

Kilby St Mary's

C of E Primary School

Newsletter

December 2023

Rebecca Hartshorne. Headteacher



'Together , we are learning to live life in all it's fullness' John 10:10

Christian Value Focus: Honesty

British Value Focus: Democracy

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very long term this term with many things for our little school to be proud of! The first one being, our wonderful 150th celebration in October. It was such a wonderful event and how lovely to think we are now part of the history of the school. Here's to another 150 years! If you haven't yet had a chance to watch our film it is on the website, so please take a look.

The performances by Oak and Willow children in their production of 'Woolly' were brilliant and I was particularly impressed by the fantastic singing on show. It was lovely to enjoy some Christmas Spirit with parents and grandparents. A personal thank you to all the staff for their hard work pulling off this show.

Today was a festive celebration of carols around the tree which was such a lovely morning. During it, teachers identified someone from each class who has made a tremendous effort with their reading over the term and they received a special gift to mark this. Well done to all our winners. We also awarded the Art awards for this term. Take a look at our gallery the next time you're in school to see the wonderful work on display.

Many of you will be aware Mrs Rankin has been off sick since before the summer holidays. She has made the difficult decision to hand in her notice. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work and dedication she has given the school over the years and personally, the help and guidance in my first year of headship. We will all miss her terribly but find comfort in knowing that she will always be a part of our school community through her grandson who is at Kilby. We wish you all the best Mrs Rankin and send you love.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Governors have appointed Mr Howard as Senior Teacher. He has already made a huge impact on Kilby School since he started in August and I am delighted he will now take a key role in supporting me with School Improvement. He will also deputise in my absence when required. Congratulations Mr Howard!

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rebecca Hartshorne

Travelling Cribs

During Advent, travelling cribs will be made their journey to all the families at Kilby St Mary's for one evening. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and I would like to thank you all for engaging with this activity so positively. The photographs were delightful to see. If you do find a piece of the nativity hiding under your tree when you pack away your decorations, please return to school - no questions asked!!



Christmas Tree Festivals

We hope you were able to get along and see our wonderful 'Victorian Christmas' tree in either Fleckney or Foston churches. Our children put in a lot of hard work to recreate authentic Victorian decorations. It is now proudly displayed in the hall for us all to enjoy. Here is a letter of thanks from Foston Church.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and decorated the Church so wonderfully. You will be pleased to know that we made a record amount this year despite the weather.

The Friends of Foston are most grateful for all your efforts and want to say a big THANK YOU for helping to raise funds for the maintenance and repairs of our beautiful 10th Century Church.

This year's total was £1676.50.

Looking forward to seeing you again in 2024. Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Jacky Brookes - Secretary
Friends of Foston*

Our School's Christian Vision

'Together, we are learning to live life in all its fullness ' John 10:10

"At Kilby St Mary's we care for all God's children, unconditionally. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) resonates with our school community because all members of our school family are valued and respected. Each child is individually known, enabling us to ensure that every child achieves their very best."



Christingle



What a great turn out for our Christmas church service there was! It was such a special service and children all enjoyed making their own Christingle. The gasps of delight around the church, as we dimmed the lights and the glowsticks were lit, to remind us of Jesus the light of the world, was wonderful.

Our next Church service will be Easter - we'll confirm the date and time at the beginning of term.

Oak Class News

In Oak Class we have been having a very busy and exciting December as we prepare for the Christmas season! We have been finding out the reason Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have thought about how the baby Jesus, who we consider at Christmas, grew and became the Jesus who performed miracles and healings later in his life. We looked at photos of ourselves as babies and talked about how we grow and change as we get older.

The Nativity rehearsals have been great fun and I am sure you will have heard many of the songs being sung at home! We hope you really loved watching the final performance, we certainly enjoyed showing you!



Willow Class News

Firstly, Willow Class would like to say a big thank you to the Friends Of Kilby for funding our school trip to the farm. We had the best time and learnt lots about the farm. We were lucky to have met some Reindeers and fed some farm animals. Thank you to all the parents who joined us on decorations day. It was lovely to welcome you to our classroom. The classroom looks bright and beautiful!

In Art, we have created some artwork inspired by the artist Paul Klee. We have been fascinated about his work. In maths, we have been working practically and deepening our mathematical knowledge. In literacy, we have been looking at poetry. The children have written some wonderful poems. We have been busy performing our nativity play. The children have done an exceptional job and as teachers we are very proud of them!



Maple Class News

Maple children would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Kilby for their recent trip to Windmill Farm. Although the weather was not on our side they all thoroughly enjoyed it. They especially liked feeding and petting the animals.



The children all enjoyed the Christmas party, playing games, singing, dancing and laughing. We all had a great afternoon.



Thank you to all the parents who came to the decorations morning. It was a productive and enjoyable morning.



Rowan Class News

Rowan class spent two days at the end of November on our residential at Beaumanor Park, as part of our outdoor and adventurous education programme. We learnt how to read maps for orienteering, how to build shelters and bridges. We all had a great time and enjoyed a night away from home, in the dorms with our friends.



Back at school, we have been continuing our studies on Viking boy by Tony Bradman. We had a video call with the author, which was really exciting. He told us all about how he came to be a writer, the process he goes through, showed us his 'Viking Boy' notebook, read a chapter to us and told us about his next projects. Thank You, Tony!

We had an classroom PE session, where we learnt some basic Yoga movements and how to use our breath to relax!

Windmill Farm Trip.

Thank you to Friends of Kilby who fully funded our Christmas trip to Windmill farm. A great day was had by all.



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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Trim Trail Update... The children enjoyed watching the repairs taking place to the trim trail. It has been cleaned and it looks like new! The children are very excited to play on it again when we return to school in January. Thank you to the Friends of Kilby for raising the money to fund the repairs we are extremely grateful.



Dates for your Diary

13th – 18th Dec Scholastic Book Fair

14th Dec 9:30am Oak & Willow Class Nativity Performance 1

14th Dec 2:00pm Oak & Willow Class Nativity Performance 2

21st Dec Christmas Dinner

22nd Dec 9:00am Carols around the tree Followed by coffee & mince pies

22nd Dec School Closes

Mon 8th January 2024 School Opens

Mon 19th – fri 23 Feb Half term

Thurs 14th March IEP meetings

Fri 22nd March School closes for Easter

Mon 8th April School Opens

YEAR 6 SATs WEEK BEG 13th MAY 2024 All Children MUST be in school

December Birthdays



Jaxon Phoenix Eden Kai Gabriel Amaya

Happy Birthday from Kilby!