**Friday 30th November 2018**

**This week at Brindishe Manor**

We have had an extremely busy week at Brindishe Manor with lots of visits and visitors.

**Year 4** visited the Queens House in Greenwich on Thursday, where the children took part in 2 different workshops relating to the history and art of the Tudor period. The staff at the Queen’s House complemented Ms Wilmot and Ms Snaith on how well the children participated in the workshops and how great their contributions were.

**Amethyst and Ruby classes** all enjoyed a fascinating talk by Felicity Aston, a Polar explorer. Felicity talked about her travels; the difficulties she has come across in her expeditions and her meeting with a polar bear! The staff and children found the talk fascinating!

**Science** – This week Topaz class had a science workshop delivered by students from UCL (university College London). The children had a fabulous afternoon learning more about density and concentration, which they had started last year.

**Year 6 visited Lee fire station** to take part in the ‘Hazard House’ workshop. The workshop is designed so that the children can begin to prepare for their transition to secondary school. They heard information on stranger danger; keeping yourself safe on public transport and how to look after your own property, such as mobile phones when out on your own.

**Message from the school office**

**Nativity Performance**

Reception and Key Stage 1 have been busy rehearsing their Nativity performance, which is on December 12th and 13th. Tickets have now been distributed to families.

We have looked again at the number of tickets available for each performances and have decided to offer an additional performance for each class group. The additional performance will be in the same week. If you have children in both performances we can offer you tickets for both, so that you can see both / all of your children perform. If your children are in the same class group then you will not need additional tickets, as you will have already requested tickets for the performance of your choice and will see your child/ children perform.

We will send a letter on Monday to parents and carers who have children in **both class groups,** offering these tickets.

**Nursery Winter Workshop**

We are looking forward to seeing our Nursery Parents and Carers on 14th December for the children’s Winter Workshop. Families will be able to take part in winter crafts with their children and may hear a festive tune or two!

**Fantastic attendance this week!**

Key stage 1: Amber 96.6%

Key stage 2: Sapphire 97.2%

**Dates for your diary:**

**December 3rd ‘**Turning of the Year’ concert at Blackheath Concert halls6:30pm

**December 5th** Reading and Writing workshop for Nursery and Reception

 parent/carers

**December 6th** Chamber choir concert at the Church of The Good Shepherd

**December 7th**  Winter Fair from 3:15pm

**December 12th &13th**  Key Stage 1 winter performance

**December 14th** Nursery Winter Workshop & ‘Dress Festive’ Day

 Christmas lunch for R, KS1 & KS2

**December 17th &18th**  Key Stage 2 winter performance

**December 19th**  End of term

**January 7th**  Start of Spring term

Have a lovely weekend!

Kate Porter

Headteacher

**In class this week…**

**Each week we would like to share with you what each year group has been focusing on in class and offer some ideas on how you can support your child over the coming week.**

**Nursery…**

This week we have been practicing mindfulness and have paid particular attention to our mind, body and soul. The children have taken part in story telling yoga which requires us to tell a story whilst stretching our bodies. You may like to try this at home by typing cosmic kids into YouTube. We have also explored colour mixing with paints to create amazing ‘Jackson Pollock’ style art.

***Please, as a kind reminder, can you check your child has a full set of clean clothes to change into when and if necessary.***

*Next week we would like to cook challah bread as we learn more about Hanukkah. The ingredients we will use are yeast, olive oil, eggs, salt, sugar and flour. If your child has an allergy to any of these ingredients please let us know.*

**To help parents and carers to support children with early reading and writing there is a workshop for our families in Reception and Nursery on Wednesday 5th December at 9:15am or 6pm.**

**Reception…**

In Reception we have learnt the following sounds so far; s, a, t, p, i, n, g, o, c, k, ck, e, r, u. It would be great for parents/carers to consolidate these sounds with simple CVC words, for example; run, pick, ten. A possible way to reinforce this at home could be to use magnetic letters on a magnetic surface (like the fridge).

We have been looking at the number 5 this week thinking about how we can see it and how we can make it (such as 5 fingers, 5 cubes, 5 toys, 5 spoons). **Can you think of a song using the number 5?**

We are enjoying practising all of the songs for our Winter performance. If parents/carers need more information on what costumes to bring in, please feel free to speak to your child’s teacher.

