



# St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## The Impact of Our Curriculum - Music.



For centuries, Christmas celebrations have involved music-making and at St Andrew's School, from EYFS to Year 6, pupils have been learning traditional and contemporary Christmas songs and **sharing them with each other, with parents and the wider community.**

EYFS children loved rehearsing for their Christmas show so much they didn't want

to stop! **They practised their songs at home and learnt the words 'really well!'** Thank you to Miss Surman, Mrs Thompson and all the EYFS staff for helping to prepare the pupils for their spectacular performance.

Year 1 learnt a range of popular Christmas songs including Hark the Herald and Jingle Bells (this was a favourite!). They sang beautifully to their parents in school with narrations telling the story of Christmas. They then had the opportunity to sing their songs at the St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival. Former governor, Lauretta Milligan said, **'Thank you to the Year 1 choir and their supporters ie. parents and grandparents who came to listen and visit the Christmas Tree Festival.** They sang so beautifully with lots of actions.'



"I have been practising my singing at home." "I love the songs, especially Jingle Bells." "The songs were magical." "I loved seeing my mummy and daddy."

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Ludlow had the pleasure of watching 12 pupils from across Key Stage 2, perform at the Festival of Christmas Music. The children had 5 weeks to learn an enormous amount of words in order to sing **"Follow that Star" a Christmas musical, with pupils from schools in the Thame Partnership.** The children worked so hard and on the night itself.

Year 5 have been embarking on a new musical project this year from the English National Opera.

**"Finish This..."** invites students to step into the role of an ENO Composer and respond to, and resolve a purposefully unfinished operatic piece titled *'Blue, Red, Yellow...'*. Immersing themselves into the Composer role, they will embrace their imaginations and experiment with music, colours and text, to create their own bespoke response ending – **all through the lens of opera.**

For their **composition, Antartica class have chosen the colour orange** and have been exploring the sounds made by boomwhackers. Both Year 5 classes' completed works will be ready in the New Year.

We have sadly said, 'Goodbye' to **Lisa Callejo-Paterson**, strings teacher from Oxfordshire County Music Service who has been teaching whole class, group and individual string lessons at St Andrew's for several years now.

We have loved her energy, skill and enthusiasm and wish her all the best as she focuses on teaching in schools in North Oxfordshire.

**"I just wanted to say what a pleasure it has been to work with your classes and St Andrew's children all these years. You've all been very supportive and I'll really miss working at your school. It's always been one of the schools I felt most welcome at and appreciated, with lovely children and friendly staff."** Mrs Paterson.

We are pleased to welcome **Cara Scoles** who will continue lessons at the same times as before. Cara is a highly experienced and hugely popular teacher and all our string players will be in incredibly capable hands.







Year 2 have had a wonderful time rehearsing and practising their nativity this year, titled, A Midwife Crisis. They have worked extremely hard to learn lots of songs and lines, overcoming nerves to put on an **excellent performance for the whole school** and then their families. Well done year 2, we are all so proud of you!

The children in EYFS have been **embracing the wet weather**, with lots of opportunity to explore transporting water and **learning about capacity**. What happens when you fill a smaller bottle from a bigger bottle?



We have been getting creative in Year 1 during **Design and Technology lessons this week**, with the children making their own **Christmas stockings**. They have been **designing, adapting and making their own creations in class**.

Children have been learning how to cut a pattern, thread a needle and also sew, all with incredible attention to detail. Designs have included **Christmas trees**, stars, and even magical elves! Year 4 have been using their understanding of electrical circuits to create light-up **Christmas cards**. The children have used what they have learnt in science this term to help them construct a simple series circuit with a switch. They used collage to create the design on the front of the card.





In Year 5, we were busy making our **moon phases calendars**. We used our **prior knowledge** from D&T in Year 4 when we created moving pictures to make and paint an interactive calendar linking to our science topic for this term, **Earth and Space**.



Year 3 went to visit Hempton Fields to **sing carols to the residents**. The children sang beautifully and **enjoyed meeting the elderly people**. Some of the children were able to share what we had been doing at school and their **dream jobs for the future**.



Our DT topic this term in Year 6 has been **shelters**. This week we created models of our shelters which we had planned in our groups. We **demonstrated resourcefulness, creativity, teamwork and craftsmanship**.



Dear Children, Parents and Staff of St Andrew's School,  
On behalf of the Chinnor and District branch of the Royal British Legion, the Poppy Appeal coordinators for 2023 would like to thank you for your help in raising funds for this year's appeal.

**Thank you- for raising £156.10 for the Poppy Appeal.**  
Sue & Zena interim Poppy Co-ordinators 2023

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year from the  
St Andrew's Team**

