

We want our children to be **AMBITIOUS**, **RESILIENT** and **COMPASSIONATE**



Christmas Newsletter



I can do all things through Him who strengthens me
- Philippians 4:13

Dear Parents,



What a year it has been! We have all been in the same 'COVID' storm but probably found ourselves in different boats as we try to ride the waves. Not spending time with those we know and love, and not being able to open the door and welcome someone in, has been one of the biggest challenges we have all faced.

It is for this reason I wanted to ensure that we finished the year with our whole school Nativity Play and show that, while we might be locked down, we won't be knocked down. Coming together as a community is how we navigate the choppy waters we have found ourselves in this year. Sharing the Christmas story is also an important reminder to us all that there is a Good News message that brings us hope.

Standlake Nativity Play



Many churches have a Christingle Service at this time of year; it is an excellent way of helping us to remember the meaning behind Christmas. The orange symbolises the world. The candle depicts the birth of Jesus – a light coming into the world and providing HOPE; God's son coming down to Earth to live among us and show us the way to a good and everlasting life.



It might sometimes feel like the world would be better represented with a pear instead, because it sometimes feels like things have gone a little 'pear shaped'! But I passionately believe that where a community comes together and shows love and peace to one-another, we can overcome most things that are thrown at us.



Whether it is the strength you get from the Christian message of Jesus being the light of the world or a more secular expectation of hope, all of us can share in the desire for a happy and peaceful Christmas and to welcome the New Year in with fresh expectations for a better future.

I wish you and your family a lovely Christmas.

Best Wishes,
Andrew Denham



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Christmas at Standlake

Despite the COVID Grinch trying its best to ruin our Christmas we still found ways in which we could be festive this term: **Christmas Jumper Day**, **FOSS Christmas Party Boxes**, **Christmas Dinner**, **Class Christmas Cards** and, perhaps the highlight of the term...



Happy Christmas
from all
the staff and children



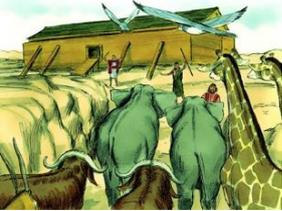
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Our Assembly Topics & Themes this



*What was the story or theme about?
How does it reflect our values?
What can we learn and do from the story?*



Noah



David and Goliath



David and Jonathan



The Prophet Isaiah



The Angel & Mary



Jesus is Born



The Wise Men Visit



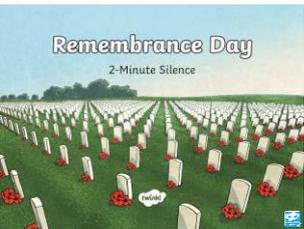
Anti-bullying week



Why Bonfire Night?



The Same, But Different



Remembrance Day?



What is Christingle?



Interfaith Week

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House Points Reward

Lincoln House earned the most House Points in Term 2, so they got a special treat of donuts. Children earn House Points for following our school values and rules. Well done to Fin, Rhys, Zoe, Chloe and Henry for being 'The Teacher's Chosen One's!' from the other house teams because they showed a particularly hard work ethic and great demonstration of our school values.



Cross Country Success

This term we competed in a virtual cross-country West Oxfordshire event which was adjudicated by staff from Bartholomew school. We did brilliantly! The under 11 boys (Luca, Sam, Niall and Lucas James) are officially the best in West Oxfordshire, coming first. The under 11 girls' team (Ella, Amanda, Zoe and Emilia) were runners up. The under 9 boys (Darragh, Charlie, William and Rhys) came 3rd overall. We didn't just do well in the Team events: Luca came 2nd place overall (under 11 boys) and the 3rd place girl (under 11) in West Oxfordshire went to Emilia.



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Murphy Class



This term in Murphy Class we have been looking at Fabulous Festivals. We have enjoyed learning about fireworks, Diwali and Christmas. We have had great fun making reindeer using our handprints and junk modelling as well as making some special gifts for our Mummies and Daddies. We have also enjoyed World Nursery Rhyme week where we sang lots of songs. During Maths we have been rehearsing matching the numerals, number shapes and objects.



