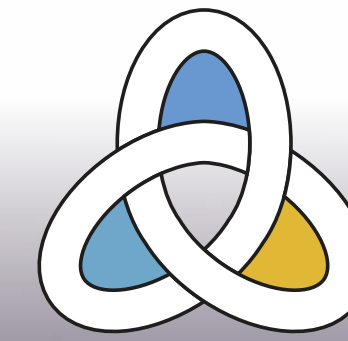


# newsletter



LEARNING TOGETHER  
CORNWALL EDUCATION LEARNING TRUST

END OF TERM - DECEMBER 2023

Bodmin College | Brannel School | Carclaze CP School | Fowey Primary School | Lostwithiel Primary School | Luxulyan School | Mevagissey Primary School | Mount Charles School | Newquay Junior Academy  
Newquay Primary Academy | Newquay Tretherras School | Newquay Tretherras Sixth Form | Penrice Academy | Poltair School | Pondhu Primary School | Port Isaac Community Primary School | St Mewan CP School



ELF - THE MUSICAL AT  
BRANNEL



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DAY



HOOVES ON THE MOVE!



CREATIVE WRITING DAY!



STEM ROADSHOW VISITS PENRICE



NJA CHOIR PERFORM AT THE KILLACOURT

COLLABORATE • EMPOWER • LEAD • TRANSFORM





### Hooves on the move! Reindeer round-up 2023 - Friday 15th December

Since 2016 Bodmin College has held the now, famous Santa Fun Run. This year we are planning the same event but under a new exciting name: The Reindeer Roundup! Over the years, Bodmin College students have raised over £10,000 for this charity with the highest amount raised last year: £3,250.

The Santa Fun Run 2022 ended the Bodmin College Autumn term on a high. The turnout was exceptional, and the behaviour and sense of school community was superb. The winner was Lewis Trubridge closely followed by Ivan Zeng in a nail-biting sprint to the finish. There was an alien Santa, fish head Santas, and a multitude of decorated Santas out on the course and not forgetting the annual addition of Mr Walker and Flo (the sausage dog!) who always finish the event last, but in style.

Mr Walker, Teacher of Art and Pupil Premium Coordinator added "It would not be Christmas at Bodmin College without the Christmas fun run. I cannot wait to see all the students and their antlers; Flo will also have a set of mini dachshund antlers".

Mrs Greenwood, Aspirations Coordinator and Teacher of Art, commented by saying "This is such a great event for all our students to get involved in. This year we are hoping to raise even more than last year's. Let's make this charity event the best ever!"

Be sure to keep an eye on our social media platforms for more information and photos from the day!

For donations, please visit the Bodmin College Cornwall Hospice Fundraising Fun Run 2023 JustGiving page: <http://www.justgiving.com/team/teambodmincollege?invite=true>

### The joy of Christmas is even brighter with these little helpers! St. Petroc's Annual Christmas Tree Festival 2023

A massive well done and huge thank you goes out to our 6th Form Pathways students and staff who worked super hard to help move Christmas trees into St. Petroc's Church on the first day of December! This is all in aid of the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

In recent years, the festivals have become increasingly popular as a way of bringing communities together, helping the local economy, sharing the joy of Christmas and – most importantly – having a lot of fun!

Roland Oakley, Events Manager at St Petroc's Church "This wonderful group of 6th Form students from Bodmin College helped take delivery of our Christmas trees, putting the trees in the stands and dressing them with lights. They did it with such enthusiasm and were truly amazing. They were very efficient in getting the job done with smiles on their faces, their energy was infectious, and the trees were sorted in no time.

Thank you, Bodmin College, for allowing your students and staff to help bring together our fantastic community event. The continuation of the Christmas Tree Festival can only happen with the support of local schools"

Mrs Pope, Teacher of Pathways commented by saying "If you have never been to a Christmas Tree Festival, make sure to go this year and add some extra joy and sparkle to your Christmas festivities"

Pathways student, added, "I have really enjoyed helping display the Christmas trees for this year's festival, I am really looking forward to see them all decorated by all the different schools and businesses".

Mr Crane, Head of Sixth Form said "For the past couple of years our Pathways students, alongside members of staff have supported St. Petroc's Christmas Tree Festival. I am over the moon that we can help again this year. Our students really benefit from this involvement in our community events "

Students will return to St Petroc's next week to decorate a 'Bodmin College 6th Form' Christmas Tree, which we look forward to seeing later in December and the following week to help with refreshments. Keep your eyes peeled on our social media platforms for photos and updates.

The Christmas trees will be on view to the public between the 6th to 26th December. This is definitely a date to add to your calendars



### Bells are ringing...

...choirs are singing, and the sound of Christmas cheer and music can be heard coming from our College Music Department as preparations for the Winter Concert are underway!

This is our first Winter Concert since the pandemic and winter frosts of 2022 put a stop to this event, but we look forward to welcoming families, friends and the community to an evening of musical performances from Bodmin College students and alumni. The evening promises to offer a varied programme including ensembles, music classes/groups and soloists.

Mr Vincent, Director of Music, commented by saying "Here at Bodmin College, creativity is at the core of everything we do in the music department. We aim to inspire our students to develop a love of music through listening, composing, appraising, performing, singing and playing musical instruments". "This year we have plan for a jam-packed Christmas Concert, full of all fun, festive songs which everyone know and loves."

Maddy, 6th Form student added "I am so excited to be part of the of the Winter Concert. We all get along so well and are a massive creative bubble. We are so lucky to have such dedicated staff who help us gain confidence all the time".

Join us on Thursday 14th December at 7pm in the Studio Theatre and hear our students in action and be tempted by some warming mulled wine and mince pies! Tickets are available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bodmincollege](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bodmincollege)



### Jingle all the way to rewards this Christmas!

On Tuesday 12th December, the Bodmin College Cinema opens its doors to the top 30 merit earners from each year group, as well as some Head of Year nominations. Students will have the opportunity to watch the most famous Christmas film of all ..... ELF!

Mrs Armstrong, Assistant Headteacher commented "We are very proud of our students this term and Helgesen and I are excited to be able to reward students who have worked extremely hard".

Our reward system will continue into the New Year with lots of fun and exciting things planned, watch this space!



### Share the joy of Christmas by donating to those who need it most - Trussell Trust, Bodmin Food Bank and Community Larders

At Bodmin College we are working alongside the Trussell Trust, Bodmin Food Bank and Community Larders to support our community this Christmas time by providing hampers, food parcels and requested items.

