



December Newsletter 2024

End of Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We can't believe that we are almost at the end of another great term! We seem to have packed a lot into this term, with Phoenix Class visiting the East Somerset Railway, Unicorn Class learning about the Carnival, our KS2 cohort going to Wells Cathedral and participating in various activities and a whole school visit to see Aladdin at the McMillan Theatre.

Helen Sheerman from Somerton Rugby Club returned to provide extra rugby coaching for our KS2 children and Darrell Wakelam came in on two separate occasions to help Unicorn Class create their wonderful Carnival Mask and then to help us with our memorial piece for Remembrance Day.



We have raised money for several charities including MacMillan Cancer Support through our open afternoon event and fundraising for Children in Need and the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Unicorn Class treated their families to a Harvest Assembly and your generous harvest donations were given to Langport Foodbank.

The PTA have, once again, done an amazing job, putting on wonderful events for the children including dressing-up days and sweet and cake sales. Thank you for all your donations for the Christmas Raffle, the hampers looked amazing.



This term, the PTA have raised over £400 from their events. Thank you so much to the committee and the helpers at these events. Please do let the PTA know if you have any fundraising ideas or would like to be involved with their next events. Extra help is always appreciated.

Some of our children have represented the school at externally organised sporting events. We will send out details of other events that are being held in the Spring Term.

We elected our School Council and Eco-Warriors and have met throughout the term to improve our school environment and listen to our children's opinions.

Our School Council are working with Mrs Greedy to come up with ideas on improving the corridor area leading to the library and toilets. They would like an outdoor theme and we look forward to seeing what they come up with.

The Eco-Warriors will be working with Mrs Hall and plan to meet up once a month in the New Year to formulate their ideas for how we can improve our carbon footprint around the school.

Below you will find more information and the highlights of the term from each class.

Unicorn Class

What a wonderful Autumn term Unicorn class have had. We welcomed 6 new children into Reception, and they have begun to learn the fundamental life skills of reading and writing and are becoming much more independent. Our Year 1's and 2's have continued to excel in their learning and we are all very proud of the children's commitment and achievements. This term in history we learnt about the Bridgwater Carnival, a local history topic the children loved and in Geography we have explored Tropical Jungles around the world. In art we have learnt about the artist Henri Rousseau and in DT we designed and constructed our own windmills. Over the term we have had a great deal of fun and embraced several memorable experiences. Some highlights include our recent nativity performance, 'Shine Star Shine', our harvest festival assembly and 2 visits from the amazing artist, Darrell Wakelam. The photos below show a selection of these and hopefully give you a snapshot of what life is like in Unicorn Class! We wish you all a super Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year. Mrs Silver, Mrs Greedy, Mrs Hale and Miss Lester.





Phoenix Class

This term has really flown by! I can't believe it's nearly Christmas already! In Phoenix Class everyone settled in nicely as a new cohort and warmly welcomed our new children which was lovely to see. We have worked really hard this term and every single person has come a long way in their learning and certainly earned their Christmas break! I am very proud of the effort that Year 3 have put in to keep up with the demands of Key Stage 2. Keep up the great work! Year 4 have done very well in building on their previous knowledge and learning to challenge themselves – well done!

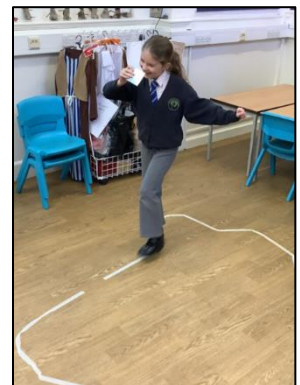
In English, we enjoyed looking at Aesop's Fables, acting some out and wrote our own fables. Most recently, we read 'Pugs of the Frozen North' and had a great time getting into character, writing a character profile and a diary entry. We've also written instructions and recounted our trips to the railway station and Wells Cathedral. In Maths, the focus this term has been on multiplication and division and we're getting the hang of it.

