



# Newchurch Newsletter

December 2023

They say pictures paint a thousand words... Merry Christmas to our Newchurch Family



**Newchurch Community Primary School**  
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[www.newchurchprimary.co.uk](http://www.newchurchprimary.co.uk)

**If you have any concerns about Child Protection or Health and Safety,  
Please contact school**

### Fire Fighters' Visit

Our Reception children were so excited to receive a visit from the Cheshire Fire Brigade. They were keen to ask questions and were incredibly interested in all the equipment on the Fire Engine.



In all areas of the curriculum, the children engaged in creative activities linked to the fire fighters.

**Joshua** "I liked sitting in the fire engine and looking at all the equipment"

**Alex** "I made a fire engine."

### Evil Pea and Supertato

There was a lot of excitement in the Reception classroom as the children found peas trapped in ice along with a letter asking for help. The children needed to find a way to free the peas from the ice, so they carried out an experiment to find the quickest way to melt the ice. They generated their own ideas and they found that adding warm water and salt made the ice melt the quickest. They freed the peas!



**Parker** "I smashed the ice with tools to help the peas."

**Olivia** "We melted the ice and the helped the peas."

### The Nativity Story



In Religious Education, the children have been learning about the first Christmas Story and the reasons why Christians celebrate Christmas.

The children went on a trip to Newchurch Parish Church, where they listened to the Nativity story and Christmas Carols.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the story together and retelling it in a variety of ways using the correct sequence of events.

In the small world area, the children retold the story using the figures and on outdoor learning, the children made the stable and the manger where baby Jesus was born using blocks and crates. They sequenced the story using pictures, paintings and drawings in the creative area.

**Eleanor** "Baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day."

**Thomas** "We retold the story using the characters."

### The Story of Christmas

In their RE learning this half-term, Year One have been learning about the Nativity Story and how it is important to Christians.

Children have been able to talk about why Christians believe that Jesus was a special baby and how Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Children were also able to discuss how Christians believe that Jesus was a special gift to the world.



### Christmas Decorations

This half-term in Design and Technology, Year One worked on creating moving robins for the school Christmas tree. They were able to plan and design their robins and discuss what materials they would need as well as the tools they would need to put it together. Children were also able to reflect on what they like about their decorations and could say what they would do to improve if they were to make it again. In true Newchurch style, the robins make a wonderful addition to the tree.

**Bryson** – I like how my robin moves but if I were to do it again, I would create a better string for it to hang on.



### Science

During their Science learning this half term, Year 1 have been learning about plants. They have been able to identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants including trees. Children have learnt about the process of growing a seed and children have each planted their own seed and have been able to watch it grow and keep a diary. Children have learnt about all of the things that the bulbs will need to be able to grow and have ensured that their plants have got these things to be able to grow.



### Post Office Fun

Year One have been enjoying the post office in their classroom this half term. Children have truly experienced the Christmas rush when organising and sorting Christmas cards and gifts. Some of our busy delivery workers have even been around the school to spread to some Christmas cheer and happiness by delivering cards and letters to children and teachers in all year groups. The classroom elf Bobby even got involved by setting children the task of sorting gifts by 3D shapes, year one were wonderful at this!



# Year 2

## RE - Christianity

In RE this half term, the children have been focussing on Christianity, in particular the use of light and how this is important to Christians and why they believe Jesus to be the light of the world.

At first, they thought about how we all use light in different ways and how it helps us, the children came up with some fantastic ideas, especially surrounding the thoughts of how it keeps them safe at night so they can see where they are going or how it just makes them feel safe by having a light on so they are not in the dark.

The children considered who brought light into their lives and how they do it. Then they

thought about the Advent candle and came up with an Advent promise that they would try and stick to in the new year.



**Edis** - I enjoyed thinking about how Jesus helps others and why he is important to Christians.

## A Christmas Journey

This half term, Year 2 were invited by the churches of the Winwick Deanery to take part in the Christmas Journey. It was such a wonderful experience for the children who got to listen to the story of the nativity through drama, music, crafts and storytelling.

The whole class were in awe when listening to the storytellers and were keen to take part, ask questions and get dressed up. As always, our Newchurch Robins were a credit to the school and even entertained the grown-ups with a few songs from our Christmas Performance.

December 2023



**Pippa** - It was really interesting to listen to the Christmas story and think about why some people celebrate Christmas.

## Let's get sewing...

As part of our DT topic, the Year 2 robins designed, created and evaluated their very own Gingerbread people. The children looked at the different sewing techniques and decided which one they would use on their own Gingerbread person. The children then carefully stitched their Gingerbread



people and stuffed them before going on to decorating them beautifully. The children proudly hung their decorations onto the Newchurch Christmas tree.

