



SPARK

Newsletter December 2023

Michelle Ricetti – Family Liaison Officer

Winter is here



Welcome to the Spark Newsletter. The second half of this term has been busy to say the least.

We have had our Elf of the 12th, our delicious Christmas lunch (thank you Teresa) and the most wonderful nativity performances - Lights Camel Action – Part 2.

We say goodbye to Mr Barber and Miss Garbarz who will both be so dearly missed.

We are all ready for a well-earned rest!

I wish you all a restful Christmas and hope you enjoy reading about what your children have been up to.

See you in 2024!

Reception FESTIVAL OF LIGHT



We have been learning about Divali - the festival of lights. We have learnt that Hindus and Sikhs celebrate by spring cleaning their houses, decorate their homes with lots of lights, wear new clothes, exchange gifts, prepare special meals and put on fireworks displays. The festival celebrates the victory of good over bad and light conquering darkness. We also heard a story about Prince Rama and his beautiful wife Sita.



In anti-bullying week we looked at different pictures and decided if the behaviours were kind or unkind. We learnt that if someone is making us sad or we are making someone else sad we need to 'make a noise' and tell a grown up.

Miss Anscombe

Reception

We have also had a drama workshop with Phileas Fogg and went on an adventure to look for a missing boomerang in Australia. Whenever we saw a crocodile we had to camouflage ourselves and stand very still like a tree. It was lots of fun!



You got a friend in me...



We have also met our Year 6 buddies. To get to know each other, each year 6 pupil shared a book or 2 with their Reception buddy. It is always wonderful to see how caring and nurturing the children are to the younger ones. Special friendships are already being forged over a love of cars!

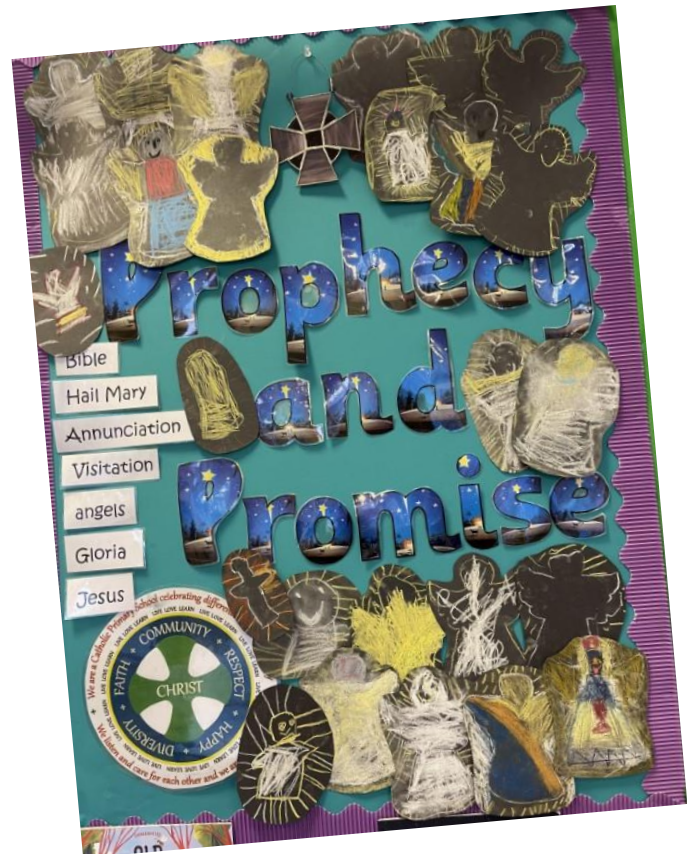
Miss Anscombe

Year 1 Heavenly Sent

In Year 1, as part of the Nativity story, we have been learning that angels live in Heaven with God but sometimes He sends them to Earth to bring special messages – like He did when Angel Gabriel came to visit Mary.

