

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I can't believe that we are already a third of the way through the school year and have reached the Christmas break - these first two terms have flown by, but with some of the weather that we have had recently, maybe this should not be a surprise!

I need to start with a personal thank you to you all for the warm welcome that you have given me at Bobbing. When I started, I set myself a personal goal to be able to name every child and most parents by Christmas - although I have 'not quite met' both parts of this target, I have got to know a large number of you, and it is always lovely to see you all in the mornings at the gate. I will keep working on names, but in the meantime please continue to talk to me about any issues you or your child/ren are having, and I will do my best to sort them out.

Our assemblies so far this year have been focused on our Values; being Respectful, Responsible, Resourceful and Reflective. Our children have learnt a lot about these qualities, and it is lovely to hear them using those words around the school. I feel strongly that our children should have fond memories and be proud to have been part of Bobbing Village School when they leave us, so adding in additional opportunities to represent our school has been started already. After electing the class councillors and then Head Boy and Head Girl, we have held school council meetings, and our views have been taken to Trust Parliament where decisions can be made, and actions taken. During these meetings our children also play a key part in keeping our school a safe place, liaising with the site team to make them aware of any issues that they have noticed, and then the site team send back a report of the jobs that they have carried out.

We have also had children represent our school in a number of football matches against other schools, and without wanting to break our run, both the boys' and girls' teams are having a great season and have achieved some brilliant results.

Upcoming responsibilities will include some children being trained as Restorative Justice Ambassadors, Play Leader training, as well as other sporting teams and events.

The most recent opportunities that our children have had to represent our school were through our Christmas celebrations. Last week, Zog Class (who have only been in school for 13 weeks) stole the show with an amazing performance of the Nativity - to have the confidence to speak and sing in front of an audience showed how well the children have settled, and how well they are already bonding as a class, and building new friendships.

Then this week, children from Years 5 and 6 stayed after school and performed a Carol Concert by Candlelight to their parents - those who were there will know how I felt, but our children were an absolute credit to their parents, to our school, and the singing with the acoustics of the Church building, just made it a very special event. We would like to thank Sue Sampson and the volunteers from the Church for letting us use the building, for setting up additional seating to fit us all in, and for providing refreshments on what ended up being a damp and chilly evening.

Our Friends of Bobbing Village School (FoBVS) have also had a very busy start to the year, holding their AGM, organising an Autumn Disco for all of the children, and then a Christmas Fayre in the hall this week, all of which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Using some of the money that they have raised, they have already bought some additional Kindle Fire devices to support our AR quizzes and TT Rockstars activities, and are looking into buying us a new camera for the school so that we can capture more of the activities we do in school, and share these through our website or Facebook page. We really appreciate everything our FoBVS do for us, and the effort that Mrs Wicks and her team put in behind the scenes - it was lovely to see so many volunteers helping at the Christmas Fayre, and we are always happy to accept more. If you would like to find out more, or can offer support at one of our future events, please contact Michelle through the FoBVS Facebook page, or come and talk to one of us and we will point you in the right direction.

As you may have already seen, we were lucky enough to be donated a brand new oven and hob unit which was installed in our school kitchen. We have also been working with builders to design some low level units and a wash basin to be installed in the corner of the hall, with the aim of increasing the opportunities for our children to learn valuable life lessons regarding cooking, food preparation and healthy eating. More information will come out about these exciting opportunities, but we would again like to thank Autowash for the donation and installation of the oven, and we look forward to seeing whether we have any budding chefs within our classes!

During the first term we were also lucky enough to appoint a new HLTA to join our staffing team. Mrs Cotta was made very welcome, fitted in really quickly and now regularly teaches in most classes over the course of a week to make the cover of the class teacher more consistent for the children.

Sadly, as we reach the end of term, we have to say goodbye to Mrs Ives who has been working in Leeds Class. We wish her well in her future role, but also know that she has offered to stay as part of our team and volunteer in classes when she can, so I am sure the children will still see her around the school. In exchange for this, we welcome Mrs Price to Leeds Class - many of the children will know her from being our dinner lady/Joint OPAL Lead as well as all the volunteering that she has done, especially those who have attended Forest School. We are pleased to welcome her to our class teams, when we return in January.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils, their families and our staff for everything that they have put into these first two terms.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year!



