

PRESS GANG

Press Gang this term consists of Year 5 and 6 pupils.

From Year 5 we have: Liam, Jacob, Emma, Mia, Grace, Isla, Chelsea, Nellie and Millie. From Year 6 we have: Naomi, Amber, Shaylen, Shikana, Rebecca and Tammy.



Each term a group of budding reporters gather images and notes about events that are taking place both inside and outside of school. They use interviews and pupil/staff voice to help gather as much information as they can. Mrs Westwoods help to support them in their writing journey each week in order to create this newsletter which is distributed around school to showcase their work.

We hope you enjoy our Autumn 2023 Edition.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2023

BY MIA

You are probably fully aware that every 4 years Fifa holds a World Cup for men's football teams and now the women are showing their skills and abilities in the Women's World Cup. The English Women's team recently won the European Championship back in August 2022 and wanted to progress as far as possible in this World Cup.

The competition started on the 20th July and ran for a month. There were 32 teams from around the world which started, but by the end, there was only 1 team left standing victorious and this time it was... Spain! The lionesses tried their best and came a glorious second after making it to the final. It was a tight fought game with Spain clinching the game 1-0 in front of 75,784 supporters in the Stadium Australia in Sydney.



Did you know?

- The trophy that Spain won is a spiral design with a football at the top, which symbolises the athleticism and elegance of women's football and was designed in 1998.
- There have been 22 men's world cups but only 9 women's world cups.

I interviewed Emma in year 5. She plays as a goalkeeper for her local side and now represents the school. She said this about Mary Earps, "She inspired me because when I started people said that being a goalkeeper is one of the hardest positions on the pitch, so I decided to push myself and follow my dreams!"



This year Mr Byford took on the challenge of rowing down the River Thames in a canoe to raise money for the amazing Ahoy charity. The money will go to young people who have disabilities who want to go sailing, rowing and powerboating. He has enthusiastically taken the time to do this and is always up for a challenge, especially when it is for a good cause! His friends and colleagues were there, down by the Thames, supporting him with words of encouragement as he took on this challenge.

He has had to train very hard for months and go through blood, sweat and tears to be able to get through this; but it is something that will remain with him for the rest of his life.

To help raise funds for this charity, instead of just sponsorship, Mr Byford held coffee and cake mornings at school with the staff and overall he raised £5,358! This will be a massive help for the charity and make a difference to many young lives! It took him 2 hours and 55 minutes to row the whole River Thames! Congratulations Mr Byford!!

By Emma and Isla Year 5



Parent Teacher Association

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association and is where parents volunteer at our school to help with events for the whole school to enjoy and to raise funds for much needed equipment and days out for our children.

The PTA holds summer fairs, seasonal discos and has recently introduced food (from around the world) festivals. The PTA helps by providing things to go on the stalls, running the stalls and, overall, making the events an exciting experience for anyone who attends them.

Earlier this year, the PTA held a newly introduced movie afternoon for all the infants which was a huge hit! They watched 'A Bug's Life' and had popcorn and drinks at the half time interval as well. There is always something for everyone!

Wouldn't you love to be part of something that made all the children so happy? All of the hard work will also be seen in Enterprise Day which is held at the beginning of December, ready for Christmas. Enterprise day is a day of fun for the whole school where you can express your creativity as each class throughout the school will have made, baked or created something to sell to students and their families.

Any parents of students here at The Leys are welcome to join the PTA and definitely should!

How amazing would it be to be a part of this? If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mrs Westwood in Year 6.

By Shaylen GB

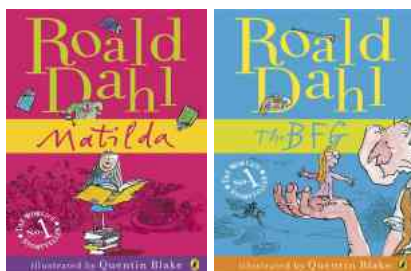


million books and her first ever book was called "Not So Stupid." She wrote this book when she was 20 years old! Perla from Year 6 likes being in Blackman class because she says,



"Malorie is very inspirational and she puts many different people from different backgrounds and cultures in her books."

