



Arts Mark Gold



We are delighted to have been awarded the Arts Mark Gold Award for the second time running. This award recognises that at Newchurch, we ensure that 'every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.' As part of our 'Chocolate Box Curriculum', this shows how we are committed to the arts, culture and creativity.

Christmas Tree Service



It was wonderful to be able to invited back to Newchurch Parish Church for their Christmas Tree Festival. Although we were not able to have all of our KS2 children singing, our wonderful Year 5 were able to share their talents with the visitors on the day.

You can see a taste of their performance by visiting our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewchurchCP/>

Our Christmas tree was adorned with beautiful handcrafted ornaments by Year Five and will be up in church all over Christmas for you to see.

Young Enterprise



It has been great to see Year Two complete their enterprise this month with the making and selling of their reindeer hot chocolate and their reindeer food. The purpose of their enterprise to support them in fundraising for their residential in Year 4.

Well done, Year Two.

Goodbye and Good Luck

This week we say a fond farewell to Mr Owen, our site manager, who has been with the school for many years. During his time at Newchurch, he has made a valuable contribution to the health and safety of the building, keeping us all safe and secure. We wish him all the very best for the future.

We also wish Mrs Morgan, one of our teaching assistants, good luck as she embarks on a new adventure at her new school which is closer to home. Although she has only been part of Newchurch for a short time, she has shown that she has kindness in her heart and a love of children. We know her new school will be lucky to have her.

For both Mr Owen and Mrs Morgan, please remember that 'once a robin, always a robin.'

Reception

December 2021

The Nativity Story



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

Betsy: "Baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day."

Tommy: "I like playing with the people."

Pippa: "I liked painting baby Jesus."

Artist – Albert Irvin



Throughout the last week of term, the children have been studying the art work of Albert Irvin an artist who specialises in painting using bright colours and shapes.

After looking at Albert Irvin's work, the children investigated how to mix the primary colours to create a new colour – secondary colours. Then they used these colours to create their own master pieces in the style of Albert Irvin. There were some very impressive paintings that could be quite easily be mistaken for his actual work.

Lily Rhae: I like painting pictures and mixing the colours.

Carter: I love mixing paints.

Elliott: We looked at lots of paintings and then we did our own.

Christmas Decorations



Using their design skills the children created their own decorations for the Christmas tree in the hall. The children selected by using Google images which decoration they wanted to design and make. Some children worked as a team to create paper chains using strips of paper, whereas other children made individual decorations.

Jaxon: I made a paper chain with my friends.

Odin: I put glitter on my decoration.

Bella: I liked making snowflakes, I cut lots of shapes out of the paper.

Christmas at Newchurch



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without singing, dressing up, a visit from the Elves (Colin and Coco), making cards and having fun in the snow.

The role play area changed into Santa's workshop where the children dressed up as Elves, Father Christmas and Mrs Christmas. They checked the children's Christmas lists, made toys using the blocks, wrapped the presents and they even made a sleigh.

Newchurch Reception children starred in the Christmas production of A Christmas Tale, where they were amazing dancers and singers. They also worked in collaboration with the whole school to produce a recording for the Christmas Newchurch assembly.

In the last week of term, the children got a wonderful surprise visit from Father Christmas and he even brought the snow. It was magical!

Elsie: I liked being in the workshop and dressing up as Mrs Christmas.

Lily: I was a naughty cat in the Christmas play.

Jasmine: I liked dancing on the big stage and singing the songs.

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RE



In RE, Year 1 have been looking at the story of the first Christmas. They learned that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus's birthday and explored how Christians believe that God sent Jesus to Earth as a special gift to mankind. They made pictures of the key people in the story and explored how they felt when baby Jesus arrived.

Frankie: King Herod was angry and felt jealous of baby Jesus.

Fabiana: Mary was happy and shocked when the angel told her about Jesus.

They talked about special gifts that they have given and received and how it made them feel. They then discussed how and helping people and spending time with them is just as special as giving someone a present.

