



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MR BIRKETT

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

This term seems to have flown by, and we have hardly had a moment to catch our breath since October half term! You will see from the class pages below just how much hard work, learning, and fun has been taking place across the school – well done to all our pupils and staff.

Back in November, we held our Positive Noticing Day, which focused on promoting those simple, everyday acts of recognising and acknowledging the positive things others do. This is such an important part of living out our school values and fostering kindness towards one another, and it was wonderful to see the impact this had across the school.

It was also a real pleasure to welcome back Mr Crumpler to officially open our new play trail. Many families will fondly remember Mr Crumpler, who was Headteacher here at Wyke for over 20 years. He was thoroughly impressed with how the school continues to develop, and particularly by the excellent manners and positive attitudes of our children.

Of course, the play trail would not have been possible without the fantastic fundraising efforts of our school community over the past year. On that note, a huge thank you to the Friends of School for organising the Friends Festive Fun afternoon. Sadly, I was unable to attend due to illness, but I am delighted to hear that a fantastic sum was raised, which will go towards those valuable extras that our school budget simply cannot stretch to. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Last week, we enjoyed our Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day. A big thank you to our kitchen and lunchtime staff, as well as everyone who helped out, to ensure the children could enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings.

Congratulations to our EYFS and KS1 pupils for their wonderful performance of Shine Star, Shine. There was some real budding talent on show, and the performance certainly put us all in the festive mood and brought a little joy to our hearts!

I would also like to share some more happy news: Mrs Hodge is expecting her first baby. I'm sure you will join us in wishing her our warmest congratulations and every happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Ed Birkett





FALCON CLASS NEWS

Falcons have had a brilliant half term and have all been working really hard in their learning. Our Curious City enquiry this term has been 'How can we show what we believe in?' in which we have been Historians, Geographers and Artists. The main focus of this enquiry is the Maya Civilisation. As Historians, we looked at our school timeline to see where in history we were learning about. In English, we read stories about gods and goddesses such as Kukulcan and Chaac. As Geographers, we found out where in the world the Maya civilisation was located. We compared a map of this part of Central America today with a map of the names and locations of the Maya city states and used tracing paper to carefully match the two up. We also revised biomes and completed a map, including a key, to show which biomes could be found there. Finally as Artists, we found out about perspective drawing. We learned about horizons and vanishing points and created one-point perspective drawing with roads and rivers disappearing into the distance and tall skyscrapers as though we were looking up towards them. We then drew buildings with a two-point perspective angle, which made our building look 3D. We then used this drawing technique to draw Mayan temples where we added symbolism to show our beliefs. The artwork has been very impressive!



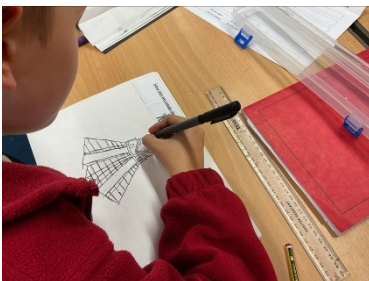
In Maths, Year 4 have continued to practise their times tables and use them to both multiply and divide. We have looked at the 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12 times tables and used our understanding of the inverse operations to create fact families. We continue to use Timestable Rockstars to get ready for the Multiplication Check in June. Well done to the Year 4s who have been practising at home! Year 5 have also been multiplying and dividing. They have learned about square and cube numbers and have multiplied numbers with up to 4 digits by a 2 digit number.

In Computing we have been learning about computer systems and networks, different search engines and how they use indexes created by web crawlers so we can search for the information we want, how websites are ranked and what influences searching. I think we all learned a lot about this subject!

In PSHE we have been celebrating differences. We have explored different cultures, types of bullying, racism, and celebrating differences across the world. We thought about what was important to us and what might be important to people from different countries or of different cultures.

Falcons enjoyed an enjoyable Christmas dinner last week and have been very excited about the Christmas build up! We hope they all have a wonderful time over the Christmas holidays with you all, and look forward to seeing them all in the new year!

