



# Shinewater News



Swale  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST

## Newsletter December 2019

Thank you for another amazing term at Shinewater and for all the support you give to the school. The school continues to shine and go from strength to strength. The results from the parent survey were just fabulous and we most definitely live up to our "Together We Shine" motto.



We have enjoyed the many school performances at the end of this term and the children have sung, acted and danced their hearts out. Each and every one of them has made us proud.

The bedtime stories and cocoa evening was a huge success in EYFS and KS1-bedtime stories are so important for children. Thank you to the teachers for organising the Christmas events and bringing the spirit of Christmas to us as adults. Thank you also to Anita and the catering staff for providing us with a fabulous Christmas dinner.

Finally a huge thank you to the PTA for producing the wonderful Christmas fair and disco for the children.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas. For those of you who are Christian enjoy a time of reflection on the meaning of Christmas and for those of other faiths or none we hope you have a quiet and restful time too with your families. .

**Happy Christmas everyone!**

## Year 6 and The Big Sing

On 4th December, the majority of Year 6 took part in the Big Sing at the Kings Centre. This is an annual musical event organised by East Sussex Music Service and involves hundreds of primary school pupils from across the county in a series of concerts. Our pupils performed alongside children from four other schools, singing a range of well-known and less well-known Christmas songs and were also treated to a performance by the Eastbourne Area Concert Band. The children worked hard for many weeks prior to the concert to learn some very challenging music and sang with confidence and great enthusiasm. We were all so proud of their achievements and it was lovely to see so many of our parents and carers in the audience too. The best part for the staff was definitely hearing the children talk afterwards about how exciting it was, how proud they were of themselves for being so brave, and how they would love to do it again. Performing with other children and professional musicians provided our pupils with a fantastically enriching and exciting opportunity – well done to all who took part.



## Cumbria Court Service in the Community

Twelve of our Year 6 pupils visited Cumbria Court last week to sing some Christmas songs for the residents there. They performed beautifully and were treated afterwards to juice and cakes! The children performed so well – they were naturally a little anxious as they were in a much smaller group than they are used to but they sang with confidence and the residents enjoyed listening to them. Our pupils did a fantastic job in representing the school in our community – well done to all who participated



## Christmas Fun in EYFS



Reception were fantastic in their nativity 'The Little Angel'. There was some fantastic singing and we have some great dancers in our classes. We are all so proud of them. The children are getting very excited about Christmas and are enjoying doing lots of craft activities. Happy Christmas



## Year 1-Our Most Excellent Singers!

Year One have had a very busy preparing for their Christmas production and on the 6<sup>th</sup> December we invited families to come into the classroom and help us make bow ties for the children to wear. We even had time to sing them a few Christmas songs. Thank you to those families who came along.



## Nursery

The Nursery children had a lovely end of year craft morning with their parents to celebrate Christmas. The children really enjoyed making and sharing their creations. We had a great time and we hope you did too! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and we hope you enjoy the festive season.

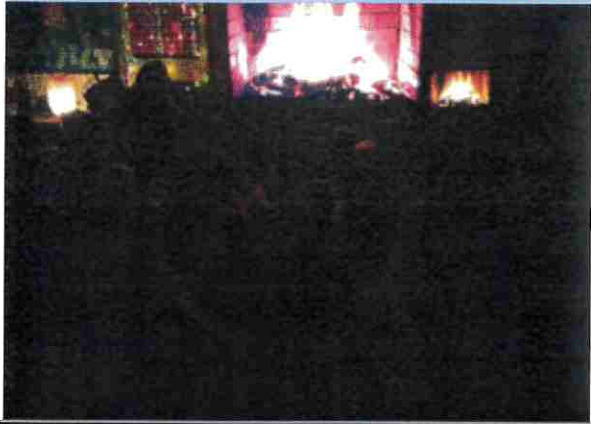


## Year 5 Fabulous Scientists

We had a Science Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, where we were investigating how to separate a range of ingredients from an alien soup. These items included pasta, rice, paperclips, glitter, food colouring, water and salt. We had an amazing time planning and carrying out the investigation. We found out that not all of the ingredients could be separated, using only sieves and filter paper. For example, the salt was soluble and dissolved into the water. We are exploring solubility next week, to test what other substances might dissolve in water as well.

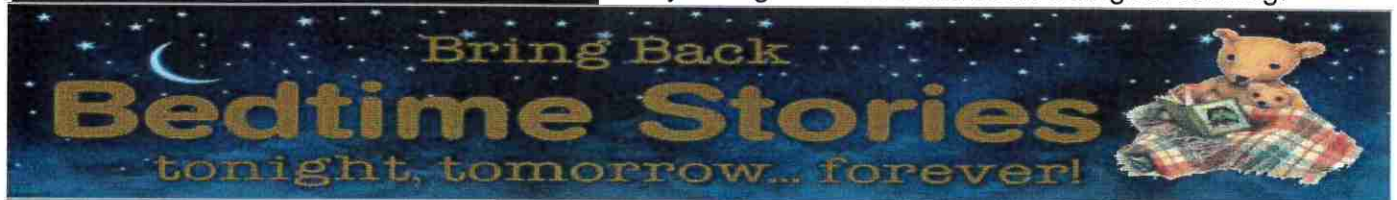


## Cocoa Evening and Bedtime Stories



Last Tuesday, after all the children had gone home, the Reception and Key Stage 1 teachers transformed their classrooms ready for a very special Christmas Bedtime Stories night. Lights were dimmed, fairy lights twinkled, cosy fires crackled and glowed on the whiteboard screens and teachers swapped their shoes for slippers. The children arrived in pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers and settled down on comfy cushions and blankets to listen to Christmas stories. Christmas bells rang through the corridor to announce the arrival of freshly-made milky hot chocolate.