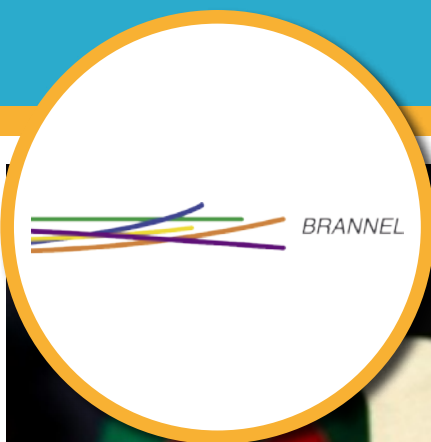
The School Council focuses on the importance of building links in the local community and provides our students with opportunities to feel valued and to value and help others.

Mrs Wells, Assistant Head of Year 10, commented by saying "This project has been running at Bodmin College for many years and has always been very successful, we are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our community, Let's make this year even better than ever!".

Thomas, Year 10 student added, "We understand that Christmas time can be difficult for some families. Our tutor group has started to bring in donations which can be added to the hampers. We hope to make a small difference to some of our families, after all it is Christmas!".

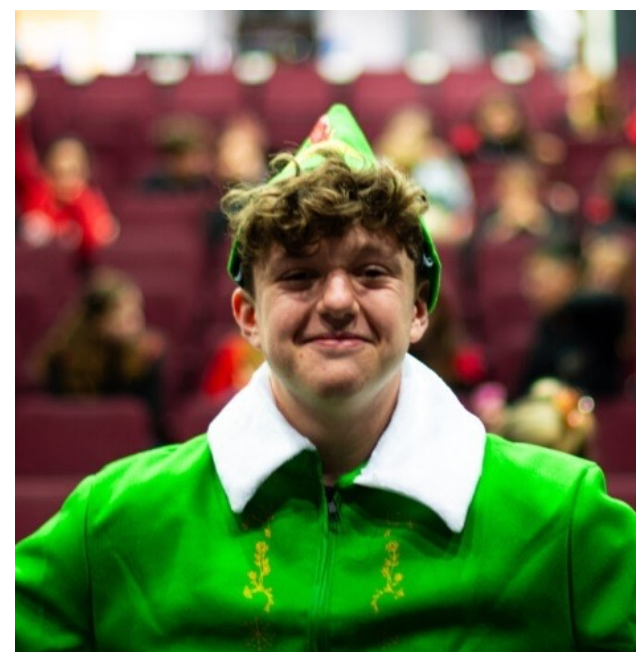
Bodmin College would like to say a massive Thank you in advance for helping us to support families in crisis this Christmas. Your kindness will truly make a difference to many during the festive season.





### Elf - The Musical at Brannel

Our fabulous cast has been rehearsing since July, and this term Buddy the Elf and his friends finally got to 'tinsel up each corner 'til it's Christmas everywhere you look'. Our school production is not just a community show; it's an important part of what we do here at Brannel. We believe that the Arts provide a safe space for young people to explore emotional expression and empathy, to build their confidence and self-expression, to learn how to communicate and collaborate, and, above all, to develop creativity. Creativity is the ability to think outside the box, to make connections between seemingly unrelated ideas and come up with innovative solutions. More and more academic research shows that creative thinking is associated with academic performance. When students are encouraged to express their creativity in school, they develop a creative mindset in all areas of life, and with a creative mindset and the confidence to utilise both convergent and divergent thinking, the variety of future career opportunities open to them is endless.



### Supporting our Community: Food Parcels and Christmas Hampers

While our Catering team have been providing festive cheer to our students and staff from November with a series of mini-Christmas dinners, we have also continued to hand out food parcels to families in need. We are working with MCKS Charitable Foundation UK to deliver their School Pantries Project, which supplies boxes of food, toiletries and sanitary products to local families. We also run a daily breakfast club and provide emergency supplies over the school holidays and during exam times for children and families who may be struggling.



### Remembrance Day

This term we commemorated all those that have, and those that continue to serve, in our armed forces. Student Cadets joined the headteacher on stage in our theatre to reflect on the past and to remember, with empathy, gratitude, and respect, those who fought for our freedom. Our Head Boy and Head Girl visited our local church to lay a poppy wreath and remember those who lost their lives from our village communities.



### Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff brought their festive spirit to school by wearing their favourite Christmas jumper. The aim was to encourage everyone to view the world as we hope our children do: a colourful place full of happiness! At the same time, we also remembered children across the globe who are not so fortunate, and whose lives are affected by war or natural disasters. Money raised will help Save the Children to provide medical treatment, food, shelter, and education for children.



### Careers: Army STEM

Our Year 8 students took part in a project which combined maths, logical and critical thinking. As part of 'Who's the Hacker?' they worked with scenarios and data to narrow down a field of suspects to complete a 'mission' to find the hacker. The project, run by the British Army team, is designed to encourage students to learn new skills and consider STEM careers.



### Careers: Literacy & Oracy Workshops

Our Year 8 students have been working alongside Falmouth University students as part of a Next Steps South West initiative to improve literacy and oracy skills. Our students saw some fantastic progress with their confidence, sentence structure and use of grammar.



### Making a Noise About Bullying

We used National Anti-Bullying Week in November to 'Make A Noise about Bullying'. Students took part in assemblies and cross-curricular activities designed to encourage them to think about how we can unite to address bullying both online and offline.



### Opening of our Tevi Building

Our new 5-classroom building was opened after half term. Tevi is the Cornish word for Grow. The new building was funded by the Local Authority to meet growing pupil numbers. It is now the new home of our maths department and a base for Year 11.



### Young Carers: Bushcraft skills & connecting with nature

38 of our Young Carers had an incredible day at Under The Canopy Cornwall, funded by The Carers Trust. The day's activities included shelter building, archery, and roasting marshmallows on open fires. The Under The Canopy team praised our students for their positive attitude and engagement and welcomed them back anytime.





### It's Christmas!

Christmas has come to the Speech and Language department at Carclaze. We are so proud of the progress the children have made this term.



### Christmas Fair

Staff worked with Friends of the School at our Christmas Fair. Mr. Pollard very sportingly adorned the reindeer costume and there were elves and Santa as well. We had a fantastic day raising £2700.



### Writer in Residence

We have a Writer in Residence leading writing for pleasure sessions with Year 6 children. These one-hour sessions have been a great success with the children enjoying writing. A mix of fun warm up writing/creativity games to start each session followed by a programme that builds each week. The children look at developing characters, story structures, how to build tension and write endings. The focus would be on the joy of writing and giving them creative free reign. The children wrote poems for Christmas. Here are a few of our favourites:

**Christmas crackers go with a snap  
Reindeers wake from a long winters nap  
Advent calendars filled with chocolate delight  
Children hope that Santa comes  
Kris Kringle has a sneaky pie  
Elves eating all your mince pies  
Racing children to their beds  
Santa comes in a flash seeing sleepy heads**

*By Arlie Sloggett*

**Brussel sprouts either being left or devoured  
Elves work tirelessly in their workshops  
Trees being decorated with lights and tinsel  
Halls are decked with boughs of holly  
Love is shared and presents given making smiles appear on people's faces  
Eggnog is drunk making some a bit crazy  
Happy cheers and snuggly cuddles  
Everyone is now tucked up in bed dreaming of sugarplum fairies  
Meet us at church for the evening mass**

*By Ava Allen*

**Cheers are spread around the world  
Happy people sit around the table  
Roast dinners are eaten  
Icicles appear and you feel great  
Santa comes to deliver you a toy  
Trees come and spread joy  
Mistletoe hung on the roof  
And you hear the knocking of reindeer hooves  
So have a good Christmas and spread the cheer to all**

*By Violet Mosele*



### Explorer visit

The snow was unexpected but perfectly timed for the visit of arctic explorer Dr Huw Lewis Jones. Huw has written a number of children's books and visited some of the St Austell CELT schools as part of National Non-Fiction November.