Mrs Turner & Mrs Beales





HERON CLASS NEWS

We have come to the end of another half term in Heron Class and what a busy one it has been! We have seen some wonderful historians, artists, mathematicians and authors, not forgetting some amazing athletes.

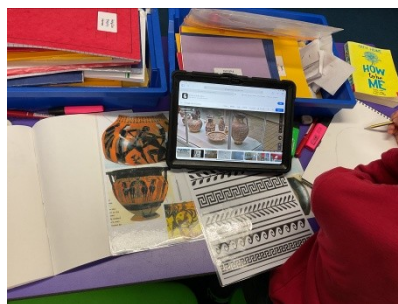
Our Enquiry this half term, "What have we learnt from the Ancient Greeks?" has been lots of fun and we have discovered many interesting facts about the Ancient Greeks from artefacts, books and the internet. We have been amazing artists, sketching Ancient Greek vases depicting daily life in Ancient Greek and researchers, finding out facts to share with the rest of our class. We were surprised to find that lots of things that we use today have originated from Ancient Greek times, including democracy, the Olympic Games and even some of the games we still play such as marbles. We completed our Enquiry with a wonderful challenge in which we shared our new knowledge in the style of a TV show. These were engaging, informative and very interactive to watch.

In Maths, we have continued to practise our arithmetic skills, improving our knowledge of fractions and investigating different mathematical concepts through lots of mathematical talk. The class' oracy skills are really improving and we will continue to practise these next term.

In addition to all the above, Heron Class have also been playing both football and hockey this term, developing their skills and gameplay. They have made huge progress and are proud to be showing off their newly learnt skills in gameplay.

We are looking forward to another action-packed half term after Christmas with another fun trip and visitors to the school to help us with our Enquiry learning. Well done Heron Class! Have a very well deserved break and a fabulous Christmas!

Mrs Rose





KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS

Kingfisher Class have had a very busy half term. Our main enquiry, entitled 'How we can find out about people in the past?' has kept us very busy! We have spent time looking at and exploring a number of different sources of information to see what they could tell us about how people lived/worked in the past! We have used artefacts, maps, a census document, looked at buildings and also visited the Gillingham Museum to learn more from the Curator who works there. It has been absolutely fascinating to see how buildings, housing and education has changed so much over the years and how much Gillingham has grown as a town and population.



Our Challenge for this enquiry was to create a personal history box to tell our own story. In this, we included many different things such as our height in string, a fact file, a portrait and photo of ourselves and labels to explain what our hobbies and interests are. We finally decorated this box with drawings to reflect ourselves. Aren't they wonderful! As authors, we have been learning about biographies. We have studied Sir Isaac Newton and Sir David Attenborough in detail; collecting research and organising notes about them, before planning and writing our own biographies. We had a very special day linked to our school value of Kindness; Our Positive Noticing Day. First thing in the morning we were paired up, and throughout the day we tried really hard to notice all of the positive things that person said/did or showed. In the afternoon, we wrote these all down on a special tag and then swapped tags. The smiles and warmth these brought were amazing, and we all went home very pleased that someone else had noticed the 'small things'. There have been many exciting days to celebrate in school this term and we will still be very busy in our final week of term with our mini enquiry entitled 'How can we feel the force?' We will be designing and making a simple magnetic game, with a Christmas theme! We will share some photos of the finished games on our website in the new year. Just before we sign off for Christmas, Mrs Simpson and I would like to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful Teaching Assistants, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard, who work tirelessly for us all daily. We are so grateful for the support you give to our children (and us as teachers) and we all appreciate you immensely. Kingfishers, you have all have worked extremely hard throughout this very long half term. We wish you all, and your families, a VERY Happy Christmas and a chance to have a well deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year of 2026!

Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard





WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

We have had a wonderful term in Woodpecker Class! Over the past seven weeks, our Enquiry question has been 'How can we show what we believe in?' As Historians, we have been delving into the past to learn all about the Maya Civilisation. Our discoveries included exploring where the Maya fit within our historical timeline, locating where they lived, and learning how they built their impressive city-states.