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**In Year 1…**

The children have been busy working on their animal non-fiction books. They have written about what their animal looks like, what they eat and where they live. They are also making sure that their sentences are clear by checking back to see if they are using capital letters, finger spaces and a full stop. ***Can they tell you all about their animals? Can they use some of the scientific vocabulary when talking about specific animals? For example, “Elephants eat grass, twigs and small plants. They are herbivores!”***

We are continuing to explore different strategies for subtracting numbers. This week the children have been applying these in solving word problems and making sure that they link it with their number bonds. Can they find objects at home and write subtraction number sentences? (E.g. 6 cars: 6 – 4 = 2 or 10 twigs: 10 – 5 = 5)

Please make sure that guided reading books are returned each week – we only have a limited number. Thank you to everyone who helps their child to complete the short task we set in their purple Reading Response book each week.

**In Year 2…**

Year 2 have had an exciting week: we met a real polar explorer! Felicity Aston came in for a workshop with Year 2 (and Year 5). She was very impressed by the mature questions that the children asked. She told us what to do if we encounter a polar bear, why she was followed by a waddle of Adelie penguins and all about her next adventure to the Himalayas! In English, Year 2 have been writing letters. Ruby class have been telling the time in maths and Amethyst have been working on division. We have also been rehearsing our nativity performance; ***remember to keep memorising and practicing your lines at home!​***

**In Year 3…**

​Year 3 have had a very productive week! In maths we have been learning our 4 time tables through fluency, problem solving and reasoning. We will move onto dividing by 3 and 4 next week. The children are becoming much more confident with their times tables and being able to apply these to other areas of problem solving.

In English this week, we have been completing the plans for our non-chronological reports on The Stone Age to Iron Age. ***Why not try this weeks Mymaths task on the 4 x table?***

**In Year 4…**

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the Queen's house on Thursday. We were so impressed with their behaviour and manners on the trip. The children took part in 2 workshops, one with a historian and one with an artist. Ben, who was the historian, taught us how to pick out symbolism in art and what they mean. We were shocked by the fact that the things that you see in paintings, do not actually have to have happened the way it is portrayed because it might have been added for effect. For example, in the famous Armada Portrait of Queen Elizabeth, we don't know for certain that she was wearing the heavily embellished clothes that are shown in the portrait. It could have been done as a symbol of her power and wealth! ***Over the weekend you could research other famous pieces, maybe by the Tudor artist Hans Holbein and see if you can spot any symbolism in his work.*** Thank you again to the parents and carers that came along on the trip, it is always helpful to have extra adults to support the children.

Rehearsals for the winter performance are well on the way. The children are very excited about their performances and have been warming up their singing voices this week to make sure they are well prepared.

**In Year 5…**

This week, Year 5 were incredibly lucky to attend a workshop with Felicity Aston. They thought she was incredibly inspiring. She shared her stories and we now all know how to scare polar bears away!

We have continued using persuasive techniques in our writing and have linked this to our topic on climate change.

We are working on converting fractions to decimals; ***help your child consolidate their learning by asking them to explain how to do this.​***

**In Year 6…**

In Y6 this week, rehearsals have begun in earnest for our winter performances!  Letters will be going home today detailing the little bits of costume that we'd like the children to wear.  We also have musical parts and narration to be learned. Our tip is always to practice any lines that the children have with them in one room and for you to be as far away as possible, then make them bellow the words loud enough that they can be heard through walls and around corners!  Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

**PSFA NEWS**

Just a week to go until the school Christmas Fair! Next Friday, 7th December, after school until 5:15pm.

We are still looking for volunteers - if you can give an hour of your time to help out, and make the Fair extra-special, please contact us on brindishemanorpsfa@gmail.com. All offers of help are really appreciated.

We also need donations - **cakes and red wine** (for mulling) for the refreshments stall, (new, unused**) items for the tombola**, particularly children's items. Please drop off tombola items at the office any time, and bring any cakes/wine on the morning of the 7th December to the school office.

And don't forget to buy (and sell!) your **raffle tickets** - they have gone out in Book Bags, but there are plenty more in the office if you're feeling lucky!

We can't wait to see you next Friday afternoon for a lovely festive afternoon!