Mr T Harwood  
Head of School

# Castle Community Term 2 Newsletter 2023

I always love this time of year. The children arrive in the morning with little red noses from the frosty weather and talk excitedly about the antics of their cheeky little elves. It truly is a magical place to be. Our festive fun was kick started this year with 'The Nativity' play by Zog Class. The children had a great time rehearsing and working as a team, they really did put on a show. Here are just a few photos of some of the things everyone at Castle Community have been up to over the past few months.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and hope you manage to spend it with your loved ones making memories that will last a life time.

Happy holidays! Mrs Barnett- Community Lead xxx



## Forest School

Year 5 had an amazing few weeks with Miss Harwood at Iwade. They love mud and they managed to find a lot of it!

During their last session they learnt about fire safety and then put their learning into practise and made a delicious hot chocolate with marshmallows!

Imogen- "Forest school is really fun, I loved using the tools to make things. We made soap out of conkers by using a hammer then peeling the skin off."



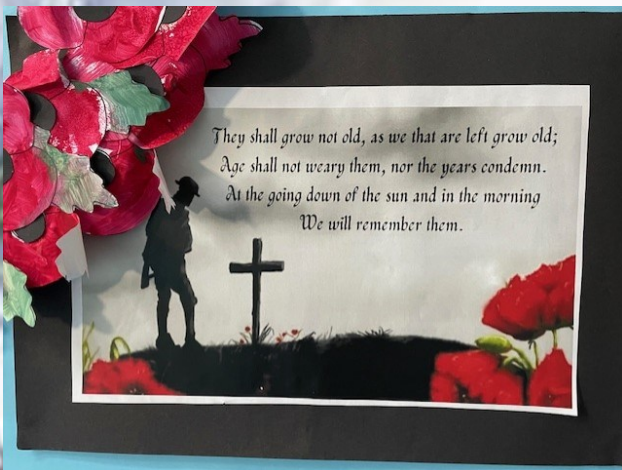
Luca- "Forest school is really good fun. We got to make large dens. We also made cement out of mud to make a wall. My favourite part was the hot chocolate."

Violet and Henry - "We made poppies in class to design our own wreath. We went to the flag pole and stood in silence to remember the soldiers who got hurt or died in the war."



### Remembrance

Castle Community came together to remember those who have fallen while fighting for our country. Our wreaths were taken to the church for their Remembrance Service  
"Lest we forget."



### Children in Need

Once again we went crazy with spots to celebrate CIN and held a raffle to win a cute Pudsey Bear. Fraser, Harper, Olivia, Penny and Louie were holding the winning tickets and they all seemed very happy with their prizes. A great day was had by all and we managed to raise £334.

Courtney - "I wore Pudsey clothes and got tickets for the raffle but I didn't win this year. As part of our lunchtime calm down we did Pudsey colouring as part of our quiet mindfulness time."



## The Nativity

Zog Class didn't disappoint us this year with their Nativity play. The story centred on a little Christmas Angel who decides she needs to tell children the real meaning behind why we celebrate Christmas Day.





Sophia - "It was great to take part in a competition to promote keeping our local area clean and tidy."

### Litter Angels

Rio won the Litter Angel competition! Each year McDonalds ask local school children to design posters to encourage their customers to bin their rubbish. Rio's design shall be made in to a poster that will be on display at the Bobbing branch. Gordon Henderson presented Rio with his prize. Congratulations!

Cash - "I loved the Candy Cane Lane game, I didn't win a prize but I still got a sweetie!"

### Christmas at the Castle

The children had a great time at the FOBVS Christmas Fayre. There were games to play and prizes to be won. We also all sat to eat together for Christmas dinner. It was delicious!



Ava - "I enjoyed the crackers on the table and I got a Christmas sticker, hat and a joke."





### Head Boy and Head Girl

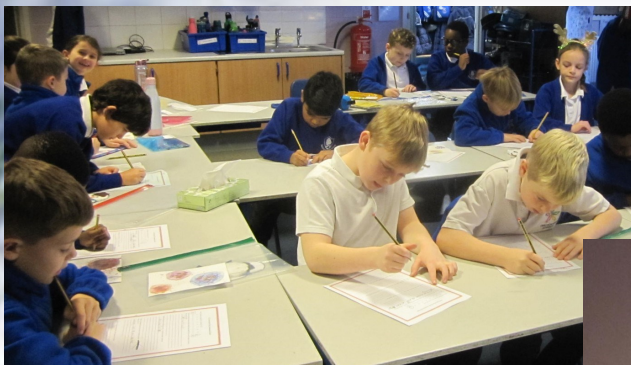
We congratulate Marin and Lara in their new roles as Head Boy and Head Girl. We know that they will do a fabulous job in representing Castle Community.