We then focused our learning on Maya beliefs and were fascinated to discover that they worshipped many different gods. After this, we became Artists and explored perspective drawing. We began by learning how to draw skyscrapers and houses before concentrating our efforts on creating detailed drawings of a Maya temple. For our final challenge, we created presentations comparing Maya beliefs with our own, reflecting on how beliefs can be shown in different ways across cultures and time.

As Authors, we have been developing our character description skills, beginning with Gollum before moving on to describe two Maya gods, Kukulcan and Chaac. We focused on using rich vocabulary and vivid detail to bring each character to life, drawing inspiration from a range of texts and our enquiry learning.

As Athletes, we have been developing our skills in handball with our sports coach, focusing on teamwork, passing, and tactical movement. Alongside this, we have enjoyed exploring Bollywood dancing, learning energetic routines that helped us develop rhythm, coordination, and confidence.

Overall, the adults in Woodpecker Class have been very impressed by the children's growing resilience and independence in their learning this term. Well done, Woodpeckers – enjoy a well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays!

Miss Cheetham





OWL CLASS NEWS

What a wonderful term it has been for Owl Class! The children have impressed us with their fantastic learning, their brilliant nativity performance, and their all-round superstar attitudes. In Maths, Owl Class have been busy adding and subtracting, and they are now confidently able to 'exchange' and 'borrow' a ten using a place value grid. They have shown great determination, especially when things became a little tricky.



More recently, we have explored shape, learning to identify and label a wide range of 2D and 3D shapes, including their vertices, edges, and faces.

In Literacy, we have loved getting creative with our writing. Using 'The Koala Who Could' as our inspiration, the children produced wonderful diary entries about Kevin the Koala and the day he ventured away from the safety of his tree.

Our enquiry, 'how are schools the same?' has turned Owl Class into budding Geographers. We have enjoyed exploring schools around the world, spotting similarities and differences, and learning new geographical vocabulary such as physical features. The children can even identify some of these features in our local area of Gillingham.

I would also like to say how incredibly proud I am of Owl Class for their nativity performance. With so many words and songs to learn, they remained cheerful, positive, and enthusiastic throughout, and they performed beautifully. Well done, Owl Class!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Hodge





WREN & ROBIN CLASS NEWS

What a busy and exciting Autumn Term it has been in Wren and Robin Class! The children began the term learning all about Autumn, starting our enquiry with a fantastic visit to Stourhead. The children loved being immersed in Autumn - spotting the many colours, collecting Autumnal 'finds' and observing seasonal changes. To conclude their learning, the Robins impressed us by becoming weather presenters and sharing their knowledge of autumnal weather.



In December, our focus has turned to the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. The children have enjoyed exploring the Christian story of the birth of Baby Jesus - particularly through our role play area, which has been transformed into a stable in Bethlehem. We have loved seeing a steady stream of angels, kings, shepherds and sheep filling the classroom! The children have also enjoyed learning fun facts about Santa and his reindeer.

The arrival of two mischievous elves from the North Pole on the first day of December has added extra excitement, with the children eager each morning to discover what mischief has taken place overnight!

We were delighted, this week, to welcome two visitors from Gillingham Library, who taught the children some lovely new Christmas songs and rhymes. We also had a visit from the dental nurse, who talked to the children about how to keep their teeth healthy and look after their smiles.

This week, the children performed a wonderful Nativity play for their families, retelling the Christmas story through the eyes of the Big Star who had lost his shine. They loved learning the songs, dressing up and performing on stage—and we are incredibly proud of them all. They truly are little superstars!

To finish the term, our Year One children completed a materials enquiry titled 'What is my hat made of?' They have each designed and made prototype hats and will be creating their final designs, to be worn at the class Christmas party on Friday, before coming home - we're sure you'll be impressed!

It's hard to believe the Wrens have already reached the end of their first term at school and we have loved having another Autumn term with our wonderful Robins. We are so proud of how much they have all achieved and we're really looking forward to the exciting learning ahead next term.

We would like to wish all our wonderful Wrens, Robins and their families a very happy Christmas.

Happy Christmas and see you in 2026!

Mrs de Villiers, Mrs Turvey and Mrs Jones