Design and Technology

As part of design and technology Year 1 created their own decorations to hang on the school Christmas tree. They chose a candy cane design from a selection of Christmas images and drew around a template to make their decoration. They had great fun using a marble painting technique to decorate and also added glitter for some extra Christmas sparkle!



Art

This half term, in their art lessons, Year 1 have been taking part in lots of tasks based on drawing and painting. They have explored the work and techniques of the artists Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. Using a range of materials, such as pencils and pastels they took part in different activities such as drawing natural objects and a blindfolded sketching challenge. They made their own continuous line drawings of different objects based on Klee's work and created their own versions of his painting *The Houses Tree*. They also explored the work of Kandinsky's *Squares with Concentric Circles* and used pastels and paints to create their own collaborative work of art.



Charlotte: I liked choosing bright colours for my circle.



A Christmas Journey



Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic start to December when they embarked on a lovely Christmas journey at All Saints Church. The children enjoyed a craft-making session where they made nativity scenes using an envelope and straw. The children then went on to find out all about the story of Christmas and the significance of each part. The children were very respectful to the adults who had volunteered their time and took the time to think of reflective questions to ask.

This trip linked to our RE topic 'Christianity' and children were able to reflect on what they had learnt previously as well as learning new things.

In addition to this, children also made links to their Christmas play and they understood the significance of their roles.



Isabelle – I am an angel in our play and now I know why the angel was so important in the story of Christmas.

Freddie – I knew I was a wise man but I didn't know why they were important in the story of 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.

Ellie – I have sewn before when I made something at home so I used those skills to help me.

Marvellous Music

Throughout the duration of this term, Year 2 have been learning how to play the handbells. They have spent time learning how to handle them carefully and have played a variety of songs and spent lots of time perfecting them. The children have played songs like Hot Cross Buns, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Row Row Row Your Boat. The children have displayed excellent determination and resilience and their music sounds wonderful.



Christmas - A time to reflect

The children started their RE topic by looking at inspirations. They spent time thinking about what it means to be inspired and then identify somebody who inspires them. Once they had identified their inspirational person, they wrote letters to that person. The children also spent time learning about and reflecting on the Christmas story. They created story maps to show their understanding of it and answered the question, "Why is Jesus special?"

Halle: I enjoyed learning about the importance of Christmas.

Decoration Designers

The children of Year 3 have become decoration designers as part of our design and technology unit. To start, they were given a brief and an expected outcome. They then made their decoration, wrote instructions for somebody else to follow and evaluated the finished product. They have truly met the requirements! I am sure you will all agree that they have made beautiful decorations.

Scan with Seesaw to view this work!



Phoebe W: I liked decorating my snowflake using sequins and gems.

Luna: My favourite part of making my decoration was using the glue gun on my own.

Ukulele

During this term, Year 3 have been working with the very talented Alison from accent music. During music, they have been learning to play the ukulele. They have shown great determination and resilience when learning to play the ukulele. The children have been working so hard and were so excited to perform to friends and family in the Ukulele concert this week. Keep an eye on twitter for updates.

Carter: We have been learning C and A chords and it is really fun.



Next Level Netball

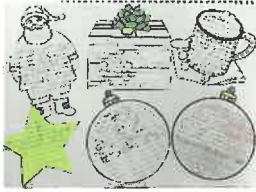
Year 3 have been playing Netball this half term. They have learnt and fine-tuned many skills, including different types of passes, practiced their attacking skills and how to defend. They have worked hard to work as a team and really tried to be the best that they can be.

Logan: I really enjoyed playing as part of a team and working together.



Religious Reflection

In RE Year Four have been learning about the Christian faith, focusing specifically on the celebration of Christmas. They have been looking at what lights their way, how do



religious families practice their faith and the idea of symbolism linked to Christmas both traditionally and from the eyes of a consumer and what each

symbol represents in the Christian faith. They have also created a piece of poetry based on all things Christmas.



Natalie: It helped us to understand Christmas a lot more when we wrote our poems and it was really fun.