**Carter Mc** - I really enjoyed learning the different stitches we can use when we sew.

## Animals Including Humans

Throughout the half term, the children have been looking at a range of different ideas such as noticing that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults and creating life cycles. They have also found out about and described the basic needs of animals, including humans and understood the importance of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

**Sophie** - It was really interesting to learn about the food groups and what foods help us to stay healthy.

## Zakah

In Religious Education, Year 3 have focused on the religion of Islam. They have considered the importance of role models within Islam, the story of Muhammad, and the principle of 'Zakah' - sharing and charitable giving.



*"It has been great to learn about the 5 Pillars of Islam in RE. I got to write in Arabic!" - Isaac*

## Enriching the Curriculum

This month has been filled with fun enrichment activities for Year 3! Some of the most popular were practising songs for the Christmas performance, visiting Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, and listening to a brilliant virtual concert.



Year 3 loved creating their Christmas decorations for Design and Technology this half term. During their design phase, they considered the key functions of a decoration, and what the best materials would be. During the build phase, children used a range of materials and attachment methods (including

PVA and hot glue) to create sturdy and neat decorations. Finally, we evaluated their



products to consider how they could improve them moving forward.

*"We chose PVA glue to stick our decorations together because it was the strongest and neatest choice." - Finlay MP*

In Science, Year 3's focus has been rocks. They have learnt about the rock cycle and how to categorise rocks, and then taken this knowledge into some brilliant experiments. Experiments have included testing rocks for durability, absorption and acidity and using chocolate to explore structures of different rock types!



*"I've loved practising for the Christmas performance because I could see all the effort that everyone had been putting into their lines and singing." - Florence L*

## Religious Education

The unit of Christianity has allowed the Year 4 robins to explore different stories in the Bible. Discussing why Christians refer to the Bible as a guide, they explored how the books in the Bible are historical, poetic, stories with messages and others are letters. Following this, they explored different means Christians would use to guide their decisions beyond the Bible before reflecting on where they look for guidance.



**Chloe- I have enjoyed learning about the different types of Bibles, I thought there was only one Bible but there are actually different ones such as Children's Bible and adults' Bibles. They are even in different languages.**

## Science

Electricity is a huge part of our way of life, and for this half term, Year 4 have explored how it works and what is needed in a circuit to ensure that the electrons can move through it successfully. In order for them to be able to achieve this understanding, they created various different circuits, predicting and experimenting with adding and removing different equipment. Furthermore, they explored insulators and conductors to be able to answer Mariela's question - Why can birds touch the electrical wires?



**Norah- We made a huge circuit with the whole class to turn on the electricity stick. This made it really clear that a circuit cannot have a break in it as the electrons could not move and the stick stopped working.**

## Sewing

This half term, the children have enjoyed sewing their own decoration for the Christmas tree. They explored a running stitch and backstitch before drawing a design they wanted for the Christmas tree. Finally, they evaluated their creations.



**Theo- I liked using the needles and learning how to make a running stitch. I was really proud of my tree decoration. I liked how I added buttons to it.**

## Out of the classroom.

Mad Science visited Key Stage two this term to support Year 4 in their understanding of the water cycle and how water is treated before getting into our homes.

Every three weeks, Year 4 have visited the library. They have enjoyed exploring different books and bringing them back to school.

This half term, they have been busy in their preparations for taking the acting parts in the Key Stage 2 production of Santa's on Strike!

**Ellie- I enjoyed the assembly. I learned how the water evaporates from the sea, it condenses into clouds and falls as rain. Explosive Erica was very loud!**

**Niamh- I have enjoyed learning my lines and performing- even if it was a little scary!**



### Feel the force

This half term, Year Five have been developing their physics knowledge through the study of forces. From Sir Isaac Newton's laws of motion to the simple machines which make our lives easier. The children have been applying themselves scientifically to develop fair and comparative tests – thinking like scientists to build reliable conclusions.



The children have harnessed friction through air resistance by finding the best possible parachute design and

have created their own footwear for grip on an icy day.

**Seb:** Conducting fair tests about forces has been really interesting. I have learnt about different forces including gravity, friction, air resistance and upthrust and how they relate to everyday life like planes.

### Better than a bauble

Every Christmas tree is a little different, some are a blast of colour and light, others shimmer with gold and silver. However, we all have those personal decorations which hold lovely memories. Year Five have been applying their design and woodwork skills to craft their own memorable decorations during the build up to Christmas. Using saws, drills, clamps and glue guns, the children demonstrated excellent control and creativity – resulting in amazing, individual designs. It is always great to see the children supporting one another to realise their goals too.



**Halle:** I loved designing and making tree decorations. We made sure we measured accurately so all our pieces of wood fit together used saws and glue guns to assemble them. We had to think about our design to make sure they were not too heavy and fit the brief of a tree decoration.

### World religions

The world we live in is a diverse kaleidoscope of beliefs, ideas and people. In their RE adventures this half term, Year Five have been getting to know the Islamic faith in more detail. The children have focused on how Muslims seek guidance from their faith and how the Qur'an and the teachings of Allah help believers to live virtuous lives. The children looked at the role which prophets play in religious belief and the way in which teachings are passed on and develop faith. The children, as always, showed that they can deeply debate, show respect for the views of others and ultimately understand the Islamic faith more.