### It's a baby!

Foundation Stage pulled out all the stops with their fantastic version of It's a baby. There was rapturous applause and much positive feedback from the audience.



### Creative writing day!

Our creative writing day work was inspired by many fantastic Christmas books.





### Staff wreath making

As part of the staff wellbeing we had a wreath making evening after school one day and look at them! We had a great evening and lots of fun.



### Festive activities in Readymoney class

Readymoney (Year 5) have been preparing for Christmas. We have been singing songs for our nativity and making Christmas cards. For the Fowey Christmas market we are making snow globes to sell. We have created clay characters which we will place in a glass jar with water, glycerin and glitter. Happy Christmas everyone!



### School Christmas tree!

The school council decorated the school Christmas tree this year and what a great job they have done!



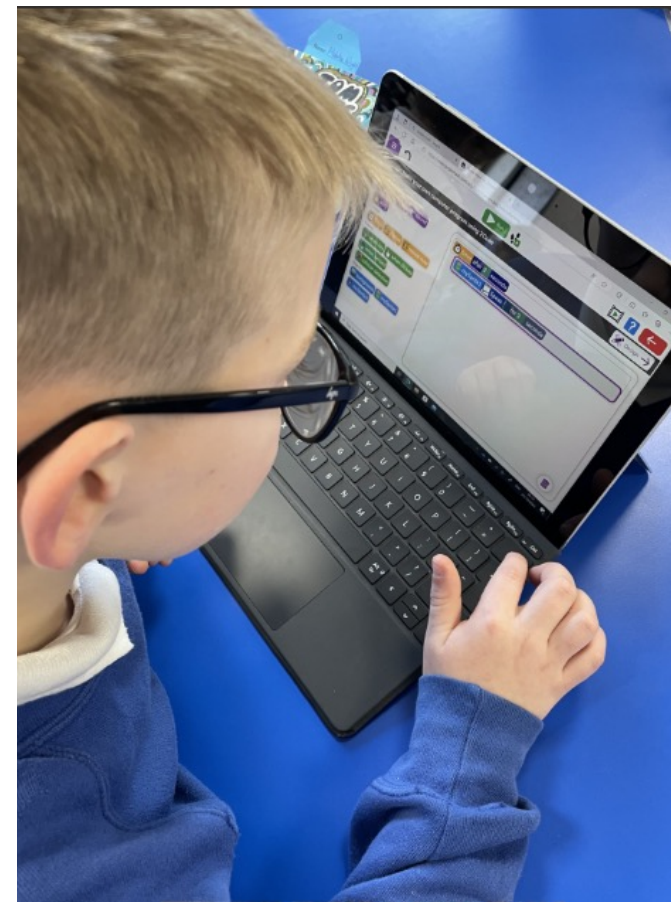
### Year 2 crafting

In Year 2, we have enjoyed making Christmas cards for the people in our community. We also made decorations, bookmarks, and gift bags.



### Santa versus the Grinch

In Gribben class, we have been experimenting with some 'festive' coding as part of our Computing work... Santa versus the Grinch! We were able to create our own interactive scene using the following commands: timer with intervals, speech, repeat and nesting. We managed to instruct Santa to send the Grinch away. Thankfully Santa managed to save the day!

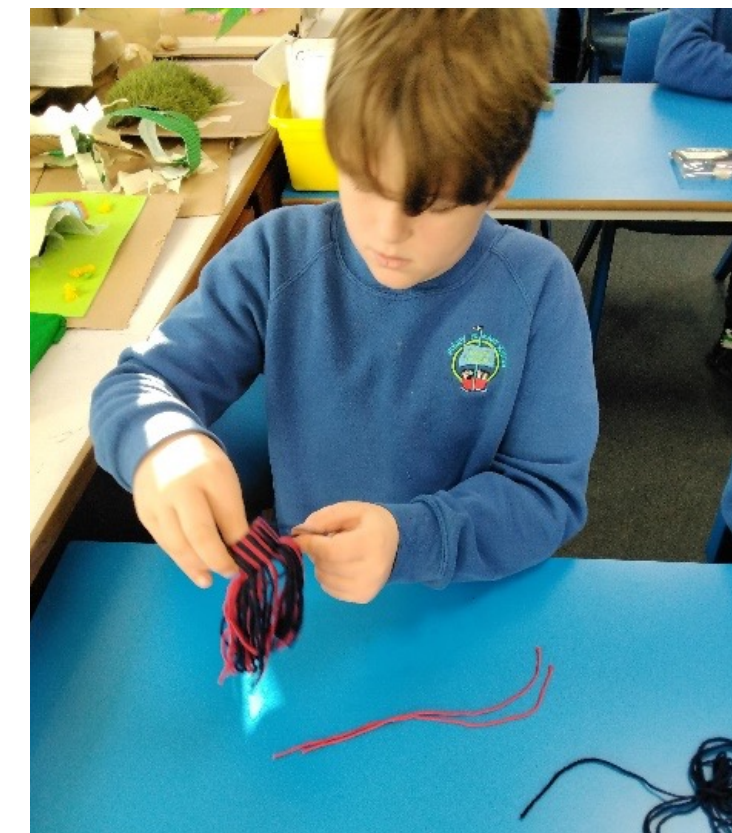


### The Meaning behind Christmas

In year 4 we have been focusing on the Christian meaning behind Christmas in RE. In particular, we have looked at the Christmas Story and the differing symbols during the Christmas period and their meanings. We have even been to visit the church to speak to the vicar about how they celebrate Christmas in the community and what the vicar believes is the most important Christmas symbol. After learning about Christingles, we made our own in class.

### Year 6

Year 6 have been getting into the festive spirit by making some simple but very effective Christmas Cards. The children all made one extra card to send out to those who live within our community. The children really concentrated when making their Christmas pom-pom Gonks. These were tricky to make but they persevered and they're looking amazing.





### Charity Christmas Song with NJA

On Friday 24th November our pupils joined forces once again with Newquay Junior Academy and Trenance Learning Academy to record a Christmas song, in aid of our local charity Newquay Food Bank.

