



PRESS GANG

Welcome to the Autumn 2s Press Gang Edition 2021. This half term has been full of many exciting events and we are excited to tell you all about them! This half term's press gang consists of children from Years 5 and 6.



Elizabeth Ryan, Kai Cheung, Zachary Laing-Pullen, Veda Kishore, Phebe Woolf, Oliver Flecknell, Alys Chambers, Ronnie Fountain, Christina Amuzu, Isobella Crooks, Kimberly Munodawafa and Hannah Magdalana.

Diwali

Diwali, the festival of lights, is one of Hinduism's most important festivals dedicated to the worship of Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth. To celebrate, the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy making Diya



lamps from clay and paint. Year 3 created concertina diyas and Year 5 has made some great Rangoli Patterns!



STEAM WEEK

STEAM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

In STEAM week, the whole school were doing projects based on plastic pollution. We completed different pieces of work across loads of different subjects.

In Year 5, we completed a Science experiment where we cut up little pieces of plastic and mixed it with sand and water to test how to separate them- it was very difficult!

We also completed a big piece of Art- we all created our own sea creatures and plastic bottles and then created a scene of sea and sand to show the effects of plastic pollution.

The Queen's Green Canopy



On Thursday 2nd December, 25 children from Years 5 and 6 went to St Nicks Park to plant trees. The trees we planted were fruit trees such as Plums, Apples, Pears and Damsons.



If you were wondering why we did this, it is because we took part in The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative. This is a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to



In geography, we completed a story about plastic pollution- following the journey of a plastic bag. We learnt how much plastic enters the ocean every year and that when sea life eats plastic it makes it feel full (when it actually isn't) so eventually the animal starves to death.



The effects of plastic pollution:

- Toxins travelling through the food chain
- Death of turtles, sea birds and fish
- Polluting corral
- Spreading disease
- Travels up the food chain to humans

By Kai Cheung



mark her majesty's platinum Jubilee in 2022.



By Alys Chambers



Wesley





CLIMATE CHANGE

By Zachary

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, from 31 October to 13 November 2021.



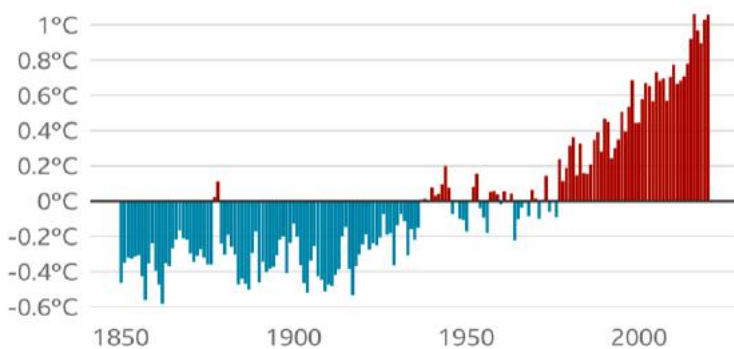
Recently, in class, we have been learning very interesting facts about climate change:

What is Climate change?

Climate change is when litter and substances like oil decompose and turn into greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases- mostly carbon dioxide (CO₂)- act as a blanket around the earth and makes the earth warmer. According to The BBC News 'The world is now about 1.2C warmer than it was in the 19th Century - and the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has risen by 50%'.

The world is getting warmer

Annual mean land and ocean temperature above or below average, 1850 to 2020





School trips:

On the 11th November, year 3 went to Celtic Harmony in Brickendon to experience what life was like in the Stone Age:



On 1st November, year 6 went on a residential trip to Manor Adventure:



Bike Ability

By Elizabeth Ryan

Last week, we (some of the year five students), were participating in a bike challenge. We had to ride our bikes to school for the whole week because we were the people doing bike ability (which means testing our bike skills). We were out in the playground of our school for the very first day where we learnt the "A, B, C, D" check. The check was to make sure our bikes were in great shape for riding them. We had to do the check as soon as we got our bikes out of the shed.

Each of the four days after, we were going out on the roads - it was fun and scary - scary in a good way. Some of us were really excited, some of us were nervous, some of us were scared and some of us were fine with it.

