



THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2 - DECEMBER 1ST 2024



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

COMING UP IN DECEMBER 2024...

- Christmas Fair & Pantomime in school**
Thursday 5th December
- Last week of Autumn term workshops**
Monday 9th December
- Christmas Jumper Day**
Thursday 12th December
- Whole School Christmas Disco**
Friday 13th December 4:15-5:45pm
- Minster Church Christmas Carol Service**
Tuesday 17th December 9:30am
- Year 3 trip Horniman museum**
Wednesday 18th December
- Last day of the Term**
Friday 20th December
- Children Back to School**
Monday 6th January 2025



School Values

DECEMBER



The Bible is full of stories where Jesus shows how showing love to each other and to God, is the most important value and commandment.

“Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

Find out how these stories depict love. Share with your family at home or with your teachers in school:



**The Story of the Baby Moses
Exodus 2:1 - 10:**

The Bible says that God is love, which makes the Word of God the perfect source to know what love means and how we can be loving people.



**The story of Ruth and Naomi
The Book of Ruth:**

The month of December is also a special month because Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the fount of love.

Think about what you will do this month to show the true spirit of Christmas, which is all about sharing and caring.

The Nativity Scene: The birth of Christ.

**DEAR LORD,
HELP US TO BE LOVING
TOWARDS ALL
CREATION, EVERY
WAKING MOMENT.
AMEN**

ATTENDANCE STARS

This month's **CURLEWS!**
attendance stars are:

**WITH 96.8%
ATTENDANCE**

**COURTEOUS AND COOPERATIVE
CURLEWS-CONGRATULATIONS!**



Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 12th December 2024

Please wear your Christmas
jumper instead of your school
jumper and donate at least
£1.00 - Thank you in advance!



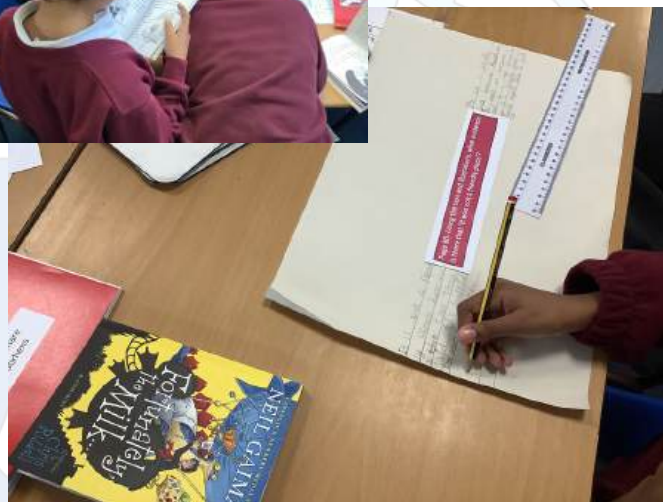
YEAR 3 - CAUGHT READING!



It is a simple tale. Mum leaves town, and when the kids wake up, there is no milk in the house, so Dad goes to get the milk, and he doesn't come back for a rather long time (long time in kid terms—in adult terms, maybe an hour).

When he returns, the bored children ask what took him so long. **So, Dad explains...and that is the story.**

And to the delight of Year 3 they are enraptured in the most comical and farcical tale!



Last term, Year 3 completed some detailed sketches of Bell Beaker pottery.

Over the past two weeks the children have been learning to mould and make clay malleable. They have made pots and etched detailed patterns. **For a first time attempt they have done terrifically and their pots look similar to those in the Neolithic period.**



YEAR 3 - SCIENCE!



In science the children have been learning how to 'talk like a scientist'.

Using their observation skills and sentence stems Year 3 have identified different reasons why we need a skeleton. They have also started to identify the different parts of a skeleton in both humans and animals.



ODD ONE OUT!



YEAR 4

Thank you to all of the parents that attended Parents' Evening; this is key to your child's development and learning.

In our literacy lessons, the children have been exploring the theme of Shackleton's Expedition, where they have creatively written different genres including a diary entry and participated in role-playing activities. This has not only enhanced their writing skills but also deepened their understanding of historical events and the experiences of explorers.

In Science, we took an exciting trip to Wandle Park to investigate the fascinating world of mini-beasts. This hands-on experience allowed the children to observe and learn about different species in their natural habitats, fostering a love for the environment and scientific inquiry.

We are also thrilled to introduce our **Spanish lessons** through Language Angels, where the children are enjoying learning a new language and culture. Their enthusiasm for Spanish has been wonderful to see!

In our spelling sessions, we are focusing on consolidating the children's spelling abilities, enabling them to write quicker with greater accuracy. We kindly ask for your support in encouraging them to practise at home, particularly with any incorrect spellings they may encounter.

YEAR 4

Mathletics

Additionally, **we are continuing our practice of times tables;** this is the bedrock for much of the learning in maths. Regular practice at home will greatly benefit the pupils as they work towards mastering these essential skills.

Thank you for your continued support in all our learning endeavours. Together, we are creating a vibrant and engaging educational experience for all.

We look forward to your attendance at the Christmas activities and if possible, make a donation to the tombola stall.

YEAR 5

This month, Year 5 has had an action-packed and unforgettable time, filled with exciting activities that brought our learning to life! We began by continuing our exploration of the fascinating taoties. The students showed off their creativity by crafting their very own taoties using clay and plasticine. The intricate patterns they imprinted were stunning and demonstrated their keen attention to detail.

