



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



### COVID-19 Reporting

Please remember to use the email below if you need to update school over the Christmas break about COVID incidents & follow Government rules if going abroad.

**[covid19@hillside.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@hillside.lancs.sch.uk)**

### School Re-Opens 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Bag 2 School Collection - We are having a Bags2School collection on Thursday 21 January. Unfortunately we won't be able to send any bags home with the children as we have previously done due to Covid19. Please send clothes in plastic bags from home before the 21st. Donations are much appreciated and will raise funds for school. Thank you.

#### 2021 Diary Dates :

Monday 4 January - Back To School

Thursday 21 January - Bags To School collection (send in donations by 20<sup>th</sup>)

Wednesday 3 February - School Photographs (date subject to change)

Monday 15 February - Half term

Thank you to the PSFA who have once again given gift cards to all pupils for Christmas.

**CLASS 2** This half term we have been exploring our senses! Each week we have been tasting different types of foods that have made our taste buds come alive. Plus, we have explored all our senses in different tuff tray activities. In maths we have been learning about different shapes and a few pupils went on a shape hunt around school whilst the others tried to make different shape marks in malleable materials. Very messy but the children absolutely loved it. The children have also started PE sessions again in the hall and they have been fabulous at getting ready transitioning to a different part of the school.



**CLASS 7** This half term we have been exploring winter through sensory story and story massage. We have also enjoyed experiencing festivals including Diwali and Thanksgiving. We created Diwali lamps and used natural materials to collage our own turkeys alongside baking biscuits. In maths we have been exploring number, sequencing events and distinguishing between night and day. We have been working hard on independence when transitioning around school. With verbal prompting we are able to remove our coats and hang them on our pegs after playtime or a walk. We also clean our teeth on a daily basis. We thoroughly enjoyed studying Christmas in Spain recently we prepared a traditional fruit salad. Partook in red and yellow sensory play and created Christmas cards! We hope you all have a restful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**CLASS 4** This Autumn term we have been exploring the Great Fire of London with sensory stories, role play and 'I see' activities. We have also enjoyed the story 'Stickman' as part of our Christmas preparations making our very own stickman and using him to decorate our class Christmas tree. We have experienced our own Diwali and made Diwa lamps and advent crafts. In maths we have been exploring numbers; building towers big and small, investigating 3d shapes and lots of counting practice. Our attention Autism sessions have been so much fun and we are doing well with our phonics too. We have been practising lots of life skills this term too; walking safely around school, making lots of snacks, practising pouring drinks and working on our personal hygiene. The children have made lots of progress not only in lessons but with their independence and communication, the staff are really proud of them all! Class 4 would like to wish everyone a magical Christmas and relaxing New Year!



Congratulations and thank you to Patricia Baker, Great Grandma to Max in Class 3 on completing a sponsored skydive!! Patricia raised a fabulous £2,150 to go towards the sensory room refurbishment.

**CLASS 1** have had a busy half term. Our topic has been 'food', and we have had lots of fun learning about it and it's preparation in our role play kitchen area in class. We have enjoyed exploring different types of food in our messy play and sensory sessions weekly and have had pretend picnics and tea parties too.

We have enjoyed songs in our daily 'music and movement' sessions on the 'food' theme, including 'super potato', which is one of our favourites. In our art sessions we have been printing patterns using different fruits and vegetables, and have made food collages and shape pizzas too. In Literacy we have been exploring the story 'The Gingerbread Man' and singing along to the gingerbread man's catchy tune! We worked hard practising our class Christmas song and hope you enjoy the video of us all!

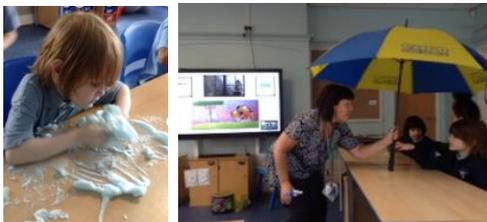
Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday from Class 1.

This half term we said goodbye to Trevor as he has now retired. He has been our site supervisor for over 9 years and was an invaluable member of our team. He will be missed by staff and pupils alike and we hope he enjoys a long and happy retirement. Thank you.



**CLASS 3** We are so happy to have the children back at school. Everyone has settled in to the school routine and are enjoying our weather theme. We have been exploring the weather during our Hello sessions and have been feeling the wind on our faces and the warmth from a lavender pad. Sheltering from the rain under umbrellas and feeling the coldness of ice. In art we are making our very own collage and in science we have been exploring hot and cold foods. We are enjoying daily intensive interaction sessions and TACPAC and experiencing messy sensory play. After the holidays we will be using our senses to explore Autumn objects.

**CLASS 11** Class 11 have had a very busy term! In Maths, we have been balancing objects using weighing scales and learning lots of vocabulary around this. In English we have been reading a contemporary piece of poetry as well as a range of fiction texts. We had fun following the adventures of The Stick Man! We have also had fun working on our qualification projects! As part of this we have been making mosaic coasters, making a 2 course meal and designing and making our own pieces of jewellery. We have really enjoyed playing dodge ball in PE and have been making fab progress with our skills. We have enjoyed working as part of a team in both PE and in our weekly debate sessions. We hope you have a lovely Christmas!



**JIM JAM JOG** - we want to thank everyone who has contributed to the recent Jim Jam Jog. We raised a magnificent

**£1565.05**

thank you--thank you--thank you

**CLASS 6** In Class 6 the theme for this half term has been 'Winter'. The children have really enjoyed our sensory story 'Snow Bear' which has seen them getting involved in a range of activities from sensory exploration of ice, crushed meringue and other wet snow like materials to magnetic fishing. They have also been working on personalised literacy activities related to this topic. The children have been printing wintery patterns as part of Art using a range of different tools and then making food items that relate to the time of year on a Friday afternoon, a nice treat!

