

Dear Parent and Carers,

Gosh what a busy term this has been! We have seen many wonderful activities taking place and on reflection I am amazed at how much we have packed in.

This term we have extended our pupil roles to having a team of Restorative Justice Children support others during unstructured times, such as lunchtime. We have found that this group of Year 5 and 6 children effectively listen and support others when they need it and have worked extremely well amongst our team of play leaders. Some of our team also had the chance to share our Restorative Justice with children from other schools, training them on questioning techniques, supporting children to understand how others feel and modelling appropriate behaviours.



In November we paid tribute to our fallen soldiers, through a respectful and beautiful remembrance service. All children came together with staff to mark this important moment in our history. Our Community Head pupils read moving poems and we shared our art work from each class. The children honoured the 2 minutes silence and took this time to reflect.



As well as this, we have also started our ambition to "Make noise about Bullying". This started during Anti-bullying week and through a series of lessons and assemblies the children explored how we can use super powers to support others. The children had many wonderful ideas ranging from teleportation, invisibility to catch things happening, flying so that they can remove anyone from harm. This highlights how caring our children are and how they would like to make our school fun and enjoyable for all. On 23rd November our KS2 children were also paid a visit by Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine. The children headed off on an exciting adventure with Captain Wonderweb and his trustworthy crew as they explored the distant stars and, more importantly, what makes for safe web surfing. In their adventure, the children learned all about internet safety, delivered in a fun and engaging way. The show delivered a crucial message for our children who are all growing up in this digital age. This amazing team will return to Grove Park in January to work with our KS1 children.

Throughout Term 2, we have also taken part in a number of fundraising events, such as Children in Need, and HSA Christmas fete. From these events, we raised over £2000 for our school and £1994.64 for Children in Need. Thank you, this means a great deal to us and your support has been amazing.



We would like to thank the HSA for their wonderful efforts again this term. Not only have they given us a festive Christmas Fete, but also held Elfridges for our children. They set our school hall up into a lovely gift workshop and were very busy elves indeed. Without their hard work and commitment, we would lack many resources for our school. So on behalf of us all, thank you for making Grove Park a wonderful school.

Finally, we ended the term with many wonderful festive highlights. The nativities and performances were outstanding, especially from our Year R pupils. It is moments like this that, as parents we cherish, I hope you enjoyed them as much as we all did.

A big thank you to the kitchen staff and lunchtime staff, who enabled us all to have a wonderful Christmas dinner. It is never easy cooking for lots of people, but especially on a busy day like this one. We all enjoyed it and had lots of fun.

This year we ended our Christmas week with class parties, where the children had a special visit from Father Christmas and his Elf. Thank you to the HSA for helping us to fund a gift for every child, we hope they enjoy their new books over the festive break.



Parental Engagement

Thank you to all of the families who attended parents evening this term. These are valuable meetings and we appreciate you spending the time with us. If you haven't had a meeting with your child's teacher and would like information, please let us know and we can arrange a suitable time for contact to be made.

We also welcomed Key Stage 1 families to a Phonics workshop, hosted by Mrs Barney, our Phonics lead. This meeting talked through our phonics scheme, Little Wandle and how you can support your child at home with early reading skills.

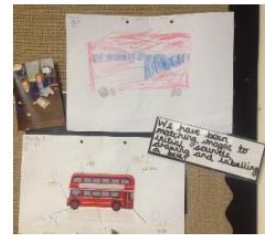
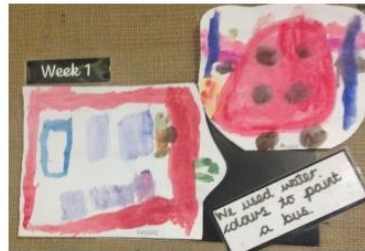
Finally, our SEND team hosted the first of a series of workshops for parents to talk about our SEND offering and the provision for your children. The first meeting was a meet and greet time for families to meet our team and moving forward we will be holding sessions regards different topics. All parents and carers are welcome, please do look out for the information for next term.

On behalf of all the staff, we thank you for your generous gifts and wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you all back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.



Term 2 in Polar Bear Class

This term we have read the story The Naughty Bus. We took our buses on their own journey and wrote about this, we drew maps for our bus, labelled a picture of a bus and created art work and junk modelling of buses.



The Numberblocks have been helping us to learn adding numbers to 5. We have been using part part whole models and tens frames to represent amounts in different ways. We have been writing our own number sums and using numicon to make them.

We have been practicing our Nativity to perform to our grown-ups. We have had to learn lots of songs and words.



