

Year 6

Our Year 6 children have had such a wonderful start to their last year at primary school! They have taken on new challenges and responsibilities with such enthusiasm and shown a continued love of learning. Our history topic 'We'll Meet Again' took us back to 1939, when Britain went to war with Germany. Within this topic, the children have learnt how aerial bombardment of the Axis affected parts of Britain. They learnt about how British citizens supported the war effort, including how men were conscripted to fight on the front line; the creation of the women's land army and how families in the cities were encouraged to evacuate their children to rural areas. In addition, the children have studied how our local and surrounding areas were impacted. To immerse the children into the topic, we visited 'Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse', where they spent the day participating in role play drama, imagining they were children who had been evacuated to the countryside. During the visit, the children learnt what happened to children once they had been evacuated; jobs they completed during their time in the countryside and how people in the countryside supported the war effort. Our class book, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' has been a great stimulus for our writing and reading lessons throughout this term. During English lessons, the children have written a setting description, diary entry, persuasive leaflet and a non-chronological report all related to their World War Two learning. We ended the term by studying 'The Christmas Truce' and wrote our own narrative. It has been wonderful to see such passion for our English work. In addition to all our history learning, we have studied light and electricity in our science lessons and have explored why God is loving and holy in our RE lessons. We have continued to work hard on the four operations in our maths lessons as well as moving onto fractions. The children's perseverance within their learning has been fantastic and we are all so proud! From all of us in Year 6, we hope all our families have a happy and safe Christmas holiday and we look forward to welcoming all the children back in the new year!

Sports Report

It has been a busy first two terms on the sport front, with all year groups receiving high quality PE lessons in a wide variety of sports. It has been great to observe the pupils learning new skills, developing physically and enjoying their weekly sessions.

We have also had success outside of school in the local cross-country competition held in Spalding. Four teams of girls and boys from KS2 represented the school and performed magnificently in some very high standard races. I am delighted to report that the Year 5 & 6 boys' team demonstrated fantastic teamwork and perseverance and won their race; a superb achievement. Robins were the victors in the KS2 intra house competition. The Year 5 & 6 boys' football team all represented the school superbly in the local competition, finishing in a very respectable fifth place.

We are looking forward to terms 3 & 4 and pupils having the opportunity to partake in more sport, as well as teams being able to compete both in school and outside in a variety of competitions.



Our E-Safety learning began again in September learning about Self-Image and Identity, Health, Well-being and Lifestyle in October and during Friendship Week in November we focussed on Online Bullying. The children have also explored poems from 'Beneath the Screen' in Key Stage 2 linking to their themes, whilst in Key Stage 1 classes linked their learning to a range of stories including 'Trolls Stink!', 'Chicken Clicking!' and 'Webster's Bedtime'. In Year 6, we were lucky to have a visit from Lincolnshire County Council's Online Safety Officers, focussing on sharing images and what children can do to keep themselves safe online. We cannot wait to celebrate Safer Internet Day next term on the Tuesday 6th February 2024. Please keep a look out for our Christmas E-Safety Newsletter and you may have seen our weekly guides for parents and carers from National Online Safety on our Facebook page and website. These all provide a range of information and top tips to keep your children safe on different apps and games. We hope you continue to find these helpful, especially during the Christmas period. Have a safe Christmas!

Kids' Club

The weather this Autumn has been changeable, therefore if Kids' Club have not been playing and exploring outside, they have been active in the KS2 hall. When indoors, the children have clubbed together and designed our new Breakfast and Kids' Club leaflet to promote our wrap around childcare provision, it is eye catching and full of information. Drawing has been a theme throughout this Autumn Term with many of our children entering the 'Perfect Pets Competition' run by Young Writers. Each child invented, designed and named their 'Perfect Pet'; it was left totally to their own imagination. We entered as a group, though as individuals there has been the opportunity for entries to be published in a book which is due out in February 2024. During December the children decorated the KS1 and KS2 trees, adding to the KS1 tree with their own hand-made decorations, which they will take home as a keepsake. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Dates for your Diary

Last day of Term
Friday 15th December
3.15 p.m.

First day of Term
Wednesday 3rd January 2024

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Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy

Striving for Excellence, whilst Caring for All, in a Loving and Caring Christian Environment

Autumn Term 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am so excited and proud to be given the opportunity to write in my first Christmas Newsletter at Bourne Abbey. It has been a wonderful start to the year, from Ancient Egyptian tombs discovered in Year 3 and the Year 6 air raid experience in our hall to the Superhero Graduation ceremony in Reception, our children truly have been immersed in their learning.

As a school, we have begun our year focusing on the Christian Values of 'Respect and Reverence' with 'Creation', 'Peace' and 'Friendship and Fellowship,' which the children really have lived out in their thoughts and actions. As always, we have continued sharing Collective Worship together every day. This worship time is truly special as it gives the children and staff the opportunity to consider their God-Given Talents, SMARTS and to come together as the Bourne Abbey family in a 'time to breathe.'

