



Christmas Kindness



Phoebe (Year 4) volunteered at St Anne's hospice as part of their 'light up a light service' to remember family members who have passed away. She helped by giving candles out with the nurses. This is not the first time Phoebe has shown

such kindness, you may remember her making special treats for the nurses during the height of the pandemic. What a gorgeous and thoughtful Newchurch robin she is.

Christmas Tree Service



How wonderful it was to share the talents of our Key Stage Two children when they performed a range of Christmas songs at Newchurch Parish Church. Mrs Mowbray worked her magic once again as the



children filled the church with love, joy and Christmas spirit.

Singing well-known favourite Christmas carols and some secular Christmas songs, the children brought so much festive joy to the parents and the wider community.

The children were praised for their exceptional behaviour and enthusiasm for singing.

Jean (Governor): They were amazing and the singing was beautiful. I'm so proud to be part of the Newchurch family.

Parent: It was wonderful and definitely got everyone in the Christmas spirit. Well done Newchurch Robins.

Parent: It was fabulous as always. It's one of my favourites. The children's singing was wonderful. Definitely got me in the Christmas spirit.



Grandparent: it was brilliant, the children's singing was wonderful. Definitely brought the Christmas spirit out.

Christmas Plays



Year 2 were the leads of our Key Stage One



Christmas play 'Bethlehem Bake off' and what a great job they did! Saying their

lines with such clarity and confidence, they shared their talents eagerly supported by the children in Year 1 and Reception. It is hard to believe that some of these children have only been in school for 14 weeks! We are so proud of all our Key Stage One robins.

Year 4, accompanied by all of Key Stage Two, also



astounded us with their performance of 'No-one wraps like an angel'. It was unbelievable to see the children's high level of

independence and commitment to their roles. We were able to spot some real talent in this cohort, which we will nurture going forwards. Who knows if one day their names will be up in lights in the West End?



Check out our Facebook page for more pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/NewchurchCP>



Reception

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.

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

Archie M: "We retold the story using the characters."

Isla "I liked singing the songs about the angels."

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.

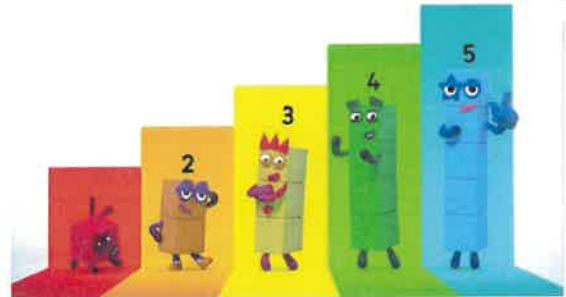
Eva: "I like painting pictures and mixing the colours."

December 2022

Carter: "I love mixing paints and seeing how the paint changed colour."

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

Maths- Subitising



In maths, the children have been exploring Numberblocks and they have been learning about numbers to five. The children have been subitising images to 5 and now they can see the patterns within the images. They can explain that 4 can be made by adding 2 and 2 or by adding 3 and 1.

Supertato



The class text for the half term has been 'Supertato Evil Pea Rules' by Sue Hendra. The children have been extremely excited and engaged in this text and they wanted to help Supertato. The children created a superhero headquarters in the role play area, where they dressed up as superheroes and devised plans of how they can rescue the vegetables from the Evil Pea. They designed and created their own security cameras, so that they could watch out for clues and they set traps and created wanted posters for the Evil Pea.

Annabella: "I dressed up as a superhero so that I could save the vegetables."

Charlie C: "I made a camera using the boxes and so that I could trap the Evil Pea."

Bryson: "In the block area we made a trap for the Peas and Mrs Dixon captured him."

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

RE

Year 1's role in the Christmas production fuelled an excitement and interest amongst the children which was useful when learning about the Christmas story in their RE lessons. Children learnt about the story of Christmas and why it is celebrated each year. Children were also able to reflect on their own traditions and how this links with the story of Christmas. Children were very respectful when listening to each other and how each family is different when it comes to celebrating.



Bella: I didn't know that not everybody celebrates Christmas.

Magnificent Mathematicians

As well as the children engaging with their current topics, children displayed resourcefulness when applying their learning and knowledge of number bonds during their time in continuous provision. Children have also engaged with a range of songs and games to support their learning too.



