



Coombe Bissett Primary

Newsletter 6 (end of Term 2)



CHRISTMAS WISHES

Here at Coombe Bissett this Autumn, even though there have been many difficulties to overcome and so many losses, we have gained so much. We have gained a stronger sense of friendship with each other; a stronger value of the things that matter; a stronger joy in learning something new; seeing something miraculous; finding the joy in our own achievements and the achievements of those we love; a stronger recognition of the good things each of us can do for each other and a stronger gratitude for the simple things.

All of this can be seen in one beautiful place – your incredible children. Here at Coombe Bissett we feel not only that we have gained so much because of them, but that we have been truly blessed by them.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at Coombe Bissett Primary we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to being blessed by the presence of your children in the new term.

VALUE FOR LIFE

This term our Value for Life is BELIEF. There have been some wonderful moments this term with the children reflecting on their belief in themselves to achieve their dreams, their belief in their friends and family, and their belief in God.

Recently we have been enjoying (re)discovering the meaning of the Advent season, the 4 candles in the Advent wreath and the single candle in the middle of the Advent wreath. The children have also enjoyed the gift of a Christingle from the Church to take home, and the daily activities in the Advent booklet sent out at the start of December from the School.

The children also enjoyed writing their 'Wish for the World' in a Christmas decoration to hang up in the Reflection garden. Here are some of the beautiful wishes:

Oak = "I wish that the whole world was kind to spiders and bugs."

Elm = "I wish for the whole world to be happy."

Fir = "Dear lord, I wish that people would stop polluting the oceans with plastic."

Ash = "Dear Lord, heavenly father, I wish for everyone in need to have food and shelter."

COVID ARRANGEMENTS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND JANUARY ONWARDS

If parents or children become symptomatic or have a positive Covid test in the 6 days following the last day of term please follow the Public Health England Track and Trace guidelines and also notify the school via the school office email: office@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk

The school email will be regularly checked until the end of the 24th December, as we are part of the Track and Trace network, but the school telephone will not be monitored and the school will not be open. If there are any symptomatic cases or positive cases in this period, that we are notified about then we will issue the standard

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Wiltshire notification letters to parents. As you are aware we cannot identify the individuals and we will not be answering any emails regarding any cases, as per guidance.

From January, because of the uncertainty surrounding the potential impact of the relaxation of restrictions over Christmas, we will be continuing with the precautions we currently have in place:

- high standards of hygiene with regular handwashing and hand sanitiser by all
- high standards of cleaning with staff cleaning down touch plates regularly throughout the day and with our cleaners continuing with the Yellow Provision put in place since March
- class bubbles with separate toilets, but with the outdoor double bubble for play/lunch, and the 'Early' and 'Late' club bubbles inside the hall in their respective zones
- staggered start and finish times as currently
- adults wearing facemasks when moving around the school until they are in the classroom
- lots of ventilation in each class (whilst maintaining thermal comfort)
- outdoor PE (even though guidance seems to be changing to allow some indoor PE as long as there is good ventilation and reduced numbers)
- cleaning down of sports equipment between users
- specific resources for each class – not sharing between classes unless it has been anti-bacterial cleaned in between sessions

We will be reviewing our approach to music and singing in the light of recent recommendations that things can be relaxed.

Hot meals will no longer be served with disposable items, rather we will be returning to plates and cutlery – these are stored separately from other schools and are cleaned in the dishwasher.

Cover teaching: for Oak will be within bubble; for Elm it will be from Mr Basinger-Adams and Mrs Bowers; for Fir and Ash it will be from Mr Basinger-Adams. Whilst distance will be maintained this does increase the potential for transmission across bubbles, as has always been the case for behavior management and First Aid.

After a short period of time we will be reviewing our bubbles approach, and will be considering running key stage bubbles or ideally one whole school bubble as is the case in many small primary schools, so that the children can experience the joys they have been missing such as collective worship, peer leadership, reading buddies, etc.

All of these precautions remain, of course, dependent on any changes recommended in Government Guidelines.

THIS CHRISTMAS – VALUE FOR LIFE CHALLENGE

As with last term, and in various years previously, we would love children to create something over Christmas to show their thoughts on 'BELIEF'. It could be: a picture of them doing something with a caption to explain; a poem or a piece of writing – a wonderful short story would be amazing; a painting, drawing, collage or a sculpture; a picture of a special piece of cookery – the children made some 'fimo-art' recently and this fun piece of Christmas Cake decoration in the image below may remind them of this activity.