We have been 'artists' and used different resources to create our own pieces of art.



In DT we had fun making and tasting our own vegetable soup!



We use vegetables to create art work to make a whole class Poppy wreath which we then took out to share as part of our whole school Remembrance parade.

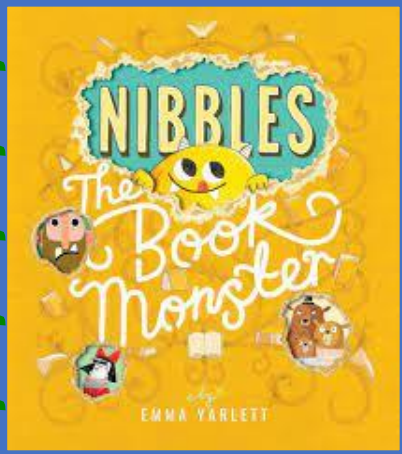
We had fun dressing up for Children in Need and raising money!



Puffin Class



This term, we have had a problem with Nibbles the book monster! He has been nibbling his way through lots of traditional tales, including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have really enjoyed following Nibbles' adventures.



In science, we have been learning about materials. We have sorted materials according to their different properties and found objects in the classroom made from different materials. We did an investigation to see which material would be the best to make a new cape for Little Red Riding Hood. We found that plastic would be the best as it is waterproof and



In our discovery work, we have been learning about castles. We have looked at many different castles in the UK and have labelled the different parts. We have had great fun designing and building castles from lego, duplo and junk materials. We even made a working drawbridge!

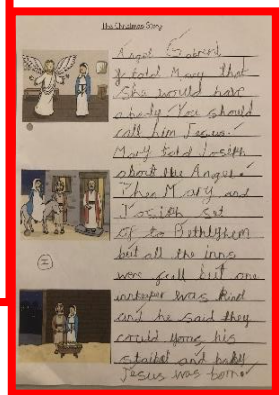
On Friday 1st December, we were so excited when it snowed! We tried catching snowflakes and making footprints in the snow. Sadly, it didn't last for long.



We all contributed to making a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.



We have been learning about the Christmas story. Well done to Ameerah for a lovely retelling!



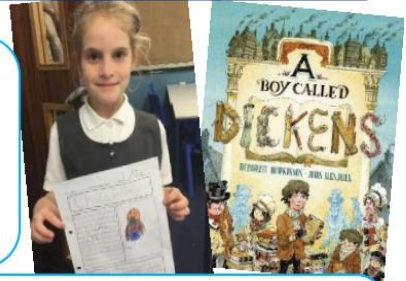
Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Ameerah, Delilah, Faisal, Freddie, Harper, Jack, Malachi, Michelle, Rueben and Kady.



Year 2 - Snowy Owls

Term 2 has been an exciting term, filled with magic and lots of Christmas festivities. Our discovery learning has been based on Charles Dickens and The Victorians and we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about another era of time.

Our writing text this term was 'A Boy Called Dickens'. The story, based on Charles Dickens, helped us to understand the early life of the famous author and how his upbringing shaped his later work. We researched and learnt about his later life and wrote non-chronological reports all about Charles Dickens.



In geography, we have been learning all about the continents and oceans and what countries make up the United Kingdom. We then learnt about Rochester, after learning that Charles Dickens grew up there. We explored the points of interest of the city and used them to create our own maps of Rochester, signs and symbols included!



Within our Discovery lessons, we have studied Queen Victoria's reign and now understand where the Victorian era sits on a timeline. We have learnt about how different life was for Victorian children and the jobs that children used to do. We learnt about Victorian schools and workhouses and compared the life of the rich and the poor in lots of different ways, fashion included.

We also learnt about famous inventors during the Victorian time and explored other significant people including Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. In DT, we made bridges using paper. We learnt a variety of folders to make our bridges stronger and tested their strength with coins. In maths, we learnt all about money have started our learning on multiplication and division.



The term has also been filled with lots of Christmas activities. We have made Christmas decorations and cards and enjoyed seeing what naughty things our elf, 'Snowflake', has been up to! We had huge amounts of fun playing in the snow and have loved rehearsing for our Christmas nativity.

A huge congratulations to our class value winners for the autumn term:

Harrison, Hope, Isla, Isobel, Calvin, Isobelle, Laila, Emelia, Layton, Frankie, Scarlett, Lottie, Darcie and Zelda

Next term, our topic will be 'Ice'.

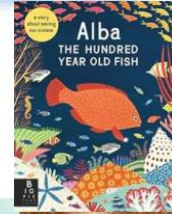
Our PE days will also be changing to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has warm weather clothes in their PE bags.

