

SAXON WAY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue No. 16 | December 2023



Dear Saxon Way Families,

As we come to the end of term, I want to thank you all for the continued support that you have given to the school. We have so many wonderful moments to reflect back on so far this year including the Griffin Sports Festival, where our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school and won two gold medals as well as an improved success with our mini youth games.

I thank you all for your support that you have given our fundraising campaigns this year.

We have raised over £600 with our Pudsey Bake Off and Remembrance Day donations as well as a whopping £888.36 from our Christmas Enterprise Day! Pupils will be given funds to improve their classroom reading books or resources for playtime games.

Finally, we have a hugely successful Santa Fun Run and, so far, raised over £338 for our chosen charity 'Young Minds' to support children's mental health services. This gives much needed money to charity which is appreciated even more given the current cost of living crisis.

It has been lovely to see you all in school at our Christmas events including the Carol Service at the Cathedral and our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Nativities. Our Key Stage 2 pupils also enjoyed performing in the Carol Concerts. We look forward to many more opportunities for our families to visit school in the new term.

We have changes to the Year 6 team as we say goodbye to Mr Williams, who is relocating to Lincoln, and Mrs Clarke who is moving on to new adventures.

To support the Year 6 pupils, Ms Smart will be teaching the Year 6 reading groups. Mrs Hayward will be moving to Fitzgerald to support Year 4 pupils and we will ensure she continues to maintain relationships with key pupils from Year 3.

We are pleased to confirm the Christmas voucher scheme will be going ahead this year. The voucher value will total £15 for each eligible child. These will be released at the beginning of next week. The vouchers will be for £15 per child. Please check your spam if you cannot find them in your email inbox.

That just leaves me to wish you a very magical Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Be safe and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th January 2023.

Jen Vidler-Ironmonger





Celebrations



A huge well done to the following children that have been celebrated in celebration assembly this term.

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Jasmine	Johnny-Alfred	Lexie	Amelia	Akshaj	Keoghn
George	Damian	Isla	Talula	Esther	Fatimah
Harvey	Darasimi	Kalyn	Ishan	Atilola	Horus
Khaleelulah	Lenny	Nancy	Nassir	Junior	Hamza
Harvey	Kendra	Dyako	Umar	Charlie	Sara
Ronell	Blake	Het	Ryley	Eli-Reggie	Millie-Rose
Julian	Sam			Dylan	
Jordan-Jay	Harry			Summer	
Lara	Olivia			Jasmine	
Hallie	Delano			Archie	
Radvin	Teodora			Alexis	
Millie	Ivy			Harrison	



Key Dates

Thursday 4th January	- Start of Term 3
Friday 5th January	- Mercury Class swimming starts
Wednesday 10th January	- Tea and Toast in the Wellbeing Centre
Thursday 11th January	- Shakespeare Class Sharing Assembly*
Monday 15th January	- Term 3 Clubs Start
Thursday 18th January	- Brunel Class Sharing Assembly*
Friday 19th January	- Mini Youth Games Swimming
Thursday 8th February	- Mini Youth Games Table Tennis
	- Darwin Class Sharing Assembly*
Friday 9th February	- Last day of Term 3



(*parents are invited to the sharing assemblies and they start at 2.40pm)



Nursery

Carle Class



This term Carle class have really enjoyed learning about celebrations and traditions , we celebrated Diwali by looking at different rangoli patterns and had the pleasure of being actively involved in national nursery rhyme week. Nursery also enjoyed taking part in all the festivities leading up to Christmas.





Year R

Attenborough and Donaldson



This term FS children have had a jam packed term exploring different celebrations. We began by celebrating Diwali. We explored using clay to make traditional diya lamps, used lots of natural resources to create Rangoli art and spent an afternoon food tasting.



We then dressed up in Pudsey and spotty clothing to raise money for Children in Need. The children enjoyed decorating spotty biscuits, and of course eating them!

Rehearsals soon began for our Christmas performance of Snowy Chums and preparing for Christmas. Our role play area was transformed into a post office, the children all practised their writing to send letters to Santa, and then took a walk to the post box to post their letters.

We have ended the term with a pyjama party and parents got the chance to look through children's work books and share a hot chocolate and homemade gingerbread men.





Year 1

Curie and Kahlo



This term Year 1 have been learning about celebrations. We learnt about firework safety and the history of Guy Fawkes. Next we learned about Hindu and Sikh festival of Diwali. As part of this we made Rangoli patterns and clay divas.

After that we learnt about what Christians believe and celebrate at Christmas.



We sequenced pictures to help us to retell the story and performed it in our Year 1 Nativity which we hope you all enjoyed.