Donaldson Class

This term in Donaldson Class we have been looking at Fabulous Festivals. We have enjoyed celebrating Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. For Diwali, we made our own rangoli patterns using powder paints and chalks on the playground, made diwas using clay and we enjoyed some yummy food and sweets that would normally be shared during Diwali. We have also retold the story of Rama and Sita using story maps and our tales toolkit. We have also been lucky enough to have a visitor to class, Elfie our Elf, who has taught us all about Christmas around the world, the advent wreath and helped us make our very own Christmas decorations which we had great fun sewing!



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Blake Class

This term Blake Class have been exploring the Great fire of London in our Topic lessons. We were lucky enough to burn our Tudor houses and see how the Great Fire of London would have spread on a much smaller scale. We have also been doing lots of practical science investigations in to how waterproof and absorbent different materials are. In Maths, Blake class has been following and giving each other directions. We have now become professionals at the Cha Cha slide and can follow instructions quickly including turns left and right.



Dahl Class



It's been another busy term in Dahl Class. In Maths, we've finished our shape topic and moved onto fractions and time. We've written balanced arguments in English, whilst in Science we've been finding out about skeletons. Our topic this term has been Europe, so we've researched different European cities and have even tried out some different styles of European dance in P.E. with Miss Hill. In Art, we have looked at how European artists have painted European places. We're pretty pleased with our versions of Matisse's 'Open Window', Monet's 'Houses of Parliament' and Goncharova's 'Frost'. Which do you like best?



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Morpurgo Class



In Morpurgo this term we have been learning all about Space! We have learnt about our solar system, the Space Race and have written a biography all about a famous astronaut, Tim Peake and his achievements. Linking to Space we created our own rockets from junk modelling and created some space splatter art inspired by Peter Thorpe. We have even managed to fit in a little maths and have been working out the perimeter of rectangular shapes.



Shakespeare Class

Shakespeare class have enjoyed – and been challenged by – our learning about WWII this term. We have considered the start and reasons for war, analysed the effectiveness of propaganda posters and learned about the harrowing events of the Holocaust. In our DT project, we have designed and created our very own tanks, complete with moving parts.

In Science this term we have learnt about micro-organisms, including growing some of our own! Creating models of them out of playdough was a particular highlight, as was our hunt for different organisms around our school and then classifying them using the Linnaean system.



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Achievement Book

The following children have shown particularly impressive words or actions this term...

DONALDSON

Mari for trying new challenges with increasing confidence

Gabe for superb effort in class and trying his best in everything

Sienna for great enthusiasm to our topic and making superb progress in phonics

George for a fantastic attitude to learning and trying really hard in phonics

Eadie for a great can do attitude!

Sebastian for superb work in all areas of learning this week and applying his phonics knowledge to writing

BLAKE

Finlee for improved effort and concentration

Kaleb for great concentration and effort with your phonics

Luis for brilliant effort and improvement with his assessments

Sophie for always being a kind and caring member of our class

Alexander for giving every lesson 100% effort

Lily for always asking questions and striving to progress with her learning



DAHL

Olivia for answering lots of questions in class and doing her best all the time

Mara-Jade for concentrating on her work and staying focused

Leila for settling back into school this week and finding her focus

Scout for overcoming disagreements in a sensible way

Benjamin for making great steps towards working independently and completing tasks quickly

Alfie for excellent effort and attitude in everything he does

MORPURGO

Darraah for always trying his best within his learning

Chloe for working extremely hard and is making lots of progress

Abi for great progress in all subjects

Grace for always showing love and compassion

Kasper for a fantastic presentation all about Space rockets

Theo for growing in confidence and beginning to share his ideas and work in class

SHAKESPEARE

Simi for impressing us all with his enthusiasm and knowledge about our World War II topic

Fynley for a huge improvement in his focus this term, producing a superb quantity of work

Jack for a superb attitude towards all of his assessments this week, producing excellent results

Lucas-James for his desire to improve and an increased willingness to ask for help when necessary

Holly for consistently being a cheerful, helpful and friendly member of our class

Diego for his impeccable manners and selflessness in and out of the classroom

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Star Writers



The following children have shown some great writing skills this term...

