

PRESS GANG

This Year's Press Gang consists of Year 5 and 6 pupils.

From year 5 we have Emmy, Antonia, Ella, Shikana, Amber, Rebecca, Layla, Paris, Nancy and Tiara. From year 6 we have Elizabeth, Kai, Charles, Phebe and Ethan.



Throughout each term, the pupils gather images and notes about events that are taking place both inside and outside of school. They use interviews and pupil/staff voice to help gather as much information as they can. Ms Westwood and Miss Garner help to support them in their writing journey each week in order to create this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy our Autumn 2022 Edition.

Winter Disco

The Winter Disco is always so much fun! YR 1,2 & 3 had there one first and then Years 4,5 & 6 had theirs later on. All the money raised went towards the PTA and when we were there we could also buy snacks and have a choice of

Basketball Tournament

On November 10th, Mr Newlands invited a selection of students (Year 5 and 6) to a basketball tournament held at Barnwell Community Leisure Centre which was against other



sweets, chocolate and crisps. The light up toys, gliders and glowsticks went down a storm! We could also dress up in fancy dress if we wanted to!

The teachers also got to come and support the event. We did a singing and dancing competition and also the conga all around the hall with a little competition between the boys and girls. The DJ we had was super, super funny-whenver he counted to 4 he went, "1,2,3 bananas" as a game, so when he counted to 4 we had to sit down but he would always say "bananas" at the end so we could never sit down! The disco was great!" commented Alex from Year 5. " The choice of music was just right and the snacks even better!"

Thanks to everyone who supported the event this year- we raised over £1000!

Written by Emmy



Schools in the local area. Olivia from Yr6 said, "This was great fun but hard work at times as students from some schools, including Round Diamond, were really tall. There were a mix of teams to play against but it was a huge relief finding out we were in the top 3.

We are very proud of how we got on."

Teddy, also from Yr6 said, "It was fun because I got to play with my friends."



Everyone played really well and The Leys came 3rd out of 12 teams. This was a big relief for many, not just Olivia!

Written by Ella



Bikeability



On the 13th September, some children from Year 5 rode their bikes to school to take part in a scheme called Bikeability.

Initially, they were tasked with seeing how well they could ride a bike and what their understanding of all the elements of a bike were.

On the second day they were all excited to take their bikes out on the path/road and learn about cycling in a safe manner.

Once they were allowed, they cycled over longer distances and this really increased their confidence as Elliot commented, "I am much more confident now thanks to this scheme and will be out and about more often!" Watch out Stevenage!

By Shikana

Diwali- the festival of light

By Tiara



Diwali is the five day festival of light, celebrated by a number of different religions. It is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. It also coincides with harvest every new year as celebrated between mid-October and mid-November.

Why is it celebrated?

Did you know that diwali is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year? It celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and the human ability to overcome. During Diwali, people wear their finest clothes, light up both the inside and outside of their houses with saaki, also known as the earthen lamp, diyas and rangoli, perform worship ceremonies of Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity and wealth, light fireworks, and partake in family feasts, where mithai (sweets) and gifts are shared.

This year, every year group celebrated Diwali. The children in Year 2 and Year 3 acted out the story of Rama and Sita and Year 5 made beautiful rangoli patterns.

Yr 6 Manor Adventure!

Yr 6 embarked on an amazing opportunity on the 31st October 2022.

They stayed away from home for almost a week with their classmates, in Shropshire, staying at 'The Mews'. They took part in lots of amazing activities including archery, an underground maze, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, painting and even a special trick or treat event on the day they arrived. Kai said "It was an amazing experience for us all and I would recommend everyone to try it if they have the opportunity."

By Shikana



Children in Need with Pudsey.

Children in Need is a day we give to charity and the money is donated to help change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. The charity also aims to provide every child with a safe and secure childhood so they have every opportunity to reach their full potential. At our school we donated money to have a non-uniform day where we could wear our own clothes or ones with the mascot on them. The mascot's name is Pudsey and some people, like the children in need, can meet and hug him to help them feel better and at ease. Lots of retail businesses sell clothes for this event and you can also purchase headbands with his ears on or even paint your face to look like Pudsey. Check out what some of Year 5 decided to do!



By Amber

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II, who was our monarch from 1953 to 2022, passed away on the 8th of September 2022. Her funeral was held on the 19th September which was a sad day for many people. Although it was a very sad time, as a school we celebrated the Queen and her success of being the second longest reigning monarch in world history by completing work around her. Many of us completed posters, information reports and portraits to celebrate her life.

Here are some facts about Her Majesty that you may be interested in. Maybe you will discover things you never knew about her!

Did you know, Elizabeth used to disguise herself as a normal citizen? Someone once asked the Queen, "Have you seen the Queen before?" but they were actually asking the Queen if she had met basically herself unknowingly! The Queen replied hilariously "No but he has!" as she pointed at her bodyguard.

