



Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage

Brabourne

CofE Primary School

Christmas Edition **15th December 2023**

Merry Christmas

It has been an incredibly busy and joyful few weeks for the children, but I am sure everyone is now ready for a restful Christmas break! As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to all of our school community for your support this year. I am always infinitely grateful for the generosity of our school families for school events, and equally for the time that so many of you dedicate as volunteers. Brabourne really does feel like one big family. I wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

With very best wishes,

Andrew Stapley
Headteacher

Please note that Tuesday 2nd January is an INSET day and the school will be closed. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**.

Class Attendance Congratulations to Neptune Class who gained 97 % attendance this term. Mr Stapley will be awarding a trophy to the class with the best attendance at the end of the academic

After School Clubs: A new club list will be sent home the first week of term and clubs will start week commencing 8th January. Early Club and Wrap Around will start on Wednesday 3rd January and can be booked now.



THANK YOU FROM THE PTA!

TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE CHRISTMAS FAIR & RAFFLE – WHETHER YOU SET UP, BAKED, DONATED PRIZES, BROUGHT IN JAZZY JARS & BOTTLES, HAD AN ESTATE AGENT BOARD OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE, GAVE UP YOUR SATURDAY TO VOLUNTEER, CAME TO THE FAIR OR BOUGHT RAFFLE TICKETS (ETC. ETC. – THE LIST GOES ON):

A MASSIVE THANK YOU FROM US!

**HERE IS HOW MUCH YOU HAVE HELPED
US RAISE:**

£1,850 AT THE FAIR

£750 FROM THE ONLINE RAFFLE

£375 FROM THE ESTATE AGENT BOARDS

= A TOTAL OF £2,975 (YAY!)

THE MONEY WILL GO TOWARDS
OUR NEXT FUNDRAISING GOAL,
CHOSEN BY THE CHILDREN...
(DRUMROLL)...: MONKEY BARS FOR
THE PLAYGROUND!!! THIS IS
SOMETHING THE CHILDREN HAVE
BEEN ASKING FOR FOR A LONG
TIME AND ARE VERY EXCITED
ABOUT.

IN ADDITION, SOME OF THE
MONEY RAISED WILL REPLACE A
FEW OLD IPADS AT SCHOOL.

THANK YOU AGAIN!



PS: PLEASE SUPPORT THE
HOUSE CAPTAINS' FUN
RUN THIS WEEK, ALSO
RAISING MONEY FOR THE
MONKEY BARS. WE ALSO
STILL HAVE SOME RECIPE
BOOKS LEFT, WHICH WILL
HELP US RAISE FUNDS.
THANK YOU & A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS FROM US :)





Venus trip to the Reindeer Centre

Venus class enjoyed their first outing in the new minibus to the Reindeer Centre to meet Father Christmas, his reindeer and his elves. See if you can spot Mr Stapley hiding on this page!



Wrap Around

May we remind you that places must be booked and paid for in advance for both Early Morning Club and Wrap Around. **To ensure we always have appropriate staffing levels, we cannot accept bookings on the day.** Details can be found here:

[Wrap around care - Brabourne Church of England Primary School.](#)

Please book in advance on [School Money](#).

Please collect your children promptly at the end of the session. Late pick ups may be charged.

Please note the Brabourne Church Carol Service is 23rd at 7pm and the Carols in the Five Bells is this Sunday 17th at 6pm. Reverend Chris



Neptune Class braved the snow and the ice for an authentic experience of living in trenches during WW1, as part of 'History Off the Page Week'.



Malachi and Mimi have been raising money for refugee children that are living in a hotel in Ashford, as part of their 'Stepping Out the Door' homework. They've been trying to raise some money for gift vouchers so that the refugee children can choose a present to enjoy over Christmas. They are nearly halfway to their target. Here is the link if you would like to support their fundraising:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/malachi-gilbert-christmas-vouchers?utm_term=rVKVvKwaJ



Mars class at Multi-sports



Santa Fun Run!



Dates for your diary:

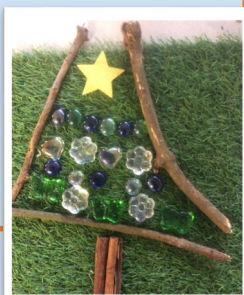
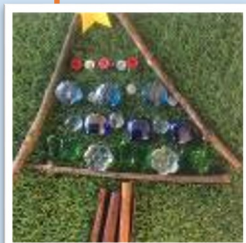
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	Staff INSET day - school closed
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	Term 3 Starts



Class News

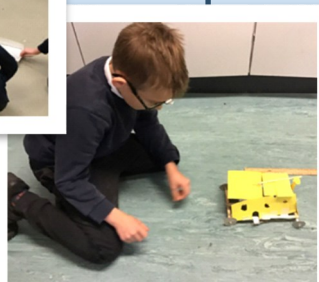


Venus have been busy using loose parts to create repeating pattern Christmas trees. Look closely to spot the patterns!