One of the most famous and popular children's authors is Roald Dahl and many people love reading his phenomenal books! He has written at least 49 books before his death which sadly occurred in November 1990. Erika from Year 3 loves being in Dahl class because she says that, "Roald Dahl was a very good author and he makes many wonderful books."



By Naomi



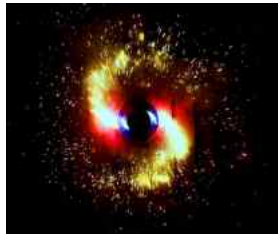
Futsal competition - Year 5 and 6

Late November saw Year 5 & 6 compete in a local Futsal tournament at Barnwell. Futsal is an indoor sport based on football but with a slight change in rules. There were 12 teams in total and after many individual games and play-offs we came third with a shiny bronze medal to bring home!



Well done to everyone who took part in the sporting events this term. You have done the school proud!

By Tammy Year 6



Bonfire Night

This year's bonfire night was spectacular!!! The event took place on Sunday the 5th of November 2023 at Fairlands Park, Stevenage. Hundreds of people gathered on the field to watch the colourful fireworks sparkle in the night sky. It started at 7:30pm and lasted for 20 minutes.

BOOM!!! CRACKLE!!!

BOOM!!!

There were so many different shapes and sizes of multicoloured spirals and rockets lighting up the night sky. Bonfire night is one of the most exciting times of the year. Hundreds of people followed the sound of upbeat music as they walked across the park (and slightly squelchy mud). Everyone went to watch the sparkling fireworks pop in the illuminating ebony sky covered with mist and nondescript clouds. Also, there were stands which sold glow sticks and



CHILDREN IN NEED

YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD OF THIS EVENT WHICH HELPS CHILDREN THAT NEED A LITTLE EXTRA SUPPORT, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE CENTRES THEY VISIT. IT IS HELD EACH YEAR AND LOTS OF THE COUNTRY TAKES PART IN ACTIVITIES, BAKING, COMPETITIONS AND SPONSORED EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL - WE CAN ALL GET INVOLVED. THE MOTTO OF CHILDREN IN NEED IS THAT CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO THRIVE AND BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUR AMBITIONS FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE UK TO: BE HAPPY, SAFE AND SECURE.

CHILDREN IN NEED ARE REPRESENTED BY A BEAR CALLED PUDSEY.

THERE IS PLENTY OF MERCHANDISE ON SALE NOWADAYS INCLUDING:

TEDDYS, HEADBANDS, SWEET TREATS, HATS, T-SHIRTS AND BRACELETS. WITH THE MONEY RAISED THEY FUND THOUSANDS OF CHARITIES AND PROJECTS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE UK, THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO FEEL AND BE SAFER, HAVE IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, FORM

other light up toys which you can see in the dark.



Remember Remember the 5th of November

Why? Well there is a history behind bonfire night. On the 5th of November 1605, 36 barrels of gunpowder were discovered hidden behind a pile of firewood in a storeroom beneath the Palace of Westminster. With them, guards found a man calling himself John Johnson. They found fuses in Johnson's pockets, and swiftly arrested him as he intended to blow up the Houses of Parliament.



By Nellie and Chelsea

BETTER, MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND BE GIVEN MORE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FLOURISH.



THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS THAT PEOPLE GO THE EXTRA MILE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE AMAZING CHARITY. AT SCHOOL WE SET UP A DONATION LINK FOR FAMILIES TO DONATE TO IF THEY WISHED, CHILDREN COULD COME TO SCHOOL IN NON-UNIFORM AND DRESS IN PUDSEY CLOTHES AND MERCHANDISE AND THROUGH THIS WE MADE £ 356 TOWARDS THE OVERALL FIGURE RAISED THIS YEAR OF £33,513,325!

BY MILLIE AND GRACE



**What did Mrs Claus say to Santa Claus?
"O it looks like rein-deer!"**



Enterprise Day



2023

On Friday the 1st of December we held our annual Enterprise Day. It was so much fun for the whole school! All the children across the school were involved in the making of the treats and gifts - ready to sell to the visitors. There were loads of yummy treats, decorations for your christmas tree and even some edible coal!!!