At the end of the week, we had to do some harder activities - we rode a lot further and what we had to do was a bit different and harder.

On the 7th of December, the year 5 children visited the Airbus Discovery centre. We had the opportunity to interact with many different scientific objects.

We were split into two groups and we took part in three activities. The first activity we got to explore with some scientific equipment, this included a robotic arm, a plasma ball (this was my favourite part because we got to shock each other) and our challenge was to build a tower to the ceiling! We also had a spinning pole and the closer you pulled yourself in the faster it spun. Our second activity was to create paper rockets and using an air pump, launch them into the air- they went so high! Our final activity was to create a climbing man.

Phebe's favourite activity was creating the climbing man because she has seen other people make them and never knew how to make one herself, so for Phebe this was a great experience. For Chloe, making the rockets was the best part because she said 'launching it up was so much fun!'

By Kai

Most of us found it quite easy but some people might have found it harder. We had to do signals whenever we were turning to let cars know where we were turning and that we weren't going straight on. We learnt new positions - control and sharing - and we had to move into those places during the riding.



Children in Need



What is 'Children in Need'?

Children in Need is the official charity of the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation). It raises money for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. The end goal for Children in Need is to make sure that every child has a safe, happy and secure childhood.

Facts about 'Children in Need':

1927: Christmas Day, 1927 saw the very first BBC radio broadcast appeal for children raising more than £1,300 (around £70,000 in today's money!) for four children's charities in the UK.

2009: The 30th televised appeal
On November 20th 2009 celebrated the 30th televised Appeal raising a whopping £20,309,747!

2019: In partnership with Boots, a new £10 million three year funding programme was launched that will focus on children's emotional wellbeing called 'A Million and Me'.

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event held in the third week of November which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it.

Our school had to wear odd socks for anti-bullying week:



Odd Socks Day is a national event all about celebrating what makes someone unique. It's organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which is a group of organisations, charities and individuals who work together to try and stop bullying.



Who is Pudsey Bear?

Pudsey the Bear, the famous Children in Need mascot, was first introduced in 1985. Designed by Joanna Ball, he was named after the town in Yorkshire where she was born. Originally, he had a red bandana with black triangles, and a slightly sad face. He was updated with a brand new look in 1986, with a white bandana with red spots, and a happier, more positive expression:



To raise money for Children in Need, the teachers came to school dressed in their pyjamas and the children came in non-school uniform!



What is bullying?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

We also learnt all types of bullying such as:

- Mental bullying- which is the act of using words and emotions to hurt someone.
- Physical bullying - which is the use of physical actions to intimidate and gain control over a target.
- Verbal bullying- which is when an individual uses verbal language (like insults or teasing) to gain power over his or her peers.
- Social bullying- which is the use of various means to damage or destroy someone's social relationships.

Remember- Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to bullies safely!

By Phebe





Movember

Movember is annual event which involves growing moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness around men's health issues (such as Prostate Cancer, Testicular Cancer and male suicide). The purpose of Movember is to help men live happier, healthier and longer.



Did you know in 2020, 100,000 men committed suicide?. Shocking right? Whats even more shocking is that the male suicide rate in 2020, in England, was 15.3 per 100,000 men compared to the female suicide rate of 4.9 per 100,000 women. Moreover, males aged 45-49 continue to have the highest suicide rate (23.8 per 100,000).



In order to raise awareness and support men's health, some of our male teachers have took part in Movember, growing moustaches to raise funds to support the cause:

Well done to Mr Blanch, Dr Christie, Mr Harlock and Mr Byford for raising £ 88!



By Veda

Merry Christmas

Christmas is a festival celebrated by Catholics and Christians as well as by many other people. It is celebrated because of the birth of Jesus Christ on the 25th of December. Did you know that It was first celebrated on 25 of December 336 AD in Rome and then spread all over the planet! We call it Christmas because of Jesus Christ's birthday with the names 'christ' and 'mass' which means holy mass.

The ways some people celebrate Christmas are by putting a Christmas tree up , hanging stockings , having Christmas dinner and exchanging gifts. Also, schools as well as many other people all over the UK have Christmas jumper day!

