



## Headteacher's Welcome

Over the last half-term we have used our core value of hope as our theme for collective worship. We have explored what this means for our learning and how we should be aspirational and always seeking to do our best. We have also thought about those around us, both in our local community, the surrounding areas and the world we live in. How we should always have hope and be driven to action because of it. A huge thank you to all of you this term who have given your time and support not only to our school but also the charity and community work we have been involved in.

The Christmas story is one of hope. Whilst I know my children will be *hoping* they get everything on their Christmas list, the familiar nativity is not just about a baby born in Bethlehem but about the message he brought to the world. And I'm sure you'll agree with me that things can sometimes feel pretty dark, whether it has been the loneliness that Covid brought to our communities, the uncertainty of the war in Ukraine or the economic climate and the cost of living crisis. However, Jesus said these words to those following him.

*"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness"*

Whatever you believe, Christmas can be a message of hope to all of us. It's a time where we all come together and coalesce round a single moment of hope and we should use this to love and serve our community, to be the light of the world.

There have been so many highlights this term but our PFA Christmas Fair and our Christmas Nativity at Hinton Martell demonstrate the strength we have in community together. Our children fill me with hope! Hope that they can achieve their best but also hope that they will be the inspirational world changes we need them to be.

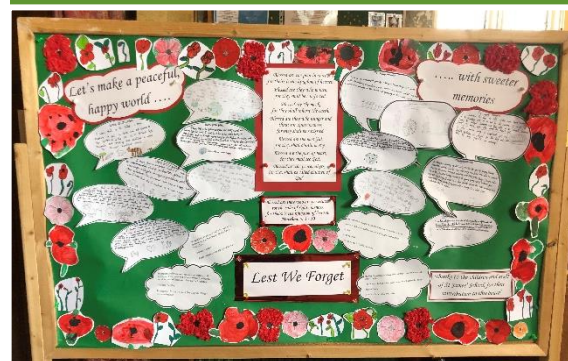
Have a restful Christmas and New Year.

Mr Lawford



## KEY DIARY SPRING ONE DATES

03/01	INSET
04/01	First day of Term
05/01	Interim Reports Sent Home
10/01	Life Education PSHE Visits
23/01	Parents Evening
25/01	Parents Evening
26/01	Y4 Hooke Court Information Evening
03/02	PFA School Disco
06/02	Internet Safety Talks
08/02	Y4 Hooke Court Residential
10/02	Last Day of Term



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

During Remembrance, we used this time to hope for our world and for those who have served us. Our children contributed to this display at Witchampton church.

**LAURA ROBERTS**

Snow Leopards Teacher and Assistant Headteacher



It has been another successful half-term in Snow Leopards with a real excitement for the festive season upon us.

This half-term, we have enjoyed reading two wonderful class books: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, as well as a much-loved classic: A Bear Called Paddington. We are all very excited to see our newly refurbished library after the Christmas break and can't wait to explore the new choices of books on offer! To end the half-term, the children have wowed me with their wonderful narratives full of creative ideas linked to the mischievous antics of Paddington.

It has been brilliant to see the children develop their musical skills this half-term through their involvement with the Dorset Musicianship Programme. It was great to see the children grow in confidence playing their ukuleles at their final performance and also at the Christmas Fayre. In addition to this, the children have really impressed me with their knowledge and understanding of earthquakes during our geography lessons. They have also shown their brilliant coding skills on Scratch during our computing unit.

Next half-term, we will be learning about the Egyptians in history and Year 4 will attend their residential trip to Hooke Court to further support this.

I would like to wish the whole school community a Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

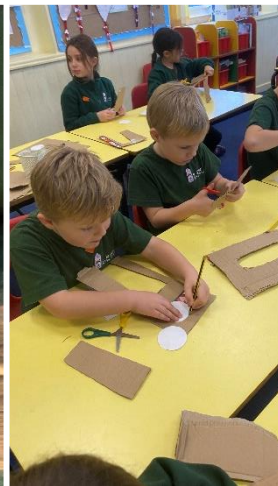


**SNOW LEOPARD CLASS NEWS**





## PUMA CLASS NEWS



**ISOBEL ASHBY**

**Puma Class Teacher**



As we approach the festive season, I just wanted to thank all Puma Class children for a wonderful Autumn term. It has been an extremely busy half term with new topics, visitors and trips to church! Here's an insight into the adventures of Puma Class! In class we have read *The Hodgeheg* and are currently reading *Pugs of the Frozen North*. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Hodgeheg*, it has had the children in fits of giggles and we are looking forward to finding out what happens to the 66 pugs in the 'Pugs of The Frozen North'. In English, the children have written their own narratives. Their creativity and imagination never fails to surprise me! We have also looked at non-fiction and the children have written a non-chronological report, showing their knowledge or expertise!