Narwhal Class

This term Narwhal Class our topic was 'Deep Deep Down'.

We have been reading a book called *Alba The Hundred Year Old Fish* and learning about plastic pollution in our oceans. The children know why it is important for us to recycle, reuse and reduce our plastic use and have made pledges to try and help our planet.

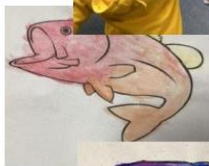
The children have produced some great writing this term and are learning to incorporate inverted commas (speech marks) and paragraphs into their writing.



The children have really enjoyed getting creative this term. With the plastic that the children collected from home, they were able to design and make their own sculptures. We saw a huge range of sea creatures including crabs, jellyfish and even a narwhal!



The children also learnt how to use watercolours to paint different types of fish. They really started to grasp how to blend colours together.



Towards the end of the term, the children got into the Christmas spirit and made their own Christmas cards and Christmas decorations. They learnt how to do a simple running stitch and although some children found this a little tricky, they were really proud of what they created! It was really lovely to see the amount of children that took part in the creative homework task too—their work looked fantastic.



Other topics that the children have learnt this term:

- Science—we have looked at human and animal skeletons
- French—how to say items inside our pencil cases
- Computing—touchtyping
- PSHE—Do not discriminate or be a bystander
- RE—What light and dark mean to us
- Maths—we have been learning to multiply and divide by 2, 4 and 8

Aside from the curriculum, we took part in Remembrance Day, Pudsey Day and Christmas jumper day!

Autumn term value certificates went to the following children:

- Respect—Hudson, River and Alex
 - Resilience—Harry, Ellie and Francesca
 - Responsible—Brianna, Lily and Sophia L
 - Resourceful—Poppy and Zara
- Our champions who showed all four values were... Holly and Jack!

Arctic Fox

This term we have continued our learning journey around our Discovery topic of Rainforests. This term we have looked at the rainforests of Central America, including the Ancient Civilisation of The Maya. We have learnt about the origins of The Maya, their way of life and how they developed their kingdom over time. Did you know the Ancient Maya invented chocolate!

Our Science topic this term has been Living things including their Habitats. We have looked at keys and classification, as well as animal and plant adaptations.



This term we have based our writing on the book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea', by Jeannie Baker. We continue to focus on developing our cursive handwriting, sentence structure and spelling. We are developing our dictionary skills further, as we explore and use more vibrant vocabulary in our writing.

Earlier in the term we took part in our whole school Remembrance Service. We worked together to create our class poppy wreath using our printing and painting skills.



At the beginning of the term we showed off our knowledge of the different layers of a Rainforest, and the animals that live in each layer. We used our collaboration and creative skills to create these amazing dioramas.



Each term during PSHE, we reflect on the diversity through our No Outsiders scheme of work. This term we have thought about the story 'Along came a different' by Tom McLaughlin and created some amazing posters celebrating being different.



Respect Responsible Resilience Resourceful

Congratulations to our class Value winners
Alfie, Ava H, Daisy, Ella, Hayley, Jenson, Oliver,
Tommy and Ernest.



Just a reminder that yellow reading records need to come into school every day please. Thank you

Next Term our topic will be
'Steaming through time'

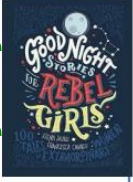
Our PE days will change to
Monday and Wednesday
Please can PE kits return to
school in the first week of the
new term, and include warm
outdoor clothing.



Year 5 - Snow Leopards



Linking to our topic, in English we have been reading 'The Queen of the Falls'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading about Annie Edison Taylor's death-defying feat of going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. We have had some fantastic debates, which the children all participated in and have all produced many different styles of writing. In Reading, we have looked at 'The goodnight stories of the rebel girls', and each week the children have enjoyed learning about many different inspirational women from all eras and



Our topic this term has been Inspirational People. The children have demonstrated some fantastic understanding of this, and produced some amazing classwork and homework. We have explored many famous and inspirational women and looked at their stories. The children particularly enjoyed acting out the Rosa Parks story. We had an interesting discussion about whether Rosa Parks did the right thing, despite getting herself arrested.



In Science this term, the children have looked at animals including their habitats. The children have learnt a lot about different lifecycles and the changes that humans go through.

