



## Purley CE Primary School

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Mrs K Fakes



# Friday Newsletter

Learn to love, love to learn

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Headteacher's Update

What a busy week! Carol service filming, Nativity filming, biscuit factory in owl class, Elfridges, prospective parents visiting, dealing with the trickle of Covid cases and of course the excitement of Christmas! Are you in full-on pre-Christmas mode? The day the children, and maybe you, have waited for all year is nearly here!



On a more sombre note, we need to be informed of any Covid cases via the Covid e mail address if there are any new cases on the first weekend of the holidays. Especially if it is Omicron, we need to track and trace any possible close contacts. The Covid e mail is monitored during the holidays.

[covid@purley.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:covid@purley.w-berks.sch.uk)

Mrs Fakes



### Collective Worship

In this season of waiting...waiting for latest Covid changes...waiting for that games console to come back into stock...waiting for those test results...waiting for the next time to see your relatives... it can be easy to forget that, as the carol puts it '*tis the season to be jolly*'. But have you stopped to think what it means to be jolly? Being jolly, or joyful expresses an overwhelming sense of happiness. When your heart is so full, it just bursts with love and happiness for something or someone. In collective worship, this week we explored what makes us joyful and the true meaning of JOY. **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou. In all the waiting, we sometimes lose sight of the JOY. In all the melee, we sometimes get things back to front. Where will you find your JOY this Advent?

*Pam Slingsby, Foundation Governor*

### Last Day of Term – Early Finish

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December is the last day of term and we finish at 1:15pm. Nutkin Club will run until 4:15pm.

### Hedgehog and Badger Nativity Production

This year Hedgehog and Badger Class have adapted their performance of the Christmas Nativity 'Babushka' to fit in with current Covid guidelines.



As it cannot be performed to parents, teachers are filming the Nativity and you have an opportunity to purchase a USB stick recording of this. An order form has been sent out via Parentmail and will also be included in book bags. Please can you ensure that order forms and payment are returned to school by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### Swimming – Year 2

Year 2 children will be doing some water safety learning during swimming lessons on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and they need to take PE tops and shorts to wear in the pool please.

## Online Winter Reading Challenge



If your child enjoyed this year's Summer Reading Challenge, they may be interested to hear about the current **Winter Mini Challenge**. This is all online, so no need for children to collect anything in libraries. But there is a fun website, where children can find games and book-related activities, along with ideas for what to read next. You can set up a personal profile on the site and anyone who reads and logs **3 books by 16 January** can download a certificate and a limited-edition virtual badge. The website address is [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk).

The 'story' of the Winter Challenge takes the same Wild World Heroes characters as in the Summer Challenge to a new adventure in the Arctic, where they find out about the creatures that live there and some of the environmental issues facing this region. We hope that children will find this both interesting and fun.

## Woodland School

Luckily the weather had improved this week so we were excited to go on our Woodland Adventures. Before leaving



school we looked at images of pine cones and discussed what we knew. George Cashley explained how they can be used to tell the weather and Dinesh knew that squirrels like to eat the

seeds from them. All the children were given a pine cone and challenged to either make something with it or use it in their play. Most decided to create a decoration using pom poms, feathers and shiny string but Sofia made a rabbit and George Cashley used his in a game. Meanwhile Theo had a rest under the shelter and listened to the rain which he found relaxing. Alice, Dinesh and Isaac went on a bug hunt and were very excited when they rolled over a log and found a golden centipede. Alfie enjoyed digging and mining and discovered some interesting rocks. There was some excellent team work from Ava, Cecily, Amber, Sofia, George Bryan, Leyla, Charlotte and Ava as they cleared leaves to make a circular path around the den using their



hands and feet. Alfie also helped, using a big leafy branch as a useful broom. Lastly we all enjoyed having hot chocolate with marshmallows.



**Just a reminder that our last woodland adventure is next week, Monday 13th December.** With the weather being so cold in January and February, we have a break from Woodland Adventures during the first half of the spring term but return after February half term break.

*Mrs Hodsdon*

## Hedgehog class

Having practised so many times over the last couple of weeks, it was very exciting to be able to change into our Nativity costumes and perform our dances and songs for the video. We are very proud of our efforts and we loved watching it back on the IWB - we hope you enjoy the performance too!



In amongst the Christmas crafts we found time to consider why we give presents at Christmas, just as the wise men gave gifts to baby Jesus. We thought about the jobs people had during the time of the Nativity, such as Joseph the carpenter and shepherds tending their sheep. We also wondered why Mary rode on a donkey to Bethlehem and not in a car, train or bus.

In maths we practised using time words to describe things that we do during the daytime and night time. It was good to hear that some of us share books at bedtime!

*Mrs Burton*

## Badger class



Badger class have been enjoying all the Christmas festivities in class. They have been busy making decorations, listening to Christmas stories and writing shopping lists for their trip to Elfridges (which was a great success!) Thank you to FOPS for organising, the children loved it. We had a very special visitor on Wednesday who left a sack of presents for the class. It was so exciting and we had great fun opening up the parcels and playing with the new toys and games. In science we have continued to research materials

and consider why different materials are suitable for different purposes.

*Mrs Lyn-Jones*

### **Owl class**

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in Owl class and it is even smelling like it too!