To end the half term, we have been designing and creating a Ferris Wheel. The children have absolutely loved this. To see their; creative skills, determination when things don't go as planned and their team work, has made this a really enjoyable lesson.

During PE, it's been lovely to see them all participating and joining in with football. The lessons have been inspired by the world cup and the children have become rather competitive! Again, it's great to see the children supporting one another and working as a team.

Next half term, we have lots of things to look forward to. Our new subjects will be Art, Music and History. In addition, we can also look forward to our newly refurbished library! I would like to thank you all for your support this half term, it's been a busy term and now it's time to celebrate and spend time with our families. So I wish you all a very happy holidays!

**SARAH MILWARD**

Lynx Class Teacher



It is the end of another busy half term and the children are definitely ready for a break and time at home to enjoy the Christmas festivities – containing their excitement this close to Christmas has been a skill in itself! That said, their excitement has been infectious and I am really looking forward to spending the Christmas period with my husband and children.

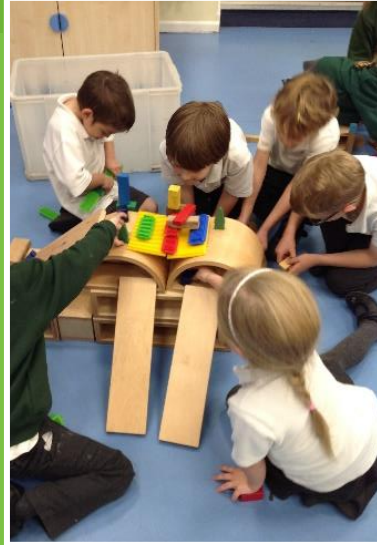
This half term has been busy and productive. The children have fully involved themselves in learning the story, The Magic Porridge pot, innovating it with their own ideas to enable them to write their own fabulous independent versions. It has been wonderful to hear the children internalise the story-telling language, building on the learning they started in The Foundation Stage.

Our maths mastery method of teaching has meant that the children have a deep understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction, which will place them in good stead for the increased demands of the curriculum next term. They also loved learning about and handling, two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.

The children have really impressed me with their knowledge and understanding of animals in our science unit on 'Animals, Including Humans', which will continue next term. (However, I think that they would say that the highlight was bringing their toy animals into school!). Their enthusiasm and thirst for learning has been wonderful to behold.

Next term our topic will be toys. If anyone has any old toys that they would not mind bringing in to share for History, it would be very much appreciated (and they would be well looked after!). Thank you so much, Lynx parents for all your help and support this term.

It would be wonderful if anyone would be able to offer some time to come into school to listen to the children read or support with jobs. Please let me know if you are able to do this and I can get the relevant information sent out to you. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**LYNX CLASS NEWS**





AMANDA WALKER

Ocelot Class Teacher



## OCELOT CLASS NEWS



Congratulations to all of the Ocelot children, not only for completing their first full term at school, but also for their amazing Nativity performance. They were all superstars and worked so hard to learn their lines and songs too. Performing in front of a large audience at such a young age certainly did not faze them; we were so proud of each and every one of them.

This half-term has been a busy one. Our theme has been 'Into the Woods' and part of this has seen us looking at countries across the world that have bears – polar bears, brown bears, moon bears and sloth bears to name just a few. We have loved learning the story of Owl Babies and retelling this in our play, then changing the story to make it our own to become 'Fox Babies' during our Talk for Writing sessions. We have learnt about nocturnal animals; animal habitats and what animals like to eat. The children have become more confident recognising their sounds and are now beginning to use this knowledge to write words and even attempt short sentences!

Next half term our theme is 'A Long Time Ago' and will cover learning about dinosaurs, polar landscapes and artefacts from the past. We will also explore the Lunar New Year celebration and learn about how this is celebrated. We will continue to use our inside and outside learning space and make use of our wider grounds for a 'Winter Walk'.

We look forward to seeing all of the children's smiley faces in the New Year and cannot wait to hear their holiday news! Have a wonderful Christmas everyone.



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

It was so wonderful to find a new home for our church outings at Hinton Martell this Christmas. With the church in Holt closing in lockdown, we had no Church of England church to call home. Thank you to all the volunteers and church members who came out to make our visit a hugely successful and welcoming community event. With over one hundred parents there this time, we are looking forward to our next visit!

## VILLAGE VOICES

It is so wonderful to be able to give something back to our community as well as celebrate the success of our school. You may have noticed that we have started contributing monthly to the 'Village Voices' magazine. If you want to get hold of a copy, contact the school office who can put you in touch.



## SUPPORTING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As Director of Education, my role is to support all of the schools in our Trust to be the best that they can be for all of our children. It has been an absolute privilege to work with Mr Lawford and the St James' team over the last term as they work to ensure that the school is a place where all children flourish and grow.