Also, this term we have looked at the following topics:

- Art - We have used our printing skills to make our Remembrance Day wreaths
- Music - We have enjoyed practicing for our carol concert.
- RE - We have explored the big question of 'What influences religions on how to dress.'
- PE - We have enjoyed doing hockey and learning many skills involved with this sport. We have also shown great teamwork and strength with our gymnastics this term - we are able to complete many different balances.



In Maths, the children have shown great resilience when faced with tricky learning. The children have looked at tables and graphs, multiplication and division and ended with looking at perimeter and area of different rectilinear shapes. The children have particularly enjoyed using rulers to measure the perimeter of different shapes. We even took our learning outside to walk around the perimeter of the playground!

As something special this term - year 5 have had the opportunity to meet Gordon Henderson, as he visited to celebrate the Grove Park winner for the Litter Angel's competition!

Congratulations to our value certificate winners this term - Poppy-Lynn, Noah, Harvey, Keira T, Aaliyah and Sarina.

Year 6 - Reindeer Class



Well done Reindeer Class for taking on the responsibility of delivering an amazing remembrance assembly to Arctic community – you were all excellent role models for our school!



This term we have continued with our topic of World at War. We have learnt about further key events during the second world war such as The Battle of Britain and The Blitz as well as delving deeper into those we had discussed last term. We have been linking our learning through discovery history and geography of these events with many art & DT work pieces along the way! We revisited our learning on watercolour painting, developing this further into mixed media using chalk and silhouettes of London buildings to create our Blitz scene. We have also linked this learning to the famous artist Paul Nash, recreating one of his famous pieces ourselves. After seeing an Anderson shelter on our school trip last term, we have learnt more about their purpose and how they were made to be able to create our own using our DT skills.



Linking to our topic, in English we have been reading Friend or Foe. We have produced various styles of writing considering the journey of the evacuee children and discovered new information about various British and German planes in the War to create our own fact files. We have shared class reading of this story, discussed vocabulary, and made inferences from the text for our Pathways to Read sessions. Along with this text, we have continued reading 'When we were warriors' from last term.



During Term 2, the children have been working hard in maths on their fractions and geometry. We have continued to show great resilience as a class to grasp some challenging concepts, remembering our helpful tips for dividing fractions (KFC - keep, flip, change!). We will be revisiting adding and subtracting fractions again throughout the year as a focus.

$$\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{1} = 2$$

KEEP CHANGE FLIP

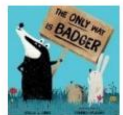
In science, we have learnt about Thomas Edison, who created the light bulb, linking our learning of light last term to our new topic of electricity. We have been creating our own circuits in class to form our investigations and test our predictions.

A huge well done to Mia, Bethan, Amelia, Cayden, Jake, and Krish for being our values certificate winners this term.



Other topics that the children in Year 6 have been studying this term:

- Food (French)
- 'Choose Your Own Adventure' stories (Computing)
- No Outsiders storybook & Respect (PSHE)
- Gymnastics & Hand Ball (PE)
- Christmas Carol Concert songs (Music)



This term we took part in Anti-bullying week and have continued this over the term, looking at Banter vs Bullying, reaching out and we have created our own songs for this too! Linking onto this we took part in a self-esteem workshop, reminding us of the importance of looking after our wellbeing and believing in ourselves.



We are looking forward to making more memories with your children in Term 3 to start our new topic 'Please sir, I want some more', including our trip to Rochester Cathedral and the Guildhall Museum.

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Further Notices

We would like to share a few staffing changes that have taken place, we welcome Mrs Fisher, who will be working alongside Mrs Barney in Puffin Class. Mrs Fisher will be working every Thursday and Friday and will now take the place of Mrs Yiangou who left at the end of Term 2.

Over Term 2 we welcomed, Miss Overy to our EYFS team, Miss Altringham to Year 1 and Mrs Sieber to Year 5. All are experienced professionals and have had a great start to Grove Park. We also welcome Mrs Bird to EYFS soon, as another member of team and have Mrs Salter returning from her maternity leave and will also be working part time in EYFS.