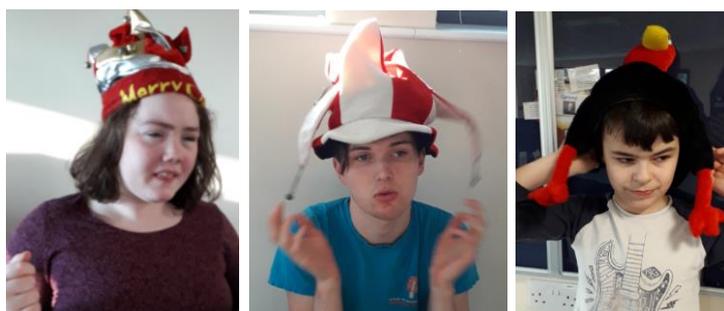
Alongside our Winter theme, Class 6 have been working on prepositions in Maths and using all the different language to describe where an object is. In PSHE the children have been learning about growing up and how we change as we get older. The children have loved seeing their baby and toddler photos! More recently Class 6 are getting ready for Christmas and have been practising for our Christmas song/video. The children have also been learning about the Nativity in RE through singing 'It Was a Starry Night' and through a range of activities. We are all thoroughly enjoying getting into the spirit. In Drama we have been role playing with lots of different props. We really enjoyed throwing 'snow balls' and building a snowman. Some children even wanted to dress up as a snowman. We have been dressing up in different winter clothes to keep warm.



**CLASS 8** have enjoyed a fun and settled half term. Everyone has worked hard and some lovely friendships have been made with peers. We have explored Julia Donaldson's story 'Room on the Broom' - and everyone has enjoyed it! In Maths, we have all been developing our number skills and working on time. In RE and PSHE we have been learning about feelings and who helps us in our community. The Stone Age has been our topic in History and we have enjoyed looking at how they lived, creating cave painting art, making clay pots and designing tools. We have explored states of matter in science and had a go at some experiments such as making ice, making rice krispie cakes and making hot chocolate! We have also made lots of lovely Christmas decorations and treats and have been practicing hard for the Christmas video in class (even learning lines!). Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone in Class 8.



**CLASS 13** have had a fun time in Craft Making learning how to tie a bow, sewing buttons on to lavender bags, making a decoupage box and making pasta tube jewellery. Pupils who are new to the College this year are happily settling in to eating in the College kitchen, accessing cutlery for themselves and learning where to put their own pots in the dishwasher after eating – all useful life skills. We have been practising some Makaton signs ready for our Christmas song and making Christmas crafts to accompany it. Literacy sessions have been great fun as pupils have been using torches to find hidden planets in the College sensory room as well as participating in a sensory story about the universe. The new covers have arrived for our trampettes and our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed having a mini bounce session during PE. All great fun! We wish all our families and friends a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**CLASS 9** Our semi-formal curriculum theme for this half term has been musicals. In English we have read a story based on the seven pupils in class 9. We have listened to different music related to the text. In Maths we have been learning about shape – identifying shapes and using visual supports to make comments.

We have had a weekly PE session in the hall where we have listened to music from musicals and explored different ways of moving to it. We have also practiced throwing and catching. We have done some more work from the ASDAN New Horizons Award – looking at things we like. We have also explored celebrations that are important to different cultural and religious groups (Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas). We hope that you all have a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from all in class 9.



**CLASS 5** This half term we have been studying the Stone Age through various hands on activities. The pupils have made their own stone age tools, 'bone and tooth' clay necklaces, explored the animals that were alive during the time and thought about how it would be to hunt for your own food. In Maths we have been learning about time and have continued to reinforce and build on our knowledge of number through a variety of games and activities. In English we have focused on 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark', but have also explored other shorter stories to add variety to our vocabulary. In Science we have been exploring rock and soils. We have combined this with Forest School which the pupils have very much enjoyed. We have had a great half term and wish everyone at home a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



**CLASS 12** have been working very hard this half term. We have planned our very own Christmas movie, making all of the props, creating the script from scratch and even using a green screen! We are very excited to show everyone our project and we hope you all enjoy it. We have been working hard on our enterprise project selling mince pies and biscuits, thank you to everyone who has purchased some, we have raised over £50! We have also been working really hard in Maths and English and have all tried really hard during our sports session. Well done everyone in Class 12 and hope you all have a brilliant Christmas!



**CLASS 10** have had another successful half-term and made lots of personal progress. We have developed our English skills daily in reading and comprehension, spelling and constructing sentences. During Maths we have been practising multiplication and money. In Science lessons we have explored animals. Our creative curriculum lessons have been linked to houses and homes around the world.

We have been developing our social skills through a variety of communication activities including daily circle-time, shared practical activities and role-play. In RE sessions we have explored Hinduism. We have developed our fitness through daily cardio and dance sessions. Happy Christmas everyone from Class 10!



Thanks to everyone who bought an online ticket for our Christmas raffle this year- we have raised a fantastic **£297.73!**

Congratulations to our hamper winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: Rasa Kalaciute
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE: David Boardman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE: Cheryl Doran



**AND FINALLY.....** despite the continuing impact that COVID has had on school this term I am pleased by the progress pupils have made and the changes they have coped with. As you can see from the class articles we have continued to access activities, including the Christmas performance and have been able to raise money for school in creative ways.

I hope that you all manage to enjoy some sort of normality this Christmas and we look forward to the pupils returning in the New Year.

*Paul Leaper, Headteacher*