



**Autumn 2019 Newsletter 11**

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**KS1 Parents phonics and reading evening**

On Monday 9th December, we will be holding a KS1 parents phonics meeting at 15:30 in the school hall. This will be most suitable to parents of children in year R and 1. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce our new phonics and reading scheme and to give you some vital information in the changes that you will notice over the coming months, so that you are able to help your child with the learning of phonics and help to promote a love of reading. Please bring your children with you if childcare is a problem.



**Mental Health Ambassadors**

On Monday, year 6 were visited by a group of Okehampton College students. They have recently undertaken 10 weeks training to become Mental Health Ambassadors. They very kindly offered to come into school and work with us. The session was led by the college students and they discussed with the children ways of dealing with different worries and practiced some relaxation techniques with them.

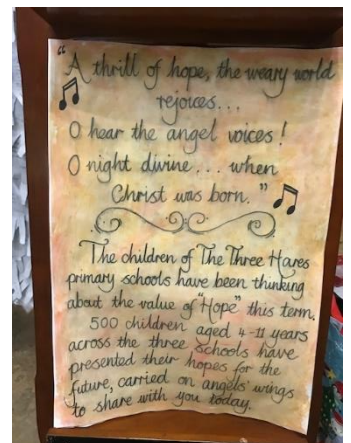


**Angels**

On Saturday, I visited Exeter Cathedral to see our Three Hares Angels on display there. They look magnificent and I thoroughly enjoyed looking at the angelic contributions from other schools and local artists too. I thoroughly recommend a visit.

**Christmas Post**

Our Christmas post box will be appearing in the main office tomorrow. If your child would like to use it to post their Christmas cards to their friends in the school, then I'm sure our year 6 elves will be delighted to distribute them. Please ensure that the full name and class of all recipients are written clearly on the front of the envelopes.



As in previous years, if your child and their friends are exchanging presents, then please do this outside of school, so that other class members do not feel left out.

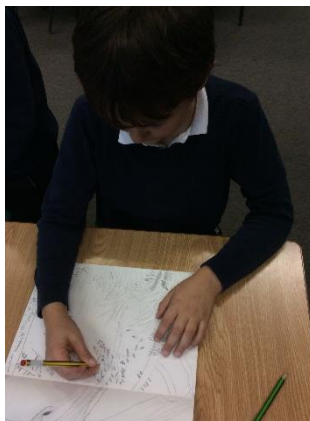


### Art in Year 3

Year 3 are learning about the Rainforests so in Art we have been learning about Henri Rousseau.

We sketched his 'Tiger in a Storm' and then worked in pairs using oil pastels to create our own versions of this stunning piece of art. We found that we could blend colours, be bold (or not) and create depth using the pastels in different ways. Lots of smudgy fingers!

**Did you know?** Henri Rousseau only started painting seriously when he was in his forties. He was a self-taught painter and, as a result, his work is often described as naive or child-like. Rousseau became a full-time artist at the age of 49. He was an accomplished violin player, and he often supplemented his income by playing as a street musician. Although some of Rousseau's most well-known paintings are of jungle scenes, he never set foot in a jungle. Instead, he took his inspiration from the 'Jardin des Plantes' (botanical gardens) in Paris and illustrations in books.



### Okehampton Library Events

Please see the two attached posters detailing events at Okehampton library. Okehampton library is a fantastic resource and key research shows that reading widely as children is a key indicator of academic success in later life.

### Other attachments

Please also see attachments detailing the music lessons available in Okehampton and the PTA Christmas Fayre this Friday at 3:30pm. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult at the Christmas Fayre.

### Climate Issues

In line with our Global Goals topic this half term, I thought you may find the following information which I was sent on Friday useful:

On the day of the latest Global Climate Strike and a day after the European Parliament declared a climate emergency, the Young People's Trust for the Environment (YPTe) has produced an information sheet for parents, which gives them some basic information about climate change, why it is such an important issue and how it may affect them and their children.

The information sheet provides two links to YPTe's website, with one enabling parents wishing to find out more to access more detailed information about climate change and the other giving some suggestions for simple actions they can take to reduce the environmental impacts of their daily lives.

The information leaflet can be downloaded at <http://ypte.org.uk/downloads/climate-change-for-parents>

The linked pages on YPTe's website are:

<http://ypte.org.uk/content/climate-change-for-parents-the-facts>

<http://ypte.org.uk/content/climate-change-for-parents-what-you-can-do-at-home>

## Art in Year R

In response to their Space themed learning Year R have created their own pieces based on 'Starry Night' by Van Gogh, they also listened to Gustav Holst's 'Mars' before drawing their own Space pictures. We were visited by Imogen from the Magic Lantern Arts project who showed us moon and stars themed pictures.



## Open Afternoons

We will not have an Open Afternoon this half term, due to the last week of term being swept up in all things Christmassy. For the rest of the year, we will have an Open Afternoon from 2:30pm on the last day of every half term.

## School Christmas Dinner

Please be aware that there will be no jacket potato or school packed lunch options on Christmas Dinner day. Please book either a main or a vegetarian lunch on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. More detail of the menu to follow.

**PTA Christmas Fair Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – We still need more helpers for this event. If you are able to help, please contact Jo Parker-Groom 9 ([J.M.Parker@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:J.M.Parker@exeter.ac.uk)) or Katie Wright ([katielouisewright@hotmail.com](mailto:katielouisewright@hotmail.com)) asap.

**PTA Christmas Jumpers** – Please donate any old Christmas jumpers or accessories to our Christmas jumper stall

**PTA Nearly New Uniform Rail** – There is now a uniform rail in the main office. **£1.00 per item** – donations of freshly laundered items gratefully received.

## Dates for your diaries

**06.12.19** - PTA Christmas Fair – 3.30pm in the School Hall

**06.12.19** - South Zeal Carnival – Christmas Bingo – 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**09.12.19** – KS1 Parents Phonics meeting

**10.12.19** - PTA Wreath Making – 7.00pm in the School Hall

**16.12.19** – KS1 Christmas performance at 4pm in the School Hall

**17.12.19** – KS1 Christmas performance at 2pm and 6pm in the School Hall

**18.12.19** - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

**19.12.19** - Last day of Autumn Term

**07.01.20** – Spring Term starts