DONALDSON

Nancy for writing a superb firework poem using adjectives

Eadie for a fantastic recall of the story of Rama and Sita

Henry for a super Rama and Sita story

Layla for working hard on writing her name

Reggie for a wonderful letter to our Class Elf including the use of question marks

Martha for using her phonics sounds to segment words for writing

BLAKE

Annabel for a wonderful diary entry

Ezra for a beautifully written diary entry

Rosie for creating a wonderful story at home

Ella for trying very hard with her handwriting

Finlee for great use of rhyme

Luis for checking his own work for punctuation and spelling mistakes

DAHL

Finn for using excellent vocabulary and trying really hard with his handwriting

Freddie for real improvement in his punctuation and grammar

Charlie for an excellent piece of creative writing, including paragraphs and direct speech

Sophia for listening well in lessons and using what we have learnt in her work

Jack for a super effort with handwriting and writing his discussion arguments

Aaron for really trying with his handwriting and sentence construction

MORPURGO

Emily for working hard on her presentation within her group

Niall for putting maximum effort into his writing this week

Athena for being ambitious with her vocabulary

Archie for super sentences

Darcy for challenging herself in our tasks this week

Milly for trying hard to improve her presentation



SHAKESPEARE

Emilia for thoughtful contributions to discussion about our class text this week

Henry for a creative setting description this week and great desire to make his work the best that it can be

Diego for a well thought out and creative narrative in this week's writing assessment

Ella for working hard to include the writing features that we have discussed in her persuasive text

Amanda for developing her ideas to create a plan for our first-person narrative

Zoe for brilliant drafting of our first-person narrative – creating a realistic story

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Marvellous Mathematicians



The following children have shown some excellent maths work this term...

DONALDSON

River for fantastic shape and pattern work

Arthur for great measuring, this week

Gabe for superb subtraction

Chardonnay for quick fact recall when looking at fact families

Arthur for super number recognition and one more/one less work

Lena for superb comparison work

BLAKE

Elias for great work counting money

Mark for great effort identifying 2D shapes

Alexander for working extremely hard and making lots of progress

Finlee for working hard identifying halves and quarters

Reilly for always striving for the next level and pushing himself

Finley for great work describing directions such as left and right



DAHL

Ruby for excellent independent work on arrays and shapes this week

Frederick for working hard on 3D shapes

Olivia for working hard this week on money problems

Oscar for excellent focus and hard work this week

Rhys for excellent fraction work – beautifully presented and showing good understanding

Ferris for some great maths work with fractions

MORPURGO

Emilia for using great maths reasoning skills

Darcy for a great attitude in maths which shows in her work

Lucy for great progress in her maths

Autumn for always persevering with tasks and making good progress

Freddie for great resilience and responding to feedback to improvement

Esme for fantastic resilience and continuing to work hard when things get tricky

SHAKESPEARE

Mae for excellent work on adding and subtracting fractions this week

Jake for fantastic understanding and determination in our work on fractions this week

Che for brilliant scores in his maths assessments this week – particularly the arithmetic paper

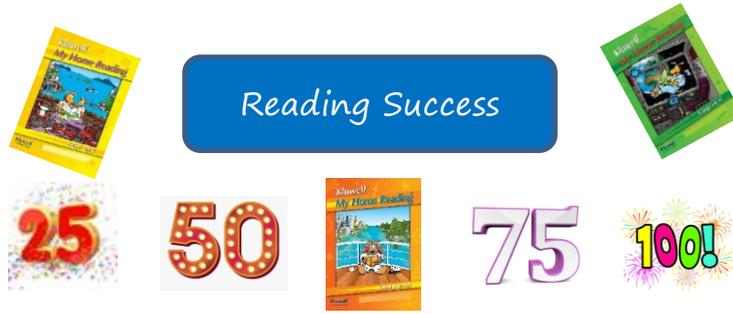
Cara for super work on multiplying and dividing decimals this week

Alec for super understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages

Indianna for fantastic understanding, and enjoyment, of algebra this week

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The following children have read over 25 times since the start of the year...

