

Together Everyone Achieves More
*Through.....
Loving learning, loving each other and loving life
itself
AGAPE: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)*



HO HO HO! Heron Times

Edition 20 Wednesday 16th December 2020

North Curry Primary School Pupil Newsletter
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Hello and welcome to the Christmas Heron Times, produced every fortnight for the pupils of North Curry Primary School by Ms Harris and the 'Media Club' Faith, Maisie and Chloe from Shark Class. In this edition we have the entries to our Christmas Creative Competition, Christmas jokes, and we have a staff interview with Miss Gill, the history of the Christmas tree, recipes and much more. We hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Merry Christmas to the pupils and staff of North Curry Primary School!



Christmas Jokes!



Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
Because they were two deer!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?
Their days are numbered!

Where does Santa keep all his money?
At the local snow bank

Why don't crabs celebrate Christmas?
Because they're shell-fish.

What do you call Santa when he takes a break?
Santa Pause

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsil-itis!

Why was the little boy so cold on Christmas morning?
Because it was Decembrrrrr!

What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad?
A pineapple!

What does an elf study in school?
The elf-abet.

By Maisie

The History of the Christmas Tree



When you think of Christmas, one of the first images to spring to mind is probably a Christmas tree, covered in twinkly decorations, lights and tinsel. But where did the tradition of having a fir tree come from?

The tree itself has traditionally been an evergreen conifer, such as a pine or a fir, which for centuries has been used to celebrate winter festivals in both the Christian and pagan tradition. Thousands of years ago, pagan celebrations involved the use of branches to decorate the homes for the winter solstice, evoking themes of the incoming season of spring where trees and flowers would bloom once more.

Many people think the tradition of Christmas trees in Britain started with the Victorians. This refers to the time when Queen Victoria was on the throne, from 1837 until 1901. Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert were known to be very big fans of Christmas! However, the tradition actually dates back further than that.

It originally came from Germany, where Prince Albert was actually born, and was introduced to England during the Georgian period, when King George III was on the throne. He had a German wife called Charlotte, who it is thought used to decorate a tree for her family in the 1790s.

But Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are said to be the ones who made it extremely popular and fashionable to decorate a tree at Christmas like this, which is why a lot of people think that they started the tradition in Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/16074521>





An Interview with Miss Gill

What is your favourite sweet treat?

I love chocolate biscuits, my favourite would be a chocolate hob nob dipped in a nice cup of tea.

What are your hobbies?

I love travelling, cooking, going for dog walks and camping.

What is your favourite sport to watch?

Skiing! Especially the ski jumps - I think they are incredible.

How do you relax?

On the sofa with a good book wrapped up in a blanket.

What is your dream holiday?

Anywhere in Asia - lots of yummy new food to try.

What is your favourite children's book?

When I was younger I loved Enid Blyton - The Magic Faraway Tree and all of Jaqueline Wilson books. At the moment, my favourite is Malamander by Thomas Taylor.

What pets do you have?

A black and white border collie called Charlie.

Real or rubbish



There is a word (hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia) which means fear of long words! Is this story real or rubbish?

Real

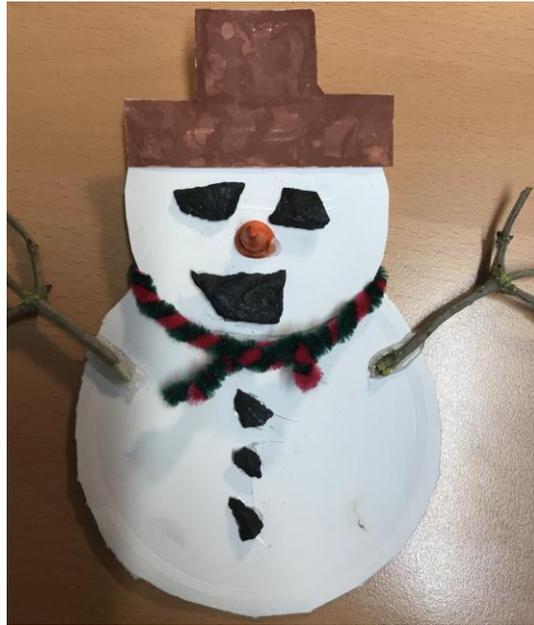
This week's real or rubbish

Coca cola changed Father Christmas from green to red?



Christmas Creative Competition

Thank you so much for all the amazing entries to our competition. We have loved looking at your fabulous creations, the winner, chosen by Mrs Morley is... Joey, for his wonderful Snowman! Well done to everyone who took part you will all receive chocolate coins.



