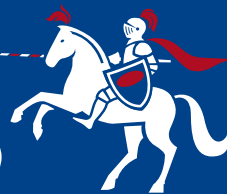


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KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

I am delighted to introduce our Autumn edition of Knight's Tales. I am sure that you will be impressed with the range of events that have taken place in a term dominated by lockdown restrictions. Although a number of activities had to be curtailed, it has been wonderful to see how many have been able to go ahead. There have been some notable additions including the Chandlings Illuminations and outdoor Nativity scene.

A special mention too for the inaugural Chandlings at Christmas video which we hoped would help

compensate for parents not being able to enjoy our traditional Nativity performances and carol concerts. A nugget of an idea grew to a full-scale production involving all the children and the inspired telling of the Nativity story using the school grounds. It was a joy to watch!

It has been an unusual term but the children have taken it all in their stride, of course, maintaining their academic focus and good cheer throughout. They have also had notable success in local, national and even global competitions.

I particularly commend Year 6 who have been preparing for the first round of senior school entrance examinations, contending with both actual and virtual experiences. All credit to them. We are delighted by the offers and awards that they have already received and wish them the best of luck as they continue with these next term.

In the meantime, rest and relaxation is on the cards. I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday with your families.



CHRISTMAS AT CHANDLINGS

Sadly this year, due to Covid restrictions we couldn't have our usual Nativity plays and carol concerts so we embarked on an ambitious project which had the entire school performing in the inaugural 'Christmas at Chandlings' film. The children were filmed all over the school grounds and of course we couldn't leave out the latest addition to the family ... the pygmy goats!

There was beautiful singing, acting, bleating (!), reciting and performing in the woods, at the school gates, up on the mound, on the bridge, in the entrance hall, in the nursery woodland and in the Lavender Courtyard.

The final version was fantastic and a huge thank you must go to all the children, all the teachers and in particular the producers, directors and filmmakers! BAFTAs are beckoning!





CHRISTMAS AT CHANDLINGS



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas Celebrations is a great tradition at Chandlings. The children enjoyed the last day of term arriving at school in their Christmas jumpers and then experiencing lots of fun activities. This year was even more exciting than usual with the arrival of Santa Claus on his golf buggy sleigh! His elves then delivered presents to all the children in the entrance hall to the sound of music and carols. The House competitions were competitive as always and each year group had a different challenge which included designing a Christmas jumper, wrapping Christmas presents, designing tree decorations and creating Christmas scenes using plasticine! Pre-Prep enjoyed a very festive nature trail where they met a surprise visitor on his sleigh!



INFORMAL CONCERTS

Chandlings was treated to a series of informal concerts this term, given by children across the school from Year 1 to Year 6. They had their first experience of performing live to camera (in order to be Covid-safe) and wowed their audiences of staff and other performers.



There were knock-out performances on the trumpet, guitar, piano, drum kit, violin, recorder, voice, and cello, and we even had a joint performance on the drums! Everybody did themselves proud and it was a real treat for us to attend a concert and hear live music after such a long time without it!



Music Exam Results

Congratulations to these pupils for passing Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams this term:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Alfred Pullinger | Grade 2 | Trumpet | |
| James Snell | Grade 3 | Trumpet | Merit |
| Joshua Crisp | Grade 3 | Trumpet | Merit |
| Emmeline Pink | Grade 3 | Trumpet | |
| Jasper Isaacs | Grade 1 | Trumpet | Merit |
| Olivia Arbuckle | Grade 1 | Piano | |
| Chloe Paulus | Grade 1 | Piano | Distinction |
| Rufus Worrall | Grade 1 | Piano | |
| Helena Fleming | Grade 4 | Clarinet | |
| Hayden Evans | Grade 1 | Piano | Distinction |
| Esme Bell | Grade 1 | Singing | Merit |
| Mia Antoniou | Grade 1 | Singing | |
| Joshua Antoniou | Grade 3 | Singing | |
| Lucinda Gurney | Grade 1 | Singing | |
| Alexander Lamers | Grade 1 | Guitar | |
| Sidney Davies | Grade 1 | Guitar | Merit |
| Thomas Francis | Grade 2 | Piano | Merit |



HARVEST FESTIVAL

As Autumn began, our whole school celebrated Harvest through Mrs Williams' online assembly which focussed on what we have to be thankful for. We had an incredible response to our appeal this year and the tables in the Year 2 courtyard were piled high with gifts for the Abingdon Food Bank and for Asylum Welcome. In the afternoon our bumper harvest of gifts were picked up by volunteers from the charities who were overwhelmed by the amount they had to fit in their cars! A big thank you to all the Chandlings community for being so generous.