Decorating for Christmas

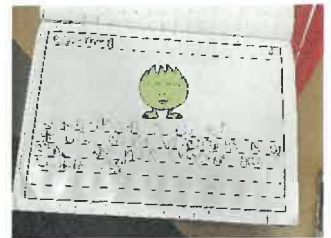
It wouldn't be December without some Christmas festivity and this month Year 1 designed and created some wonderful Christmas decorations to be displayed on our Newchurch Christmas Tree. Children were very excited to



Year 1 have used their DT skills to make a decoration for the tree. COLLAGE

Wonderful Writers

Year 1 have enjoyed a range of texts this month. Children engaged with the story 'Handa's Surprise' and wrote a letter in role as the main character. Children were excellent at using a range of adjectives to describe the tasty fruit and the cheeky animals! Year 1's finished off their topic by writing a letter in role as the main character.



Children were also surprised that an alien had crash landed in their classroom! The poor alien was all alone and so children had lots of questions they wanted to ask him and

then went on to create their own alien friends for our visitor.

Jasmine: I used adjectives to describe an alien friend for the lonely alien in our classroom.

RE

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. They then had a little think about phrases linked to the term light and they discussed phrases such as 'being in a dark mood', 'having a light bulb moment', being a 'bright spark' or there being 'light at the end of the tunnel'. Following this the children considered who brought light into their lives and how did they do it and 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.

Harry B: We thought about using light and how it keeps us safe so we are not in danger and people who make us feel better are the light of our world.

Art



During Art this term the children have been focussing of painting. Linked to their history topic, the children spent a full day

with an artist from the Lowry who showed them lots of techniques to draw and paint in the style of LS Lowry. The children had an amazing day and created many pieces of fabulous art work. They then used their painting skills to create a beautiful piece of art work for Remembrance Day.

Frankie: I loved being able to use different tools and materials to use to make our art work when the Lowry man came into school



Maths

In maths the children have had a strong focus on addition and subtraction this half term. They have been using their amazing place value knowledge to work out calculations and using different methods to solve more reasoning problems, such as adding or subtracting using jottings of tens and ones, using counters to support their learning and they have even been using their rekenrek counting frames which is linked to our mastery number work.



Cruz: I have enjoyed using the rekenrek because it makes it easier to help with our counting when we push the beads along.

English

During English the children have been using the book *The Dragon Machine* to support their writing outcomes. It all began when the children came into school on the Monday and noticed that some things had been burnt, I wonder who that could've been. Then then found an egg and nest in the classroom. They used their amazing prediction skills and came to the conclusion that it could only be a dragon.



They have been working so hard on their writing and have created posters to warn the other children in the school about the dragon. They have wrote a diary entry in the role of one of the characters in the story and they have also written some fabulous character descriptions about the dragon, how it looks and what type of character they think it could be. We've decided

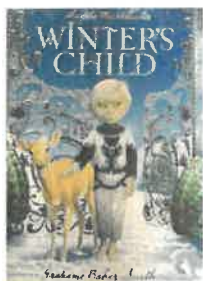


that it is a very cheeky, mischievous and clumsy character because it breaks lots of things.

Jack: I enjoyed writing the character descriptions about the dragon because we could use our imagination and exciting vocabulary to describe it.

English

Year 3 have enjoyed reading their English text, *Winter's Child*, this half term. The children explored the beautiful images of the winter settings and collected adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs and prepositions to create their own descriptions. They went on to explore the characters and created dialogue to show their interactions. They studied the actions of the main protagonist and how his feelings changed throughout the story then wrote diary entries and letters to reflect this. The children used their imaginations to create their own fantasy character inspired by the *Winter's Child* and then created their own stories based on the text.



Meryn- I really enjoyed creating my own Autumn character because it was fun thinking about all the details I could add. My character had lots of powers including turning people into stone and the power to levitate.

Maths

In maths this half term, Year 3 started by focussing on addition and subtraction, looking at methods to add and subtract three digit numbers. They showed great resilience when working on inverse operations and when reasoning and solving problems. They then moved on to explore multiplication and division where they enjoyed playing games to practise counting in multiples of 2, 3, 5 and 10 and using counters to make arrays and share and group numbers.



Norah- I really enjoyed it when we did our times table assessments because it gave me the chance to show what I had learnt.

Art

During their art topic of drawing, the children examined images from different artists and identified different drawing elements such as texture, tone and line before experimenting with these in their own drawings of objects around the school grounds. They then focussed on the artist Jim Lee and explored the use of geometrical shapes to help when drawing people. They explored facial expressions and proportions in Jim Lee's superhero drawings before creating their own mood boards and superhero pictures using the drawing elements they explored.



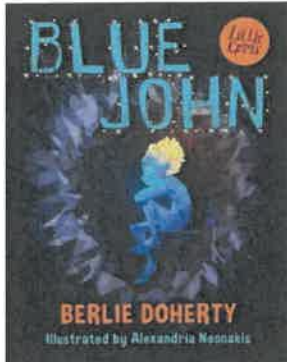
Roberta- I really enjoyed learning about how to draw in the style of Jim Lee and creating my own superhero.