Talented Designers and Makers

As part of their DT topic, Year 4 have designed, created and sewn their very own Christmas decorations. The children looked at the different sewing techniques, including running, back and blanket stitch and decided which be the most secure to sew up their Christmas angel. The children then carefully cut out the material and added a bit of sparkle and shine by sewing beads, buttons and ribbons and stuffed them before showing their final pieces off on the Newchurch Christmas tree.

Aaliyah: I liked making the angel because we made them out of fabric and had to learn how to sew.



During this term, Year 4 have been working with the very talented Mrs Mowbray during music where they have been learning to play the samba drums. They have shown great determination and resilience listening to each other and the beat of the drums. They have shown excellent recall skills by copying different beats and tempos and worked excellently as a team to create some absolutely fabulous pieces of music.



Harry: Samba was so fun. Drums are my favourite instrument. Played the tambourim in our Samba band and I learnt how to do breaks and solos.

PE

Year 4 have been playing handball this half term. They have learnt and fine-tuned many skills, including different types of passing and attacking and defending. They have built upon working as a team and really developed their attitude to team sports and sportsmanship. **Jack G:** Handball is really fun. We learnt lots of new skills and I even play it at break time now.



Year 4 Christmas Performance

This month's newsletter can't go without a mention of how wonderful it has been to be able to welcome everyone back into school to watch the Christmas performance. We cannot put into words how proud we are of all the children, especially Year 4 with the amazing effort that they have put in. Not only have they been continuing with their learning but also spent many, many weeks perfecting their lines for the performance and the songs. Well done Year 4, it was your year to shine and you certainly did that. You are all amazing!

Sophia: I really enjoyed playing different parts in the play. My favourite bit was when the donkeys and cows were fighting.

RE – The Christmas Story



This time of year focuses on the story of Jesus' birth in Year 5: the various accounts of how God sent his only son to Earth. The children have looked at the importance of scripture to Christians and what we can learn from the beliefs of the festive period. In comparing the gospels of



Luke and Matthew, Y5 studied how stories can differ and how the main themes and points can be pulled out.

Their finished work was both beautifully produced and insightful.

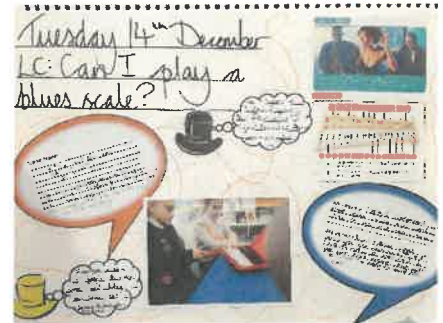
Design Technology

Unfortunately many of your trees will not be adorned with Y5's creations this year as they are currently decorating the Newchurch tree at the parish church. However, rest assured, Year 5's design and execution of their woodworking project was superb this year. They were given free rein to create their own designs around the Christmas theme and came up with everything from trees to nativity scenes. They also mastered their measuring, sawing, mitring and adhesive work linked to the project.



Carlota: I liked that we were able to use saws and drills and we had the choice of how to create our decoration. Each one was unique.

It may not be the most festive of units; however this has not bothered Y5 in their music work this half term. The children have developed their work on notation and rhythm through their use of the glockenspiels. Learning to work with beats in a bar initially, the children progressed onto the blues scale and how specific notes are used before finishing by improvising their own blues rhythms.



Mason: With the glockenspiel we learned sounds.

ART – JMW Turner

Year 5's painting unit took them into the industrial revolution and the work of one of Britain's most famous painters: Joseph Mallord William Turner. Whilst studying the painting unit, the children learned about a range of artistic terms and techniques such as how artists rarely work on a white canvas – preferring instead to place a **ground** (layer of colour) to the image first to work upon. The children then looked to take these techniques



– along with Turner's themes - and apply them to a more modern context.

Lily: I really enjoyed the ground. At first, I didn't understand it as normally I would do a white bit on the canvas but I found out that if you layer the colours, it would change the foundation.

