

# Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy

# Newsletter

Newsletter Number 4: Autumn Term

Wednesday 20th December 2017

## **NEWS:**

### **HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**

#### **Pantomimes**

Year 1/2 went to the pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty. "I really enjoyed the Pantomime and I thought Sleeping Beauty was very pretty," said Ava from Teal class.

I think Year 1/2 really enjoyed it and had a fabulous time.

#### **School Shows**

Last week the KS1 and Foundation Stage had their production. "I loved it because the little kids had loads of enthusiasm," Wilf from Sky class said. "I really loved being a tree," said Tom from Midnight class, 'everyone enjoyed it and was enlightened by the end of it.'

#### **Happy teachers**

On Monday the teachers and teaching assistants gave everyone a shock by coming out and singing the 12 Days of Christmas.

Everyone laughed at the two turtle doves. "I felt full of Christmas spirit, very Christmassy", said Mr Ricketts. Miss Whitehead said, "It was great fun performing it and I was happy the children liked it. We'll do even better next year though.'

*By Lauren & Kyra*

*From a child's learning journal:*

Books are... things that let your imagination run wild; pieces of paper that make you feel really emotional, words, sentences, stories that grab your attention, full of facts and thinking, clouds full of wonder that fill you with joy, things to recommend and share with others, that make you relax and enjoy, steps to the future and life, full of happiness every time you read.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**-Please check class assemblies on school calendar—a couple were not on the parent calendar.**

**-Year dates for next year—have been finalised and will be available as of next week.**

**-Thank you to all those parents who helped us get back on the ground after the snow**

**-French Day is now on 9<sup>th</sup> January**

TEXTS: *'I like a bit of 'real' maths thrown in with the pure maths..... Do not be afraid- it is I—I come bearing gifts of beautiful pictures of Mary and Gabriel..... I surprised myself- I can do anything..... I have amazed myself- I have made a giant snowflake.'*

## POETS CORNER

Out and out, out about  
Into the cold as cold  
Of the white piled on white  
Went the girl what a girl  
And the smile said it all  
As the snow fell to fall  
That her time had now come  
That she thought never would  
After she'd waited the wait  
By her window till late  
The time for out and out  
Out about in the snow  
She charged up the steps  
And knelt in the depths  
She sniffed and she smelt  
Rolled, scooped and felt  
And her blood felt the pull  
Of a heart filled to full  
As she grinned a grin  
That sucked her almond eyes  
in.

## More Learning

### Power of Reading

We are working with The CLPE (The Centre for Language in Primary Education) to continue to develop passion for reading across the school. Two staff are working with the CLPE presently. The units they (and other staff) have been trialling aim to put the best quality literature at the centre of children's learning. Our Talk for Writing approach has children's speaking and listening (think the re-tells that often crop up in class assemblies) as the way in to writing—this approach, starts instead, with excellent literature. Many children have responded very positively.

## LEARNING

### Maths

We want our pupils seeing maths as a fascinating world of possibilities as opposed to simply a dry set of skills to master. We want them to love maths. We love Jo Boaler—see clip below:-

<https://youtu.be/3icoSeGqQtY>

### Curriculum

In the context of our shift towards teaching pupils to think and away from knowledge for its own sake—here find a quote from Yuval Noah Harari, the author of Sapiens, 'It is likely that most of what you currently learn at school will be irrelevant by the time you are 40. My best advice is to focus on personal resilience and emotional intelligence.'

## REQUESTS:- Please remember previous:::no pens ::no nuts :::

### French Day

We had to cancel because of the snow. We would appreciate as many volunteers as possible to come in and work alongside the children on their French conversation. We need volunteers any time between 11.15 and 12.15 and between 1.30 and 3.00 on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Even if you can only spare ½ hour, feel free to come on in and help out—do let the office know, however, ahead of time.

### Reading

Please continue to make reading a regular, daily occurrence for your children. Recall please that any reading will do—reading to them; reading alongside them; them reading to you; reading to the dog, in the car, upside down, in a cupboard; reading picture books, magazines, recipes, poetry, novels, short stories, plays, scheme books—I don't care—just so long as it's a regular, enjoyable, meaningful event. Oh- and please, to save us the time and worry, write it all down in their reading records. It's not that we don't trust you but what other way do we have!