



20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



Before we finish for the term, I wanted to provide an update and some photographs of all the activities that have taken place in the last few weeks. I think after the last two years of disrupted Christmas events we have all welcomed the chance to get back to our normal busy festive celebrations. Of course I also needed to include a snowy picture – the children had such fun outside last Monday!

### Music concerts

The choir took part in the St Albans Primary School Carol concert at the Abbey at the end of November. It was a beautiful service and we were pleased so many parents and carers came to join in too. The photograph is of the 3 shepherds from Camp School who helped form the living tableau during the service.



Last week was a very musical one in school. We had a whole school singing assembly, which was such fun we are going to do it all again today, especially the children's favourite Feliz Navidad. The guitarists in school also entertained us with a rendition of jingle bells. On Friday we had 2 piano concerts so that all the students could play for their parents and the rest of the school and they did a fantastic job. All the children in Year 4 also played a piece for us on the fife which they are learning this year. Unfortunately on Friday we also had to say a good-bye for now to Cynthia Millinger who has been teaching piano and fife in school but starts her maternity leave after Christmas. We look forward to meeting the new member of the Millinger family soon.



### Performances



At the end of November Year 2 put on their winter performance of 'The Great Fire of London' linked to their topic learning this term.

Then last week we had 3 performances from Nursery and Reception of their production 'It's a baby'. It has been lovely to share in these productions and hear the children singing with such enthusiasm as they retell the stories.

### Christmas

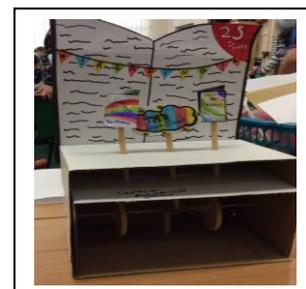
The Christmas Fair was very busy on 10<sup>th</sup> December – thank you for coming along to support this key event. Along with the festive fun run, a non-uniform day, the wreath making workshop and various cakes sales the PA have had a very busy term. We really appreciate all their efforts and are very grateful for the funds being raised for school.

What a lovely whole school trip to see Hansel and Gretel at the SandPit theatre yesterday. It was a great show and the children really enjoyed it. It was so nice to see how well Year 5 looked after their Reception buddies during the morning, helping them on and off the coach and sitting next to them in the theatre.

We had to take the beautiful decorations off the tree yesterday so that we can return them to you to add to your trees at home and I can try to decide on a winner – such a tricky job. Thank you for all the creative ideas this year.

### Curriculum Focus

Learning in the classrooms over the last few weeks has included a real Science and Design & Technology (D&T) focus. Year 5 went on a trip to the Science Museum and have also had a Greek day in class to end their topic learning. Nursery have been looking at melting and freezing and Reception had a 'dark day' where their learning all day was done by candle light, imagining what it must be like to be a nocturnal animal. Year 1 have learnt about Hanukkah and the Christmas cards they have made include a moving part which was part of their D & T learning. Year 2 spent some time in the forest using all their senses before they wrote their own version of Rapunzel. They have also all made a car with an axle and chassis in D & T. Year 3 have also been sewing in their D & T sessions plus making Stonehenge out of biscuits for their topic learning. In Year 4 the children have been turning different texts (narrative and poems) into play scripts, including giving stage directions. They have also been cooking in their D & T sessions making flat bread. Finally Year 6 have been focusing on geometric patterns in art and have then made their own tiles to use for printing. They have also been getting to grips with using cams – very challenging but so rewarding when they got them to work. Lots of excellent examples of bringing learning to life for the children.



We have also recently had focused visits from all our Governors into school. Each governor is linked to a subject and they had a meeting with the subject leader, visited a lesson and then talked to the children about their learning. This was a great opportunity for our governors to see the curriculum being taught and hear from the children about how their learning builds over time.

### Sports events

There have also been so many sporting fixtures taking place that Mr Wootton and the Sports Council have produced a separate sports update for you (attached).

### Dates

Next term starts on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Doors open at 8.45am and all children must be in school ready for registration at 8.55am. Half-term is from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February. We finish for the Easter holidays on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1.30pm.

Attendance will continue to be a big focus in the term ahead and no holiday outside of term time can be authorised.

I am also pleased to update you on the arrival of 2 baby boys. Charlotte from the office welcomed baby Rowan to her family at the end of November and then, in early December, Alison Rapson had her baby Isaac. We look forward to them visiting us in school soon.

Finally, I want to wish all our families a very enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday. The children have all worked hard and I know are ready for a rest as I am sure you are too. We look forward to seeing you back on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

With best wishes

Sharon Barton  
Head Teacher