

The Meppershall Magazine

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of a marathon term and there are lots of very tired children around the school. They are exhausted but should be very proud of all they have achieved this year.

Once again Henlow Church of England Academy gifted a beautiful Christmas tree. It really is stunning and the children enjoyed decorating it so we would like to extend our thanks to the Trust for this gorgeous gift.

MAPTA have been super busy raising funds for the school as usual. It all started with The Shefford Christmas Light Switch On at the end of November where they ran a very successful gift tombola. This was followed by our ever popular Santa shop so that pupils could buy presents for their family. They created a lovely Christmassy atmosphere in our school nurture area and worked exceptionally hard to get lots of gifts chosen and wrapped by lunchtime. Once again the MAPTA committee are running a school disco. The fact that it is so close to Christmas on the 22nd is truly a heroic effort.

We are so lucky to have such an active PTA and it has been lovely to see new people join and get involved. They are an amazing group of people who put a huge amount of time and effort into planning lovely events for our pupils as well as raising funds for the school. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them (and helpers) for everything they do.

Our Advent window this year was lit on the 5th December. Acorns, guided by Mrs Wood and Mrs Slade created our lovely stained glass window baubles. A big thank you to Acorns for enabling us to take part in this church project.

The next thank you is to all the staff of the school who have given above and beyond this term. There has been much illness and people have pulled together and made sure that every class is covered. On Tuesday night we had our Christmas Candlelight Service at St Mary's with Birches and Oaks. Each class performed so well accompanied by Mrs Allen on the piano. We would like to thank Rev Roni for hosting this event just a day after she had surgery on her hand. Starting our Christmas Celebrations at Church is very special and reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Our pupils have performed to packed audiences all week at school with the Grandparents concert and three performances of the Key Stage One production. Huge thanks to all the staff for pulling it together but especially Miss Corcoran for coordinating it all and to you the parents for all the wonderful costumes; the children looked a treat.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support and wish you all a healthy and happy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 8th January.

Kind regards,
Margaret Newman

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National Younger Leaders

Our Year 4 young leaders attended their first online meeting as part of the National Younger Leaders Award, run by the Diocese of York. They were encouraged to think about what stops people flourishing in their community and how people could be encouraged to flourish. We look forward to our next meeting in the New Year when we can share our ideas with other schools.



Messages

Our Advent Window



Messages



A group of Year 4 pupils took part in Sports Leaders Training. They spent the morning learning different games that they can set up at playtime and lunchtime to provide activities for the other children to enjoy.

Messages

Shefford Light Switch On



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Our newly elected Local Governing Body Chairman –Jordan Robbens

We would like to wish Jordan all the best in his new role as Chair of Governors

Remembrance Service - Where the oldest boy and girl in the school rep-



Christmas Production - Stable Hoe Down

Here are some photographs of our fabulous KS1 Production. The children performed exceptionally well despite being exhausted after an 8 week half term. Thank you to you all for coming along and supporting them.



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Elms Class have had a fantastic start to the year.

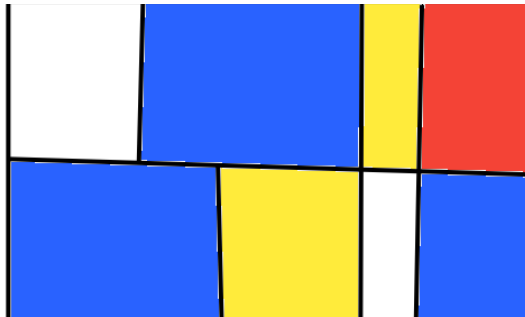
Phonics and reading is a big focus in year 1. The children have made fantastic progress and have worked so hard. We have also read lots of lovely fairy tales this term including The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. Children have written their own version of Little Red Riding Hood and a report about Pigs.

Spencer: *"Pigs are a type of animal. They have a snout and four legs. Often they have a curly tail."*

Ellie: *"Where can you find pigs? Pigs live on farms. The most clever pigs build a sturdy house."*

We have been working hard this half term on letter formation, handwriting and presentation. This is really starting to pay off!

This half term children have explored the parts of the UK In geography, learning about countries, capital cities and landmarks.



The Faith Tour

Oaks and Birches classes took part in the Queen's Park Faith Tour in November. The children visited All Saints Parish church, Guru Nanak Gurdwara and the Westbourne Road Mosque. At each building a member of the community told the children all about their faith and there was a chance to explore each building. This was a great chance to experience Religious Education through first-hand experience and gave them a chance to understand how different communities live along side each other.

Barn Nativity



On 4th December, Oaks class travelled to St. John's church in Bedford to watch the Barn Nativity performed by Impact, a Christian charity based in Bedford. The story was brought to life by adults who volunteer for the charity and after the performance the children had an opportunity to ask the cast, questions about their characters. The children were perfect ambassadors for our school and asked some challenging questions of the actors which demonstrated their deeper thinking skills.

Children in Need



Welcome

We look forward to welcoming Miss Toyne to our teaching staff in January. Miss Toyne will be working with our reception class.



PE KIT REMINDER

PE Kit is yellow t shirt and black jumper/ hoodie and joggers.

On gymnastics days children should wear shorts under their joggers. Gymnastics days will be confirmed in the new year. Please ensure that shoes worn for PE are suitable for high levels of activity. If children are not able to do laces up, make sure they have shoes which they can easily do up themselves.

Children should not wear earrings or other jewellery for PE. These should be removed prior to the lesson by the child or parent. If this is not possible parents may choose to cover their child's earrings in plasters or tape. If tape is being used to cover earrings it will depend on the lesson whether the child will take a full participating role.