



Mrs Delia Sheppard
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Dear Parents and Carers

It seems impossible that December is here! It's been another exciting term with a super topic that once again caught the children's imagination. Our 'Narnia Day' at Dorchester Abbey was magical and brought the RE aspect of the story alive which enhanced the children's RE curriculum. The teachers embraced the opportunity to teach the children about the lives of the many animals in the story and those in our local area. It was amazing to listen to Tawny Owls using scientific language such as hibernation nocturnal and habitat to talk about the animals in their descriptions as a walked around the school; a really exciting way into the science curriculum.

Our 'Evacuee Day' was another imaginative way that the staff used to introduce history topics around 'the way we lived'. Children learnt about the food we ate; cloths we wore and what children would have been taught at school (as well as the kind of music that was listened to!) The younger children learnt about growing food while the older children wrote letters home from the perspective of an evacuee. The Barn Owls have been learning about Make do and Mend – I have enjoyed trying their soup and admiring their chutney!



I'm grateful to the staff for their dedication in delivering the curriculum in such an imaginative and engaging way. If you would like to see an overview of our curriculum topics please visit our website where you will see an outline of the three year plan sketched out.

Christmas updates

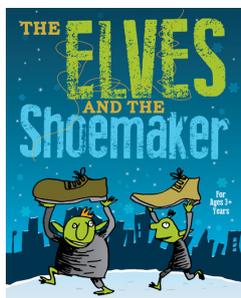


Our lovely school Christingle Service, which is led by the Rev Keith Nicholls, is on **Thursday 8th December** at 5.00pm. Keith has been in school this term talking with the children about Advent. The children have been learning songs that they will sing to us at the service; they are also decorating their Christingle Orange with its ribbon, sweets and candle in preparation to hold the lit article during the service!

Nativity rehearsals are well under way. You do not need to provide a costume for your child as we have everything at school. If you do not want your child to have hair/face glitter please could you let the school know?



Each year we are very kindly welcomed to Claires Court Junior Girls School to watch their Nativity. We are delighted that this year we are able to return the invitation as we have been able to invite their Y2 children to our Nativity. There are ten children in the year group and they will join us on Monday 12th December. We will reserve seats for them in the front row of the balcony.



On **Wednesday 14th December** we are taking the children to Norden Farm Theatre to see 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. Christmas shows at Norden Farm are always popular with the children and we are sure this year's treat will go down well. We are asking for a contribution towards the cost of the ticket and coach journey of £10.00 and this should be paid electronically please, the school's account details are a/c number 40875589 with sort code 20-78-58 please use ref ***surname/norden***

After Christmas our topic will be 'Earth Wind Water and Fire' – the 'Elements'. During this time children will follow the Big Bird watch and learn about migration. They will also be looking at fossils and what's going on under our feet, discussing where rivers start and end and where they might lead us. Each class will have the opportunity to plant seeds and make fires to cook marshmallows on!



To complement our topic we are planning a trip to White Waltham Air Museum and Airfield so the children can discover more about flight. Details of this trip will be available early next term when the arrangements have been finalised.

May I take this opportunity to invite you to share mince pies and coffee on the last day of term before school closes and also to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas?



I hope that the calendar that we are sending home is helpful. An updated whole year list will be available in January.

Kind regards

D. Sheppard

Mrs D Sheppard