



# Rogate Review

Second half of Autumn term 2021

8<sup>th</sup> Edition

The second half of the Autumn term is always a busy one but this past few weeks seems to have been even busier than usual and all of the activity has certainly created a wonderful atmosphere in school.

The term started with our very special Remembrance Service at St Bartholemew's Church. Each child in the school made their own hand print poppy which was made into a wreath that was laid at the War Memorial by the youngest child in the school, assisted by the eldest child in the school. The service was led by Father Edward with the Year 6 children contributing readings and the very moving 'In Flanders Fields' poem. The last post was played by Mrs Ward and the children all, very respectfully, observed the 2 minutes silence.

The support shown for Anti-bullying week was fabulous with the children, and the staff, wearing odd socks to show solidarity. The whole school assembly provided the children with interesting ideas on 'kindness' and being friends and Red Kites performed their special Anti-bullying song 'One call away'.

There were spots everywhere on Children in Need day as we collected money for the charity and thought about the valuable work they do throughout the country, helping families who are in need of support. Many thanks for all of your donations – we raised £83.50, which will be gratefully received by the charity.



December itself has passed in a complete blur, starting with Christmas jumper day and a scaled back RSFF school fair. This wasn't what had been so meticulously planned by our wonderful RSFF but it was the safest way to allow it to happen and enabled us to ensure the children didn't miss out completely.

Next level excitement occurred on Panto Day .....oh yes it did! We weren't able to do this trip last year so it was doubly exciting and King's Theatre certainly put on a spectacular show with all the fun and laughter you would expect! It was rather odd to see everyone in the audience wearing their face masks but this didn't really distract from festive atmosphere and a good time was had by all.

Our Nativity Service, at St Bartholomew's Church, was another very special afternoon, with the children narrating the Christmas story and the younger children dressed up and beautifully playing their roles alongside. We were immensely proud of all of the children for their enthusiastic participation and also particularly impressed with our choir for their part in the performance too. A special mention has to be made of Frankie-Rose for her beautiful star song which was so clearly and confidently sung.

Unfortunately we weren't able to have our Annual Christingle Service in church but we held a class based Teams service, led by Father Edward, in school instead, with each child making their own Christingle in class and then proudly lighting them as part of the service.



The Wrens have had another amazing half term. They have looked at different special events and how our and other people's communities celebrate them. They have been learning about what makes us the same and how we should celebrate our differences. They learned about Diwali and Bonfire night and as part of our 'Special Delivery' focus are now learning about the first Christmas. They have also been looking closely at how light is often used as a symbol of celebration and joy.

They have begun to use new letter sounds to have a go at their own writing. The children have been writing and posting letters to each other and Father Christmas. This has helped them to practice using letters shapes in their names, key words and to sound out new words.

This term also brought with it the excitement of the arrival of our school Christmas tree and they loved helping to decorate it! As always we cannot wait to see what new learning awaits us in the New Year. Well done Wrens we are so very proud of you.



Starlings' class have welcomed a new lovely member - Barnaby, who has settled in really well and made lots of new friends already. They started off the half term learning all about Guy Fawkes and why Bonfire Night is celebrated. Children were able to re-enact the tragic (at least for Guy) story with puppets and learned the short rhyme to go with it. After that they have immersed themselves into their new topic of the Great Fire of London. Children were mesmerized by the huge difference between how people used to live in 17th century and today. They made it quite clear they would not like to live in London in 1666 (even without the fire 😊). They had an exciting visitor who travelled back in time and was able to tell them about how he managed to escape the Great Fire. They learned not only about what happened but also how this great event changed the city of London and also the fire safety equipment and rules we have today. To keep with the theme their role play has been transformed into a 'Pudding Lane Bakery' including a few naughty rats... where children were able to 'purchase' their daily snacks with real money, which helps their understanding of money in maths lessons too.

Forest School sessions have also been enjoyed throughout the term with the children learning how to use a flint and steel to light a fire, build a waterproof shelter and they have also played lots of games. What a busy, busy few weeks, they have certainly earned their Christmas break.



Kingfishers have also been very busy this term continuing their journey through time reaching the Mesolithic and Neolithic Periods. They have had great fun following up on their exciting, active visit to Butser Ancient farm by learning what Stone age people would have eaten and the similarities and difference between their diet and ours today, deciding what we should ideally be eating more of and what we should have less regularly. They even made some Stone Age Oat cakes which were dipped in honey to make them sweeter. They also made some soup using ingredients they would have had and some soup with vegetables that come from other countries like South America, which ancient people living in Britain wouldn't have had. They then went on to learn about teeth and which types are used for which jobs, and how scientists have looked at ancient teeth to see what they ate.

They have been using instruments, items in nature and computers to make patterns of sound and rhythms- a real blend of technology. It's been very interesting to hear how the children have used different items to produce pieces of music and the use of block coding to produce a repetitive base sound makes it even more exciting.



Red Kites class had a great half term and have just welcomed a new class member of their own. Welcome to our new Year 6 student Ben! They went on a super trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace, where the children were able to explore the mosaics, the gardens and the museum. They also had a great workshop session, trying out flour grinding, Roman writing on wax tablets and lots of other fun, interactive activities. The children also studied accounts of Boudicca and painted their own portraits based on the descriptions they read. To conclude their Roman topic, they held a Roman day, where they dressed up in togas, made Roman sandals and had a Roman-style banquet.



They have had fun with English this half term, writing spooky stories inspired by Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations.' This also linked with their class story, 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams. The children created some amazing scary writing, using a range of tension building devices. They have also continued to work very hard on their maths skills. Their science topic was 'Light', where they explored reflection and refraction and built their own periscopes. All in all, super work from a super bunch of children!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

See you back in school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Diary dates for the new term will follow when we get back

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