In History, we learnt about Brunel's Britain and focussed on the development of the railways and the impacts that this had on the country and we had a fantastic trip to East Cranmore railway station. In Geography we have been learning all about the UK from its counties and cities to its mountains and rivers. In Science we have conducted lots of experiments exploring all areas of sound and light and how these can be changed. In Art, we studied L.S. Lowry and for our final piece of work we created a giant composite painting of the school, which we can all be very proud of! In DT we designed and created torches from just a few basic materials, thanks for bringing in the plastic bottles!

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025 – See you in the new year!

Mr Cornish and Mrs Hall.





Dragons Class

The Autumn Term has passed in a flash! The children have all worked hard and have been an absolute pleasure to teach. We have learnt about Earth and Space in Science, we then looked at scientific investigations and fair testing, including experiments with Skittles. Our Geography topic has taken us around the world, looking at a range of different biomes. The children undertook their own research to discover more about these and produced some fantastic double page spreads. They also created their own mini biomes as part of their learning about optimum conditions and the water cycle.

In Maths, the focus has been on place value, developing written methods for all four operations and lots of work on fractions and problem solving. The children have worked incredibly hard and have made fantastic progress with their maths this term. The focus on timetables remains as these are so pivotal to learning in so many areas. Some of our children are now working on multiplying and dividing decimals as part of their weekly testing.

In English, the children have retold familiar stories, developed their descriptive writing and created their own stories. They have also written balanced arguments, followed and written instructions for how to make an origami bookmark, created explanation texts linked to their innovative sleigh designs and continued to develop their knowledge of English grammar and spelling rules. The children also spent a week on performance poetry, learning the poem, "Gran Can You Rap?" They then performed this to the rest of the school during our celebration assembly.

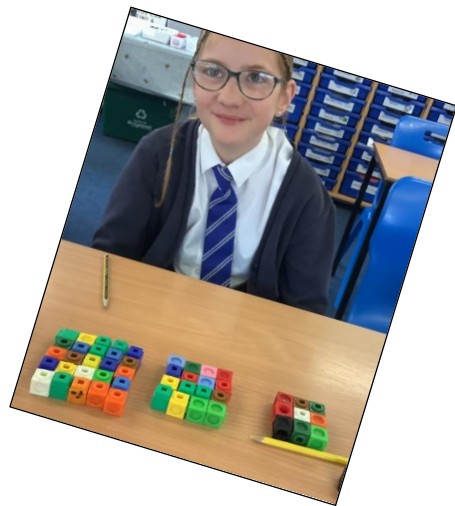
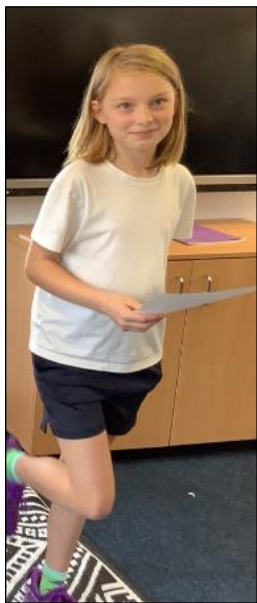
Mr Cornish has taken the children for their computing and French lessons and Mrs Brown has led the RE and PSHE sessions again this term. Music continues to be taught by Somerset Music's Mr Male and PE is taught by Inspired Schools coaches.

Since just before half term, we have been joined by Miss Poggiali who is completing her PGCE teacher training course. We have loved having "Miss P" as part of our team, the children have enjoyed their lessons and the DT activities with her, we will certainly miss her in January but we wish her the very best of luck for the future.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Dragons Class Team







Financial support

Support with childcare - The following link offers information regarding the latest Government help with childcare costs for parents. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support. It may be worth a look!

https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who they believe may be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Middlezoy and Othery Primary Schools, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for each pupil, regardless of ability or background. However, it is useful to receive this funding for all children entitled to it. If your children are entitled to free school meals or a member of the household is currently in receipt, or has been in the last six years, of Universal credit then please do apply through this hyperlink or ask in the school office for a form that we can send off for you.