Year 6

December 2021

Electrical Christmas Extravaganza



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.

Oliver M: *I enjoyed designing and building the product and including electrical components inside of it to make a working windmill. I love being able to make things work so I was really passionate about this project!*

RE

As we approach Christmas, RE is a key focal point - particularly for those of the Christian faith. Continuing to look at the theme of 'Journeys', Year 6 have been reflecting on the journeys that they have been on throughout their time here at

Newchurch and considering the type of person they want to become as they continue on their life journey. With compassion, kindness and forgiveness the key messages delivered by the children, it is clear that their futures ahead are very bright indeed!

MUSIC



Over the course of this term, the children have been participating in gospel music lessons delivered by our friends at Accent Music. Week on week, the children have given their all to their learning; listening attentively to instructions and showing amazing passion. The staff have been blown away by the progress the children have made and having thoroughly enjoyed listening to their harmonies when performing.

Jess: *I really enjoy singing and being able to improve my performance. Signing in harmony with my friends has been my highlight.*

Sports Leaders Leading the Way!



After being provided leadership training opportunities, our Y6 Sports Leaders have been working very hard to create weekly sports competitions during breaks and lunchtimes. These competitions have included handball, football, dodgeball, archery and running to date but they have very exciting plans ahead to continue to provide further opportunities!

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Key Dates and Information

December 2021

Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
5.1.2022	School Opens	
12.1.2022	Lunchtime passport – Italy	All classes
14.1.2022	KS1 Panto trip	Rec, Y1, Y2
14.1.2022	Y3 attendance award trip	Year 3
28.1.2022	Mii Basketball	Year 5 and 6
31.1.2022	Liverpool Cathedral Trip	Year 6
1.2.2022	Lunchtime passport – China	All classes
18.2.2022	School Closes	
28.2.2022	School Opens	
3.3.2022	World Book Day	All classes
7.3.2022	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception
7.3.2022 – 9.3.2022 and 14.3.2022 – 16.3.2022	Bike Right	Year 5
8.3.2022	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2
9.3.2022	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3
10.3.2022	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4
11.3.2022	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5
14.3.2022	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6
15.3.2022	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1
18.3.2022	Red Nose Day – World Sleep Day	All classes
23.3.2022	Lunchtime passport – Mexico Donations of Easter Eggs	All classes
25.3.2022 @ 2pm	Thank you service	All classes
1.4.2022	Easter Bingo	All classes
7.4.2022	School Closes	
19.4.2022	School Opens	
19.4.2022	Easter Eggstravaganza	All classes
20-22.4.2022	Kingswood residential	Year 4
5.5.2022	TTRockstars Day	All classes
9-13.5.2022	KS2 SATS week	Year 6
16-20.5.2022	KS1 SATS week	Year 2
25.5.2022	Lunchtime passport – Greece	All classes

Date	Event	Class involved
27.5.2022	School Closes	
13.6.2022	School Opens	
13.6.2022	Multiplication Checks	Year 4
24.6.2022	Dare to be different day	All classes
7-8.7.2022	Burwardsley residential	Year 2
4.7.2022	Chester Zoo visit	Year 1
7.7.2022	Year 1 Warrington Museum	Year 1
7.7.2022	Synagogue visit	Year 5
11.7.2022	Reports sent home	
14.7.2022	Feast of Choirs	Year 6
15.7.2021	Robinifest	
18.7.2022	KS1 Sports Day	KS1 classes
19.7.2022	KS2 Sports Day	KS2 classes
20.7.2022 @ 9:30am	Year 6 Production	Year 6
20.7.2022 @ 5:30pm	Year 6 Production and award ceremony	Year 6
21.7.2022	School Closes	



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 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. At the moment **YEAR FOUR** are the ones to beat who have 25 points.

Point to note...

Obviously, if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send your child in – this will be classes as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Attendance:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.8%	95.2%	93.6%	94.4%	96.5%	90.1%	93.5%

Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 93.7%

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