

Bankwood Primary School Christmas Newsletter 2019

FS0 Have been busy exploring our local natural environment this term. We have been reading 'Owl Babies' and this led us into a woodland adventure. The children were set a challenge to find photographs of owls which were fastened to trees, under benches and on gates. Lots of parents came along too, they helped the children to collect leaves and twigs to help make clay nests. Our woodland walk and workshop was a huge success, thank you to all parents for supporting us!

FS1 We are blasting into outer space! We are using our key text 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy to explore space travel and the Universe. We have transformed our role play area into a space station so we can use our imagination just like the characters in the book. We have also been investigating shapes as part of our maths focus and using shapes to create patterns and pictures. Thank you to all who participated in our first home learning challenge to design and make a space rocket, we had some fantastic creations!

FS2 This half term we have been exploring light and dark through the provision and through our class text "Floppy in the Dark." Here, a rabbit creates shadow finger puppets using his torch in the tent. We made light catchers out of card and cellophane which we placed on the windows to see how they glowed and what appeared on the classroom floor. We went on a school trip to Holy Cross Church where we learnt about what people believe and spotted features of a church. We then wrote about what we saw. We have been getting ready for Christmas, writing Christmas lists, making cards, calendars and creating salt dough decorations.

Y1 we have been reading 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'Lost and Found'. We have been thinking about different parts of the world and which animals live where. We have found out that a penguin will never meet a polar bear because they live at opposite ends of the world. We made big collages of the Arctic and Antarctic which you can see outside our classroom. In history, we have learnt about Ernest Shackleton, an explorer who wanted to be the first person to get to the South Pole. Unfortunately, his boat, called Endurance **got stuck in the ice and he didn't make it to the South Pole.** To investigate ice, we used different things like rice, salt and flour to try and get a toy boat out of a frozen block of ice. We discovered that salt melts the ice and eventually we freed the boat! This term we have been working very hard on our phonics, we now know lots of sounds and we are improving our reading and writing a



Y2 We have been busy developing our descriptive writing by writing stories about superhero vegetables. We have also enjoyed a trip to the Crucible Theatre to watch and take part in the Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom production. In Science our focus has been on healthy eating and we are currently writing leaflets to help inform people about a balanced diet. We have also been using fruit and vegetables to make portraits, based on the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

