

Friday 17th December, 2021.

Dates for your diary:

- First day of Spring Term: 4th January 2022
- INSET Day: 31st January 2022
- Half term: 21st February to 25th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today marks the end of another term. There have been many highlights and as always, many challenges. Let me draw your attention to one of each.

Highlight: We have been delighted with the introduction of Tapestry this term. The majority of you will be very familiar with it – an opportunity for you as parents to see examples of your child’s learning shared online. As in all schools, parents often find it difficult to ascertain from their children exactly what they have been doing in school in any given week. Tapestry shows photos, examples of written work and even sometimes video clips of your child working. I am so pleased that so many of you are engaging with it and using the ‘chat’ function and giving us feedback from your perspective. This has been a really positive development.

Challenge: This will be COVID. Throughout the pandemic we have not had as many incidents of staff and children having to isolate and/or test positive as we have had this term. As you can imagine this has led to us having to respond and put changes in place, which by and large our pupils have coped with really well. But it has been a challenge, particularly in this last week. Thank you for your support with this! We are really appreciative.

Finally, I wanted to make mention of our school Christmas lunch that took place on Wednesday. Staff and pupils, dressed in their festive jumpers had a wonderful time together. This was a huge success, and as always our chef, Adrian Clover, produced a beautiful meal with all the Christmas trimmings.

We trust you and your families keep safe and well over Christmas and would want to wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Mercury

Pupils have been engaged in morning tasks focusing on phonics and mental math activity sheets. Pupils seem to understand their responsibilities and discipline. In PHSE we looked at friendships and what they mean, what a good friend is and how to negotiate etc. Pupils were educated around this by a video, presentation and group discussions and answer. Pupils continued to work through the timetables, focusing on their 3,5,10 and 7s. We listened to multiple songs with timetables for better memory recall, pupils put their work into practice by completing various activities. Reading eggs and books were interacted with to further progress phonics and English skills. In English we focused on the BFG, creativity and imagination were used in their story and was done all by themselves. We will use this produced work to further dive deep down in developing their English skills after Christmas as a more engaged way of learning. Clip and climb was enjoyable and the boys used their time wisely as next week is their last session. Gymnastics was taught, through instructions and fun games were played. The boys seem to like they like gymnastics a lot as they are engaged. The boys created some very nice models of Christmas decorations of a hanging star in outdoor learning.

Pluto

Pluto have enjoyed a Christmas themed week. For English we read the story of the 'A Christmas Collar' where a very cute dog finds a reindeer collar that takes him on an adventure to help Santa Claus. Pluto sequenced the events in the story using images and created noun phrases to describe the main character Lumi the dog. In maths, Pluto recapped the learning from this term with Christmas themed adding and subtraction and place value problems. In the Afternoons Pluto created Christmas crafts of lolly stick snowflakes, painting and made crackers.

This sadly was Miss Ireland's last term at Brantridge. We will miss her and wish her all the best with her new adventure. From myself, Miss Porter and Miss Ireland we wish all of Pluto and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mars

A bit of a short final week in Mars due to reasons out of our control but once back in class, we have worked really hard and have had lots of fun in the process.

In maths we have been learning properties of 3d shapes- we used a feely bag to hide some shapes and then, using mathematical vocabulary, we described the properties for a partner who had to guess the shape. We also got to look at shape nets and then matched these to the shape which we really enjoyed.

We also have done lots of creating activities this week. Our favourite by far was creating a stop frame animation film depicting an Aztec myth that was the reason that they used human sacrifice in their culture. We demonstrated great team work and creative skills to complete this and are really proud- we hope to get this up onto Tapestry once edited.

We made musical shakers out of recycled materials, first we chose a stick which we sawed to size then we drilled holes in before measuring and cutting wire to size. Next we threaded bottle caps onto the wire and attached to the stick. All of this was finished off with an amazing performance of jingle bells for the group. All available to see on Tapestry!

Have a great Christmas!

Jupiter:

Jupiter have had a BUSY last week of term! We started the week looking at rhyming words and 3D shapes in our Maths. As a class, we enjoyed our last off site trip to golf where we hit golf balls in the driving range using the irons and wedges golf clubs. We created our own nativity scene using cardboard, cotton wool, sticks and other classroom resources – we loved doing this. We have also been making our own Christmas tree decorations, glittery baubles, festive Christmas jumper designs and played pin the nose on the reindeer/snowman. In Food Tech, we made shortbread and decorated them with icing and sprinkles; we also made pigs in blankets in preparation for Christmas Day! On our last day of term, we will be learning about Reindeers, playing a variety of Christmas games including jump to the front, pass the parcel, and ring the bell. We hope Jupiter class have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing all of the pupils next year.

