

Victory Park Academy

Christmas Special News

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December 2020

Update from the Head Teacher

Dear All,

We finish our autumn term in a very positive and safe way. I just wanted to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous new year.

Looking forward to the New Year: This term we have reviewed our Curriculum and have incorporated views from teachers and pupils. We have a Curriculum in place that provides all key stages which is broad and balanced and based on academic, personal, practical and creative opportunities.

We are looking to develop further our on and offsite vocational curriculum over the next two years to include further opportunities in Music, Sport, Food-Technology, Construction and Horticulture at accreditation Levels 1 and 2 but also opportunities at KS3 and Primary to experience and develop personality and character while at the same time developing new skills.

Headteacher: Mr M Aspel (NPQH, MA)

Christmas Lunch

Festive fun was enjoyed by staff and pupils a lot at this year's Christmas lunch.



We were treated to an extra special traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

Staff and pupils worked like

busy elves, to decorate the hall to make sure it was looking like a canteen that Santa himself would be proud of.

A massive thank you to the catering team and everyone that was involved in organising the fantastic lunch.



Staff Welfare

Victory Park Academy not only cares for the pupils but also the staff. As part of our staff welfare, we arranged two competitions to take place after school- one was a bake off and the other was a Bush Tucker Trial.

The bake off had 10 cakes staff had brought in and were judged for the best one! The cat litter tray was by far the most creative, however, the boxed Christmas cupcakes was the winner.

For the Bush Tucker Trial three groups designed an activity and other teams' members were chosen to participate. Challenges included drinking an unknown

concoction which had a strong smell of fish and a lumpy greasy consistency; eating as 10 Jacob's crackers as fast as possible; blindfolded and sampling food naming what it is (e.g: Tabasco sauce; fish sauce) and delving their hands inside a box of gooey slime to pick out as many shapes as possible.

It was great fun to see staff enjoying themselves and doing something different-lift.

Occupational Studies

This term the pupils have been working on a wide variety of activities, including developing decorating and brick laying skills as well as contributing to developing the offsite allotment.



Allotment

Our Allotment project has really started to develop. With the help of pupils, we have taken an overgrown plot and stripped the area back ready for rotavation, cultivation



and development. Pupils are involved in the planning of the allotment and in the building of fences, pathway and marking out and building of the raised beds that will be going in.

The spring term will see further development and better weather for outside activity and growing. We intend to build a

Shed, lean to (Covered area) decking, finish the pathing, install our raised beds and build our cooking area (for outside cooking) and last but not least plant our vegetables and plants.



We hope to grow a bumper crop and teach our pupils new horticultural and construction skills in this fantastic learning space.

Primary

Primary students have enjoyed lots of Christmas activities during this festive period. In particular they enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree as a team, they also enjoyed the return of our cheeky elf who has been up to all sorts of

cheekiness including: teepeeing the Christmas tree, having a tea party and bathing in marshmallows!

The students also coloured pictures to send to Southend hospital to decorate wards as they are unable to decorate their wards this year due to Covid-19.



As we do every year primary students have created Christmas cards to be sent to Little

Havens Children's Hospice for children who are spending their Christmas in their care.



As well as our sweet advent calendar this year, we introduced a book advent calendar; children unwrap a book a day and a different member of staff reads this to them, the students have enjoyed all the Christmas stories read by all our staff so a big thank you to

all involved.

In the last week of term children have enjoyed plate painting, salt dough Christmas decorations and Christmas movies as well as a Christmas party on the final day to say a big farewell and good luck to those children returning to mainstream.

We would like to wish all our returning students the best of luck with their return to



mainstream we have given you the tools to succeed now it's the time to use them! We would also like to wish all our parents

and students a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Environment

To brighten the atmosphere and spread some Christmas cheer, we have decorated the school for the pupils to enjoy.



A fresh tree was kindly gifted to us together with other festive bits to put up around the school. Display boards have been made wishing a "Merry Christmas!" in the native tongues of our pupils and staff.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Food Technology

The year 11's have been researching and planning their own Wedding Menu. They will cook this in the new year. They have also been cooking some more advanced dessert dishes such as crème brulee!



All pupils have been making Christmas dishes during last week of term. One pupil particularly enjoyed making a Chocolate log cake!

Key Dates

- Monday 4th January 2021 – INSET Day
- Tuesday 5th January 2021 – First Day back at School
- Week Commencing Monday 8th February – Pupil Progress Meeting

Gallery

