and share their creations with their families.

We also went to church for a special Advent service. We were excited to see the Advent wreath as we recognised it from our, 'Come and see,' lessons. Lydia was chosen by Father John to light one of the purple candles, she did a great job!

The children and year 1 and 2 raised the roof with their fabulous singing in 'The Twinkly Nativity'. We are so proud of all of them and thank you to all who came to watch.



Year 3

Year 3 have been busy making moving Christmas pictures in our D&T lessons this half term. We designed two different pictures and the children were able to pick their favourite. We have also been to church for a special Advent service which was a lovely calming time for children and staff!

Finally, we are so proud of how well the children did in our Christmas performance. The children really were amazing! We also want to thank you for coming to watch and supporting your child. We know the children were extremely happy to see you all!

On behalf of the Year 3 staff we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Year 4

We have loved learning about the Romans and their impact on Britain this term. It has been the focus of our text in English, our History topic and we even managed to calculate the area of Roman mosaics in maths. We spent a wonderful day visiting Chester and exploring the artefacts in Grosvenor Museum and the ruins of the Roman amphitheatre. The children enjoyed marching around the streets and chanting in Latin. The children have written some fabulous non-chronological reports which really demonstrate their learning.



We have been busy rehearsing and performing our Happy Clappy Nativity and it was wonderful to see so many families able to attend the performance. As our drumming lessons draw to a close, we are showcasing some of our learning to families. This week, we have also been busy creating Christmas gift boxes as part of our Design and technology work. As we approach the end of term, we would like to thank you all for the support you have given us and the children this term. We look forward to welcoming the children back in January and begin our new learning in geography, art and computing. Merry Christmas.

Year 5

Year 5 have been very busy this half term! Most recently, we welcomed families and friends to our annual Christmas Carol Concert with Year 6 on Wednesday evening. The children have loved learning the songs and singing along with their classmates. On Wednesday, the children sang their hearts out and all did themselves proud. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout and performance. Well done, Year 5 and 6!

As the year comes to a close, so does our time with Military School. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their time working together to develop a countless amount of skills. They have really enjoyed working with Andy, who is sadly leaving us to take up a new position in Sierra Leone. We wish him all the best in his future!



Year 5 got into the spirit of Christmas with all of their topics. Most notably, with the text 'A Christmas Carol'. The children have enjoyed reading along, unpicking new vocabulary and writing not one, but **TWO FINAL PIECES!** Well done, Year 5. We can't wait to start a fresh in January with new topics across the board - stay tuned for our blog post which will reveal all!

Year 6

Year 6 have been absolutely fantastic this term and what a way to end our first term together by practising our songs for the Christmas Carol Concert with Year 5! Our children have thoroughly loved singing and learning new songs, such as 'Love Shone Down' and 'Sky Full Of Stars' by Coldplay; it has been incredibly heart-warming to see such joy on their faces all throughout our rehearsals! We were also delighted when our Y6 children visited the residents of Nazareth House to sing Christmas carols and bring them some festive joy during this time of year. The end of the autumn term also sees our swimming practice at Crosby Baths come to an end - our pupils have all made terrific progress and celebrated their wonderful progress with 'Fun Week' in their final session! Finally, it would be remiss if we didn't mention the outstanding newspaper reports the pupils completed in English based on the events of the Battle of Hastings from 'Anglo-Saxon Boy'; each child has completed a sensational newspaper report to the very best of their ability and we couldn't be any more proud of them!



Musical Theatre

Our Musical Theatre group have been very busy in the build up to Christmas. They entertained people at the Mencap café in Crosby, have sang in the school hall for our local community and visited The Cloisters nursing home to entertain the residents. The children have wowed all their audiences with their fantastic singing and helped deliver festive cheer.

Sporting News

We have had a slightly quieter time in our sports recently with the poor weather but our Year 4 and 5 swimmers have provided us with some wonderful festive cheer as they finished in 1st Place at the Sefton School Games Swimming Gala. Well done to all of you, we are so proud!

Tim Quinn

We welcomed former pupil Tim Quinn back to Ursuline. He spoke to the children in Reception - Year3 about his memories of Ursuline in 1950's. Tim shared lots of stories from his time in Ursuline and showed pictures of Ursuline in 1950's.



Wednesday Word

Don't forget to access this wonderful resource to support the sharing of the Gospel at home. Follow the link below



resources page where you will find, The Wednesday Word.



school community and wonderful Christmas donations to Sefton Council for Sam Mercer. Your donations were so helpful. We all had so much fun joining in the singing. Ho ho ho Santa!



Reminder all are welcome to join in our **Share a Prayer** time for families each Tuesday from 2.45 to 3.05. Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to be still and spend a bit of time in prayer and feel the peace. Denise Cottrell-Boyce will lead the sessions as we gather in our Therapeutic Room.



Well done to a group of prayer leaders from our Key Stage 2 for singing their hearts out at **The Advent Service** at the cathedral. We truly discovered the magic of Christmas.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were all to apply for a Blue Peter Book badge

Introducing the exciting new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda! To earn your badge, you just share your love of books by clicking the link below and completing the form www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge



Complete the form over the Christmas break by talking about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places. Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork. Let them know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why. Alternatively bring your form into school and we'll post it for you.

So, what are you waiting for? Pick up a book, explore our school library, or become a member of your local library and you could be on your way to earning your very own Book badge! If you need help from school, please please ask a member of staff or your class Reading Ambassador. Many of our Reading Ambassadors have already submitted their ideas so are on hand to help you.

Healthy Lunchboxes

We encourage all our parents/carers who provide a packed lunch for their child to provide a balanced meal. Government guidelines recommend that a packed lunch should include:

- One portion of fruit or vegetables each day.
- Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein each day (e.g. lentils, beans, pulses, falafel).
- A starchy food each day e.g. rice, potatoes, pasta, noodles, couscous, cereals.
- A dairy food each day e.g. milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais.
- An oily fish at least once every three weeks.

Children are not allowed to bring in fizzy drinks or energy drinks as part of their packed lunch. For further information on healthy lunchboxes please follow the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>



Healthy Snacks

All children in the infants are provided with fruit or vegetables at breaktime. Children in KS1 and KS2 can bring in a healthy snack to have at breaktime. Children should not bring in crisps, chocolate and biscuits to have as a snack.

PE Kits

On PE days, please ensure your child is wearing their school PE kit:

- House team coloured T-shirt with school logo (red, yellow, green or blue)
- Navy Blue shorts/skorts
- Black jogging bottoms (If weather is cold)
- Black sweatshirt (If weather is cold)
- Velcro fastening or pull-on pumps or trainers

Football kits or multicoloured hoodies/sweatshirts should not be worn. Please let school know if you have any difficulties purchasing the correct PE Kit.

Curriculum information

Don't forget that our website contains information about the curriculum for all subjects. Visit our class pages for up-to-date information about what is happening in each of our year groups.

Holiday requests

School has recently received a number of term time holiday requests. As a reminder, we are unable to authorise term time holidays (apart from some exceptional circumstances). Holidays taken during school time may incur a fine.

It has been a busy half term with lots of wonderful Christmas plays and spreading of Christmas joy. Our wonderful Musical Theatre group spread lots of cheer and happiness to others by singing at two local nursing homes and Mencap this week and the whole school went to church together, which was a lovely way to end this term.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their hard work this term and the governors for all their support. I also want to thank the children for making this term so special for us all.

On behalf of myself, the staff and governors, I want to wish you all a very merry, holy and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you all on the 8th January when we return to school.