Saturn

We have had a week of festive themed activities. In outdoor learning children made their own reindeer food to bring home. We used clay to create christmas decorations and watched a movie called Robin Robin. The movie is about fitting in and belonging. We then created Robin wrapping paper to take our decorations home in.

We had a trip to Tilgate and had hot chocolate and snowball cakes, followed by our last trip to the gym. It was fantastic seeing the children at the gym. They showed fantastic listening skills and their efforts were incredible! They have all thoroughly enjoyed it. Next half term we will be accessing Clip and Climb each week which I am sure they will love.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and all the best for the new year.

Galaxy:

MERRY CHRISTMAS...EVERYONE!!! It is so exciting to reach the end of the term, and with this, the boys have continued to show resilience, calm and a happy attitude towards school. We have been out to Nyman's to feed the ducks; they were incredibly sociable and greedy with the boys being kind and brave as the ducks "power pecked" their way through the feed.

On a nature trail round Tilgate Park, we were lucky enough to spot a kingfisher sitting on the limb of a tree overhanging a pond. Its electric blue feathers were a stark contrast to the grey winter's day. We also worked on our handicraft, creating some very complex paper aeroplanes, exploring how to reinforce them so they could fly harder and further without breaking; they were incredible! The next step...the Bernoulli Effect! Have a wonderful break everyone.

Titan

Titan children have been very busy this week solving Christmas puzzles, anagrams, word searched, as well as maths that was Christmas themed in the race to find the elf that was the culprit for stealing all the presents.

They have all been working hard in completing their Christmas themed booklets.

In reading, we have looked at Christmas around the world – we read together as a whole class taking turns – and we found how Christmas is celebrated in countries around the world.

We also loved completing a few Christmas quizzes, where we learnt new things about Christmas, as well as being rewarded points for their correct answers.

The children loved Christmas lunch and it was great to see them all taking part and enjoying the food, as well as the company.

Neptune

Last week of term and the boys have been working away and a variety of projects. In maths, we have looked further into 3D shapes and discussed their properties. We matched nets to the shape and we made models of 3D shapes using plasticine this encouraged the boys to look very closely at each shape.

Kimi the therapy dog made a surprise visit on Tuesday morning (we normally have him on a Thursday) some of the boys enjoyed reading to him. We are working hard in D&T to create models with moving parts. The boys have made a great start – we have a wide range of animals including, sharks, foxes and cats.

On Monday afternoon we always have an activity to promote wellbeing and to encourage team work and cooperation. This week I got building blocks and a model farm for the boys. There was lots of imaginative play and some lovely team work and cooperative play too.

Santa came to visit us at horse riding which caused lots of excitement. The boys got a little gift to take home too. Some gifts didn't quite make it home as the temptation was too much!!

Outdoor Learning

Wildlife-friendly reindeer food and Christmas fun this week in Outdoor Learning

Taking care of Rudolph and his friends On Christmas Eve night, as Father Christmas is rushing from house to house to deliver presents to all the good girls and boys, his reindeer helpers often need a quick snack to keep them going on their busiest night of the year.

So this week in outdoor learning we made Reindeer food mix

By following a simple recipe for reindeer food that's free from glitter and suitable for reindeer and birds alike.

Ingredients and instructions

A handful of wild bird seeds - this is what helps the reindeers fly!

A few rolled oats – to keep them warm

Berry Suet helps keep Rudolph's nose glowing red

Mix it all together, then sprinkle it on your lawn or leave it in a bowl by your front door just before you go to bed.



DINE

WITH MIQUILL

**WEEK
THREE**



Main Meal



Sweet choices

MONDAY

Meat Free Monday
Macaroni Cheese
Garlic Bread
Broccoli

Chocolate Cake
Chocolate Custard

TUESDAY

Miquill Chicken Box
Baked Chicken Thigh
Garlic Wedges &
Charred Corn on the
Cob

Pineapple &
Watermelon Medley

WEDNESDAY

Roast Gammon
Honey Glazed
Gammon
Crispy Roast Potatoes,
Carrots & Peas with
Rich Gravy

Pear & Chocolate
Crumble
Pouring Cream

THURSDAY

Beef Lasagne
Beef Lasagne
Garlic Bread &
Green Beans

Ice Cream Bar
Vanilla Ice Cream with
Chocolate Sauce

FRIDAY

Grab & Go
Fish Cake Burger
Or
Crispy Bacon
In a Bap
Chunky Chips

Chocolate
Crispy Cake

JACKET POTATOES WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS & BAGUETTE/ WRAPS WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS

ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.



This menu will be served on: 3rd January, 31st January, 7th March, 4th April