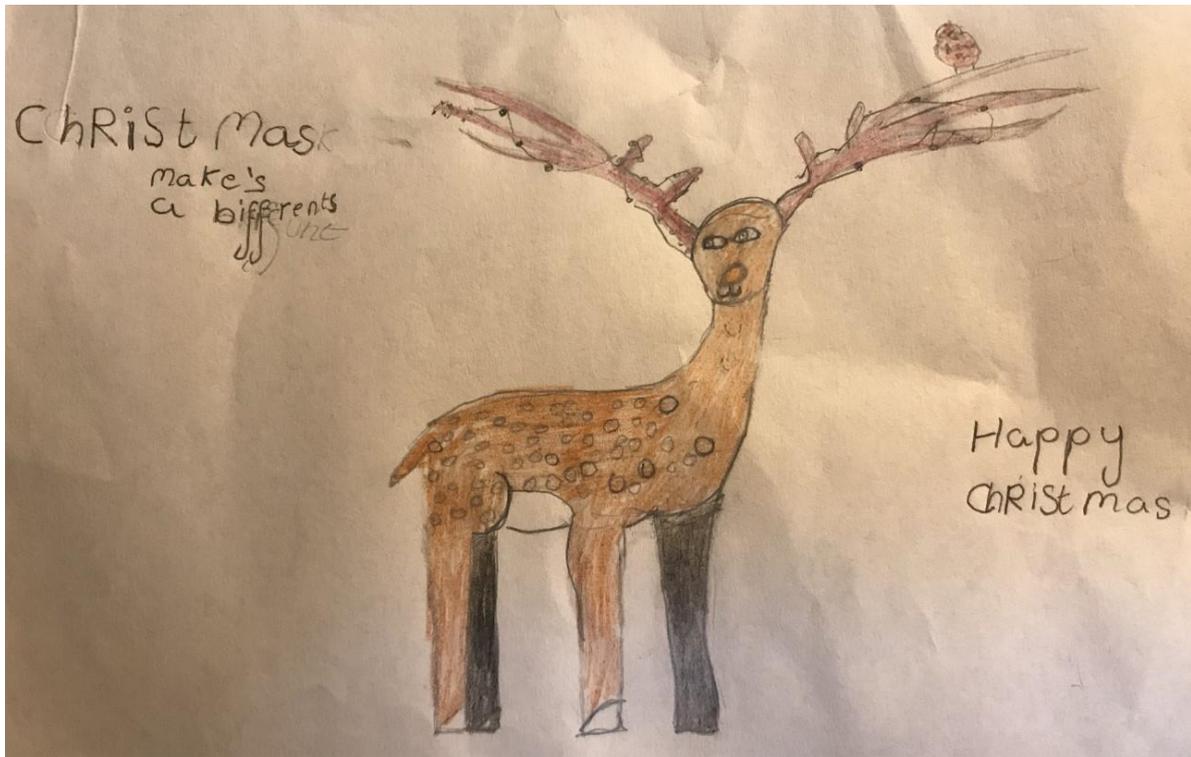
By Joey



By Daisy



By Arthur



By Charlie



Sonny and Aria have baked gingerbread cookies, made Christmas felt/ paper chains, painted wooden decorations and have made some sticking creations out of foam for the tree too. Their house is covered in glitter and they had lots of fun busy weekend of crafting!



By Charlie



By Oscar



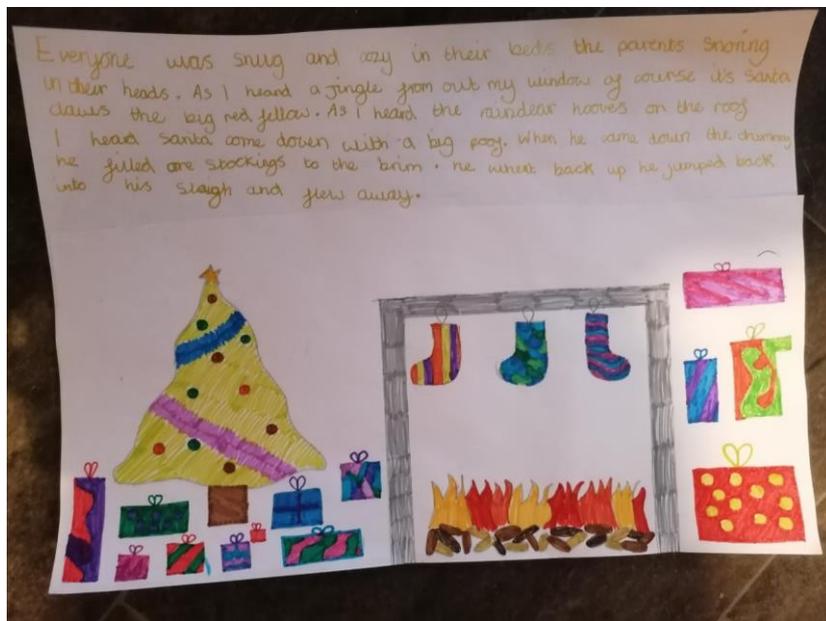
By Harry



By Tyler-Jae



By Mabel



By Jasmine



By Charlie



Starfish Show and Share

On Friday 4th December Starfish Class talked about inventing unique dragons inspired by the class creation of a heron dragon. They have been writing non-chronological reports to give more information about these creatures. Starfish have been learning about the different types of rocks and how they are formed. To finish they shared Christmas wishes for our families, wider community and across the world. George and Jasper received star of the week certificated and Isabel received the Headteacher's award.