Our Character Education trait of 'Self-Belief' has made a real impact on our school this term. Throughout their learning our children have shown just how much they believe in themselves. Elodie and Isobel said they used self-belief while doing their maths and English, knowing that if they "keep trying" they "can do it". Lexi said "Self-belief helps me in PE knowing that I can do things if I put my mind to it." We are immensely proud of all of our children and how they have demonstrated this term's Character Education trait. We cannot wait to see how next term's trait, 'Integrity,' permeates through our learning.



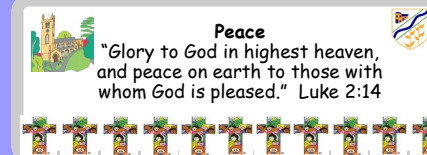
Once again, our youngest children showed they had both the 'wow factor' and the 'ahh factor' with their wonderful Nativity. We were so proud of the confidence they showed, as well as spreading the Christmas joy. Watching the Nativity, I could also really feel the pride of all the parents/carers which really brought a warmth to both mine and Mrs Skidmore's hearts. The Nativity is a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and is always a very special time in school.

As part of our continuing Christmas celebrations, the children from Year 1, 2 and 3, and Year 4, 5 and 6 each took part in beautiful Christmas Services in Bourne Abbey Church. Our children spoke so clearly, and their singing filled the church with joy and a real sense of Christmas. It was lovely to see our church filled with our school community enjoying the celebration. Our links with the church are incredibly important to us as a community and we will continue to share as many special occasions with you as we can in this way.

The staff at Bourne Abbey and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this term as always in making Bourne Abbey the special place that it is.

As we are now in the time of Advent we all are thinking about and getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Here at Bourne Abbey, we hope that the good news of Christmas brings hope, peace, joy and love into the lives of our community and the wider world. We very much look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Mr Paul Houghton
Acting Head of School



A Christmas Blessing from Father Peter

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.
Amen



Student Council have met and voted in our officers for this year; we already have lots of ideas to work on! You can find the minutes of our meetings on the website so that you can see what we are discussing – all children have their voices heard through Student Council and we discuss every idea put forward. We have enjoyed raising money for Hello Yellow and Children in Need so far this year and we thoroughly enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers on December 8th to raise money for Save the Children. We are also working closely with our Equality Ambassadors to raise the profile of equality and celebrate the diversity of our school family too – more information and exciting news to follow in the New Year!



RECEPTION



What a SUPER term! The Reception children started their learning adventure with our topic 'Superhero Me', using their superhero powers and skills to solve lots of exciting learning missions. Every Superhero needs to start the day with a yummy breakfast, so we tasted different superhero cereals and used lots of amazing adjectives to describe the taste. At our Superhero Graduation Celebration, the children shed their disguises and came to school dressed as their favourite Superheroes! A particular favourite activity was the

Superhero training camp, where we used physical skills to complete lots of challenges. But then, someone else needed our help... It was Supertato! We listened carefully to the story, created a story mountain and wrote captions to retell the story and free Supertato from the Evil Pea. Finally, we used our imaginations and creative skills to create our own Supertato. Amazing work!

Moving into Term 2, we extended our learning about the world, food and seasons by celebrating the Harvest. We thought of ideas for a prayer to thank God for the Harvest and the Seasons. We shared the story "Pumpkin Soup" by Helen Cooper before making our own delicious soup! As the nights become darker, we had an important visitor - Mr Butt - come to school to talk to us about safely crossing the road. We went on an Autumn walk around school to find beautiful Autumn leaves and spent a very busy morning building hedgehog houses to help look after local wildlife. We were so excited to use real hammers and screwdrivers with Mr Pateman!

The highlight of this term was undoubtedly the Reception Nativity celebrating the birth of Jesus, "The BIG Little Nativity!" The children were amazing actors, super singers and dazzling dancers. The Reception Team would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.



What a brilliant term we have had here at Abbey Ark. The children have all settled in beautifully and

have been getting to know one another, making new friends and familiarising themselves with their routines.

Our 'Awesome Autumn' topic has been an ongoing theme throughout the term, where the children have been exploring the change in season, creating some wonderful autumnal artwork, and getting out and about in the great outdoors!

The run up to Christmas has been very exciting for our children! We have welcomed our families in for our Stay & Play Session, where the children were able to demonstrate their fantastic singing skills. We have been engaging in all things festive and thoroughly enjoyed our annual Abbey Ark Christmas Party!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January where we will be kick starting our new topic 'Wonderful Winter!'



Year One

What an amazing start to the year we have had! The children have all settled into Year 1 brilliantly and have shown they all have the 'WOW Factor' in so many ways.

Our term's topic 'Once Upon a Time...' started with a fairytale day that saw the children dressed as their favourite characters from all of the most exciting fairy tales. A real highlight was combining our English learning with Design and Technology as we made gingerbread men and then had the opportunity to taste our marvellous creations too. The children also loved tasting a variety of sweets to help them write a description of the sweet house from 'Hansel and Gretel'.

In science, the children enjoyed setting up their own investigation and using their working scientifically skills to observe over time. We investigated what changes would happen to gingerbread men if they were dunked in milk, water and vinegar. They were so enthusiastic about their findings and couldn't wait to record their results.