The Queen was obsessed with animals, her favourite was of course dogs, specifically corgis, as she owned 13 adorable corgis in her lifetime. See below for a picture of her and her corgis:



Written by
Rebecca



Yr 5 Mars Rover Trip

By Elizabeth Ryan



The Year 5s had an interesting trip at the local 'Airbus'. Airbus is a local station where children get the opportunity to see how outer-space works and more importantly, the students get to see the 'Mars Rover'.

**Quote by Maisy from Riordan Class,
"Designing our own Mars Rover was fun and interesting and seeing the prototypes they had made was magical – a lot of us loved playing the planet game in the activity area, where we jumped on the planets and saw the names of them!"**

Quote by Ella: "It was super fun and my all time favourite activity was definitely rocket-making!"

Overall, the Year 5's had a great time and they all agree that they would go back again!

Written by Elizabeth

Year 6 National Maths Challenge



On Monday 14th November, 10 students from Year 6 sat a national maths test. Thanks to Dr Christie and his guidance, we were all able to complete the test in the time given- despite it being very challenging!

The students who completed the test were Kai, Oliver, Alys, Charles, Ayden, Asad, Jayson, Veda, Ethan and Luciana.

They have received certificates based on their test scores and these were either gold, silver or bronze. The top three contestants were Oliver, Kai and Ethan. Congratulations!

Hopefully, the children will be able to get into the top 1% final round which will be held next year.

Well done to everyone involved! We hope you make it to the final!

By Kai



Mini Police



Year 5 have recently completed a Mini Police awareness course. This is an 8 week course for children to take part in to build trust with communities, promote responsible citizenship and help young people establish an interest and understanding in policing and community safety. Everyone had an excellent time learning about how to be safe on the roads and about others behaviour, especially around Anti-Social Behaviour and how it can impact our community. They were



given a Mini Police hat, jacket and notebook to make notes of wrongdoings they might see on their travels.

During this time, the children took part in a running challenge named the 'Bleep test'. The Year 5's were pitted against Neil and Dawn (the police officers) to see how many levels they could achieve without missing the beep. All of the children found this fun and did really well.

They also presented an assembly to other years in the school to spread awareness of the important elements they had learnt during these 8 weeks.

By Ella

THE COST OF LIVING AND ENERGY CRISIS



The Cost of Living Crisis is a massive thing affecting hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. The annual rate of inflation (a general increase in price) reached 11.1% in October 2022. This is the highest it has

been in 41-years.

After the Covid-19 pandemic and the effects of the war in Ukraine, everything has become higher in price!

It's now more expensive to buy things like heating or use lights and the washing machine.

Surprisingly, the cost of energy bills has risen by nearly a staggering £1500 per year!

Many families are struggling from this new crisis, maybe even you parents or you children who are reading this at this very moment- **remember we are all in this together! Never be afraid to ask for help!**

We have some advice and ideas to help and support you:

How to Budget and Save Each Month

1. Download a personal finance app. ...
2. Take on meal planning and cook at home. ...
3. Use shopping lists. ...
4. Cancel cable TV and trim entertainment costs. ...
5. Reduce your electricity usage. ...
6. Invest in smart home tech and save. ...
7. Purchase refurbished and used items.

Written by Rebecca



Remembrance day **11th November 2022**

As always, at school, we held a two minute silence on Friday 11th of November at 11 am. This occurs every year in remembrance of the soldiers who gave their lives for ours and to mark the end of World War I.

In class, we also took the opportunity to discuss the importance of remembering the fallen each year, and some of our classmates shared the stories of their Grandparents or Great Grandparents with the rest of us. It was so interesting.



Year 6 students went around the school asking for donations to buy the different types of poppies that are sold to raise funds for The Royal British Legion.



We use poppies for remembering the soldiers because it was the red poppies that grew after the soldiers died from the menacing war, although you can use white, purple and black as well for remembering the fallen.

Animals, mainly horses are also remembered at this time for the part they played as well.

We raised a massive £510.44 for The Royal British Legion by selling lots of poppies and other gifts.

Thank you for all your contributions.

Written by Rebecca

Black History Month

What is it?

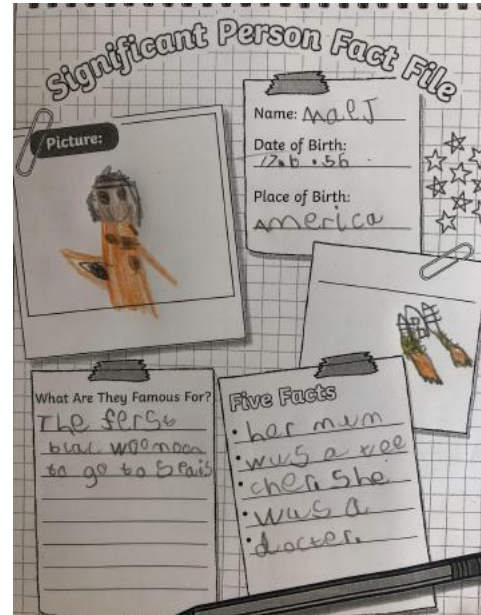
In the UK and all over the world, October, although as a school we celebrate achievements throughout the whole year, marks the beginning of Black History Month. This national celebration aims to promote and celebrate the contributions of those with African and Caribbean heritage to British society and to develop an understanding of Black history.