https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal

Internet Safety

Keeping up to date with online safety can be tricky, it is constantly changing. The link below provides you with the latest information regarding online safety for your child/children. You can find information and safety settings for your child's devices and apps, along with guidance to tackle online issues they may face.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

There is also further information on our website:

<https://www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk/parental-e-safety-guide/>

Uniform Reminder

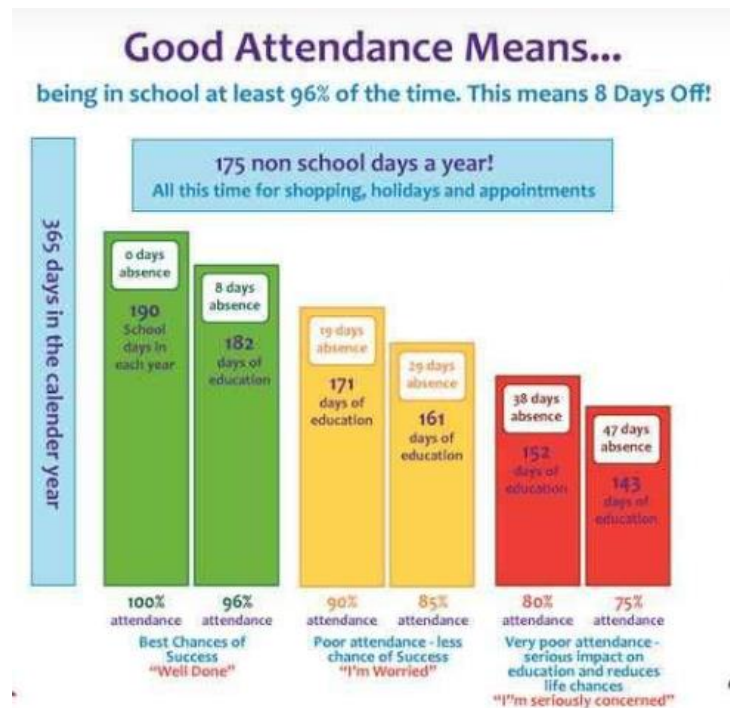
Please can all children come to school with a waterproof coat every day. If you have any winter coats that your children have outgrown, we would be happy to take these in to offer to other children who may be in need.

Attendance Matters!

The Department for Education monitors attendance closely. Our aim is for all children to have at least 96% attendance, as we are aware that lower attendance can have a significant impact on children's education. In line with our policy, the end of term letters will be coming home shortly. Attendance that is significantly below the 96% will prompt a graduated response from the school. You will be invited in to discuss any issues with your child's attendance. We will look for ways to support you and to work together with you to improve this. If attendance should continue to fall, we may issue a fixed penalty warning notice which could result in a fixed penalty notice should the situation not be resolved. We really hope that we can work alongside you to ensure the best possible attendance for your child.

Please contact me via the school office if you would like to arrange to discuss an attendance concern.

Further information can be found on our website:



<https://www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk/attendance/>

Spring Term Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 7th January	Spring Term starts for all
Thursday 9th January	Swimming continues for Dragon Class
Wednesday 29 th January	Chinese New Year Celebrations
Monday 17 th to Friday 21st February	Half Term
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 18 th March	Parent Meetings
Wednesday 19 th March	Parent Meetings
Thursday 27 th and Friday 28 th March	Year 6 Bikeability – Details to follow
Friday 4 th April	Last Day of Term
Monday 7 th April to Thursday 17 th April	Easter Break
Friday 18 th April and Monday 21 st April	Bank Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April	Inset Day
Wednesday 23 rd April	Summer Term starts for all

Remaining Inset Days

Monday 2nd June

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dulcie in Year 2, who was runner up in the PPAT Christmas card competition, Bella in Year 1, whose design made it on to the cover of the December MOMSS magazine and Freddy in Year 2 who was runner up in the competition to design a Christmas card for the MP, Ashley Fox and Ella (Year 1) who was highly commended



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to welcoming you back on

Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery staff team.