

St Helen's Church of England Primary School

What we have been up to.....



Term 2 December 2025

EYFS

What a busy and exciting term Willow Class have had! We began by learning about Diwali, the festival of light, and enjoyed creating our own lamps. Our celebration's theme continued as we explored weddings, sharing family photos and noticing similarities and differences between them. We even hosted our own birthday party, practising how to write lists and invitations. Towards the end of the term, we retold the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and baked our very own gingerbread treats!

Alongside these celebrations, Willow Class also discovered what it means to be performers, putting on a fantastic Nativity play that made us all proud. We rounded off the term with a special trip to the post box to send letters to Father Christmas, followed by a well-deserved Christmas party. Mrs Hansen and I are incredibly proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm, and we look forward to exploring our new topic, *People Who Help Us*, in Term 3.

Year 1

This term in Year 1 we have been exploring the wonders of Wild Africa! We have compared life in the UK to different parts of Africa, discovering how landscapes, animals and daily life can be both similar and wonderfully different. In English, we have learnt how to write letters, postcards and setting descriptions, linking our work to the beautiful story *Lila and the Secret of Rain* to help inspire our ideas and vocabulary. In science we have been learning about plants, observing the plants and trees in our school grounds and discussing what they need to grow well. One of the absolute highlights of the term was our African drumming workshop. The children loved every moment of it and were completely absorbed in learning new rhythms and creating music together. It has been an exciting and vibrant term, and we look forward to building on our learning next term!

Year 2

Year 2 have been enjoying our topic of Tin Hats and Lots of Rats. We visited the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham to find out about a local hero, James McCudden, and even made medals that looked similar to his. All the children had a great time exploring the trenches and seeing a model of Cliffe Fort. Staff at the museum complimented everyone on their manners and behaviour. Well done, Ash Class!

In Maths, we have been exploring shape and symmetry and in English, we have written diary entries, character descriptions (based on our book - *Stubby*) and a recount. Mrs Salter, Mrs Stephens and Miss Farrell have been incredibly proud of all the children in Ash Class for their perseverance in learning lines and performing our Nativity - Lights, Camel, Action!

Year 3

This term year 3 have been learning about the stone age and have enjoyed a visit from Ugg the Stone Age man. During his visit Ugg showed us how to use bows and arrows, how to

create cave art and make tools. We had an amazing day and the children learnt so much from him.

During the term the children have written poems, created character descriptions, created a diary entry and a non-chronological report about the woolly mammoth. This was all based on our book *Stone Age Boy*.

They have sung beautifully during our carol concert and have loved the practise in class.

They have also worked incredibly hard this term and we have been very proud of them.

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas and come back in January ready to achieve even more.

Year 4

In Year 4 we have really enjoyed learning about Anglo- Saxons in topic and 'Changes of state' in science. We were privileged to have the Historic Workshop experience, enabling us to get fully immersed in the Anglo-Saxon period. We have enjoyed the practicality of science this term, including acting out different states of matter as well as completing experiments and research, including factors affecting the rate of which chocolate melts (of course with a little taste test too!). We look forward to developing our knowledge of the world next term for our Europe including Russia topic.

Year 5

Sycamore Class have had an exciting term exploring the wonders of space! They have learned about the different planets and their unique properties, discovered why we experience day and night, and investigated the phases of the moon. In Religious Education, the class studied the concept of *Incarnation*, deepening their understanding of its significance. A highlight of the term was a live lesson with astronaut Tim Peake to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his mission to the International Space Station. To make the learning even more immersive, the children enjoyed an incredible visit from the Astrodome, bringing the universe right into the classroom!

Year 6

Well, what a term! So, the children have thoroughly enjoyed covering our topic of Time Travel and they have produced some excellent writing around our books - 'Between a tick and tock' and 'A Christmas Carol'. They have written newspaper reports, a biography of a 'time traveller' of their choosing and finally some poetry. In topic they have been covering local history and researched using the i-pads to find Charles Dickens connections to Medway and produced lovely fact-files. In between all this fabulous work they have really excelled with their art looking at scale and perspective and produced excellent drawings. We hope that you enjoyed their beautiful singing during the KS2 Carol Concert and we look forward to starting all over again in January after a relaxing Christmas and New Year. The only thing left to say is 'have a great Christmas' and thank you for all your continued support. Oh yes and our new topic will be World War 2.

We wish all our families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January for another fantastic term together!

Warmest regards

Mrs Kember

Headteacher