All the children were superstars and wowed everyone with their amazing singing. We are very proud of all three classes.

Keep an eye on the Newquay Primary Academy Facebook page for the final version of the performance, along with information on how you can donate and support Newquay Foodbank

### A Christmas feast...

delicious Christmas dinner. Massive thanks to Trenance Learning Academy, our catering provider, for supplying this festive feast.



### Crafting fun at Crantock Lodge

On Friday 24th November our pupils joined forces once again On Friday 1st December Tamar class took a trip to Crantock Lodge Residential Care Home to spend the morning making Christmas crafts with the residents. It was a lovely morning, where all the children got stuck in, making beautiful paper wreaths to hang on the doors of the home.



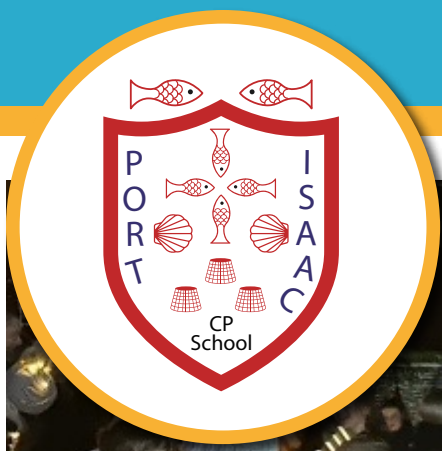
### Spectacular Christmas Nativity Performances!

Newquay Primary Academy classes took to the stage for their Christmas plays, at a new venue - The Wave House.

On Tuesday 5th December Joshua class performed the traditional story of the Nativity. They did such an amazing job, and parents were blown away by their enthusiasm and passion.

On Wednesday 6th December Tamar and Severn classes worked together to put on the performance of a lifetime with 'Humph the camel'. Everyone enjoyed the fun storyline and enthusiastic singing, and those songs will now be stuck in all our heads for the rest of the week!





### School Song

As part of this project, our new school values were creatively crafted into a school song for Port Isaac by local musicians Cos and Ceesh, at Wilderness music. The school values of aspiration, community, respect, resilience and joy have been woven in to the ship of dreams theme and the song was launched at the light switch on in the harbour.

### Port Isaac Lights 'Ship of Dreams'

A traditional Cornish Piper piped the children and their beautiful ships lanterns on the journey through the village down to the harbour. The children crafted their ships in a bottle with the artist Laura Martin in school and considered the school values to name their ship.

Really Lovely Projects created an animation of the children's art work and projected it in the harbour.



'SHIPS OF DREAMS'



#### VERSE 1:

We sail our ships of dreams.  
In the Oceans big and small.  
Respect is always needed.  
When the waves are very tall.  
We hoist our sails in stormy Gales.  
To speed our ships along.  
Resilience is needed.  
when the force of natures strong.

#### CHORUS:

Rejoice and joy  
Our ships are coming home!  
Rejoice and joy  
Homeward bound again!

#### VERSE 2:

Our ships have gifts for everyone  
From countries far and wide  
To share with our community  
the spirit we all have  
Aspirations for us all  
Fills our hearts with comfort and JOY

### Christmas Sharing at St Peter's Church

Port Isaac presented a Sense of Christmas where they performed a number of Christmas inspired songs and poems. The sharing evening was inspired by the senses; each class collaborated their ideas and created their own poem called 'In my Magic Christmas Box!' The pupils were excited to share their work through shadow puppets & performance poetry.

Over the past few months, we have worked closely with local musicians to create a shanty song for our new school values. The pupils opened the concert with our new school song. The pupils have worked incredibly hard and the performance was incredible.



### Nippers and Seal Pups Christmas Craft Afternoon

Last Friday Nippers and Seal Pups came together to enjoy an afternoon of creativity, and Christmas joy. We invited the families of the children and the local playgroup to join us.

Everyone enjoyed the range of activities on offer, from smashing ice to free dinosaurs, making jingle sticks with real bells, to writing Christmas wishes for our tree and decorating biscuits with rainbow sprinkles. We shared a Christmas story at the end to round up the festivities!



Thank you to Cedar Croft Nurseries for donating our beautiful Christmas tree. The children have considered their Christmas wishes and added them to it's branches.



### Penrice Carol Singers Visit Mount Charles

A selection of our Penrice Choir singers visited Mount Charles Primary School on Friday 1st December as they brought some additional festive cheer to their Christmas Fayre.

### Local Children's Author Visits Penrice Academy

Thank you to local children's author Tina Barrott who visited Penrice in November to inspire our students. In an hour-long workshop, Tina talked students through both the creative writing and illustrating processes of producing children's books, as well as her pathway to becoming a published author.



### Penrice Christmas Card Competition - More Entries Than Ever

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of entries for this year's Penrice Christmas Card Competition, receiving 78 in total!

Well done to all students who submitted artwork to be the face of this year's school Christmas cards!

Between now and Christmas Day, we will be sharing some of these incredible designs on social media in our #PenriceAdvent countdown as we build up to sharing the 5 chosen artworks and overall winner between the 21st and 25th December.



### St. Austell Rotary Club Donate to Penrice Academy's Young Carer Provision

St. Austell Rotary Club have generously donated £500 to help fund improvements to Penrice Academy's Wellbeing Garden for Young Carers.

A Young Carer is a child who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Located next to the school's Student Family Centre, the Wellbeing Garden is a quiet space where the Young Carers can meet friends, spend breaktimes and take the opportunity to reset.

Stuart Bradbury (pictured), a representative of the St Austell Rotary Club, explained: "Following a recent chat with a teacher from Penrice Academy, we were made aware of a group of Young Carers at the school. We then contacted Mrs Farr to see if we could help her group of over 65 pupils and, much to our pleasure, she quickly arranged a meeting. Mrs Farr explained how her Young Carers wished to improve their sensory garden where they and any member of school could go to unwind. Our club has donated £500 to help fund these improvements to the garden and the club look forward to further help and support in the future."



### STEM Roadshow Visits Penrice

Thank you to the STEM Roadshow Team who visited Penrice recently to inspire our Year 8 students in the Assembly Hall.

The team of Sophie, Mary-Anne and Lex shared examples of how the content students are learning in lessons can be applied to real-world jobs.

Students and staff were mesmerised at the end when the Roadshow Team scaled down the Earth to a small marble and asked, comparatively, what size the sun would be. Everyone in the assembly hall was left open-mouthed as an inflatable sun kept expanding until it reached 5 meters in diameter!





2023 has been another action-packed year, with lots to celebrate! As is tradition here at Poltair, the Autumn term ended with a week of festive happenings...