Here they are at the Sittingbourne Light switch on event, getting to press the big red button!



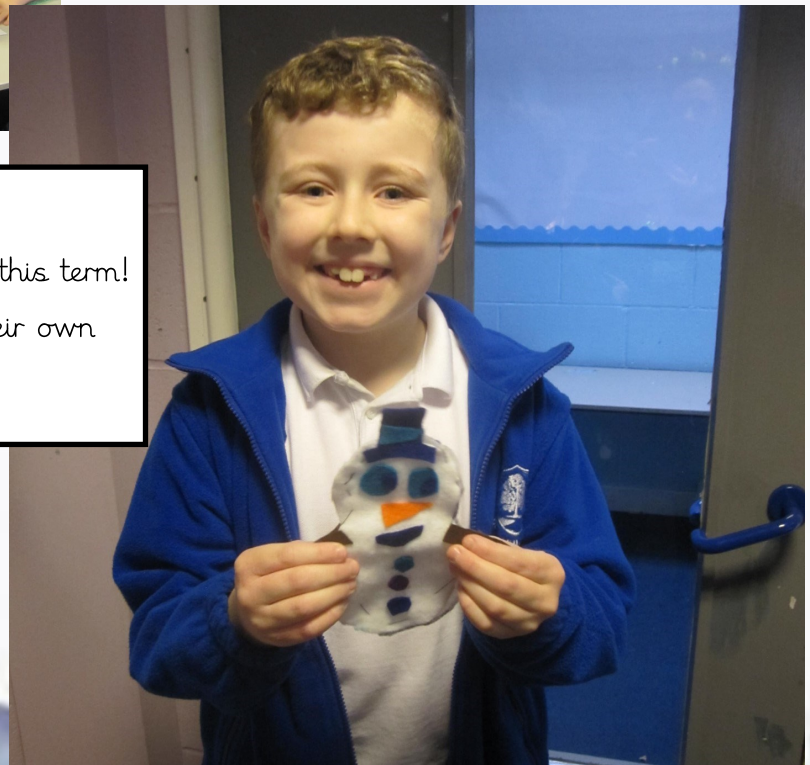
### Year 6 Team Ambassadors

Our new Year 6 Team Ambassadors are:  
Emmy, Ben, Scarlett, Max and Ella.



### Year 4

The class finished with a WOW this term!  
They all designed and made their own snowman using textiles.



### Carols by candlelight

Years 5 & 6 put on a festive show this week in the church. They treated us to some of our favourite carols and made sure everyone was full of Christmas cheer.

Well done!



### A huge thank you to Autowash

Autowash came to our rescue and donated and installed a brand new oven in the kitchen. This will be used by all year groups to enhance their Design and Technology lessons.

### Year 6 school trip

A trip to the Old Forge War Time House in Sittingbourne sparked the imaginations of the Year 6 pupils to create their own Anderson shelters as part of their Discovery topic 'War: What is it good for?'



## Year 1

This term the children have loved their 'Towers, Turrets and Tiaras' Discovery topic. They have studied local castles and built their own using various media. As part of the topic they have enjoyed listening to various Fairy Tales and learning about the characters from the stories.



## Sporting achievements

Bobbing School's football teams have had a fantastic start to the term, winning all matches played. Well done to all of those who took part and represented our school.

### Match results

#### Bobbing v Sunnybank

Girls 11-0

Boys 7-0

#### Bobbing v Hartlip

Girls 3-0

Boys 2-0

## A message from Castle Community Assistant Head

What an amazing couple of terms we have had in Castle Community! All of the children have demonstrated how well they are embedding our School Values and are spotting their peers showing them too, so that they can give them "Shout Outs" in our Celebration Assemblies. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope that you are able to enjoy some great family time together and create some amazing memories to treasure.

Merry Christmas from Mrs Knight