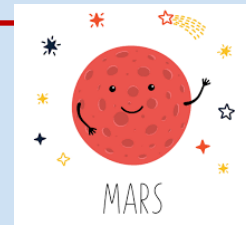
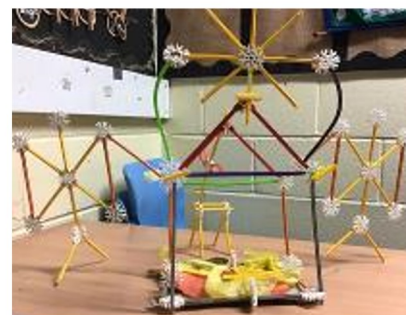


This week, Neptune class tested the slingshot cars that they made in Science and DT. We had a few

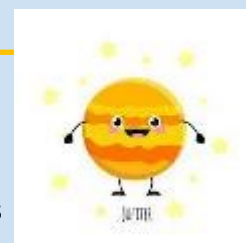
problems with wobbly wheels, but we managed to get all the cars to move using the potential energy stored in the elastic bands. Most children said that if they were to do the activity again – they would make their cars more aerodynamic. Super work Neptune class!



Following on from our Nativity performance, the children chose to create Nativity scenes out of junk modelling and K'Nex as part of our continuous provision.



This week, Jupiter have finished their Magnificent Maya topic with a chocolate workshop day. We made chocolate truffles and peppermint creams. We also tried hot chocolate the way the Maya made it from ground cacao nibs - it was very bitter! We are looking forward to more exciting learning next term.





The children were thrilled to learn that we will have a new member of our school community next term. Our new school dog, Elsie! Elsie will belong to Mrs Parry, who will look after her in the school office whilst she is being trained. The children have already learned how to care for dogs, following on from a visit from the Dogs Trust, and I am sure the children will love to meeting her in the New Year.



The Gardening Club year

It's been a fabulous year for the Gardening Club, full of interest and fun – all topped off by the unbelievably kind donation of a greenhouse, something we'd dreamed of for years. It's a reminder that very little of what we do would be possible without the support of parents, from donating plants to buying produce from school fairs or our little 'Farm Shop'. The Christmas Fair was our best yet – we raised around £300 selling all kinds of things from fat-balls to dozens of hyacinth bulbs, each planted and decorated by the tireless pupils of the Gardening Club.

Many parents donate another valuable resource: time. So this is a big thank you to all who have volunteered for our hands-on 'Ground Force Days', which help us create larger projects. This year, volunteers from the Brabourne Gardening Society, Local Community Plan and willing parents helped dig our gravel bed. This lovely pond area is great for teaching pupils about combatting ever-increasing drought conditions and caring for the wildlife – amphibians and insects – that need water and a damp refuge. Ground Force volunteers also erected the wonderful chicken cage – many of you, we hope, will have benefited from the fresh, free-range eggs.

The children learn so much from these peaceful creatures: from observing their habits, to being grateful for the food they give us – right up to realising the need to be a responsible, kind carer for our animal friends. Volunteers also turned up for the giant engineering project of assembling our greenhouse! Do marvel at this edifice next time you're at the school. Perspex, staging and a solar watering system will be installed ready for a fruitful Spring of exciting seed-raising. Peppers? Tomatoes? Aubergines? Who knows!

It's marvellous to see what a small group of parents and other volunteers can do in a short while: many hands do indeed make light work.

Plans for next year are equally ambitious – to create a wildflower area on part of the school playing field. This will continue the ethos of the school to understand, love and enjoy the gifts that nature gives us here in our enviable position on the North Downs. We aim to team up with the Eco Club in creating this buzzy, fluttery sanctuary and, as ever, big thanks to Mr Stapley for his encouragement and vision.

Lastly, none of this would happen without the enthusiasm and graft of our lovely Gardening Club pupils. They turn out on Wednesday lunchtimes come rain or shine and are always more than happy to get muddy, digging, weeding, planting and harvesting everything from strawberries to beans.

As ever, we hope their experience gives them a lifelong love of gardening and connection to the soil that is increasingly important in these changing times. Whether it's growing food to eat or to make money; gardening for the calming benefits of beautiful flowers or curating a space to support nature from worms to bees, it's most definitely A Good Thing.

We hope you agree!

A very happy Christmas and New Year, Lucie, Maggie, Jane and Katy



The Eco-Clubber's Year

A bit like the life cycle of the insects we study, the Eco Club has grown and spread wings this year!

We started in the spring with the arrival of a solitary-bee house, which boasted a Perspex viewing window to glimpse into the amazing lives of these busy bees.

As we SURE you all know (!) Britain has around 270 different species of bee. Only one lives in a hive and gives us honey – the Honey Bee, of course. This is a 'social insect' that has an amazingly organised and complex life in a colony, very much like their close cousins, ants and wasps.