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Please can children bring it in during the first week back. It is so lovely for the children to see what each of them have been thinking about over the break in relation to BELIEF. These can then be put up on display.

OAK AND ELM NATIVITIES

This week Oak and Elm Class performed their fabulous nativities. They were truly magnificent! Oak's version – Born in a Barn – was spectacular, and Elm's version – A King is Born - was absolutely sublime. There was such beautiful singing, delightful acting and complicated actions to the words involving some Makaton. Every child was wonderful. They surpassed all our dreams. It is terrific to see such joy in their faces as they learned not only to sing, speak aloud, and perform but also to take turns, to be part of a 'team' working for something bigger than themselves, to rely on others. These are all skills that will see them successful as they move forward, as well as bringing lovely memories for them.

A huge thank you to all the parents for all their support with learning lines and providing costumes, to the magnificent staff who gave up so much of their personal time to 're-design' so many elements to make it a success and an especially huge thank you to Mrs Webster for all her hard work filming and producing the DVDs to such a high quality in such a short time – it is greatly appreciated.

And an 'encore' to the children who have brought such Christmas cheer to us all. Congratulations children on two stunning nativities.



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CHRISTMAS DINNER, CHRISTMAS PARTIES, INTERTEAM TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT, PANTO,
INTERTEAM BOARD GAMES TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This week each class, in turn, was treated to a lovely Panto of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. The children thoroughly enjoyed this classic tale, enthralled by the performances. It was a lovely moment for them all. Thank you to the FOCBS / 100 Club for funding this lovely enrichment for the children.

The Christmas Dinner was delicious – the children had a terrific time. Thank you to the staff for making this so special under such circumstances.

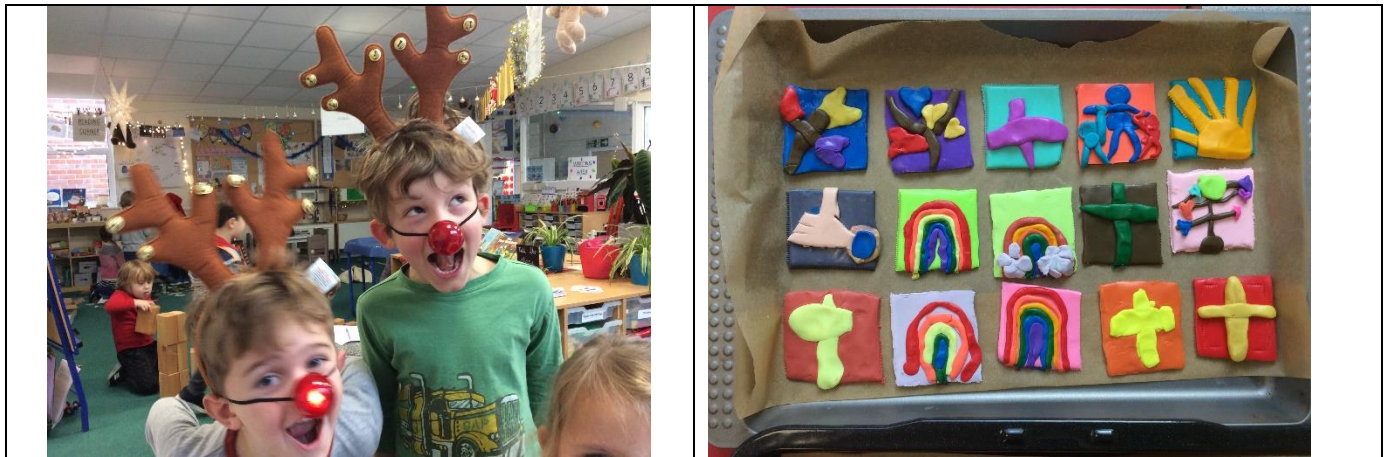
The Christmas Parties in each class in the afternoon after the Christmas Dinner were great fun. The children played games and had lots of fun with their friends.

On the 18th we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' Charity, with each child being asked to donate £1. It was lovely to see all the children in their Christmas jumpers. The school raised £45.