Year 6 made their own badges, christmas cards, oreo crumble (the edible coal for naughty children) and shortbread cookies in the shape of gingerbread men and many more Christmas shapes.



Year 5 made rocky roads and stationery jars filled with mini stationery items! Year 3 produced some amazing rudolph cupcakes which sold out in no time and the Year 4's switched it up a bit by making snowflakes out of



folded paper and holding games where you could win some lovely sweets as prizes.

School Clubs

All around our school there are many clubs like dance, i rock, football, STEAM and climate change to suit your preference.

Here are some of the comments from children at the school who participate in our clubs on a weekly basis:

Climate change

Do you think climate change will ever stop?

"It will take a long time and a lot of hard work from humans but at club we learn about how we can make a difference"

How do you feel about climate change?

"It makes me feel sad for the younger generations and we have learnt about what we can do to save our planet"

Why did you join the club?

"It's very fun because the teacher knows a lot and you learn a lot of things you probably didn't know already."

What topics do they teach in the club?

"Dr Christie teaches us how much the globe has warmed up in the past century, what we can do to slow this down and also about what impact it is having on life today."



The Friday before enterprise day was non-uniform at school and our children and families donated things like biscuits and chocolates to also sell at Enterprise Day and the sweets that were given out for the scavenger hunt. The PTA provided books and uniforms as donations for the children to take and make use of. Thank you PTA!!

Enterprise day started at 2:00 pm and ended at 4:00 pm and if your grown up didn't come to get you you would get to help out with the stalls for your year!! It is always an amazing event so well done to everyone!

By Rebecca I, Shikana, Year 6



Football

Do you think that you are good at football?

“Yes I do, I'm a good learner and Mr Byford and Mr Newlans are good teachers. We are always learning new skills and practising”

Why did you join a football club?

“Because I wanted to practise my skills more and because I wanted to possibly be picked for the school team.”

Dance

What kinds of dances are you working on?

“Christmas dances for our school performances”

What types of dance do you do?

“Mainly street dance but also classical and modern dance”

Who runs the club?

“Mr Sapsed”

You can find all these clubs on our schools website with many more. Some might not be on the website and instead it will be on a leaflet and you must scan the QR code to join. Please contact the school reception if you require any further information.

Witten by Paris Year 6



Year 5

Airbus Mars Rover Trip

If you're in Year 5 you've probably just come back from the **Airbus Mars Rover Trip**.

The Year 5's went to the stem centre in Stevenage, Hertfordshire on the 16th November 2023.

Once they came in through the adventure section, they were told about Mars Rovers, what they are used for and then they got to see two real ones in operation in a testing area which is like a giant sandbox where the Rovers are controlled by assistants. After that, they made their own rockets out of cable ties and paper and had a competition to see whose would go the furthest.



All about Airbus

Airbus is a company that makes commercial aeroplanes, helicopters, rovers and rockets. They also have a STEM Centre that schools in the area go to every year. They have around 134,000 employees. They were founded in the year 2000 and have made over 13,500 aeroplanes.

Harry said; "It was the best day ever and I would go again if I could."

Jared also said, "I loved it, my favourite thing was building rockets out of paper."



BY Liam Year 5

Christmas

Christmas is a highly celebrated festival by Christians and other religions, all across the globe, where they remember the birth of Jesus Christ. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ. A Mass service is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and came back to life.

Advent is also an important event in the Christian calendar in the



lead up to Christmas and is the time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

On each of the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas, an Advent candle is lit and they represent 4 things: hope, love, joy and peace, which show the virtues Jesus brought to us on Earth. People will sing Christmas carols and the services by candlelight are always extra special.

This time of year is celebrated in many different ways throughout the country, many families go to church, we decorate our houses

Mini Police 2023

Over the last 8 weeks, Year 5 have been participating in a Mini Police event which focuses on safety awareness (online and road), anti-bullying and how things like anti-social behaviour can impact them and their local communities. They also work alongside neighbourhoods and visit schools to offer advice on crime prevention. Everyone had a great time getting to dress up with high visibility jackets, police hats and they got to keep notes of anything suspicious they may have seen around in the neighbourhood and they could report back the next week!