After all the hard work learning and rehearsing songs and lines we ended the term with a fantastic Santa Fun Run.





Year 2 Nightingale

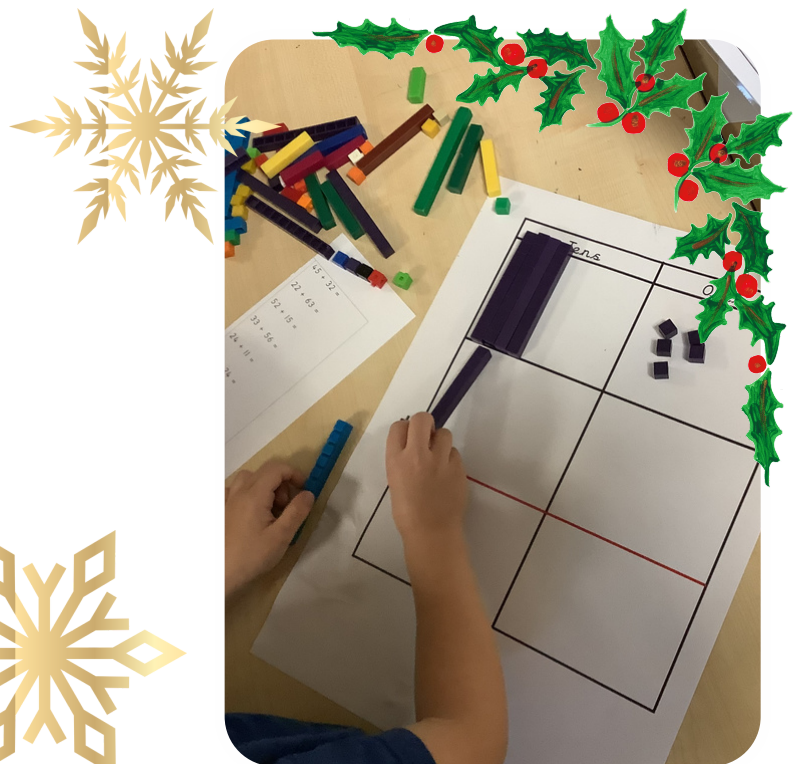


Nightingale class has had a fantastic and exciting term. In English, Bob - the man on the moon, visited us from space and sent us some letters. He left a trail of moon dust footprints in our classroom. He asked for our help and then we wrote letters back to him!



We also learnt all about Ernest Shackleton, then we wrote fact files on him focusing on the features. In Maths, we have learnt how to add and subtract using different methods. In Geography, we learnt about the five oceans through learning a song and the capital cities of the UK. We have had lots of fun too with our Christmas Pajama day, Christingle service and Christmas Carol Concert.

All of the children have worked incredibly hard this term and deserve a relaxing break over the Christmas Holidays!





Year 2

Shackleton



Shackleton class have had a fun filled term, we explored different places all over the world. We even had a visit from the man on the moon!

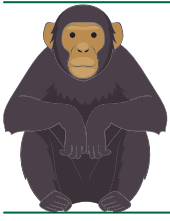
In English we learnt how to write letters to Bob (The Man on the Moon) and included all the features correctly. We then learnt all about our class and wrote fact files about Ernest Shackleton, we loved hearing all about his expeditions and the ships he travelled on!

We loved making ferris wheels in DT, it was hard work but we showed great resilience and had some amazing final pieces!

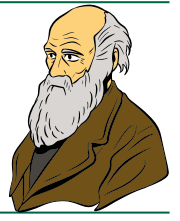
To finish the term we had an amazing Christmas PJ Day where we travelled on the polar express to the North Pole!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Year 3 Darwin



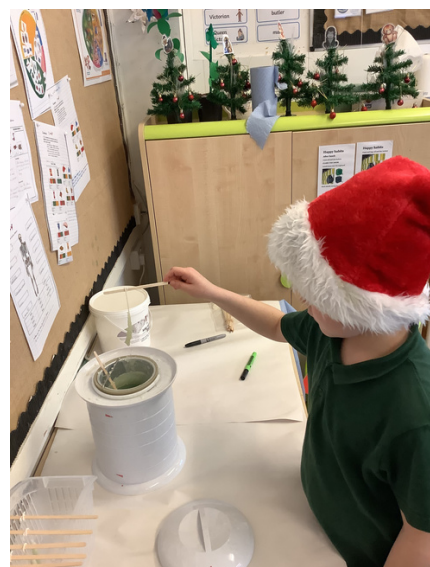
Darwin class this term was enjoying the Winter Wonders topic.