The other 269-odd kinds of bees have a solitary life cycle (though many like to live near each other) and are relatively unknown – which is weird as they are all around us, from teeny ant-sized things to massive Bumblebees. These solitary bees can live in holes in the ground, like pretty little Ivy Bees, or in hollows and tubes in wood and bricks, like Mason and Leafcutter Bees.

It's these latter ones that we hoped to attract to our Bee Observatory and they didn't disappoint! We watched these fascinating critters gather a ball of pollen and lay a neat egg on it, then build a mud wall to seal it in – hence 'Mason'.

We saw butterflies hatch and sowed a wildflower wheelbarrow, so we could watch how different pollinators – from hoverflies to bees to moths to butterflies – each chose different shaped flowers, to suit their mouthparts. We discovered that the Garden Bumblebee has a tongue 2cms long! Just the thing if you want to drink nectar from deep inside a bluebell or foxglove...

That's why we need a diverse range of flowers and why it's so great that Kent County Council have finally adopted a regime of only cutting road verges twice a year, to give our beleaguered insect life a chance to feed and breed over the summer.

But we didn't forget the amazing Honey Bee and dressed up in bee suits to visit hives throughout the year to see the busy bees up close, raising their young, gathering pollen – and making honey of course. We even saw a baby bee hatch. We'll continue this next year.

The other strand to our year was to look at the dreadful state of our plastic use and decided something had to be done, no matter how small. We discovered the almost-unbelievable numbers of plastic items thrown away every year in the UK and looked at alternatives.

If you'd like to join in and benefit from the hard work and concern of the pupils, do take a look at the attachment: maybe you could see a 'Swaperoo' or two that works for you? And we also have a hand-wash refill station that will be starting up next year by the 'Farm Shop' in front of the school. Bring your empty containers and we'll fill 'em!

Next year's big project is to help create a wildflower area on the school playing field, joining up with the Gardening Club and any other parent volunteers who might be interested.

This is not just to teach that our pollinators – numbers of which are declining rapidly – need help, but also to create a beautiful, tranquil space where our pupils can enjoy and connect to the wonderful nature all around them at our lovely country school.

Have a happy Christmas and here's to an environmentally-friendly New Year!

Katy and the Eco Clubbers.



Please see menu choices for first week of Term 3.



Kent & TKAT Back to School Menu Jan 2nd to 5th 2024

		Monday 1 st Jan	Tuesday 2 nd Jan	Wednesday 3 rd Jan	Thursday 4 th Jan	Friday 5 th Jan
January 1st to 5th 2024	Option 1		School closed	Sausages With Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Macaroni Cheese	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup
	Option 2			Veggie Sausage With Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Tomato Pasta	BBQ Quorn Fillet With Chips
	Vegetables			Selection Of Vegetables	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert			Apple Crumble & Custard	Carrot Cake	Fresh Fruit Salad

AVAILABLE DAILY Fresh Bread & Salad Selection, Jacket Potatoes with Various filling

ALLERGY INFORMATION:

If your child has an allergy or intolerance please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross contamination.





Christ Church Cathedral School



Would your son like to join our world-famous choir?



Saturday 13th January 2024, 2.30 - 7.00 pm

Boys, currently aged between 7 to 10, are invited to come and see what it's like to sing with our current Cathedral Choristers for an afternoon. No prior choral experience is needed.

Potential choristers can join a choir rehearsal led by CCCS' Director of Music, followed by refreshments, and then sing with our internationally acclaimed choristers at Evensong. The afternoon provides a great opportunity for boys to have first-hand experience of what it's like to be a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral School.

Being a Cathedral Chorister is a life-changing opportunity. Boys learn: self-discipline, social skills, a sense of responsibility and teamwork, as well as outstanding musical and vocal skills.

All Cathedral Choristers receive a bursary equivalent to two-thirds of fees to support their education at CCCS and means-tested fee remission may be available up to 100%. In the last 5 years, all of our Cathedral Choristers have won music awards to leading senior schools.

To participate, please complete our online registration form:
www.cccs.org.uk/visitus or for more information, please contact our Registrar,
Laura Kemp, email: registrar@cccs.org.uk

01865 242561 - www.cccs.org.uk - 3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW



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- The tactical and mental side to batting including confidence building

The sessions will be both softball and hardball depending on the needs of the children.

All enquiries are warmly welcomed



Cheriton Road, Folkestone, CT19 5JU
Three Hills Sports Park

Dates (all Saturdays)

6/1, 13/1, 20/1, 27/1, 3/2 and 10/2

Time: 5pm-6pm

Why should you book?

CG Cricket Coaching provides high coach to player ratio.

CG Cricket Coaching provides coaches with a wide range of experience including coaching for the Area Cricket Programme

For more information or to book a place, contact Head Coach
 Chris
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 Mobile - 07359 343474

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