The course was run by 2 local CPSOs (Community Support Police Officer) who had kindly given up their time to teach Year 5 about elements of policing and also the community. They started by challenging the children to a 'bleep test' to see how many of them could keep up with the bleep and how many levels they could complete. Everyone



with trees, lights and tinsel, we exchange presents and endeavour to spend more time with ones we love. Christmas is a very special time of the year and we hope that whatever you do and however you celebrate Christmas, it is special in its own way and that 2024 brings joy and peace to everyone.

Best wishes from The Leys Nursery and Primary School.



Written by Tammy O Year 6



How would you decorate this tree?

did very well and showed how good they were with jogging and timing. The children were also lucky enough to see inside a police van and the small cell that it contains in the back for naughty people! The sirens were very loud but it was all a great experience. Once the children had learnt more about road safety they made posters to show what is important to remember when on the road when cycling or crossing the road - The Green Cross Code. Anti-bullying was focussed on how we treat others in the community and especially at school. They completed a survey to see who had been affected by bullying before and then watched a video on how it can impact people's lives which was very poignant and caused great discussion in the class.

After the 8 weeks, Year 5 gathered all their work together and presented it to the rest of the school in an assembly, discussing what they had learnt over that time. "It was a great experience and we learnt so much," explained Joel.



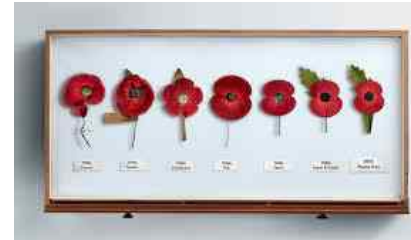
By Emma and Mia





History

The first Remembrance Day was celebrated in 1919 throughout the Commonwealth and Britain. It was originally called Armistice Day and it marked the end of hostilities of the Great War (World War I) in 1918. It came to symbolise the end of the war and provide an opportunity to remember those who had died.



The meaning of the poppy

When you see one of those red rose-like flowers, do you ever wonder what their colours mean? Well let us tell you. The Red on the poppy is the blood on the battlefields from the soldiers we lost and the black middle is the souls of the soldiers who fought in the wars.

Why do we celebrate it

We celebrate remembrance day to remember the people who fought and served in a war. In the olden days, before the second world war it was only for the people who died in the first world war but these days it's to remember all the people who have served and given their lives in a war at home or abroad.

The minute silence

When we reach day 11 the month 11 and the hour 11 we as a country do a minute silence. Have you ever wondered why? It is because we reflect on the soldiers that fought for our country in the war so we are safe and so we are not over-ruled by other countries.



The Last Post

The "Last Post" is a bugle call used at British or Commonwealth military funerals and ceremonies commemorating those who have been killed in war. The Last Post symbolises the duty of the dead is over, and they can rest in peace.

This year at The Leys we raised £280 by selling poppies of all types, wrist bands and slap bands. Thank you!



The winter disco!

Now the chilly season is here, our school held a winter disco! Although it was cold, the disco warmed up the pupils at The Leys. On the 10th of November we hosted a whole school winter disco! To make sure everyone got the opportunity to attend, the lower school went from 5-6pm and then years 4,5 and 6 went from 6.30-8pm.

The Disco sold all sorts of items ranging from crisps and chocolate all the way to flashing glasses, squishy animals and bouncing emoji balls! There was also some juice on offer, served to us by our lovely staff and volunteers.

Now let's see if the pupils of The Leys liked it or not and what they had to say about it!

Finley in Year 6 joyfully exclaimed, "There were lots of sweets and an amazing large hall to dance in. Another thing was there was a DJ blasting loud music!"

Liam, Year 5 happily said "The disco was amazing and everyone was dancing, there was lots of food and drink. I was never expecting anything like it!"



Freddy in Year 4 Said "It was amazing, especially the music and food!... I came home with a smile and a handful of toys!

Thanks to everyone for attending the disco and making it such a success, raising lots of funds for the school and PTA. We hope everyone had a jolly good time!