RE

This half term, Year 3 have been exploring the religion of Islam. They learned about the story of the Prophet Muhammad and why he is an important role model to Muslims. They explored the Five Pillars of Islam with a focus on Zakat. They discussed why acts of charity are important to Muslims and who and what inspires people to be charitable to others. They thought about the roles models in their lives and how they could help others and make a difference in the world.

Anais- I enjoyed learning about Islam and how Muslims help people by giving 2.5% of their earnings to charity.

English - Blue John



Year 4's class text has been Blue John by Berlie Doherty. Blue John is forbidden to leave his mother's side, but the lure of the light above is too strong. This is a beautiful story and has given the children lots of

opportunities for writing, so far they have written diary entries, setting descriptions and are about to write their final piece which is a letter in reply to one they received.

Logan - I really enjoyed writing my letter as a cave expert, I didn't think Blue John would be a type of stone.

Maths

This half term Year 4 has been focusing on multiplication and division of different times tables. They have spent time learning about partners and how times tables can be linked and they have also used their learning to deal with different problem solving and reasoning questions. To help with rapid recall we have been playing games, singing songs and investigating each of our times tables.



RE - In RE, year 4 have been learning about the Christian faith, focusing specifically on the celebration of Christmas. They have been looking at what lights their way, how religious families practise 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.

Phoebe - The red ribbons of the Christingles represent the blood of Jesus.



Dazzling Decorations

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 would be the most secure to sew up their Christmas decoration. 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.



Bronagh - I used blanket stitch to make my Robin.

Wonders of Islam

Throughout the half term, Year Five have been considering the significance of religious texts, origins and belief through the Islamic faith. Using the Qu'ran as the basis of their studies, they looked at the importance of Muhammad (pbuh) as the Seal of the Prophets and how the word of Allah was spread to his people. The children used a wide range of skills to investigate the Muslim faith ranging from film making and artwork to poetry and debate. Through the five pillars, they recognised the commitment which Muslims have to their beliefs and the good they do in the world.



Ralph: I have learned a lot about the Qu'ran as the religious book which Muslims follow to teach them a holy life.

Maths

The mathematics curriculum is a wide and complicated one, but not for our Year Five robins. Their studies have taken them through a world of denominators and divisors, equivalence and products. The children have shown a growing understanding of the base arithmetic which underpins the work they will be doing across years 5 and 6. Their work on fractions has been evidence of this as they have looked to create common denominators using their tables knowledge and then adding and subtracting fractions using equivalence.



Thomas: I have found mathematics really fun especially learning about fractions. I now know how to order them.

Art

Creativity is at the heart of everything we do at Newchurch – through Design Technology and the creative arts – our robins demonstrate their wonderful imaginations.

However, the arts curriculum also involves a deeper understanding of the artist's craft and their significance in shaping the world we live in. During the autumn term, Year Five have looked at the Pop Art movement and specifically the work of Roy Lichtenstein. Using their new-found techniques, the children created their own artwork aimed at changing the world.



Ella: In art we learned all about how to draw people and how to use composition. We had to draw someone in 30 seconds and with just one line.

English

'Without warning, with a dithering crunch, the spectacular, new boat crashed into some pointy rocks. The boat, which was in pieces, washed up on the island.' – Year 5 pupil.

Relative clauses, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases – all of the Year Five mastery targets have been on show in abundance this half term.



The children have been looking into the features of myths and legends, using Beowulf, Greek tales and those closer to the British Isles as

inspiration for their amazing writing. We could have written examples of every child's work on here and the whole Year Five team are so proud of the progress they are making.

Sophia: We have been learning all about myths and legends. The book we have focused on is Sinbad the Sailor. He is adventurous and fights and survives a range of monsters. A myth is an old story which is likely to have been made up.

RE

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.

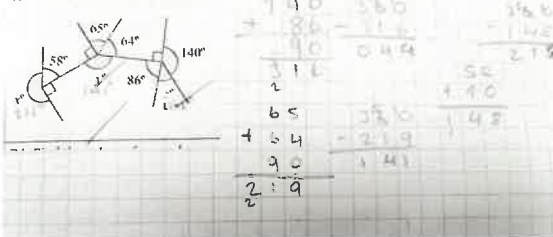


Carlotta: Learning about Hinduism was interesting. I have learnt a lot more about their beliefs of karma and samsara. The board game we made was fun but educational.