This starts in Ocelot class where staff have rewritten the curriculum and implemented different approaches to the provision to ensure that reading, writing and maths are taught precisely alongside the wider curriculum that prepares children for Key Stage 1. The children have made a flying start and are already achieving well. So much so that we asked Mrs Walker to share what she does with all of our other Reception teachers at a recent conference!

Since September, Mr Lawford has implemented a number of changes which will ensure that the progress and attainment of all children is carefully checked and tracked so that they are able to achieve well. He is working closely with the whole team to review the curriculum, subject by subject, to ensure children learn the essential knowledge and vocabulary that will prepare them well for Middle School. Expectations are high as I know you would want for your children!

I hope that over the coming months you will begin to hear more about how the school is improving – I'm sure you have noticed lots already. Please take time to talk to your children about their learning in school; I am sure you will be amazed by what they know and can tell you.

Jo Hicks

*Director of Education*



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A huge thank you to the 15 children who put together shoe boxes as part of Operation Christmas Child. It is so important for us all to consider those less fortunate than ourselves and how we can show our core value of love in our actions.



## CHRISTMAS FAIR CATCH UP

I want to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers, PFA Committee and supporters of the recent Movie Night and Christmas event. I hope the children and families have enjoyed themselves. We couldn't have done it without those that attended the events. I am pleased to confirm that we raised the following:

**Movie Night:** 80 children attended with £232 profit raised.

**Christmas event:** Over £1,600 profit raised

The PFA is pleased to support the school to allow additional spending on items such as the library refit, playground upgrades, fruit snacks and visits from inspirational speakers.

For us to be able to continue to support the school, we always need ad hoc volunteers to help at events and in their preparation. To hear about upcoming events and how you can help the school, please email the PFA (see below) so we can add you to our distribution group. Please find us and contact us at <https://fb.me/stjamespfa> or [pfa@stjames.dsat.org.uk](mailto:pfa@stjames.dsat.org.uk)



Kirk Myers-Smith

*PFA Chairperson*

## PFA CALENDAR

- 03/02** School Disco
- 13/05** May Fayre
- 09/06** Ice Cream Fridays

## LIBRARY UPDATE

Our PFA do an incredible job and as a School we are so grateful for them. PFA funding has enabled us to fully revamp our aging library and the Scholastic book fair (which they hosted) has already allowed us to purchase new books and class readers ready for its launch.



## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS HELP BUY BOOKS FOR ST JAMES'

What is a library without books?

With the launch of our new library in the Spring term and a renewed focus on cultivating a whole school love of reading, we will be investing in many new books from exciting new authors for our children to enjoy.

We were grateful to receive over £600 from the Holt Village Jubilee celebrations that we adding to our book fund to ensure that our library is current, up-to-date and a place that inspires.

Thank you to those who came out to support the school in our Collective Worship and present the cheque.

## PARENTS EVENINGS

End of Autumn Term Interim reports will be published in the first week back and parents evening bookings will open as these are published. Using the Arbor App is the easiest way to access reports and booking information.

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Many of our children will no doubt be getting new technology this Christmas! As adults, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet and for them there isn't a difference; online life and offline life is just life.

Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues. This helpful article gives some advice about putting online safety first.



Daniel Lawford

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Laura Roberts

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

[Talking to your child about online safety](#)

## FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

St James Church of England School is now part of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT) which means it is part of an academy trust under the aegis of the diocese of Salisbury.

Foundation governors are appointed to monitor the Christian and spiritual aspects of our School as well as the quality of the education. We are responsible with other governors for oversight of safeguarding and curriculum, as well as pastoral care of pupils and staff.

With both our backgrounds in secondary education, we have found dealing with the little people at St James fascinating. As part of our governance work, we visit the school quite often to talk to the children and we're always impressed by their candour and confidence, and by how friendly and cheerful they are.

In our community, Ros worships in the churches of the Benefice and Liz is a member of Salisbury Cathedral congregation so we are closely connected with those church communities and involved with integrating them with our school. Being school governors gives us a valuable and unique opportunity to represent our Christian faith and share what we believe in a practical way.

We are fully committed to making sure that St James children receive the very best - and kindest - education possible.

Ros Nash & Liz Barnard

Foundation Governors



## PLANTING HOPE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Toward the beginning of this term, it was a privilege to invite parents and carers into school to work with our children to plant daffodils and tulip bulbs, kindly donated by Stewart's Garden Centre.

Our collective worship theme has been about hope. We have learnt about how we can have hope for our own future and the ambitions we have, hope for community and wider world, and hope for our environment and the difference we can make.

When we plant a bulb in the ground, it is in the hope that it grows into something beautiful. Not a fingers crossed and 'hope for the best' but a secure knowledge that the efforts we make will make a difference to those around us.