### A Day of Celebration

On Friday 8th December, we held Celebration Assemblies for each Year group, led by their Head of Year. This was an opportunity to acknowledge student successes from across all subject areas, based on progress and attitude to learning from September. During the assemblies, in addition to the subject awards and the prestigious Head of Year Awards, the top 30 merit earners from each Year group were announced - these students were rewarded with a trip to the White River Cinema. Well done to all of this year's award winners.



### Oliver Jr.

The cast of Oliver Jr. have shown real enthusiasm and commitment to this term's rehearsals, bringing the workhouse scenes to life with their fantastic energy, singing and dancing. The principle characters have been working hard on their songs and dialogue, and we can't wait to see it all come together.

We will share more information in the new year about the performance dates, but one thing we can tell you now is that this is going to be a fantastic production and one not to be missed!

### Sporting Events

It has been a busy term for our PE department, with numerous sporting fixtures (77 to be precise) and events taking place. Here are some of the recent sporting highlights:

We are pleased to say we have qualified for the Winter School Games finals, in both Basketball and Netball, as well as qualifying for the Indoor Cricket finals day in not one, but three categories. Last month, our Year 9 Netball team (plus four Year 8s) competed in the U14 County Netball tournament.

We have seen some excellent rugby playing from both our Year 7 and Year 9 teams this term. The Year 7s came 4th in the East Cornwall competition and the Year 9s made it to the last 8 in a recent County Rugby competition.

Earlier this term, we launched the Bronze DofE programme to our students, inviting them to sign up for what is undoubtedly a challenging but highly rewarding opportunity. Over 60 students have signed up, a fantastic uptake, we look forward to following their DofE journeys in the new year.

As part of our Poltair+ enrichment programme, students have the opportunity to attend numerous sports clubs each week (in addition to the array of academic and artistic clubs on offer). This term, an average of 275 students have been accessing sports clubs every week – it is great to see so many of our young people engaging with the fantastic opportunities our school has to offer.

2024 is already shaping up to be a great year for sport at Poltair, we already have 65 fixtures booked in for the Spring term alone and a new Cross Country Club ready to introduce.



### Cycling for Children in Need

On Friday 17th November, members of our School Council took on a mammoth challenge, all in aid of Children in Need. The challenge – a 24-hour Cyclathon! The students were joined by various staff members throughout the day/night, including our amazing canteen team (who, by the way, put on a very delicious Christmas Lunch for our students and staff earlier this week). Taking it in turns to do 30-minutes on the bikes, students pedalled continuously, day and night, and successfully hit their target at 10:00am on the Saturday. This was no mean feat, well done to everyone who took part.



### A Christmas Collection with a Difference

Following the success of the 'Christmas Box Appeal', that we have run for the past few years, December saw a similar collection taking place. Over the last few weeks, we have been collecting donations of food items that are typically enjoyed on Christmas Day. Working alongside Short & Strong, Charlestown, we have created food hampers, that are being distributed to families in need within our community – we hope this will help make Christmas a happier and less stressful time for them.



### "Success Evening" is a Success!

On Thursday 9th November, we welcomed our current Year 10 students, and their families, to attend our GCSE Success Evening. This was an opportunity for them to gain an insight in what the next year will look like, and what they can do to help maximise their chance of success in the forthcoming exams. We were fortunate enough to be joined by former student, Ella, who spoke about her Poltair journey, in addition to the talks from members of our staff.

**CHRISTMAS SUPER CAMP**  
WED 20TH - FRI 22ND DEC  
10AM - 2PM

Fun sport & creative activities for children aged 8 - 12 years

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THOSE STUDENTS IN RECEIPT OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS. HOWEVER, FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS THERE IS A CHARGE OF £10.00 PER DAY.

A LIGHT BREAKFAST & LUNCH IS PROVIDED.

### Christmas Holiday Programme

Our popular "Super Camp" will be running daily, from Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd December. Between 10:00am and 2:00pm, we will be running a variety of sporting and creative activities. This is open to any children aged 8 -12, and costs £10 per day (free for students in receipt of free school meals). Included in the price is a light breakfast and lunch.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/>



### Nursery News

Our nursery pupils have been super busy learners this term. They have absolutely loved using their new sand garden which was completed over the October half term. They have also celebrated remembrance and Diwali and had lots of visits from our lovely therapy dog, Marley.



### Life on the Farm

Since half term, we have been visiting Bareppa Farm, near St. Winnow with small groups of pupils. Bareppa provides animal therapy for up to four pupils at a time - our pupils love their weekly sessions and they have been transformative for them already. We have had such positive feedback from parents as well who have seen the impact of this provision at home as well. Animal magic!



### The Gift of Christmas

We are delighted that Duchy Nursery has once again donated our beautiful Christmas tree. It is in pride of place in our school hall, adorned with decorations made by our After School Club. Once we break up for the Christmas holidays, our tree is then donated to one of our families so that it can continue to bring the Christmas cheer!!



### Lostwithiel's Mrs. Christmas!

One of our fantastic teaching assistants, Jennie Tiddy, is the BIGGEST fan of Christmas. From 1st December her outfits get wackier each day and we simply cannot wait to see what happens on the last day of term! As well as being Mrs. Christmas, Jennie is a talented crafter. She runs our after-school Craft Club and also does a huge amount for school at home. Each of our classes has a very special advent calendar that she crocheted for them - they are beautiful. Thank you Jennie!



### Attendance Matters!

This term we have been working hard with our families to raise the profile of good school attendance. Lostwithiel pupils were incredibly excited to welcome 'Bob the Attendance Badger' into school this term. Each week, Bob writes the class attendance on the poster displayed on each classroom door and then announces the highest attending class in our celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon. Bob then visits that class for a whole week and grants them some additional playtime to use when they wish! Willow class have now had Bob visit them four times this term - last week the children took him out to play with them! He was taught how to keep the playground tidy, how to build a den and how to read a book. We're delighted with how positive our pupils are about being at school and the impact this is having on our school attendance.



### A Different Kind of Advent Magic!

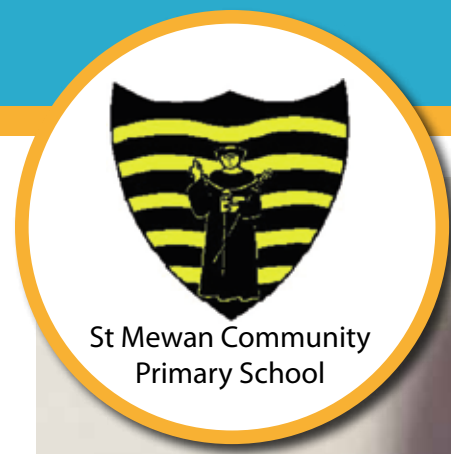
Jo Booth, Oak class teacher, has come up with an inventive way of encouraging a love of reading. Her class advent calendar is made up of story books! Each day, one of our pupils is lucky enough to open the door on the calendar, unwrap a brand-new book and take it home with them. Oak Class are loving this new tradition!