Maths

Our Year 6 booster sessions each morning have been heavily related to arithmetic skills in maths on the basis that we can apply these ideas into all other areas of the maths curriculum. There has been a noticeable improvement in these areas with children showing greater confidence and quicker recital of number facts. Within lessons, the children have been grappling with conversions between fractions, decimals and percentages (a huge part of the Year 6 curriculum) and have recently moved onto shape. They investigated the internal angles of a variety of polygons and used their knowledge to solve reasoning problems. We have recently started to look at coordinates and translation of shape and it is fair to say the children are enjoying the challenges which they have faced.

A4 Find the values of x, y and z



Art

This term, the focus within art studies has been painting with artistic influences from the famous English painter, J.M.W Turner. The children were given examples of his work to discuss and they were able to articulate their preferences; confidently justifying their opinions. From this, the children experimented with watercolours, using hue, tint and tone to try and depict the mood of their work. Finally, the children spent time carefully producing their own Turner-styled paintings. It was fantastic to see the children being so resilient and making alterations to their work to make improvements.



Charlotte B: Adding tint and tone to the watercolours was enjoyable but it was challenging to get the correct shades

English

The completion of our learning from the text 'Finding Winnie' was met with great disappointment from the children. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the true story of Winnie the Pooh and the man who inspired A.A Milne to write his stories: Harry Colebourn. Inspired themselves by the remarkable story, the children produced some spectacular writing including a beautifully emotive dialogue during an emotional farewell scene from the text. They also wrote very informative biographies about Harry Colebourn.

Freya: I've had the opportunity to use better language choices in my writing tasks. I developed my ability to create emotive dialogue when Harry had to say goodbye to Winnie.



Made of Steel Award



Former pupil Alice Burns was nominated for a Warrington Wolves Made of Steel award and was the winner in the U14's girls category. Her award was presented by England and St Helens RLFC player Jodie Cunningham. Alice started playing rugby at Culcheth Eagles when she was in Year 5. Her sister Harriet, who is in

Year 6, also currently plays for the girls U11's team at Culcheth.

Karate Kid Carter



Congratulations to Carter (Y4) who passed his KYU in karate this month. He is so close to his black belt.

Not only that, he sat his Grade One trumpet exam and performed in front of a big audience as part of a Christmas concert. Well done, Carter.

Drum roll, please!

Well done to Jack (Y5) who passed his Grade One drums exam with distinction. This is a great achievement!



Dancing Queens



Anais (Y3) has passed her ballet and tap exams this month. All Anais's family and friends are incredibly proud of her achievements, just as we are. Here she is with her certificates and rosettes.

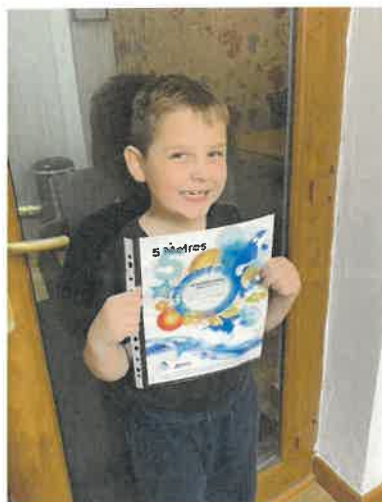
Sophie (Y6) came second in her winter ukca cheerleading competition. Her Legends Cheer Academy team had two second places and one 1st place.



Congratulations to
Georgie (Y4) who
passed her first
dance exam.

Super Swimmer

Well done to Theo (Y3) who received his 5 metre swimming certificate this week. Well done, Theo.





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 twenty 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 since the start of the year:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.6%	93.7%	96.2%	96.4%	96.4%	97.6%	97.0%

Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 96%.

December 2022

Culcheth Players

With dancers from The Rosemary Powell School of Dance and a special appearance from The Culcheth Fairy

Cinderella

Tickets £7.50 (booking fee applied) or £8 on the door
 Saturday 14th January 2023 at 1pm & 6.30pm & Sunday 15th January at 1pm
 Saturday 21st January 2023 at 1pm & 6.30pm & Sunday 22nd January at 1pm

Newchurch Parish Hall, Common Lane, Culcheth
Online bookings- [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)
 or on phone on 01253 8807 2000
 (telephone service and booking fees apply)

**OPEN TRAINING SESSION
FOR GIRLS AGED 11 TO 16**

WE ARE PREPARING TO FLY SOLO FOR 2023 AND
ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER
 6-7 SCHOOL YEARS 6 TO 8
 7-8 SCHOOL YEARS 9 TO 11

WOLVES TRAINING BARN
 UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER CRAB LANE
 WAZ DUB

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