DONALDSON: 25 reads: George and Shannon-Rose 50 reads: Oliver, Henry, Ava, Martha, Mari, Layla and Kyle 75 reads: Seb, Nancy, James, Reggie, River, Ella, Arlowe, Robyn, Lena, Arthur P, Arthur L, Eadie and Beth

BLAKE: 25 reads: Kitty 50 reads: Lily, Fin and Annie 75 reads: Luis, Sienna, Rosie, Sophie and Fin C 100 reads: Alexander and Ezra

DAHL: 25 reads: Sophia and Ruby 50 reads: Aaron, Josh, Frederick, William, Benjamin, Ciara and Ferris 75 reads: Leila, Mara, Scout, Rhys, Freddie, Aaron, Oscar and Finn

MORPURGO: 50 reads: Freddie, Darragh, Archie, Kasper and Emily 75 reads: Rosie, Grace B, Niall, Emilia, Grace W, Kate, Yillin, Lucy, Louie, Milo and Abi

SHAKESPEARE: 25 reads: Fran, Cara and Che 50 reads: Alec, Diego, Brodie, Amanda, Jack, Indianna, Sophie, Holly and Emilia 75 reads: Fynley, Alec, Mae and Ella

FOSS News

FOSS wishes to send a heartfelt thank you to all the parents whose help, commitment, events organisation and creativity helped us continue to find new ways to raise financial support for our dear school. Some of the funds raised are slated for additional tablets, playground equipment, Christmas boxes and the like. You, families of Standlake School are FOSS and together with your support we've traversed this year together, in conventional and unconventional ways. We wish you the best of the season, that your hearts be filled with joy, hope, good health and a glorious 2021.

Mr. Hosea Bassey
2020 FOSS Chairman

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Governors

Dear Parents and Pupils,

The Governors would like to thank all the parents and children for engaging so positively with the staff at school, supporting them in their efforts to keep the school a safe, happy and exciting place to be. Despite the restrictions, amazing things have been going on in school this term, and the children have been working really hard to catch up with the work that they have missed. The governors have been delighted that the hygiene routines that have been put in place, have succeeded in keeping the children safe and keeping the school open for work.

The Governors would like to wish all the staff, parents and children a very Happy Christmas.

Stay safe and keep well and enjoy your well-earned holiday.

Thank you. With best wishes

Karen Armeanu (Chair of Governors) and Jenny Macdonald (Vice-Chair)

Other Information

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

SPRING TERM 2021

INSET DAY: 4th January

Term 3: 5th January - 12th February

Spring Half Term: 15th February - 19th February

Term 4: 22nd February - 31 March

Easter Holiday: 1st April - 16th April (1.15pm finish)

SUMMER TERM 2021

Term 5: 19th April - 28th May

Summer Half Term: 31st May - 4th June

Term 6: 7th June - 20th July (1.15pm finish)

Tuck Shop

There is a new tuck shop payment item on Parent mail for Spring Term if you would like your child to have tuck. Thank you.

Vicky's After School & Holiday Club

Dear Parents,

We currently have spaces available at after school club. We are open Monday-Thursday from 3.10-6.10pm. You can have 1,2 or 3 hours per day-that space is then yours for the term. The children have a snack after school and a light tea between 4-5pm.

We have a wide variety of activities for the children including arts and crafts, board games, outdoor play and much more.

Numbers have dropped significantly at the club since September- this has been due to parents working from home. Whilst we understand this, we need the club to be sustainable and if the numbers don't increase then we won't be able to continue.