In English we were reading two great books- The Princess and the White Bear King (by Tanya Robyn Batt) and a captivating, rhyming picture book retelling of Charles Dickens' classic tale about the true meaning of Christmas.



Children were working on using adjectives, similes and adverbs to describe characters. They loved acting out the key events of the story at Kent Life during the date with Charles Darwin.

In science we were learning about skeletal and muscle systems and covered some aspects of healthy eating. Children enjoyed learning about the countries of the UK and their capital cities.





Year 3

Pankhurst



This term has been focused on ice and snow with our two focus stories having wintery settings.

The children were excited to see a short snow shower outside and handle the ice left behind even though it didn't last for long.

We have been looking at information texts in guided reading and learning about their features. During our history and geography lessons, we have explored the climate in the Arctic and found out what a settlement is and discovered the differences between a city, town or village. As one of our focus texts was originally written by Charles Dickens, we also investigated life in Victorian times, finding out about life for the poor, comparing schools then and now as well as looking at how Christmas was celebrated. Our trip to Kent Life brought this to life and the children had a great time visiting the many workshops and making candles.

In English, we have been focusing on forming sentences carefully and punctuating them accurately. The children have learned how to use prepositions to describe where things are and speech marks to show when somebody is speaking. Spelling has also been a focus this term and the children have been able to recognise some homophones to help them to choose which spelling to use. They have enjoyed using similes to make descriptions interesting as well as discovering new vocabulary.



In Maths they have been learning to recognise right angles in shapes and identify when an angle is smaller or larger than this. They have learned how to measure accurately with a ruler and find the perimeter of a 2d shape. Learning times tables is a really important skill and the children have been enjoying doing this through Times Tables Rockstars. They have also developed more understanding of what multiplication and division mean through different activities in our lessons.

Our Science topic offered more opportunity to compare life now with that in Victorian times through considering what a healthy diet looks like and how different parts of our body work together. The children were fascinated to see how bones and muscles work to keep us upright and help us to move.

We finished the term with our own fabulous feast created by the children.



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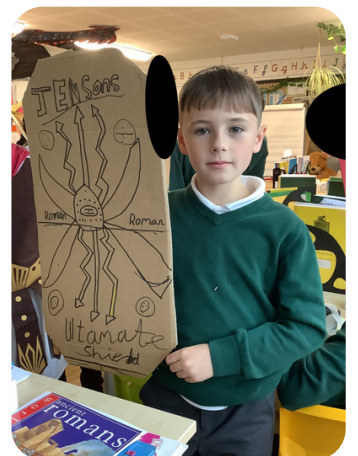
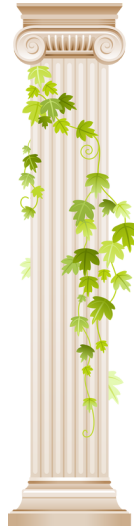
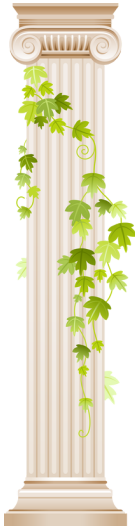


Year 4 Brunel



What an exciting term 2 we have had! We had a wonderful day taking part in our Roman workshop, experiencing what it was like to be a Roman soldier, how they marched and the orders they had to follow. We enjoyed a Roman feast too, and tried some of the foods the Romans would of enjoyed when they had their social gatherings.

Our Roman topic helped us to learn different skills in our English lessons, including writing a non-chronological report on our findings of Roman life. We have been working hard to include fronted adverbials, direct and indirect speech within our writing.



In RE we have been learning about Christianity, the Christmas story and the origins of the Christingle. We had fun creating our own Christingle too.

Science has been very interesting, learning about electricity, its uses and of course how we keep, safe. We made circuits from different components to make the current flow to light a bulb.

Of course we have been busy with our Christmas festivities, making biscuits, decorations and things to sell at our enterprise fair. We have learnt the skill of cross stitching too.

In maths, we have been working hard to learn similarities in the 3, 6 and 9 times tables, and using these new skills to help better our scores on TTRS. We have had great fun understanding what the area of a shape is and how we use our multiplication skills to work out the area.

