



## Bletchingley Village Primary School

*Aiming high Working together Achieving our best*

**Newsletter No.4      Topic: Around the World in Eighty Days      Value focus: Tolerance**

*Christmas is almost here– it doesn't seem possible! It has been a busy half term. Children have been enjoying more Outdoor Learning and their extended breaks with the positive effects still being seen in behaviour, improved ability to concentrate in lessons and improvement in general wellbeing.*

*A huge 'Well done!' to staff and children for the wonderful Christmas events; the hard work and rehearsing was definitely well worthwhile! An equally huge 'Thank You!' is due to FOBS for organising out excellent Christmas Fair, which raised an amazing £1300, and also to all parents, grandparents and other family and friends who have supported our children this term; it really does mean everything to them to have your faces in the audience watching and encouraging.*

*Other fundraising during the term was also very successful, with our 'Spotty Day' for Children in Need raising £478.39 and poppy appeal raising £300.*

*All at Bletchingley Village Primary wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and successful New Year!*

### **Highlights from Phase 3**

After going through airport security checks with our passports, Year 5 boarded a plane to India. We sailed down the River Ganges, tasted local curries and washed our clothes in the dirty water of the river. We also learnt how rivers are formed. We then visited Brazil, where we learnt about rainforests. In France we became travel agents and created our own ski company after learning about mountains. In Austria, we found out about different climates and main bodies of water in the world.

Throughout the term, we have also been learning to play the trumpet which culminated in a fantastic performance to parents and the rest of the school after only ten weeks of lessons! We have loved it!

Evening Emerald worked hard to create their assembly, making sure to include all the learning they wanted to share with you. Well done, Evening Emerald!

In Diamond Class we had a WONDERFUL time trying to persuade Mrs Gregori to allow us to go and watch 'Wonder' at the local cinema; we were successful and we used our experience to write stories and lots of other pieces of writing. We also had fun digging up some of the field to create our own rivers – making signs to include all a river's features. This term, we also presented our assembly which we created; Miss Jowitt thought we were all so confident!

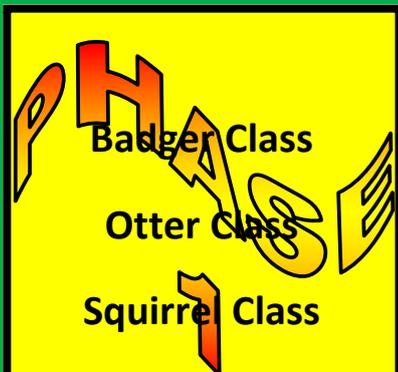
All in Phase 3 enjoyed the technology workshop; places for the club will be available at the start of the spring term. We also had a fantastic interactive ancient Egyptian workshop where we all got hands on. Year 5 became archaeologists and crawled through an ancient tomb, discovering ancient Egyptian artefacts and learnt so much about how they lived in the past.

We would like to say a big Thank You to you ALL for helping and bringing in some AMAZING home learning based around our topic this term; the children were so excited to show them to each other and display them during Open classroom. It was really lovely to see you all.

We would like to wish you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and all the very best for the coming year!

See you in the New Year!

## Highlights from Phase 1



### Autumn Term 2



In Badger class this half term, we have enjoyed reading stories linked to polar regions, including 'Polar bear, polar bear. What do you hear?' and 'Lost and Found'. We have had lots of fun cooking muffin pizzas, spotty cupcakes and mince pies and used lots of glitter and sequins, decorating baubles and cards for Christmas. We loved our Christmas party. It was great fun!



This half term, Otter class have enjoyed learning about the Christian celebration of Christmas. The children had fun designing and making decorations, Christmas gifts



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This half term, Squirrel class have continued with their research on foods from the different continents. They enjoyed cooking and tasting foods from each of the 7 continents. They learnt about the different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet to maintain a healthy body.

This Christmas, Year 1 were set the task of making a woven Christmas decoration. They practised weaving with natural and



We all worked very hard to learn our parts for our EYFS and KS1 Nativity.



## Highlights from Phase 2



We have all worked really hard this term in Fox Class and all have something we can be proud of as you saw when you visited for Open Afternoon.

We've been very busy this term at improving our writing skills. We've been given the chance to write bigger pieces of writing and have begun to innovate a text to create our own story!

In maths, we have been focusing on solving problems that involve money, length and shapes too. We have also been practising retrieving information from a number story so we know what

we need to do to solve it.

Outdoor learning has been very interesting. We've been writing poems and creating Christmas decorations using natural resources; we made beautiful Christmas trees out of twigs.

We all had a go at sewing to make our hanging decorations for Making Day. Everyone could thread a needle, but the trickiest part was tying a knot at the bottom of our string - only a few of us managed that! In the end, we all had a successful, sparkly product to sell at the fair.



Ruby class has been exploring lots of different things this half term. We've travelled to ancient Egypt and enjoyed the day learning lots of different skills from grinding our own flour to weaving our own mats out of leaves. This term we learnt why people give gifts at Christmas - looking at the first gifts ever given to what Christmas is like today. We even made a Christmas box full of donated goodies that we wrapped in our own home made paper to donate to charity. We have been running around learning the basics of tag rugby and game play in PE which has really brought out

our competitive sides. Ruby class were volunteered to re-enact the Posada assembly which we were all really proud to be part of. We're all counting down until Christmas and looking forward to what the spring term has to offer us!



In Sapphire Class, we have been fascinated by the ancient Egyptians this half term. We had a fabulous day being experimental archaeologists – grinding corn to make flour, carving, weaving, playing games and re-enacting a pharaoh burial! Linked to our history learning, we have been working as investigators trying to rehome some ancient artefacts found in a cave. At one point, we had to decode some hieroglyphs and found that our lives were in danger from a terrible curse so we quickly bundled up the artefacts and secured the scene!

In our science work, we have been learning about the digestive system and we even made our own 'stomachs' to see what really happens when we eat. We have also been very busy with our writing – learning how to persuade people. We even tried it out on Mrs Barlow in 'I'm a Year 4 – Get me out of Here!' However, one of our favourite bits of writing this term was imagining we were one of Santa's elves!





## **Attendance**

We are continuing with our drive to improve attendance and have had some real success, which is wonderful. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this improvement. Any time spent away from school means missed learning, which is obviously not what anyone wants for children, and takes away from the right every child has to the very best education possible.

Regarding Penalty Notices:

*Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.*

*In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.*

*The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.*

*Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.*

*If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.*