### Caring About Our School

We have been busy thinking about our animal neighbours and how we can look after them as we move into the winter months. Recently, Oak Class have made bird feeders in their forest school session, these will be placed around the school grounds to make sure that our feathered friends survive the cold weather. We also have bug hotels and our gardening club have sown a wild flower garden so that we can continue to develop bio-diversity in our local environment.





# A very St Mewan Christmas

At St Mewan we have been super busy fitting in all kinds of things this half term – remembrance services; cinema trips; Children in Need; Parliament week; Steve Double Visiting; the author Huv Lewis-Jones visiting; taking part in the festival of speech and music with our poetry and music (and winning lots of prizes); a Monster’s and Mystery writing day; trips to Griggs; a filming day; many successful sporting fixtures and events; and LOTS of learning and clubs. But we’ve still made plenty of time to get ready for Christmas and embrace the Christmas spirit. Even our Giant’s head, one of our symbols of St Mewan, on the slope outside the school has been getting Christmassy with a light dusting of snow at the end of November.

**Year 6** had a break from practise SATs during assessment week to decorate their classroom and to create some Christmas printing in their Art lessons. They’ve also been creating some Christmas-themed graffiti tags as part of their art skills unit.

**Year 5** have been busy making their golden tickets so they can board the Polar Express next week and let it take them on an adventure to inspire their writing and get them in the festive mood for Christmas. They’ve also followed in the St Mewan snowflake tradition by making their own enormous 3D snowflakes. These have made an appearance at St Mewan for the last 13 years at least!

**4G** have been getting in the Christmas spirit by making their own Christmas cards. They loved it – especially the glitter! We thanked the cleaners afterwards!

**4M** spent an afternoon getting in the

Christmas spirit. They designed and made their own cards for a special person and decorated the classroom. They showed great teamwork throughout – and didn’t even squabble putting up the tree!

**3P** completed a special Christmas DT project. Their task was to sew a decoration to hang in the shape of a Christmas tree. They used cross-stitch and applique to create decorations on the tree and had to sew it together using running stitch.

**3Y** are in the process of completing their Christmas tree sewing project but they’ve already been busy decorating their own baubles for their class tree.

**Year 2** they’ve been feeling festive and so created these beautiful winter landscapes by colour mixing, blending, splatter painting and fine line drawing to make their own Christmas cards.

**1B** have been working hard making Christmas decorations at home to bring in and share with their class.

**1M** enjoyed getting out in the snow on the last day of November to get ready to welcome in all things Christmas on December the 1st.

**Reception** have kick-started Christmas by independently decorating the home corner and the Christmas tree in their classroom ALL BY THEMSELVES! St Mewan Nursery is where our children’s educational journey begins and it’s also where they begin making amazing Christmas memories and traditions. In the last couple of weeks, the children had the pleasure of their ‘grown-ups’ coming in to visit the Nursery for an afternoon of creativity. Throughout the last few

weeks, the children have enhanced their imaginative play through stories and role play on their winter train. We look forward to seeing where their next adventure takes them!

**St Mewan Parent & Toddler:** In the run-up to Christmas, our Parent and Toddler group have been getting festive with Christmas biscuit decorating, Christmas card making and Christmas songs for our Christmas party. Here is Jasper concentrating hard to decorate his biscuit and not make a mess!

**The Choir:** We took some of our lovely choir children to Penrice House Care Home to sing some Christmas songs and carols for their residents and some of their family members. They residents and families all really enjoyed hearing the children sing and joining in with some of their favourites.

**School Council:** School Council have been really busy this term! They have met several times over the past few weeks to discuss important school topics, including how we manage behaviour in school. School councillors feedback suggestions from their classes and we then short-list the ideas which are passed on to Mr Lloyd and his leadership team. Their suggestions are very useful to Mr Lloyd as they give him a pupil perspective on things which is a really important part of decision making in a school. This half term, School Council also met local MP Steve Double and asked him lots of questions about St Austell, money for schools and what he’s doing to help. He commented on how impressed he was with the children and their mature attitudes. School Council were also put in charge of our school

Christmas tree in the hall and have done a brilliant job of decorating it!

**Christmas lunch:** As usual, we all enjoyed gathering together children and staff, putting on some festive tunes and sharing a Christmas lunch in our Christmas jumpers.

**Elfridges:** The Friends of St Mewan set up an Elfridges store for children to come and buy presents for their mums and dads or special someone without them being present. The children love choosing their gift and having it gift wrapped for them before they leave.

**Christmas Cinema treat:** The Friends of St Mewan kindly paid for all children in Years 1 -6 to go to the cinema for their Christmas treat. KS2 saw Super Mario Brothers and KS1 watched Elemental. Reception will have their treat later in the year when they are a bit more able to sit for that long!

**Father Christmas:** On the 8th of December, we were very fortunate to have an early visit from the big man himself who brought a present for every child.

**KS1 & EYFS Christmas singalong:** The KS1 staff have LOVED watching the KS1 and EYFS children grow in confidence as they learnt their songs to sing and prepared to share them with their parents. A special thank you to the Nursery children who also provided the back drop!





## Christmas at Luxulyan

The countdown to Christmas has definitely begun at Luxulyan School. We have had Christmas jumper day, visits to our local church and even a visit from the main man himself! At the time of writing we are about to have our Christmas Fair and the whole school will be going to the Hall for Cornwall to watch Peter Pan. We have developed a strong musical culture in recent times and so the annual Carol Service and Christmas sing-a-long will also be a highlight of our final week. Nadelik Lowen to all!

### Ash Class

Ash Class have been busy getting the classroom ready for Christmas. Twinkle the Elf sent them a letter and a box of resources and the children had lots of fun making hanging decorations, Christmas trees and snowflakes. Ash Class have also been busy rehearsing their Nativity Play. This year we will be performing 'A Christmas Star' which has been specially written for us by our volunteer Mrs. Allison.



### Sycamore Class

Sycamore class have visited the local church to participate in the 'Countdown to Christmas'. The activities involved the retelling of the Christmas story and its importance to Christians. They also allowed the opportunity for the children to reflect upon the things they are looking forward to and what they are thankful for. Each child also wrote on a green hand their wishes for the Christmas period which were then made into a beautiful wreath that has been hung in class. Finally, Sycamore class have been practicing their song for the carol service with a small group confidently leading the practice to support Mr Hanns-Drake.



### Beech Class

This half-term, Beech Class have been finding out why Christmas is so important to Christians. We found out that Christians believe that Jesus was born on Christmas Day and that he was born to show that all people are precious and special to God. We have explored the story of the Nativity, watched a performance at our local church and created our own Nativity pictures.