Our PE lessons have been very active, as we have been learning how to play tag rugby, safely as a team. We have also been moving to different styles of music in different ways, to show our understanding of creating drama through movements when we reenacted the famous story, 'Escape to Pompeii'.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and fun Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

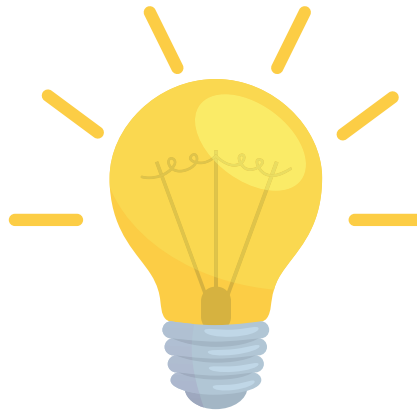




Year 4 Fitzgerald



Fitzgerald class has had an amazing term 2! We have been learning all about the Romans and had a wonderful day experiencing what it was like to be a Roman soldier. We learnt how they marched and what sort of orders they had to follow. On our Roman day we also dressed up, made shields and had a Roman Banquet, enjoying some of the food that they would have eaten then. We have extended our Roman topic into English, writing a non chronological report on our findings of Roman life and Roman inventions. We worked hard to use our skills including fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and also using indirect speech in another piece of written work.



In RE we have been learning all about the Christmas story as part of Christianity. We made our own Christmas decorations and had fun making Christingles.

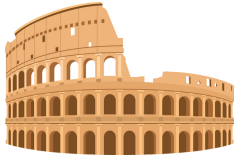
Science has been a real learning journey. We have learnt all about Electricity, and can now make simple circuits, using different components to make a bulb light or a buzzer buzz! We learnt about how we can make the light bulb brighter by using more power and how switches are an important component of a circuit as they help us to control electricity usage.

We have busily prepared for our Christmas fair during enterprise week, completing activities including baking Christmas cookies, making Christmas decorations and of course making our wonderful Christmas hoops. We have also this term completed cross stitching activities to recreate a Roman cross.

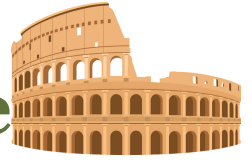
In maths we have been persistent and tenacious with our learning. We practiced using our multiplication skills to find areas of shapes, and worked hard to find the similarities in the 3, 6 and 9 times tables. Of course every weekend we have also been practicing on times tables rock stars and have made great progress getting faster at answering multiplication sums.

PE and Music have been very active, learning how to play tag rugby and also looking at movement in dance so we could act out through dance the story of Escape from Pompeii.

I am so proud of Fitzgerald class and all they have achieved this term. I wish everyone a restful and joyful christmas break and look forward to our new adventures in 2024!



Year 5



Mercury and Shakespeare

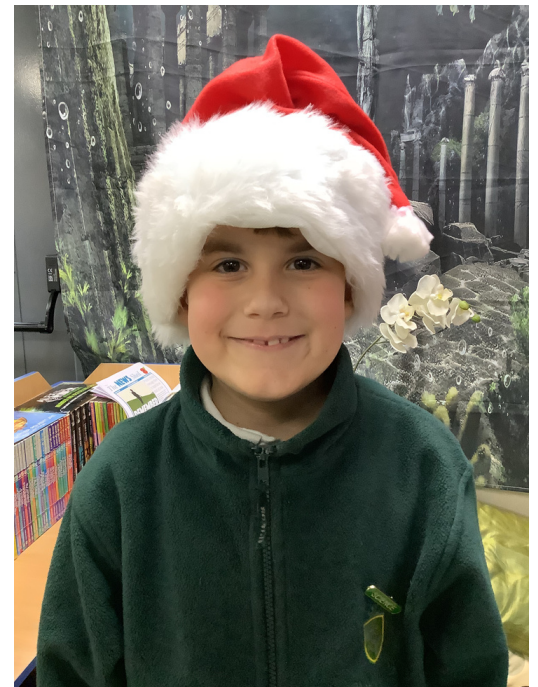
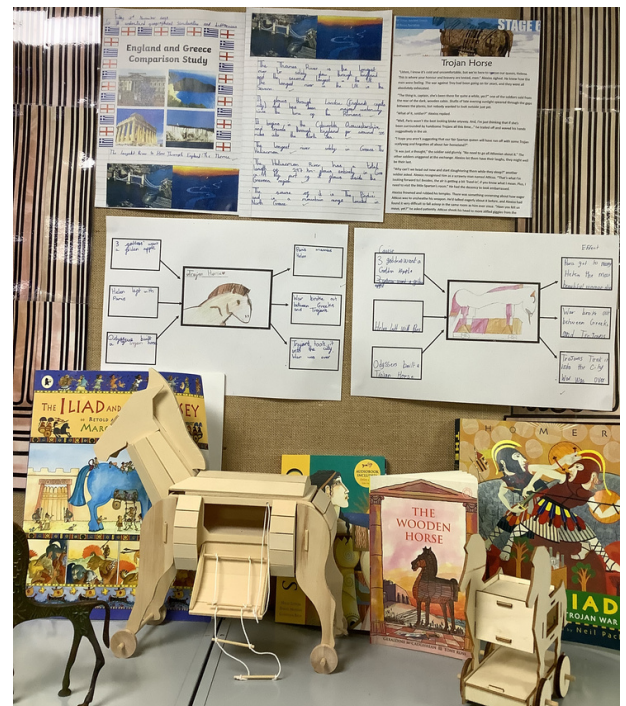
This term Year 5 have been learning about the Ancient Greek civilisation and how it all began.