**By Jacob Twyman
Year 5**

Manor Adventure



On the 30th of October - 3rd of November, Year 6 went to Manor Adventure. It was a long trip of around 3-4 hours away, in Wales, however, we found fun things to do on the coach. This consisted of colouring activities, reading books, card games, eye spy, drawing and a lot more activities. We did stop halfway through to eat our lunch and stretch our legs. We needed to pack things like; toothpaste, toothbrush, toiletries, warm clothes, toys and of course some of their stuffed teddys!



Manor Adventure in Shropshire, the annual Year 6 trip where the children stay away from home and take part in many wonderful experiences, was an incredible week for all of the pupils that went. The place we stayed in was called The Mews. There was a really packed itinerary for everyone with activities from 07:30 (wake up time) until 21:30 (bedtime)! We did abseiling, archery, axe throwing, zip wire, rifle shooting, scavenger hunts, underground mazes, rock climbing, obstacle course, fencing, film making, aeroball and more. It was cold and muddy but we were dressed for the weather with many layers of clothes (so we stayed warm) and waterproofs and boots to stay free from the mud!



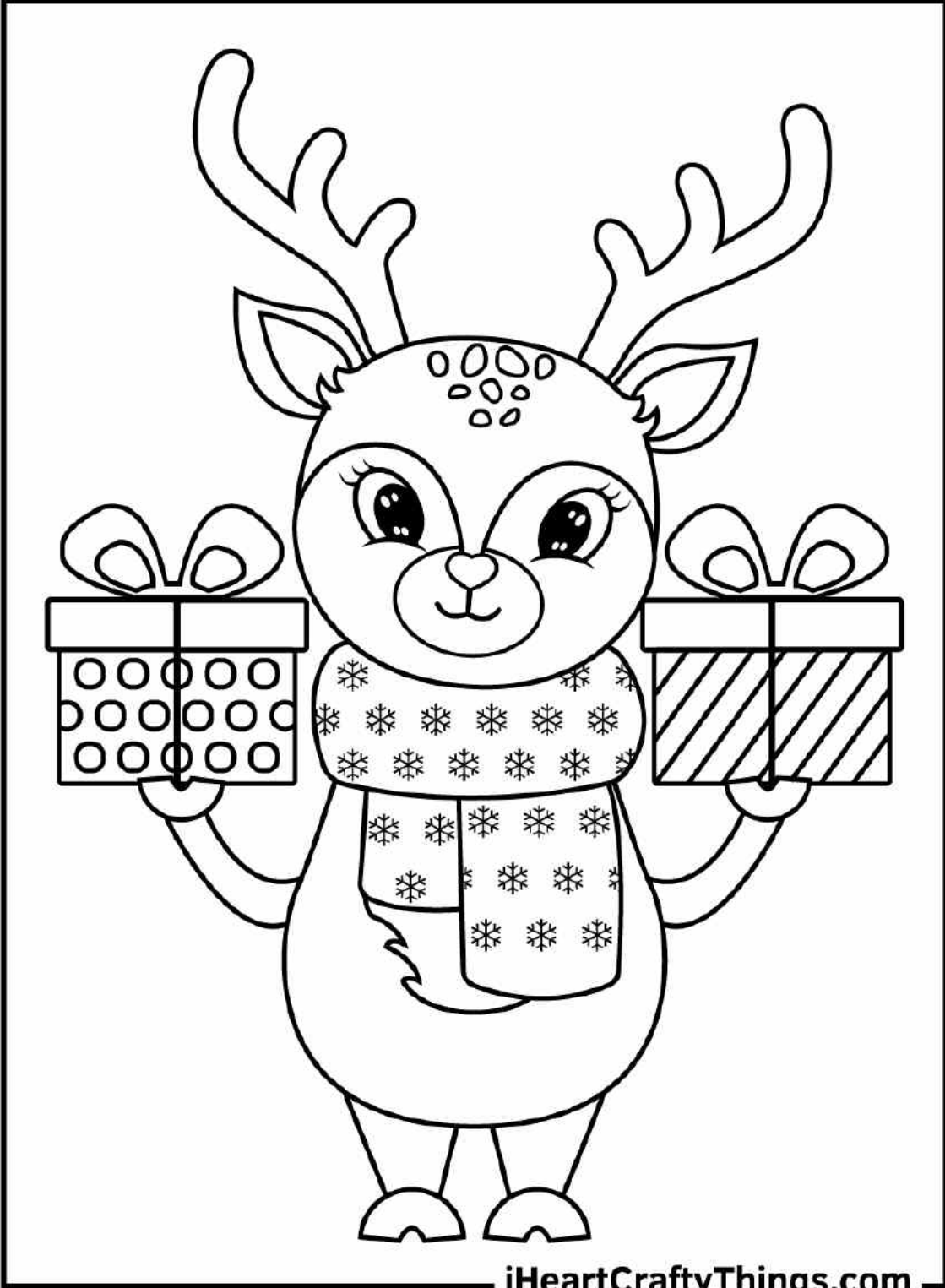
When all the Year 6 children came back from Manor they were quite sad to leave because the trip was awesome, but they were also excited to be back home so they could see their families and relay all their stories!