A highlight of the month was the incredible opportunity for a group of Year 5 students to attend Whitgift's Primary Outreach Programme. Over the course of the week, the students immersed themselves in a variety of hands-on activities that explored technology and beyond.

They programmed microbits to send personalised messages to one another, created stop-motion animations using LEGO, and directed a Sphero ball to escape a maze. They also learned to use Excel spreadsheets and even designed their own games on Scratch!

Alongside these tech-focused activities, the students broadened their horizons by practicing sign language, learning basic Mandarin (ask them to say "hello" next time you see them!), conducting experiments on reversible and irreversible reactions, and trying out fencing. **The week was packed with exciting opportunities that left the students buzzing with new skills and memories.**



YEAR 5

While some pupils were at Whitgift, the rest of the classes took an inspiring trip to the V&A Museum to deepen their understanding of Ancient Chinese dynasties.

They were captivated by the museum's stunning artefacts, which included ceramics, intricate clothing, and detailed designs.

To make the experience even more engaging, the students participated in a treasure hunt to locate a ceramic vase adorned with a taotie. This activity was a fun and interactive way to connect their classroom learning with the real world.

This month has been brimming with discovery, creativity, and hands-on experiences that have left a lasting impression on Year 5.

It's been a fantastic time of learning and adventure that we're sure they'll remember for years to come!



YEAR 6

Swimming Lessons

Children in Blue Hub and Yellow Hub have now completed their two weeks of swimming lessons at Waddon Leisure Centre.

Pupils in Green Hub will begin their swimming lessons shortly after returning to school after the Christmas holidays. As well as being an important life-skill, fun and an excellent form of exercise, swimming is a compulsory part of the P.E. curriculum, with all children expected to be able to swim 25 metres by the end of Year 6.

If you'd like to experience swimming at Waddon Leisure Centre's modern pool or would like to sign-up your child for more lessons, call 020 8760 0657



YEAR 6

Class Worships

All three Year 6 classes performed their class worships in October, all of which followed this year's Black History Matters 'Reclaiming Narratives' theme. As well as watching some impressive acting we were also treated to the children's singing.

Yellow Hub's worship (3rd October) looked at the achievements of one of the UK's first black footballers, Walter Tull. Born in Folkestone, Walter's footballing talent was noticed when playing for Clacton and was soon offered a contract playing for Tottenham Hotspur. Regrettably, Tull's life was cut short soon after enlisting to serve in the army during World War One.

Blue Hub's worship (10th October) examined the important role 'The Bristol Bus Boycott' played in paving the way for the passing of 'The Race Relations Act' of 1965.

In the performance, we saw how black and Asian people were routinely denied careers as bus drivers in Bristol during the early 1960's, despite there being a shortage of drivers and many of the applicants having ample experience. Due to the bus boycott and public demonstrations, trade unions moved to enforce equal rights which opened jobs all over the country to black and Asian workers.

Green Hub's worship looked at the discrimination faced by black American sailors in World War 2, when they were forced to handle munitions without any appropriate training.

Unfortunately, more than 320 sailors and civilians died at Port Chicago (California) when explosives were accidentally ignited. When the surviving sailors refused to resume loading ammunition without safety training, 200 of them were placed on trial for mutiny, resulting in 50 of them serving 15 years in prison.

YEAR 6



READING

BOOKFLIX

Reading at The Minster Junior School.

If you are looking for some Christmas reading inspiration, have a look at our book chart!

Age 6-8



When Bunny, Monkey and friends discover that all of existence is a virtual reality simulation, life gets a little bit crazy! Bunny declares himself... (Read the Blurb to find out more!)

Age 9-11



It's the night before Christmas and all Christmasaurus wants to do is help Santa and the Elves get ready for the big day. But everything he does goes disastrously wrong. Then, someone special shows him that things don't need to be perfect to be wonderful.

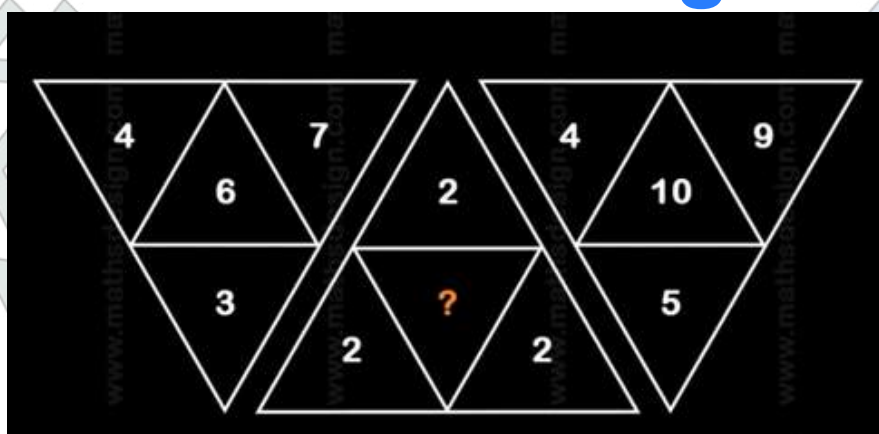


They don't belong with their adoptive family, where all their cousins are named Lavinia. And after getting kicked out of the last Etiquette school that would take them, the girls expect to be sent away for good... until they receive a mysterious invitation.



Christopher is stunned when he discovers a passage to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live and breed and thrive in their thousands. There he meets Mal: a girl from the islands, who is in possession of a flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being pursued by a killer.

Maths Challenge:



Puzzle of the month: What is the value of ?



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