**Phoebe:** learning about the Qur'an, what it means to Muslims and the ways Muslims show their dedication to Allah has been fun. We have learnt about the prophet Muhammed and the five pillars of Islam.

### Learning beyond the classroom



Enrichment has been Year Five's middle name this half term. They have invited the Warrington Fire Service into school to learn how to survive a

house fire; have established their regular visits to Culcheth Library; were invited to see the outstanding exhibition of Culcheth Arts Group and celebrated being the



reigning attendance champions by visiting Cineworld to watch



the festive movie Elf. The children also joined Year Six in watching the superb, ex-robin filled performance at Culcheth High School and developed their swimming skills at Woolston Leisure Centre.



### Religious Education

Hinduism is the religion which Year 6 has been studying this half term and they have enjoyed learning about many concepts but, in particular, Samsara (the Hindu cycle of birth, death and rebirth). The children were fascinated by the ideas shared and were keen to discuss their thoughts. They talked at length about karma and felt that if afterlife was a 'thing' then they felt it was a fair way of rewarding those who have done good things in their current lives.

**Jack:** *It was interesting to learn about how different religions believe in reincarnation. It helps to give them guidance in life*

### Electrical Extravaganza!

Showing progression from their learning of electricity in Y4, our Year 6 robins have been developing their understanding of more complex circuits and key terminology.

As part of this unit, the children have enjoyed building circuits with a variety of components



and comparing and giving reasons for variations in how components function. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring how fruits and vegetables can be used as conductors and, in some cases, cells.

**Ted:** Trying to work out why certain items were and were not conductors was interesting

### Design and Technology

Year Six's DT project for this term linked two areas of the curriculum in which Year 6 thrive: DT and Science. The brief was to create a Christmas village (similar to those seen in garden centres) and to apply knowledge of electrical circuits to make moving parts and lights for each building. Eagerly, the children worked their way through the

research stage of the project and quickly decided upon their chosen design. Then, with precision measurements, sawing, gluing and painting, the children added the circuits to add the final touches to what was a memorable unit of work. Finally, the last element of the project was to evaluate their designs to make suggestions for how to improve their final piece. The children absolutely loved the project and were really excited to share their buildings with the rest of the school.



**Natalie:** *I used the coping saw and glue gun to build my design. It was an opportunity to be really creative.*

### Crucial Crew Trip

Earlier in the half term, Year 6 spent the afternoon at a Crucial Crew event at the Army Reserve in Warrington. Here they took part in a range of workshops from magistrates, police officers, nurses, Warrington Youth Zone and more about the importance of safety, health and wellbeing. The children, as ever when representing the school, were impeccably behaved and learnt a great deal about the importance of being aware of potential dangers around them and how best to minimise risks.

**Summer:** *I learnt about the dangers of electricity and enjoyed the experiment where we explored how our bodies can conduct electricity.*





### Celebrate SUCCESS

#### Three Cheers for Freya-Mae!



Well done to Freya-Mae in Year 6 who attended her first ever cheerleading competition with her new group. Freya has trained in gymnastics for many years and wanted to try something new with cheerleading. The team has only been together for a few months and they have worked really hard to perfect their routine.

The BCA Winter Wonderland Cheerleading competition was at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

They competed against nine other teams in their age range and gained 1st place. Like Freya-Mae's parents, we were all super proud of her.



#### A star in the making!

Many congratulations to Carter in Year 5 who successfully passed his Grade 2 trumpet examination last week. He is an exceptional talent!

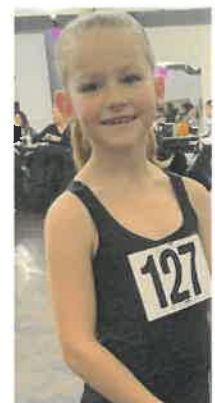


#### It's a double for Lily!

Congratulations and well done to Lily in Year 2 who recently did her bronze and silver dance exams and passed both with over 90% score on each.



She also did a gymnastics competition with other squads in Warrington and came in 3rd with her floor routine. Excellent work, Lily.





## Key Information



We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week. The award system works as follows:

100%	Gold award	10 points
Class with the highest attendance of the week	Silver award	5 points

The class with the most points accumulated at the end of the school year gets a very special treat of a trip paid for by school. **Year 4 are currently leaders with fifteen points.**

### Attendance since the start of the year:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.7%	96.9%	94.2%	96.5%	96.2%	96.7%	94.9%

**Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 95.7%.**

### Calling all Year 6!



**December 2023**



When is it happening?	What is happening?	Who is involved?
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School Opens	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Book sharing after school	All classes
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Interim Reports Out	All classes
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception parents
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1 parents
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2 parents
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 11:30am	Year 3 Loved One to Lunch	Year 3 parents
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4 parents
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Clubs start	All classes
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3 parents
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6 parents
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5 parents
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Burtonwood Heritage Museum	Year 6

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