Some students didn't go so they stayed at school for the week and they didn't do any lessons. They actually did fun and exciting activities such as going to the cinema, fun art activities, outdoor activities and movies with hot chocolates on Friday (doesn't that sound like an awesome week!!!).

By: Amber McGibbon, Rebecca Iacob and Shikana Day Year 6





iHeartCraftyThings.com



Gingerbread Man biscuits

To make 20 biscuits

Ingredients

350g plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
125g butter
175g brown sugar
1 egg
4 tbsp golden syrup
gingerbread people cutters
tubes of writing icing



Method

1. Mix the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon in a mixing bowl. Add the butter and rub together until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs, then add the sugar.
2. Beat the golden syrup and egg together in a small bowl. Add this to the mixing bowl and mix with a rounded knife until the mixture starts to clump together. Knead the dough briefly until smooth. Place the dough in cling film and put it in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.
4. Lightly flour a work surface and roll the dough out to a depth of 0.5cm. Use the cutters to make gingerbread people shapes and place them on the baking trays. Make sure you leave gaps between them, as the dough will spread.
5. Bake the gingerbread for 12–15 minutes, or until golden brown. Leave them on the tray for 10 minutes, then move them to a wire rack to finish cooling. You could decorate the finished biscuits with writing icing if you choose.

Christmas Holidays Writing Challenge:

During your holidays, we would like to give you a fun writing challenge which is optional but we would love you to take part!

There will be prizes for each Key Stage!



Challenge: Pick your favourite day of the holidays-

What did you do? What was good about it? Who were you with and how did you feel at the time?

EYFS- Can you draw a picture about your favourite day?

KS1- Can you write a description about your favourite day?

KS2- Can you write a diary entry about your favourite day?

Remember to add as much detail as you can!

Please send the entries to: Mrs Westwood in Year 6 by Monday 15th January 2024



CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book



Have a whole family bedtime story



Create a puppet show of a book



Read a story by the Christmas tree



Read a book that is older than you



Build a den and share a story in it



Read a story about an animal



Read a book about kindness



Share a story with someone over Zoom



Draw a picture from your favourite book



Share a poem with someone



Read a book that makes you laugh



TIS THE SEASON TO GET READING!



Christmas Word Search

G Q C E L V E S Z L I G H T S
D C Z L F J S R V N U L B Z B
C E L E B R A T E W M J E Y F
Q F D C W G N R E I N D E E R
P F Z E H J T G C O O K I E S
G R A N C R A I R I W B I H C
O M E M N O I U K S F V A Z A
R I I S I N R S N D O H J D N
N M M S E L E A T E C Q B W D
A G Z D T N Y C T M J C P R Y
M I I I U L T T W I A B T E C
E V H N Z W E S S Q O S B A A
N I E N A Q Q T F T P N J T N
T N G E P Q I C O P Y Z S H E
D G A R J W D E Q E Y P E B S

Decorations
Celebrate
Lights
Giving

Candy Canes
Ornament
Presents
Dinner

Christmas
Reindeer
Family
Wreath

Mistletoe
Cookies
Elves
Santa