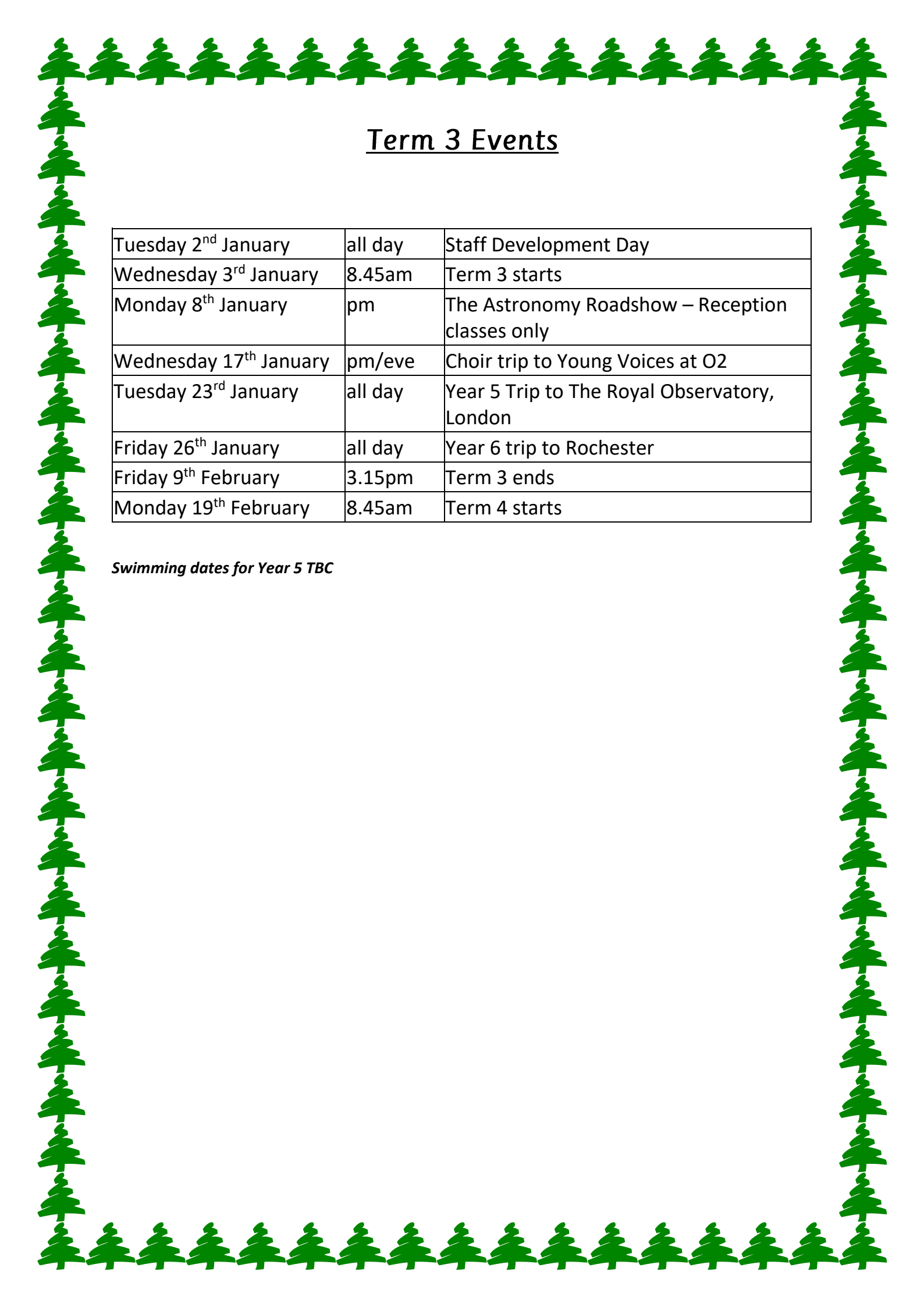
We would also like to make you aware that Mrs Elmer, in Ostrich class will be undertaking a placement visit and will return in Term 4. Mrs Grady and the rest of the staff remain the same for your children.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our parking restrictions and regulations. Sadly, we have received a number of complaints from our local residents who find it hard to access their properties during peak times, as vehicles are blocking access. I appreciate that parking during these times can be challenging, but politely ask that our children arrive and leave school calmly and that we respect our local residents. Thank you.

Finally, we held a flag competition for each community. The designs are incredible and we thank each and every child for participating. The Trust team have looked through the entries and selected a few designs that will be taken, merged and made into the community flags soon. Here are a few of the successful designs that will be created into a shared community flag.





Term 3 Events

Tuesday 2 nd January	all day	Staff Development Day
Wednesday 3 rd January	8.45am	Term 3 starts
Monday 8 th January	pm	The Astronomy Roadshow – Reception classes only
Wednesday 17 th January	pm/eve	Choir trip to Young Voices at O2
Tuesday 23 rd January	all day	Year 5 Trip to The Royal Observatory, London
Friday 26 th January	all day	Year 6 trip to Rochester
Friday 9 th February	3.15pm	Term 3 ends
Monday 19 th February	8.45am	Term 4 starts

Swimming dates for Year 5 TBC