We have also held our termly Interteam Sports Tournament. This term the sport was Tag Rugby. The children really enjoyed developing their sporting skills and their teamwork. Everyone did well but in the end the winning Team was Yellow Team in KS2. The Sportsmanship Trophy went to Yellow Team in KS2. KS1 will catch-up their T2 Interteam at the beginning of T3, restrictions this year meant that nativity rehearsals took precedence.

On the afternoon of the 18th, we held our 2nd annual Interteam Board Games tournament. Our Interteam tournaments are not just for developing sporting teamwork but to enable children to shine in other areas as well, such as 'strategic thinking and analysis' or simply 'having a lovely time with your friends' by playing a board game. The children had a terrific time – the results of each 'game' totaled to give a final score. Congratulations to Red Team who won the Interteam Board Games tournament.

Here are some lovely Christmas activity photos:



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AUTUMN TERM TEAM TOKENS WINNING HOUSE

Every day and every lesson every child has the opportunity to earn Team tokens for such things as great learning, great manners, great kindness, great effort, and much more. The children love it! Each week the tokens are added up across the school. At the end of each season the final totals are announced.

This Autumn the total tokens achieved across the school were: Red = 1800, Yellow = 1649, Blue = 1716, Green = 1712. This is a huge amount earned by each Team, and a total of 6877 magical moments to be proud of, to warm our hearts, to celebrate! Congratulations to every child for their magnificent efforts, but an extra-special congratulation to Red Team who won the Autumn Tokens Trophy. Each child in the winning Team receives a prize and the winning Team get to choose the Charity for the next term. Children thus recognize their efforts benefit themselves, their community, and those people beyond that they may never even meet. The charity the winning Team have chosen is 'WWF Sky Ocean'. School Council will be organizing the date and event for fundraising for this charity and this will be announced next term. Here is Red Team's words about the next school charity, chosen by the children:

"For our Spring charity next year, we've decided to donate to the WWF Sky Ocean fund to help with projects that tackle plastic pollution in our oceans. We chose this because many of us are animal lovers and because plastic in the oceans is a crucial problem. By donating to the World Wildlife Fund we will help them and the Sky Ocean Rescue to restore the seas. The reason we didn't choose a recycling charity is because only 9% of plastics can actually be recycled. Too much plastic is clogging up the oceans and we want to help by choosing this charity this Spring."

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ATTENDANCE

Thank you for all your efforts in ensuring your child has good attendance. This has been an incredible effort and we have been so delighted that children have been in school so much.

In Term 1 our attendance was well over 96% which was way above national attendance rates at that period (around 85-90%). In Term 2 our attendance dropped to 89.9%, as was to be expected. Our current cumulative attendance rate for the academic year since September is 92.9%. All figures include self-isolation / class remote learning due to Covid suspected or positive cases, as this is recorded as being educated off-site and not as an absence.

The attendance for each year group is as follows:

Year group	Whole year group attendance since September	Numbers of children above last years' national average of 96%
YR	97.1%	15
Y1	96.7%	13
Y2	94%	9
Y3	87.5%	10
Y4	98.5%	11
Y5	95.1%	12
Y6	82%	5

Congratulations to Y4 who won our attendance shield for Autumn, now in pride of place in their classroom.

STAFFING NEWS

This week was the last week for Mrs Pascoe. She has been with us for 3 years. This week the children and staff gave her a fond farewell. She will be greatly missed and I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the very best in her next adventure, enjoying time with her young family. We hope to see her from time to time for some supply teaching.

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Mrs Sarah Faulding as the new job-share teacher for Thursday and Friday in Ash Class. Mrs Faulding has recently moved here from London to raise her young family in the beautiful setting of Salisbury and Wiltshire. She is a highly experienced teacher not only for teaching KS2 and Y6 but also as a leader of Maths, Assessment, Quality First Teaching, Mentoring of less experienced teachers and Safeguarding in her role of Deputy Headteacher in her previous school. Mrs Faulding's experience, expertise and high expectations will be a wonderful addition to our fabulous team. Mrs Faulding visited the class this week in order to be fully prepared for the new term in January. I am sure you will join the staff and myself in welcoming her to our lovely school.

PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS – SIGN-UP

Thank you to all those parents who have signed-up for the Spring Term Parent / Teacher Consultation the 2nd week back in January. If you have not been able to sign-up yet the forms will be available during the first week back.

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