By learning lots of the foundation and creation myths this helped the children to understand how the Ancient Greek's made sense of the world around them.

Some of the favourites being: Zeus and the Titans, Theseus and the Minotaur, Pandora and Medusa the Gorgon.

Our book of the term was: Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief, which had many twists and turns along the way with a fabulous quest to find Zeus' mighty bolt.

We finished the term by watching the film to enable us to compare and contrast the two. We concluded that the book had far more detail and was much better than the film.



Year 6

Hawking and Williams

Sophie: 'On our trip to the trenches I learned that soldiers would use tinned milk in their tea, which made it really sweet and delicious.'



Sammy: ' The trench trip was really fun, the gas claxon was really loud. I enjoyed the artillery lesson- in fact the whole trip was really fun!'



Scarlett: 'I learned that there were rats as big as cats that lived in the World War One trenches, and I included this simile in my setting description. I also enjoyed going into the officers dug- out and seeing where they slept.'



Music



The school choir were involved in Medway Music's annual Christmas Carol Concert at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 5th December. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to sing in such an amazing venue like Rochester Cathedral, even if they were a little cold! All the children involved represented the school so well and we are extremely proud!



A small school choir made up of year 5's and 6's had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Griffin Children's Chorus Carol Concert at St Giles Cripplegate, near the Barbican Centre, on Thursday 7th December.

Choirs from all 12 schools in the trust participated in what was an amazing and magical Christmas experience. Singing a mixture of traditional and modern versions of carols, the children not only had an enjoyable and fun packed day but also used their growth mindset to learn and perform some quite challenging songs.



Meet our Wellbeing Team



Mrs Lloyd
SENCo

My name is Mrs Lloyd and I was a Key Stage 1 teacher at Saxon way for 9 years before taking up the role of SENDCO in May this year. In my role I oversee the provision of SEN across the school, and liaise with teachers, parents and outside agencies to ensure that all children have what they need to succeed.

Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors exploring with my two sons.



Miss Betts
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

I am at Saxon Way on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I am here to support parents, carers, families and children in lots of different ways. If families are being supported by external agencies or professionals and are accessing support through plans, I am here to help with plans, meetings and next steps.

I can help with all aspects relating to safeguarding and aim to answer any questions or enquiries relating to safeguarding. I give children time within school to talk through any worries or feelings they may have and also love to take time to hear about the children's successes, stories and adventures. Please come and find me if you need any help with of this.

I live in Medway with my family, I have two daughters who are 11 and 6. They keep me very busy! I love watching my daughter play football and we love being outside, playing sports and exploring! Apart from spending time with my family, my favourite things to do are reading, cleaning and camping!



Miss Whitton
Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Hello! I have been Saxon Way's Wellbeing Co-ordinator since 2022. I live in Medway and love watching football and I support Chelsea. I mostly enjoy watching my younger brother play football on a Saturday afternoon.

I enjoy going shopping, dancing, the gym, walking outdoors, travelling and spending time with my family.

I work with children for emotional and social interventions such as lego therapy and Hamish and Milo - a wellbeing intervention to support looked after children and children across the school with social and emotional needs.

I am also a healing together facilitator. This is to ensure children impacted by domestic abuse are able to access early trauma informed help.



Mrs Busby-Kirk
Pastoral Co-ordinator

Hello! I have enjoyed meeting all of the pupils and parents since I joined Saxon Way in April. I live locally and enjoy spending time with my husband and two children.

My role as Pastoral Coordinator means I support the children and families within our school. I am a qualified ELSA (Emotional literacy support assistant), a Hamish and Milo well-being champion, and I have a qualification in understanding children and young people's mental health.

I have 1-1 or group sessions with children to support them with any social, emotional and mental health needs. I am here for a quick chat if a child needs it, or they will have a tailored session to support them through difficult situations such as, bereavement, stress and anxiety at home or school, or family separation.

I have worked with many children, and supported families with behaviour in the home and seeking additional support in the home from the positive parenting program. I am based in the Well-being centre and I look forward to getting to know many of you through one of our upcoming coffee mornings or stay and play sessions with your little ones.