We cannot wait to see the children's excitement for our next adventure 'Into the Unknown...' Have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all again in January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of Year One!



Year 2

What an incredible start we have had in Year 2! We have most definitely had an exciting beginning to our brand-new topic 'Danger... Dungeons and Dragons!'. During Term 1, we learnt about the Norman invasion. The children loved exploring a range of historical sources, such as the Bayeux Tapestry, to discover details about the Battle of Hastings and William the Conqueror. We were amazed to find out that this took place in 1066, the furthest point from the present day that we have studied so far! It brought our history learning to life when we were lucky enough to visit Lincoln Castle on our Year 2 school visit. We trained to be knights and archers and explored the armour and equipment they had to wear. It was very heavy! We

even had a go at shooting with wooden bows and arrows. We also designed our own coat of arms, took part in an immersive medieval banquet (including dancing and jokes told by our very own jesters) and finally, we walked along the towering walls of the castle, taking in the sights of Lincoln below. We were amazed to find out that Lincoln Castle is rare because it has two mottos and it is one of the very few places to hold an original copy of the Magna Carta!

During Term 2, we learnt about a famous historical person in our locality - Raymond Mays! We were lucky to receive a visit from Mr Moody who brought artefacts and shared stories about when he met Raymond Mays as a boy. We used our observational skills to examine the primary source artefacts, such as trophies and photographs and developed our historical enquiry skills by asking thoughtful questions and researching his achievements using the iPads. In our Design and Technology lessons, we then had the opportunity to design, construct and evaluate our very own 3D model cars! We showed excellent problem-solving skills and resilience when fixing the axles and wheels to our cars.

We can't quite believe how quickly this term has flown by but we have been so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and commitment to their learning. All of the Year 2 team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.



Year 3

Year 3 has been just phenomenal! What an astonishing start to Key Stage 2 we have had. Our everyday learning has been loaded with imaginative lessons that have had us all fixated. In Term 1, we travelled the seven continents of the world and experienced real-life earthquake survival techniques. We honked like the geese to collect facts about the three main types of volcanoes and watched in shock as they each erupted differently. We have been challenged by Sir David Attenborough himself to understand and improve the devastation that plastic pollution is having on our unique planet. In our persuasive writing, we have used the rule of 3, persuasive starters and emotive language.

Term 2 began with us travelling back thousands of years to the time of Ancient Egypt. Cautiously, we entered the forbidden tomb of Pharaoh Rameses who laid a curse on the year group. To escape the curse, we took on roles from the hierarchy pyramid: servants, pyramid builders and crafts people were a few of the jobs we explored. A highlight for all of us was the time spent following the after-life rituals in costume during our breath taking Partake Theatre Company experience. We laid our hands on real-life artefacts and used our sense of smell to investigate herbs and spices. Our laughs could be heard from the other end of the school when our teachers told us that we would be mummifying tomatoes. Why? To learn the gruesome process of mummification of course.

I think it is safe to say that we have worked our little socks off this term and deserve a big rest. Merry Christmas to you all from the Year 3 Team.



Year 4

What a fantastic Autumn term Year 4 have had! We have loved travelling back in time to immerse ourselves in our Veni, Vidi, Vici topic, to explore the enquiry question: 'Which of the Roman achievements had the most significant impact on Britain?' To our surprise we have found that the Romans were not so rotten! We have learnt all about the importance of the Roman army in developing the empire and have studied the skill of Roman road designers to create roads that still exist today. We have discovered that the Romans are responsible for many amazing inventions such as, cement, place names, central heating and even influencing the architecture of our buildings.

We had an amazing visit to Peterborough Museum where, like true archaeologists, the children were able to handle real Roman artefacts to discover what life was like for those who lived during this period of time. We have certainly taken a journey through time: the rise of the Roman Empire, the devastation and rediscovery of Pompeii and of course most recently, learning about Roman food. Our challenge was to research and develop a Roman recipe - Paupers Pottage. As food technicians, we learnt about the origins of our ingredients, tasted and chose the flavours we most liked; practised preparing and chopping our vegetables and finally tasted and evaluated our stew. A delicious experience for most! Of course, the children should be so proud of their achievements in our year group assembly 'Veni, Vidi, Vici'. The performance saw the children work incredibly hard to learn lines, stage directions and they sported some awesome costumes- well done everyone!

We are very excited about what is in store for next term, our topic of 'Home is where the heart is' is set to be a rollercoaster of explorers, lost protagonists, and heart-warming moments. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.



Year 5

The Vile Victorians has been a fantastic first topic for us and we have covered so much: the lives of the rich and poor, the Industrial

Revolution, the workhouse, plus school life. All of this was truly brought to life with our Victorian experience day in school and our visit to Gressenhall. The children's wonderful costumes and classroom experience have really helped them understand what life may have been like for Victorian children. How times have changed! We also looked at the Victorian inventor Brunel and designed and constructed bascule bridges as part of our D&T project. We investigated the life of William Morris, a famous Victorian artist and undertook some printing based on his style of repeated patterns and nature. This has been an action-packed term with many exciting activities happening to support our classroom learning. We can't wait for next term! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and restful Christmas break.

