

The end of term has been a spectacular success! Our days have been filled with fun, inspiring activities and end of year celebrations. The children will have had several parties, including the School Council party and the fantastic PTFA discos. Santa made an appearance at the very well attended and enjoyable PTFA Christmas fetes, which was of great delight to the children. The Mince Pie Carol Extravaganza was a superb opportunity for parents and players to come together to perform traditional (and a few modern) Christmas hymns and carols. It was a great opportunity for our musicians to showcase their talents and it will certainly be something that we will continue next year. Our 'Young Voices' choirs performed exceptionally well at the Mince Pie Extravaganza and also performed beautifully at the Carol Service held at Lincoln Cathedral. The Sutterton St Mary's church service for parishioners was particularly beautiful and Sutterton pupils from 'Jelly Church' performed a polished and confident version of the Nativity story. However, in my opinion, one of the most memorable Christmas experiences so far has been taking the whole of the federation to see Cinderella at the Newark Theatre. We cheered; we booed and laughed at the different levels of pantomime humour. The children had the most fantastic experience and it was certainly worth all of the effort. This final week of festive celebrations will include our staff and children Christmas lunch, prepared by Farm Food Kitchens and our school church services led by Father Charlie. I realise though, that the most beautiful and precious of all of our school Christmas celebrations is our Nativity performances. The children and staff have worked so hard to ensure that they deliver a first-class production and they have spent tireless hours on props, costume additions and ensuring that the script allows every child to shine. As I write, we have only had Swineshead's Reception and Infant Nativity. The children there performed beautifully and were absolutely fabulous! Lots of parents spoke very highly about the quality of the children's singing and their overall confidence of quite a complex story. I can only wish the very best to the rest of our performers as I join you in feeling very proud of the children at our respective schools.

It is during our time of anticipation and excitement for Christmas that we can overlook those in need of help and support. It is an important time to help those that are lonely, to help and pray for those in crisis and to give people the opportunities they need to make a positive change in their lives.



The empathy and kindness of our schools was particularly notable during the balloon launch held on 19th and 20th November to pay homage to the victims of the Paris attacks. The release was to give support to all those that had been touched by the horrific acts during the terrorist attack. Every child released a red, white or blue balloon (the



tricolour of France) and prayed for the victims and their families and symbolised our commitment to our whole school values of: Love, Compassion, Respect, Inclusion and Forgiveness.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Claire Collett

Executive Headteacher

Swineshead School

School Council



The School Council did a great job taking the lead on the 'swap-shop' fundraiser. The donations from parents were extremely good and the event was well supported by all. The children ran the whole event with

minimal adult support and the whole group have really stepped-up to being the public face of the school.

On behalf of the School Council, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks for the excellent support and efforts towards 'The Great Swineshead Bake Off', which was held on 27th November. We were delighted that Mrs Basker, Manageress at Jessop's Bakers and Mrs Hulley, who helps with refreshments at St Mary's Church, were able to judge the overall entries and award prizes to the winners

All monies raised from the fundraisers will go towards the School Council party on the last day of term.

School-to-School Support

We have become part of a peer-review partnership with St Mary's RC Primary School, Boston Nursery School and Kirton Primary School. This will strengthen our links with other schools in the local area and add strength to the monitoring and evaluation of standards across the federation. We have already conducted our first peer-review, which was held at Swineshead, and looked at the quality of teaching in writing and our EYFS provision. The feedback from the review was encouraging with clear guidance on steps to improve and it is good that we are building relations with other schools in the local area.

God is The Centre of It All!

On Saturday 28th November Mrs Granta took her Bible Study group to Boston Stump for the "Jesus is The Centre of It All" celebration. The group comprised of: Nikola Dehgan, Layla Allgood, Chloe Kemp, Nicole Grant, Ellie Leach, Megan Cowdell, Jake Cowdell and Taylor Hilton.



During the celebration, the children played music, sang worshipful songs, presented readings that they had been studying and performed an expressive dance using ribbons.

The event was extremely well attended and Mrs Granta threw a disco afterwards to thank the children for their commitment.

Fourfields School



Sporting Megastars

Not content with winning the small-school tag rugby, our outstanding sports team has also gone and won the Bos-



ton and District 7 a side Football Festival! The teamwork, good training and some real individual flair allowed an unstoppable Sutterton team who won every game with a very convincing lead. They will

represent Boston and District at the county football tournament held at Carre's Grammar on 16th January.

The rugby team were also proud of their achievements at our tag-rugby derby against Swineshead. Both teams have committed and dedicated teams with good coaches. The game was never going to be a 'pushover' as Swineshead had recently won the large school Boston and District tag competition and Sutterton had won the small schools tournament. It was a well-contested and fair competition, enthusiastically played by both sides. Good support from parents, including both sides 'running the line' allowed some quality rugby to take place. Sutterton won both the advanced and developing players' games and it is encouraging to see our younger players taking up the charge in preparation for later years.

Our netball festival derby held at Swineshead was also a well played game that gave younger players the opportunity to play competitive netball. The Swineshead team are a little larger in size and loaned some of their developing/advanced players to Sutterton's developing team. Both games demonstrated the important sporting qualities of teamwork and fair play with key individual defence and attacking skills. The advanced game was very tight with Sutterton pulling two late goals to win 5-3, whilst the developing team showed great confidence against a more experienced developing Swineshead team and I can see some real potential coming through Central Class for the tournaments in the future.

I'm also pleased to inform you that we have ordered new tracksuits and rugby shirts for our teams that are to be sponsored by Firth's Landscapes. The money raised from the sports fundraiser in the summer has gone towards the cost and our players will look professional and smart in their new kit.

Fundraising

Thank you to all of the fundraising efforts that have taken place this term.