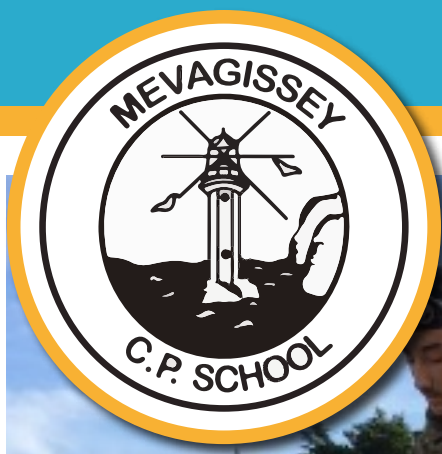
### Oak Class

Oak class started getting into the Christmas spirit by wearing some amazing jumpers on our Christmas jumper day. We then had the privilege of visiting our community church where local volunteers had set up a series of events to embed the Christian story of Christmas. Oak class completed a series of reflections around Christmas presents, charity and our loved ones. We also collaborated on a Christmas wish wreath which is hanging from our white board in class. Finally after completing our practice SATs and assessments, we had an early Christmas party with biscuits and Christmas plates.



The whole school are going to see Peter Pan on Thursday 14th December...we can't wait!





### Sea Turtles class

Sea Turtles class got a surprise visit whilst reading the opening chapters of the novel study, 'War Horse'. The children spent time thinking about how hard it would be to send their horse away to the war effort. The children produced some fantastic persuasive pamphlets encouraging the public to give their horses to the British Army.



### Seals

For their Geography topic on rivers, Seal class used their field work skills to follow the route a river takes ending with seeing the mouth of the river meet the sea. They used a range of equipment and maps to conduct fieldwork tasks that supported data work back in the classroom.



### Jellyfish

Jelly fish class represented the school by singing at the Mevagissey Sea shanty festival. They worked with the Cornwall music hub to rehearse a variety of songs that they performed in front of a packed marquee. An amazing experience for our year 4's.



### Dolphin Class

Dolphin Class learnt all about the Hindu celebration Diwali. They created beautiful rangoli patterns to celebrate the festival of light.



### Tree planting for National tree week

Jelly fish class represented the school by singing at the Mevagissey Sea shanty festival. They worked with the Cornwall music hub to rehearse a variety of songs that they performed in front of a packed marquee. An amazing experience for our year 4's.

### Christmas Decoration Day

The children used various different techniques from their DT lessons to create individual decoration to display on our school Christmas tree. This year our tree was kindly donated by Cedar Nurseries at St. Tudy.



### Santa Run

The children took part in their Santa run raising money for charity. The children did a fantastic job of encouraging each other and keeping the younger children going. Fun was had by all.



### Starfish

Children in Starfish Class have been using loose parts to create festive shapes.





### Christmas keepsakes

Our children began our festive preparation by creating special Christmas keepsakes. EYFS made beaded snowflakes, Years 1 – 4 made reindeer and star tree decorations, Year 5 made gongs and Year 6 made snowmen decorations. These special keepsakes were then sold at our Christmas fayre. Our Christmas fayre, hosted by our team of PTA volunteers, raised an incredible £1,200 for our school! We are so grateful to our PTA and families for their ongoing support. We were delighted to welcome Penrice Academy's choir who sang beautiful Christmas songs throughout the fayre.



### Welcome our Christmas Tree

Every year, on the first Friday of December, we 'Welcome our Christmas Tree'. Every child in our school decorates a charm to hang on the tree. Some children write a Christmas wish to hang too. We love this special Mount Charles tradition. This year, our tree was generously donated to us by Moores Fruit and Veg of Mevagissey – thank you so much!



### Christmas jumper Day

On Tuesday 5th December, our EYFS and KS1 children enjoyed their Christmas Dinner! Our children were invited to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas accessory with their uniform to enhance the festive spirit! KS2 are looking forward to enjoying their Christmas dinner on Thursday 7th December.



### Christingle on Monday!

EYFS, KS1 and the ARB children celebrated Christingle on Monday! They all made their own Christingle to take with them to our local church where they sang some songs, listened to why Christingle is so important and then they snapped their glowsticks together to celebrate the light of the world! It was a special service, thank you so much to Mount Charles church for hosting us.

In the final week of term, we are looking forward to welcoming our parents into our school and Penrice Academy for our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 Christmas performances.



EYFS arrived at school on Friday 1st December to find that their classroom has been transformed into their very own grotto!





### Year 3

Christmas and the Winter celebrations are a magical time for us all and in Year 3 we have bought into the festive vibes 100%. We have celebrated Diwali and supported the town Lantern Parade, getting us twinkly and festive already with our clay diyas and tea lights. That was even before we started reading *The Mousehole Cat* and considering the festive lights at Mousehole too.

This week, Year 3 are extending the links between Christmas and literacy by getting immersive with the *Polar Express*. Now that we have completed this book along with writing activities based on the lovely story, we are going on our own train trip to find Santa. All classes are getting dressed up in our PJs and catching the train from Newquay to Luxulyan. Today, the first of the Year 3 classes went on the trip. They discovered Santa in the Village Hall, waiting with hot chocolate and party games. He also read the *Polar Express* to the children and joined in the fun as well.

All this has been happening in the same week as our famous family Christmas Lunch event. This highly anticipated date in Newquay's Christmas diary went brilliantly, with families and different generations dining in our Cough kitchen on Monday. And what a wonderful, sociable time we all had! The food was delicious!

We still have the Christmas Fayre and cinema trips to look forward to over the next few days, while finding out who might have won some of the Christmas art competitions we have entered too. It's an exciting time, even our therapy dogs are getting festive! That's why we love it.

Year 3 at Newquay Junior Academy wish you all a very happy Christmas and Winter Holiday.



### Year 4

During this half term, Year 4 immersed themselves in a Roman day - with a visitor who taught them about: culture, clothing and food. They then continued their learning through ICT and music.

They have also enjoyed exploring volcanoes across the curriculum; reading and writing about *Escape from Pompeii* in English, connecting this to their learning in geography and then creating their own volcano in design technology.

In the lead up to Christmas Year 4 are making decorations and cards to sell at the Christmas Fayre. As well as Christmas dinners, cinema trips and marble treats.



### Year 5

Throughout the second half of the autumn term, Year 5 pupils have been excited by all the outdoor education they have participated in. In PE, they have taken part in team and trust building and orienteering activities, as well as some fun outdoor maths at Tolcarne Beach.

Many of our pupils and families made rockets and star lanterns in DT to take to Newquay's Lantern and Light Parade. Thank you to everyone who supported the academy with this. All Year 5 classes have also studied the impact of maths and economics in everyday life, using the great online resources from NatWest. Whilst in their science lessons, there have been lots of hands-on activities with pupil led investigations, involving levers, air resistance and upthrust in water.