Here are some fun facts about christmas:

- Christmas trees were first used by ancient Egyptians and Romans. ...
- The term 'Xmas' simply means Christmas. ...
- Santa Claus was known as Sinterklaas in Dutch. ...
- Santa Claus did not always dress up in red clothes...
- Baby Jesus received some wonderful gifts when he was born...
- The Christmas wreath is a symbol of love and eternal life...
- Carolling is based on the tradition of wassailing...
- The mistletoe is the symbol of love and laughter!



Why do we have a Christmas tree?

In Christianity, the Christmas tree is symbolic of the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The tree's branches and shrubs are viewed as an emblem of immortality and are said to symbolise the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross.

Why do we give gifts at christmas?

Gift giving at Christmas is a Christian tradition that is widely practised around the world. To Christians, the gifts given at Christmas are symbolic of the tributes made to the baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men after his birth during the story of the Nativity.

By Aseda



The winner of last half terms writing competition goes to

Alys Chambers

She created an excellent, descriptive diary entry- her imagination is incredible!

Dear Diary,

Today with my Time travelling system I decided to take a step into the future, 2040, it must have been winter as the concrete floor beneath my feet was slippery and covered in ice. I also saw a little girl ice-skating happily while dodging every snowflake she could spot. I looked beside me and saw a polar bear sitting by a lamp post staring at me like a hawk (I was terrified then). I was enjoying my time at this winter wonderland and decided to look for some food. I wondered on and saw a restaurant just ahead of me, I looked at the name and it said, Polar Plates, I walked in and looked around me. I thought to myself what a cozy place- there was a fireplace and candles on every table flickering brightly. I looked around and came across a menu so I walked closer and had a look at the options: Spiced Pumpkin soup, Snowflake pie with honey roasted nuts and toasted marshmallow surprise. Drinks: Hot chocolate, Cinnamon tea and finally mulled apple cider. When I walked up, a lady in a black and white dress with orangish yellow tights with a black bobble hat and little penguin on top appeared. I asked if I could have snowflake pie with honey roasted nuts and cinnamon tea. A few minutes later she appeared again. It was my pie with a roasted snowflake on and a mug with tea filled to the brim and cinnamon sticks sticking out the top. I reached out my hand to take them and passed her some money. I walked over to a seat and started to eat. Soon enough my day was coming to an end and I headed over to my time travelling system when I found a campsite with spare kits. I thought to myself it wouldn't hurt if I just stayed for a couple more days.



Can't wait to see what my next adventure will bring!

By Alys Chambers



This Half terms competition:

Can you write a poem about the Seasons- any type of poetry that you like- it doesn't have to rhyme!

There will be two winners- one winner from KS1 and one winner from KS2!

Example:

**Deadline: Friday
28th January-
please hand it to
your class teacher
who will give it to
Miss Garner-
Good Luck!**

In the fall,
We gaze at the leaves.
So many colors,
It's hard to believe!

In the winter,
We play in the snow.
Cold on our fingers,
And cold on our toes!

In the spring,
The birds are all tweeting.
They're hopping and singing
And flying and eating!

In the summer,
We all feel the heat.
We swim at the beach,
And we say, "Life is sweet!"

Changing Seasons

Summer days are here at last,
Days of school are in the past,
Summer skies will turn to grey,
And summer's warmth will fade away,
Autumn comes and leaves fall down,
Winter comes, snow covers the ground,
Spring comes and brings new life,
And ends all of the winter's strife,
All the seasons come and go,
From the summer's heat to the winter's snow...

Can you solve the Christmas riddles?

1. These are found in the *Harry Potter* books and in *Lord of The Rings* too. They help make Christmas gifts that Santa brings to you. What are they?
2. I come with a lot of colours, so lovely and bright. I turn so many houses into a beautiful sight. What am I?
3. Open me every day for something that can't be beat. Behind each of the doors, you will discover a tasty treat. What am I?
4. You place a skirt around my bottom once I've been chopped. On the other end, a star or angel is how I get topped. What am I?

Challenge- Could you write your own christmas riddle for your teacher/parent or friend?