The Remembrance Poppy Appeal raised £ 161.69 and Children in Need raised £215.00. Fantastic work!

Reception Open Mornings

Our EYFS team have done a marvellous job welcoming prospective parents to our school—showing them the fantastic provision that is available at Swineshead. The EYFS team are really taking a lead in school improvement and the progress of our Reception children is very impressive. Miss Cook and Miss Launchbury are involved in a phonics improvement programme in conjunction with Witham St Hugh's in Lincoln and this is having a real impact on the standards in phonics across the whole school.

Upper Key-Stage Two Literacy Teaching – IPEELL Writing Project

Another area of significant school improvement is the teaching and learning of English. We were keen to improve upon our writing results at the end of Key Stage Two and provide children with the stimulus and engagement in writing through first quality teaching. We became part of the IPEELL project in September, which is run through York University. The school is part of a 'controlled' group to measure the impact of the project upon standards and the project is monitored closely, both by school and the Local Authority. It is really pleasing to see that all children in Year 5 and Year 6 are fluent within the structure of IPEELL and the expectations of children have improved dramatically. We are very confident that this year, the vast majority of our children will leave Swineshead 'secondary ready' and will have achieved the expected level and some exceeding at the end of Year 6.

Year 6 Writing

An extract of story-writing based on WW2 by Grace Sherwin.

As the horizon swallowed the golden sun, the truck abruptly came to a halt. Charlie flew towards the dusty window. His eyes became transfixed upon his surroundings, his arms dropped to his sides and his mouth formed the shape of an 'O'. Instead of a field of scarlet poppies, what lay before him was a barren graveyard of the forgotten, not the remembered.

Suddenly, the face of a muscular soldier appeared at the window. The man flung open the door of the truck, grabbed Charlie by his scrawny little arm, threw him onto the ground and kicked him to the floor. Life in the war was always like this for poor Charlie. Forever being pushed about by the older soldiers. His life was a misery for the three tortuous months he was there, until one day, it all changed...

School Nutrition Action Group and Change 4 Life

The mid-day team have done a sterling job in promoting healthy eating and inclusive participation in healthy activities. The fresh fruit morning was a huge success and the school hall was filled with the sumptuous smell of fresh fruit smoothies and fruit kebabs. Miss Burns and Mrs Dean ran a competition stall at the PTFA Christmas fete for the best



baked healthy food item with a fruit and veg hamper for the best-judged product. Mrs Webster ran an informative Change 4 Life stall with lots of ideas about healthy living, especially the display about the amount of sugar in every day items and how to make a healthy selection box.

Children's Bingo

The two bingo nights have been well attended and it is very good of Mr John Johnson and Mr Mark Morrell to run these for the children of the village. The money raised is split between school funds and the fundraising of the village hall committee.

Around the Classes

Alchemy Island

We have been blown-away by the standard and the amount of effort put into our home-school projects. Here's some photographs from Phoenix Class



Candle of Peace

A small group of Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a service at Centenary Methodist Church in Boston. They had been invited thanks to their previous work on inclusion at the 'Unity in the Community' event we held back in February. The Candle of Peace Foundation, run by Lyn Luxton, was set up as a direct response to the terror attacks in Paris and is a multi-cultural expression of unity, compassion and forgiveness. At the event, seven faiths, seven nationalities, two primary schools, an MP and members of the community were invited to share their thoughts on "What Peace Means To Me", and this was all declared in the words of Antoine Leiris,



who lost his wife and child in the event, 'They will NOT have my HATE'!! The terrorist incidents,

which took place on Friday 13th November, claimed at least 129 lives and resulted in widespread casualties.

Imam Sadek from Sleaford and Leicester, explained that peace & non- violence were at the heart of true Islam and our children were fascinated to learn from him that 'Islam' does in fact translate to mean 'Peace'.

Poetry, prayers, art and song inspired us as we all came together to work for Peace, understanding & tolerance.

DIARY DATES

17 December—End of term
5 January - Start of term
11 January - Clubs to start
15 January - Year 3/4 Athletics Festival
22 January - Year 5/6 Plate and Cup Athletics Final
28 January— Goalball for visual or hearing impairment

Year 6 Writing

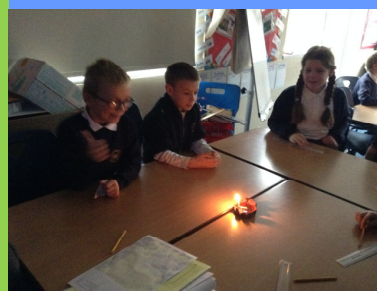
Evacuee

By Abigail Nicholls

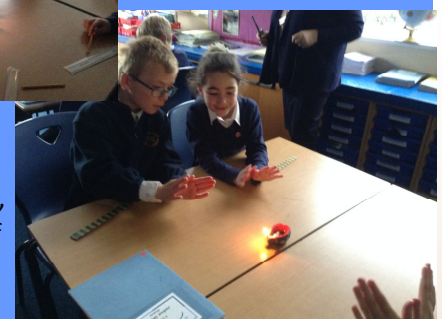
I've packed my clothes; My Sunday best.
There is no more room for the rest.
I've packed my memories inside my head,
At night, I'll share them with my Ted.
I've left my home, my own bedroom,
I've left the smell of Mum's perfume.
I've left my mum, she had to stay,
I wish she'd come with me today.
I've left my bike, my pride and joy,
I couldn't bring my favourite toy.
I've left my friends and all I know,
I wish I didn't have to go!

Diwali

Year 4 and Year 5 Diya lamps which were made out of air drying clay and



decorated whilst learning about Diwali, the Hindus Festival of Light.



Courtesy Notice

We appreciate that it is very busy at drop-off and pick-up times, but to remind parents about not parking on the grass verges near residents houses – thank you.

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