We started the week with our end of term assessments in both English and Maths and the children all did very well and tried their very best. Once they had been completed, we could start our biscuit making businesses. The children have been split into 5 companies and been presented with the task to bake and decorate a bespoke Christmas biscuit to a customer's specification. Each company has interviewed a member of staff on their biscuit likes and dislikes and this will support their choice of flavours etc. Each business has baked a basic cookie and evaluated the final product, they will use this as a base for their new bespoke biscuit. I have a long shopping list of what they need to add to the basic recipe! The next task will be to design and construct a Christmas biscuit box to present their biscuits in, together with producing an advert to promote them. Finally, they will be presenting them to their customers, who will hopefully give some positive but constructive feedback.

I am sure your children will tell you more about the high and lows of life in working in the biscuit business!

*Mrs Pickering*

### **Falcon class**

It's been another jam-packed week here in Falcons with the children planning and writing their own 'Vetman' Adventure stories. The ideas have been flowing thick and fast and I have been really pleased with their responses to feedback and editing skills. Thank goodness for the Google Classroom - it makes this process so much easier. We are aiming to send these to Noel Fitzpatrick, to share how he has inspired them! In Maths, we have been using the NRICH Advent Calendar to solve various puzzles and consider how we present our reasoning clearly. It was interesting to consider what takes less time than eating a biscuit! Mason suggested blinking whilst another idea was breathing in and out (but only once!) In Computing we have continued our learning on Internet safety and considered more thoroughly what our digital



footprint tells others about us. We considered the fact that once an image or comment is online - it is there forever. Miss Worlin has completed her time with us this week and we wish her all the best as she moves on to her next school placement. We will all miss her!

*Mrs Hicks*

### **FOPS news**

#### **GUESS THE NAME OF THE SLOTH COMPETITION**

A reminder that our cute sloth still needs a home in time for Christmas. For your chance to win, can you think of a suitable name for them? Guess as many times as you'd like, £1 per name guess and bring your entry form and money (or pay by BACS) in an envelope back to school. The sweepstake style competition will run until **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, when a winner will be drawn at random and announced at school. Mr Sloth is currently hanging out in the office with Miss Davis so if any children feel they need to meet him before they give him a name, go and pay him a visit!

#### **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DISCO**

We look forward to seeing everyone who is coming to the School Christmas Disco later today at **Goosecroft Barn 4.45pm – 6.15pm for KS1 kids and 6.30pm – 8.00pm for KS2.**

Thank you to all the parents who have kindly agreed to assist at the disco – we are very grateful for your help. **Just a reminder so that we can keep everyone safe, we would be grateful if you could please take a Lateral Flow Test within 24 hours before the disco and wear a facemask at the event (unless exempt).**

#### **"ELFRIDGES" CHRISTMAS SHOP**

The Elfridges Christmas Shop has been a big success this week, with the children really enjoying their shopping. Huge thanks go out to Samantha for organising it and to everyone who helped run the shop. We hope you all enjoy receiving your presents on Christmas day!



### **SPECIAL OFFERS**

If you are still on the lookout for Christmas presents FOPS have partnered up with two companies that would make great Christmas gifts for kids, whilst also raising money for the school.

### **FIRST NEWS**

Our school has partnered with First News – the UK's only newspaper for young people.

Read and loved by over 2.6 million children each week in schools and home across the UK, First News has been shown to improve reading and comprehension skill. Reporting on the big news stories from the UK and around the world, First News explains current events in a way children can understand and enjoy. First News is unbiased, politically neutral, fully independent and has been providing children with age-appropriate news for 15 years.

To make things even better, by becoming one of their partner schools, we have been given an introductory offer for our parents - try First News free for 6 weeks and if you continue to subscribe after your free trial, FOPS will get money back to put towards our school. To ensure school receives the commission please use our school's code partner-**kmhxc**

For more information or sign up for the free trial please use this link <http://first.news/partner-kmhxc>. The link ensures any paid subscriptions are correctly allocated to our school.

Happy reading!

### **TOUCANBOX**

Have you heard of the monthly craft kits by toucanBox? They are awesome! Creative boxes for curious kids, toucanBox offer a flexible subscription encouraging crafting, creativity and learning in children aged 3-8. FOPS have now got a special subscriber link that means Purley school families will get their first craft box for half price and toucanBox will donate £5 to school! It's a win-win. Subsequent deliveries are monthly and include shipping. Parents

can cancel easily at any time. The following link must be used when signing up, otherwise school won't receive the donations. <https://signup.toucanbox.com/?code=SCH45SE&school=purleprg8bc3e>

### **Dates for the diary**

**10/12/21** – School Disco

**13/12/21** – Last Woodland School for Year 1

**14/12/21** – Return date for Nativity USB orders

**14/12/21** – Closing date for Sloth competition

**16/12/21** – Christmas Jumper Day

**17/12/21** – End of Autumn Term 2 at **1:15pm**

**05/01/22** – Start of Spring Term 1

**26/05/22** – **Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday**

As always, please remember our doors are open, should you wish to discuss any concerns, ask questions or celebrate successes regarding your children. You can contact me by phone on

01189842384 or email:

[headteacher@purley.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@purley.w-berks.sch.uk)

**Karen Fakes (Head teacher)**

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