How is Black History Month celebrated in the UK?

There were celebrations and events taking place up and down the country, including in London. Across the capital, during this month you will find everything from food festivals to music workshops to educational seminars and lectures.

What did we do?

In Year 1 they learnt about the famous astronaut Mae Jemison.. In year 6, they learnt about the Tuskegee Airmen- they were the first ever black pilots - they were also African American. They also created a two page spread on the Tuskegee Airmen filled with many fun facts. Year 5 took time to produce acrostic poems to spell out the names of famous black people including Rosa Parks and Marcus Rashford.



By Charles And Phebe

Anti Bullying week

Anti-Bullying week takes place in England from November 14th to the 18th. Anti Bullying Week was created to help the issues that young people face, mostly in schools, such as bullying and loneliness. To promote awareness of Anti Bullying Week we wear odd socks at school which is actually a great bit of fun but also shows we are all different and it doesn't matter. The children have also taken part in many activities, including designing a new playground in Year 4, which would encourage children to play together, be kind and reach out if they have a difficulty.



Don't you think it's unfair that people have to struggle and go through anxiety issues alone? Well, you can help! To stop bullying you can make posters showing how even a small comment can ruin someone's self esteem and make them feel unhappy. Not only that, but you can talk to people that may be struggling with being bullied or people that bully and don't understand the importance of how it makes others feel.

Sometimes, children of all ages and backgrounds can be a victim of bullying and may struggle to tell their teacher, parent or responsible adult about what is happening and this can lead to depression, anxiety or even social withdrawal.

I hope you can spread this information to friends and support someone that might be struggling. It could be the best thing you can do.

Written By Maya



STEAM Week 2022

What is meant by STEAM week? STEAM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. These are the things we use on a daily basis to create things around us.

Our STEAM topic this term was: How fast can it go? Pupils had to create a self moving car that travelled at least 5m without batteries! We also had a competition to see the most creative car design!



Each class created their own little races to see whose car was the quickest within their class- these winners were then sent to race the other winners from the school. Each class also chose a most creative design from their class which was then also entered into an overall school competition.

There were many entries!!!!

After a very close competition- our winners for the most creative design were Carla from EYFS, Robyn from KS1 and James from KS2. The fastest car winner was Mohammed from year 4! Well done All you put in a tremendous effort!



Written by Nancy

ENTERPRISE DAY 2022

In our school, we do an Enterprise Day each year where all the students create gifts and decorations to sell to enable them to raise funds for the year groups. Here are some of the beautiful crafts we created:

Year 1 made cakes disguised as reindeers. They were made out of chocolate and rice krispies with pretzels as the antlers. These sold like hot cakes!

They also made some Christmas cards with miniature pictures in a frame. Year 2 made Snowman biscuits, Snowman lights and Santa strawberries- they tasted so nice! Year 3 made Reindeer Krispies, snowman decorations and Christmas games! Year 4 created Stockings, Cookies and hot chocolate



cones! Year 5 made salt dough tree decorations which were then painted. They also iced cookies and decorative yarn wreaths.



Year 6- This was their last year of Enterprise Day and they made an amazing job of it! They made so much they had to have their stalls in the Infant hall! They had a huge selection of homemade Christmas cards, badges with Christmas designs on and of course, food, namely fudge and biscuits. My favourite part!

If your parents came you would roam around the year groups and complete the scavenger hunt which involved finding pictures to win sweets. You were allowed to also buy your own things you had made and also anyone else's if you wanted to. Lots of parents came because they didn't want to miss out on what their children had made so thank you very much for your support again.

Reported by Paris



The Importance of Christmas

For Christians, Christmas isn't just about gifts, it marks the day (December 25th) that Jesus was born. It celebrates when God sent his Son down to earth to be the Saviour and for his plan to bring salvation to people everywhere. Christians also think about the 'incarnation' - literally meaning 'in the flesh' - when God became man in the form of the baby Jesus.



Different people celebrate Christmas in different ways. Some will go to Church, sing hymns and carols and pray whilst others may find time in their busy lives to spend quality time with family and friends.

Christians also have Boxing Day which is celebrated the day after Christmas. Did you know that, traditionally, Boxing Day was used by the rich in Victorian times to box up items they no longer needed to give to the poor? This is truly a great time to give back to society and charities if there is something you have been hoarding for a while!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

By Layla



Christmas Holidays Writing Challenge:

During your holidays, we would like to give you a writing challenge. This challenge is optional but we would like as many of you to enter as possible.

There will be prizes for each Key Stage!

**Challenge: Pick your favourite day of the holidays-
What did you do? What was good about it? Who were you with? How did you feel?**

EYFS- Can you draw a picture about your favourite day?

KS1- Can you write a description about your favourite day?

KS2- Can you write a diary entry about your favourite day?

Remember to add as much detail as you can!

Please give your entries to Miss Garner or Ms Westwood in Year 5 by Friday 13th January.