Finally, they have also been reading a brilliant book 'The Kid Who Came From Space' in their VIPERS reading sessions that ties up their curriculum study of Space this term. Year 5 have loved the intergalactic adventure which starts at home with Ethan, who discovers that his twin sister has been abducted by aliens.



### Year 6

The second half of the autumn term has seen pupils in Year 6 study the topic of Victorians. Our learning has been led by Charles Dickens' classic novel "A Christmas Carol". This has provided the pupils with opportunities to write in a range of genres such as: biographies and creating atmosphere in their narrative writing. Writing in the style of Dickens has allowed the children an opportunity to find their Victorian 'voice' and the pupils have enjoyed immersing in the colourful lives of the characters.



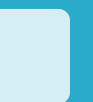
Continuing with our Victorian topic, pupils embarked upon an educational walk around Newquay with Len Shepherd, two local historians. They took us around Newquay, following the tramline, explaining the Victorian features of the town along the way and what impact tourism had on Newquay in Victorian times. The children were able to understand how decisions made well over one hundred years ago, still resonate and have an influence on how the town is developing to this day.

In year 6 we have been looking at the art work of Victorian artist and designer William Morris. The children have studied his designs, looking at the symmetry and repetition he uses. The pupils have created their own designs and recreated them through print.

Mince pies have been the basis of our food technology in DT this term. Pupils have tasted and created their own recipes to be cooked in the school kitchen.

### NJA Choir perform at the Killacourt

The festivities have officially begun with some of our NJA choir performing on the Killacourt stage on Saturday 2nd December. They sounded beautiful and got everyone in the Christmas mood!





### Winter Concert

On Thursday 30th November our Music Department hosted the Christmas Concert and what a huge success it was! The day started with snow falling across the County, despite this, students across all year groups were able to go ahead and perform to a packed-out hall. The evening featured performances from our impressive ensemble groups including Junior and Senior Choir, Keep it Steel, Rock Bands, The Brass and Woodwind groups and The Jazz Band. Our GCSE and A-Level classes brought festive cheer in their whole class performances of 'Last Christmas' and 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tree', and a very pretty rendition of 'Jingle Bell Rock' on chime bars.

You could hear a pin drop during the solo and duo pieces whilst members of the audience were also delighted as the Staff and Sixth Form Choir graced the stage with their version of Silver Spring.

Head of Music, Bethany Wade, explains "I am so thoroughly proud of each and every student that took part in tonight's show. Not just the huge array of musical talent on stage but all the tech students that worked so hard all night to set up every act. This, alongside our incredibly generous staff volunteers, created a seamless and professional evening for everyone to enjoy".



### Lantern Making Workshop

Students from Newquay Tretherras took part in a festive lantern making workshop, then showed off their illuminated sculptures in the town Christmas parade with other local schools during the evening of Friday 1st December.

The Art Department led a marine-themed workshop where students created amazing lanterns, ranging from disco-angler fish to great white sharks! They hope to display the lanterns again in the St Piran's Day parade happening in Spring 2024.



### Santa Fun Run

Coming up on the last day of term, our Year 7 students will be involved in the annual Santa Fun Run'.







### Reception – Montessori Class

We have had a very strange half term in Reception. After our classroom flooded, we were very lucky to have been welcomed into Carclaze. To keep our spirits up, we have been looking forward to Christmas. We have been learning about how Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have also been in full flow of learning our Christmas songs and our lines for the Christmas café where we will be inviting our grown-ups in to celebrate this exciting time with us. We decorated some beautiful invitations to take home for them.



### Year 1 – Anning Class

Year 1 have been getting ready for our Christmas Café. We have been practising lots of songs to perform to our grown-ups. Some of us will be dressing up as angels and the others are going to be robins, so we have started making our headbands. On the day we will be decorating biscuits for our guests and doing some Christmas activities with them.



### Year 2 – Nightingale Class

Year 2 enjoyed the snow! The children couldn't wait to go outside and make snowballs and snowmen! We then came in and warmed up, while watching The Snowman. What an exciting morning!

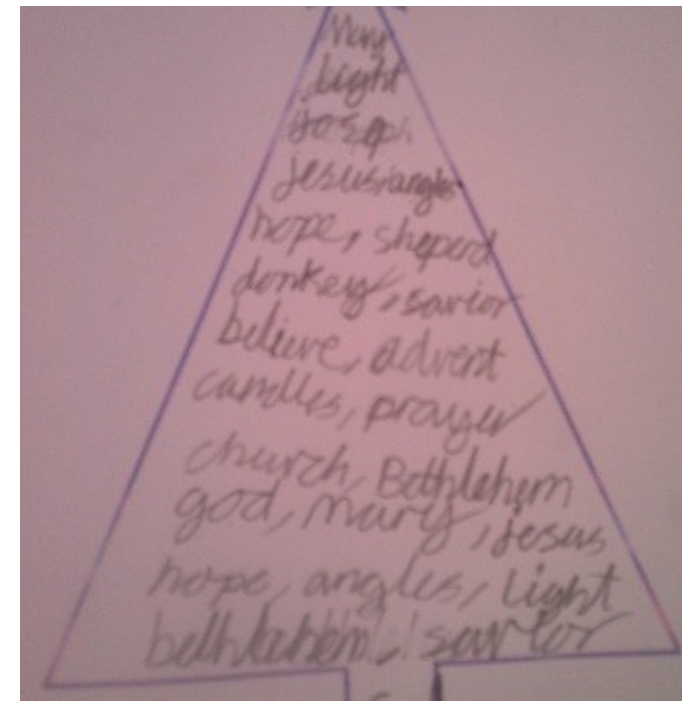


### Year 3 – Attenborough Class

Year 3 have continued to work really hard this half term. For our R.E. lessons we have been focusing on the Christianity religion with a particular focus on Christmas. We started off looking at what we associate with the word Christmas. We shared this as a group, acted out our favourite festivities and produced our own mind map to share these ideas.



In the following lesson we looked at what Christmas means to Christians and specifically the symbols that surround Christmas and what these mean. We created our own shape poem to reflect the key vocabulary linked to Christmas for Christians. We will continue to explore this further throughout the term as Christmas approaches.



### Year 4 – Hawking Class

Year 4 really enjoyed the surprise snow last week! They took the opportunity to play games and have lots of fun with their friends. Year 4 also drew pictures of their favourite Christmas things, snowmen, Christmas trees and spending time at home with their families.



### Year 5 – Owens Class

Pondhu's Year 5s have been well-travelled this festive season following the school being flooded in early November. The children have been livening up the bus journeys to their Mount Charles classroom with some carol singing on route! They have shown amazing adaptability this term and have always kept a smile on their faces – Merry Christmas from all of year 5.

### Year 6 – Einstein Class

Year 6 had a great time in the snow. They thoroughly enjoyed throwing snowballs at each other and the staff. They showed great teamwork gathering up the snow and building a snowman.