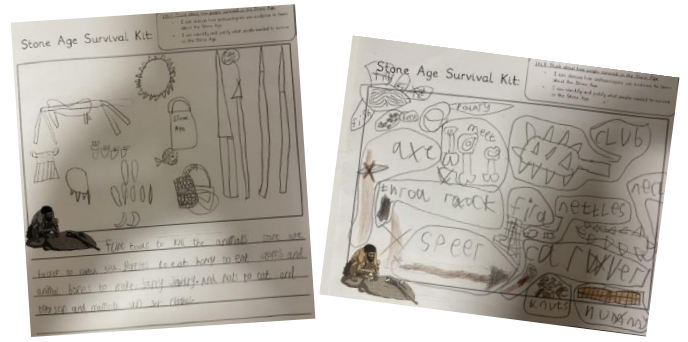
We know that the angels who brought the message of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, were sent by God. This shows us that Jesus is the son of God. We enjoyed making our own host of angels 'shining with the glory of God'.

Miss Cordell



Year 3 *Scratch*

This half term year 3 have been working so hard in computing lessons to design their own animations on Scratch! Not only have year 3 been able to design and create their animations, they have learnt how to fix coding errors and how to input different codes to create different sequences.



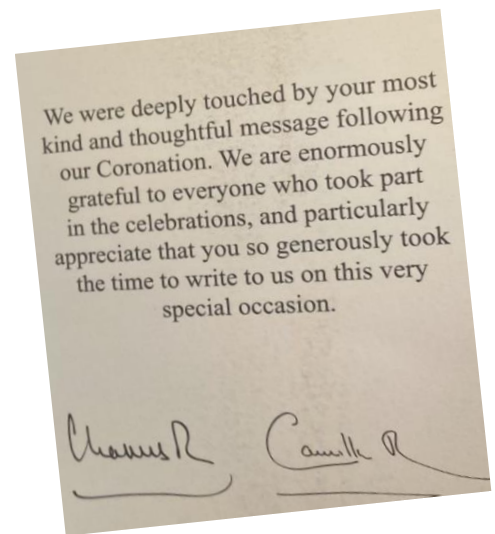
In history, we have been learning more about the Stone age, and developments in technology going into the Bronze and Iron age too. The children have worked hard and have impressed me with their knowledge and curiosity about this time period, take a look at some of the work we have been up to!

Miss Turner

Year 3 *Long live the king!*

Last year with year 3/current year 4 we sent a letter to the King to congratulate him on his coronation, and we heard back!

Miss Turner

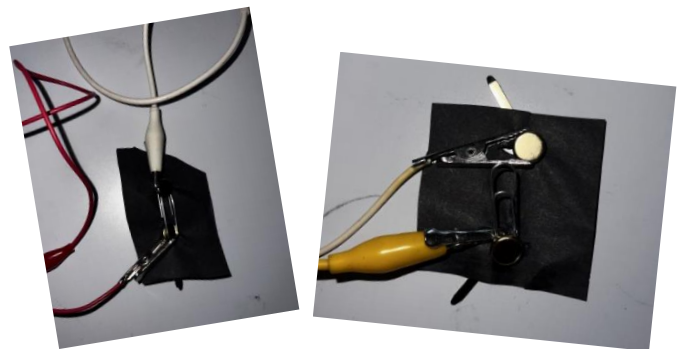


Year 4 **IT'S ELECTRIC!**



Year 4 have been applying all the knowledge they acquired during their science topic 'electricity' to D.T, where they will eventually create their own battery powered lights. They have already successfully created switches, using lots of creativity and trial and error, which is fantastic! Also, seven of our Year 4s wrote some fabulous, original stories for the BBC's 500-word story competition - good luck to them! What a smashing start to the second half of Autumn term!

Miss Spence



Year 5 **BEOWULF**

This half term, y5 have been studying the famous Viking saga, Beowulf. We have been learning how to use different grades of sketching pencils to add shade and texture to our drawings of the monster, Grendel.

Mrs Philbrook



Year 5 **Class collective worship**

After sharing their class collective worship on the theme of gratitude with y5, Anastasia and Mia helped years 3 and 4 by leading their collective worship. Thank you girls.

Mrs Philbrook



Year 5 **SUNDIAL**

During our science topic on earth and space, Mia made her own sundial. We think it is amazing- and it is surprisingly accurate!