Seahorse's Show and Share by Maisie

On Friday 11th December Seahorse did an excellent Show and Share in their Christmas Jumpers. Firstly, they started off with Jonny doing a brain break. Then Ms Limm handed out the certificates: Daniel got the first certificate and Ms Limm said he had made amazing progress. Amy got the second certificate for being an all-round superstar. Oliver got the Headteacher's award for super attitude! Next, they were sharing facts about Amelia Earhart. They invented their own flying machines and showed them. In maths they were working on 2D shapes and showed what shape has how many sides and vertices. In art they made stained glass windows. They made shadow puppets in light for Science. Finally, they finished off with a prayer by everyone.

Snowflake Pretzels



Ingredients

200g white chocolate for cooking or white candy melts,
Plus 50g extra to make lollies (optional)
32 mini pretzels (about 45g)
White or silver sprinkles
8 lolly pop sticks (optional)

Method

STEP 1

Put a sheet of baking parchment or a non-stick tray liner on a baking tray. Melt the chocolate or candy melts carefully in a microwave or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water - don't let any water get into the bowl or allow the base of it to touch the water.

Turn off the heat but leave the bowl on the pan. Add the pretzels and stir well.

STEP 2

Lift the pretzels out of the chocolate with a fork, shaking them a little so the excess chocolate drips off, then put them on the tray and in the freezer for 5 mins to set. Dip the pretzels in the chocolate again, then lay four at a time together on the tray and push them together, with the pointy ends in the centre, to make a snowflake shape. Add a blob more chocolate with the end of a teaspoon in the middle of each snowflake so they hold together when set. Before they set, decorate with the sprinkles. Leave somewhere cold to set completely - you can use the freezer if you want to speed up the process.

STEP 3

If you want to make the pretzel snowflakes into lollipops, melt the extra 50g chocolate as before and make eight well-spaced blobs, the size of a 1p coin, on some non-stick liner. Put a paper lolly stick on each blob so one end is in the chocolate, then press a pretzel snowflake gently on top and leave somewhere cold to set. Will keep for one to two days in a cool place.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/snowflake-pretzels>

Book corner By Chloe

A book recommendation:

A pinch of magic by Michelle Harrison

I like this book because it has a lot of adventure and a time limit to put the main characters under pressure.

This book would be suitable for year 4 - year 6. If you like action and adventure this is the book for you!



The Colours of Christmas



There are several colours which are traditionally associated with Christmas. This site uses Red, Green and Gold. But why do we have them and what do the colours represent?

Green

Evergreen plants, like Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe have been used for thousands of years to decorate and brighten up buildings during the long dark winter. The Romans would exchange evergreen branches during January as a sign of good luck. The ancient Egyptians used to bring palm branches into their houses during the mid-winter festivals. Now the most common use of green at Christmas are Christmas Trees.

Red

An early use of red at Christmas were the apples on the paradise tree. They represented the fall of Adam in the plays. Red is also the colour of Holly berries, which is said to represent the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross.

Red is also the colour of Bishops robes. These would have been worn by St. Nicholas and then also became Santa's uniform!

Gold

Gold is the colour of the Sun and light - both very important in the dark winter. And both red and gold are the colours of fire that you need to keep you warm.

Gold was also one of the presents brought to the baby Jesus by one of the wise men and traditionally it's the colour used to show the star that the wise men followed.

White

White is often associated with purity and peace in western cultures. The snow of winter is also very white! White is used by most churches as the colour of Christmas, when the altar is covered with a white cloth.

Blue

The colour blue is often associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus. In medieval times blue dye and paint was more expensive than gold! So it would only be worn by Royal families and very rich people. Mary was often painted wearing blue to show she was very important. Blue can also represent the colour of the sky and heaven.

Purple

During Advent, purple is used in most churches for the colour of the altar cloth and for the advent candles.

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/colors-of-christmas.shtml>



Merry Christmas everyone
See you in January 2021!



Spring Term Heron Times Editions

- 13th January - Happy New Year
- 27th January - RSPB Bird Watch
- 10th February - St Valentine
- 3rd March - World Book Day
- 17th March - Step into Spring Time
- 31st March - Easter