Everyone agreed that it had been a magical evening!



### Ten reasons for a bedtime story:

#### It strengthens bonds:



Taking time to read a story before bedtime sends your child the message that you value them and love them. It is a nurturing activity, which helps strengthen relationships.

#### It improves mental health



Research from the National Literacy Trust found that children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental health than those who don't.

#### It expands vocabulary

Exposure to new words and understanding words in the context of stories is a fantastic way to improve vocabulary- children are more likely to come across unusual words in books than in everyday conversation.

#### It helps social and emotional development

At the heart of most children's stories, there is a moral or value, (such as sharing, honesty or kindness) which can help children to make sense of the world around them. Children develop empathy by identifying with characters and with the situations in which those characters find themselves.

#### It sparks imagination

The power of your child's imagination is strengthened as they visualise the books events in their minds. Children who are read to are more adept at creating stories from their own imagination.

#### It extends listening and concentration skills

By listening to you read your child will build their capacity for concentration.



#### It helps independent reading

Hearing the rhythm, rhyme and patterns of language in books and following the words on the page help children to become independent readers.

#### It begins conversations

Books can be a great way to discuss potentially tricky subjects. Topics such as moving house, the arrival of a new sibling or parents separating, can be introduced into the conversation through a book.

#### It creates a bedtime ritual

Stories before bedtime can be an important part of a calming ritual, helping your child to settle and get ready for sleep.

#### It's fun!

Children love entering the world of stories and by reading to them now you can give them the priceless gift of a life-long love of reading.



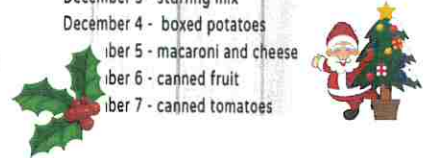
## Reverse Advent

This term, Upper Key Stage 2 came together for three days to focus on RE and, more specifically for us this time, the religion of Christianity. We looked at what it means to be a Christian, Christian celebrations and places of worship and investigated the theme of 'commitment' and what it means to show commitment (to a religion and otherwise). As a result, Years 5 and 6 have decided to commit themselves to a good cause during the Advent period! We have planned a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' event to run from Monday 2nd December until Friday 20th December (our last day of term). The concept of the reverse Advent calendar is a fairly modern one; it involves giving something or doing a good deed each day during the Advent season, thereby reversing the focus on receiving the chocolate or little gifts that are typically inside an Advent calendar.

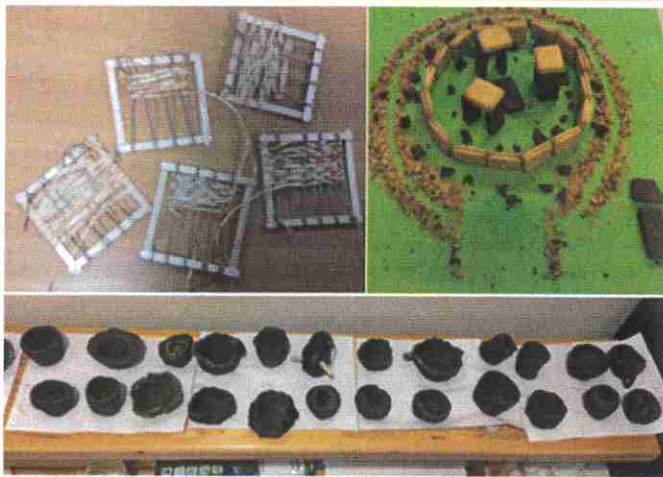
## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes



## Year 3 Bronze Age Talk



This week year 3 welcomed a visitor from the Eastbourne Heritage Association, who came to talk to us about what Eastbourne looked like during the Stone Age through to the Bronze Age. We discovered that there was once hyenas, grizzly bears, woolly mammoths and even sabre tooth tigers roaming our town! We also had a go at doing some weaving to learn how prehistoric people made their clothes, and tried to make our own clay pots. We then found out about Stone Henge, and debated why it was built, followed by building our own 'biscuit henge'!

Earlier in the term, a small group of Year 3 children visited the residents of Ashley Gardens care home. We read our favourite stories to them, it was lot of fun getting to know the residents.

## Computing at Shinewater

There are so many amazing things happening in your child's classroom. Mrs Boddy is continuing to add photos to your child's year group gallery. Please note that we can only use children's photos if you have given permission. Next term Internet Safety Day will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February this aims to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Look out for information about this nearer



# Term 3-Monday 6th January