Mrs Philbrook



Year 6 **CHANGING THE WORLD**

Year 6 have had a fantastic time competing in the ROAR competition this half-term, an annual event run by the Lions Club and 8billionideas. Working in groups of 4, they were tasked to come up with a world changing idea, build a cardboard prototype, a jingle, poster advert and oral presentation. We held our in school final, in which each group presented to two Lions Club representatives from our Rottingdean branch.





We had a toy conveyor belt to help families financially struggling at Christmas, hydradrops to encourage elderly people to drink more, mechanical bees to help with pollination, safety alarm jewellery, self-heating pyjamas, rugby socks that heated and wouldn't fall down, a bacteria-seeking drone and an electric plane for business people.

Our overall winner was the Bacteria Drone, who have made a video entry to represent Our Lady of Lourdes in the national final in December. Well done to everyone who took part and good luck to our winning group at the finals!

Mrs Nicholson

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



On Remembrance Sunday, a group of our children joined in with the procession through Rottingdean which was followed by the wreath presentation on The Green. It was lovely for them to represent our school.



500 Words

Some of the children have entered the BBC's 500 Words, which is a story writing competition for children. This year the two age categories will be 5-7 and 8-11. To enter, children needed to write a story that they would love to read which is no more than 500 words.

The following stories were submitted by the school and have been selected to go through to the second round of judging by the Reading Academy, but we're sure that there are also other pupils who have submitted stories independently, so please do let your teachers know.

A game of Squids by **Kimberly Ricetti** Year 3

True Colours by **Amber Khan** Year 3

Oreo's smuggling adventure by **Gabriella Dobbe** Year 3



NATIVITY - LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 gave us 2 incredible performances of the nativity play. They learnt their lines and songs, put on their costumes and really shined like the stars that they are.



Christmas Lunch



We had a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings!
And Santa made an appearance!



Fairwells.....



To Mr. Barber and Miss Garbarz, from the bottom of our hearts, you will both be missed. You have brought so much positivity, laughter, calmness and knowledge to this school and there will be some very big shoes to fill. We wish you all the luck in the world with your next adventures, and hope that you will come back and visit us.



If you have any comments about the newsletter or any ideas for the next one, please email us at michellericetti@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Remember to follow our Twitter account

@LOLORottingdean





What a fantastic start to the year we have had. The children have been very busy taking part in festivals and competition events and I've been so incredibly impressed by the children's efforts and attitudes so far.

Once again this year, we are working with the ACE Partnership, run by Mr Hoad and Dan and we're competing against Rudyard Kipling, Saltdean and Woodingdean Primary Schools this year. We started back in September with our Longball festivals for KS2, which was a brilliant opportunity for the children to meet lots of new people, try a new sport and have lots of fun.



Following this, we had our annual cross country event, where over 30 children from years 5 and 6 took part in a 2km race. It's one of our toughest events and so I was very proud that so many children put themselves forward for this event. There was approximately 250 children per race and just finishing the course is a huge achievement, so well done to all who took part. I also wanted to share with you some amazing feedback that we received from a teacher of another school present at the event. She passed on to Mr Barber that that our children had gathered by the finish line to clap in those who'd finished after them and then, congratulate those that had finished in front of them – Wow! How amazing are our children!

We kicked off the second part of the autumn term with a cricket festival followed by cricket competitions and, once again, our children were phenomenal. Our year 3/4, 5 and 6 teams all finished 3rd in their events, with some games having only one point between them! All teachers fed back just how brilliant our children were at these events, working together as team, supporting one another and keeping spirits high throughout.

A special mention is well deserved here for some of our children in year 3 and 4 who were brave enough to step up and represent our year 5 team. We were 'short' on year 5 boys and so I asked these children if they'd be willing to play for the older team and, without hesitation, they said yes! Brilliant attitude boys, thank you.

We have lots more events planned for next year – please look out on Ping for messages regarding all sporting events.

All information regarding after-school clubs has been communicated to you via ping – please see here for details on how to book.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! **Mrs Golawska**



