

Newsletter 6 – Friday 20th December 2023

It has been another busy and fun-packed festive season here at Ewelme, with the children attending the pantomime in Oxford, enjoying their traditional Christmas dinner and preparing for and performing in the wonderful Christingle service.

Looking back, it has been a successful Autumn term, with Forest School getting up and running with Burghersh and Roet classes, our wrap-around childcare going from strength to strength and all the children continuing to work hard and make bags of progress.

From everyone at Ewelme Primary School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas at Ewelme:

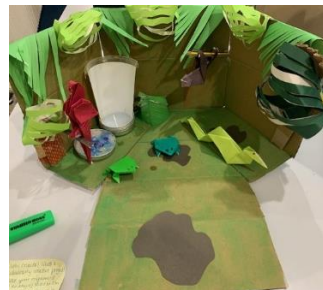
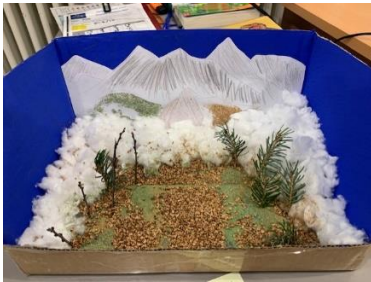
Here are some photos of the Christmas fun that's been taking place here at Ewelme over the past few weeks, including Santa's fly-past, each classes' Christmas trees that will decorate the church over the holidays, and the children during the dress rehearsal of our Christingle service.



If you would like to have a closer look at the Christmas trees that each class have designed, then head to Ewelme Church over the festive period where they will be on display. Each tree was themed according to the classes' topic – Chaucer's is decorated with Gingerbread Men, based on their recent work on the human body, Roet's is decorated with different materials based on their science topic, Burghersh's is decorated with different coats of arms linked to their history work on the local area and De La Pole's is decorated with a Western USA/Hollywood theme.

De La Pole homework projects:

We are always looking for fun and innovative ways of bringing our learning to life here at Ewelme and Mr Codd recently set his class the homework challenge of creating a 'Biome in a Box', linking to their recent geography and science work. As you can see from the photos below, the results were truly spectacular with all the children making an exceptional effort. A massive well done to all of Year 5 and 6 for their ingenuity and hard work on these brilliant projects.



↑ Testing their parachutes

Also linked to their science work, Year 5 and 6 recently conducted experiments to investigate whether the size, shape or material of a parachute affects the time it takes for them to fall. Perhaps they should share their findings with our near neighbours at RAF Benson?!



← The science boffins crunch the numbers to work out the results

Gymnastics showcase:

De La Pole, Roet and Chaucer classes recently took part in our annual Gymnastics Showcase at the village hall, organised brilliantly as always by Mrs Seymour. The older children guided and supported their younger peers to create a sequence of balances and movements, drawing on their gymnastics learning from across the term to help them. It is always lovely to see the oldest pupils in school showing such care and respect in the way they talk with and help the key stage 1 children.



Call for artists: Donations of art work needed for OxTrail 2024!

As explained in the last newsletter, the school will be participating in this year's Oxtrail event, which is raising money for Sobell House Hospice. You can find out more about OxTrail 2024 by visiting: <https://oxtrail2024.co.uk/art-trail/>

One of the ideas for raising money for this event that was proposed at the last School Council meeting was to create art work that could be sold or auctioned in exchange for donations towards OxTrail. We know we have very many talented artists here at Ewelme and, in the new year, we will plan an opportunity for the children to create some pieces of art in school that could be sold or auctioned.



However, we also hoped that some children, and maybe even a few adults, might be interested in creating some other pieces of art work at home that could be donated to school for this cause. For example, your child (or adult) might be a budding painter, drawer or sculptor. Any piece of art, big or small, and of any media, is welcome and I am sure they will all be snapped up by local art-lovers!

The deadline for donating the money we raise is February 21st, so we aim to hold an event at which the works of art will be sold and/or auctioned off, just before this date. The date of this event and further details will be confirmed early in the new year but we wanted to give any budding artists some advance notice in case inspiration struck over the festive period!

Parent governor vacancy

Following the end of Keith Pereira's term of office, there is now a vacancy on our governing board for a parent governor. If you are interested in this position and would like to find out more about what the role entails and the process for electing a parent governor, please contact Mrs Denton in the school office who acts as our Clerk to Governors. We will provide further information about the parent governor election in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith for his hard work and the invaluable expertise he brought as finance governor.

A message of thanks from the Peter Ryding and Sam Masters (Joint Chairs of Governors) to Friends Of Ewelme School:

Please can Sam and I, on behalf of all of the governors and the children of Ewelme School, give you all a massive thank you for yet another great year of fund raising and practical activities to help keep our wonderful school functioning and to bring extra colour and exciting experiences to our children. Your energy and enthusiasm is brilliant and your very significant financial contribution makes a massive difference to our school.

Just some of the things that you have enabled are fun programs that support the children's learning, such as 'Purple Mash', 'Floppy's Phonics' and 'Spelling Tutor' and classroom resources such as stationary, colouring pencils, scissors and glue sticks.

You have funded new classroom furniture for children and teachers, Mood Tracker to plan how to provide pastoral support, redevelopment of the Peace Garden in many ways including a shelter for shade in hot weather and cover in the rain. And, of course, the very exciting establishment of our Forest School that will make a big difference to the environmental awareness our children have in a very hands on way.

Plus coach transport to the Christmas pantomime in Oxford, the Year 6 treat trip to Rush Trampoline Centre in High Wycombe and other contributions towards transport costs of class trips and of course the end of term party!

So thank you again. Your time effort and financial results really are deeply appreciated and valued.

May we wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and an even more successful 2024 at home and in our school!

End of term certificates:

Congratulations to Dylan, Harvey, Ivar, Charles, Molly, Chloe and Caspar who received the end-of-term headteacher's certificates for the autumn term in today's special celebration assembly. Very well deserved all of them!

Thank you also to William (violin), Charles, Bella, Darcy (all piano) and Emilia (guitar) who all performed beautifully in assembly.

Dates for the diary:

A further update to these dates will be sent out in the new year.

Click here to see the school's online calendar: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

Thursday 21st December – Monday 8th January – Christmas holiday

Monday 8th January – INSET day

Tuesday 9th December – Start of term 3 for children, 8.45am

Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>