GET SET GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Children in Year 4, 5 and 6 really enjoyed taking part in the Get Set Global Challenge this term. They learnt about the four Attenborough Imperatives on how we can help the world in its fight against climate change. The competition complimented Sir David Attenborough's new witness statement documentary A Life on our Planet. As the children explored the content online they earned Yakka Tracker points and completed different badges including the Activist and Zoologist badge. The challenge culminated in a big Global Quiz on the 4th December in which we came 6th out of 43 schools from 8 countries around the world. Congratulations also to Albert in Year 5 who came 5th out of 1900 individual students who took part.



INTERNATIONAL DAY

On Friday 13 November, the children enjoyed celebrating many countries and languages from around the world. A beautiful array of colours brightened up the school as they came dressed up in traditional costumes and the colours of the country they were representing. They took part in a variety of activities prepared by their teachers from colouring flags and making passports to learning a new language. Activities included an Indian festival of lights, an Egyptian dance, some Chinese calligraphy, Venetian masks and Reggae music. The children had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

We missed having the parents join us this year with their amazing stalls from all over the world. We look forward to having them back next year.



NURSERY AUTUMN DAYS

Our special Autumn afternoon in the woodland was so much fun, the children looked wonderful in their costumes. Mrs Wilkins, Mr Brookes and Miss Tyrer were also dressed up and somehow managed to get jelly on them!

There were plenty of sensory gloopy activities including green worms (cold spaghetti!) and different coloured jelly with snakes in! The children made dens, performed some magic with glitter, took turns riding in a pulley and played hide and seek. We finished off sitting round the firepit singing our Autumn songs, '5 Little Leaves' and 'What should we put in the cauldron tonight?'



RECEPTION AUTUMN ART



STEM BUDDING ENGINEERS

The children worked in two groups and each group had to build a strong structure working as a team. Once their structures were built as a class they had to join them and then choose a vehicle to get from one structure to the other. There are some definite engineers in the making!



YEAR 1

GO HUNTING FOR DINOSAURS

The Year 1 children were very lucky to have a visit from a mysterious animal at the start of term. As we stomped through the grounds following a trail of footprints, we spotted a nest of exotic eggs on the mound. After much excitement, we waited patiently to discover they had hatched into baby dinosaurs. Throughout the course of the term we have enjoyed many cross-curricular learning experiences. The children loved making and baking delicious dinosaur biscuits in Food Technology with Mr Redman and developed their DT skills creating excellent egg and dinosaur baskets in Design Technology with Mrs Hicks.



YEAR 2

UP, UP AND AWAY

The introduction of our Autumn term topic 'took off' with Miss Veitch sharing photos and experiences of her hot air balloon adventure over Oxford and with a video of Miss Love skydiving! The children then played parachute team games.

During the term the children have thoroughly immersed themselves in a world of peaches and minibeasts, from reading James and the Giant Peach to making peach tarts in cooking. We have gone Up, Up and Away to discover the history of hot air balloons and aeroplanes and created some of our own fantastic flying machines and newspaper kites.

YEAR 3

TEA PARTY

The afternoon tea was inspired by the book Year 3 have been reading this half term, The Mousehole Cat by Antonia Barber. It is set in Cornwall (hence the Cornish afternoon tea!) and is about the legend of a fisherman called Tom and his cat called Mowzer (which is why the children brought in their cuddly toy cats). They go out to sea in a storm, calm the storm and then bring back fish for the hungry villagers. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed the scones, jam, and clotted cream and were amazed by the incredible nautical table decorations.



YEAR 4 ASSEMBLY THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

4V had a great time filming their assembly about 1066. They used the bridge in the school grounds to act out the Battle of Stamford Bridge where Harold Godwinson defeated the Vikings and King Harald Hardrada. The Battle of Hastings took place behind the car park on the mound - a little like Senlac Hill! It was here that Harold Godwinson was supposedly shot in the eye by an arrow. Great fun was had by all!



MATHS CHALLENGE

In November some children in Years 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. This is an international competition in which children use their mathematical skills but also need to think 'outside the box' to answer the questions. There are some very tricky puzzles to solve!

We are very proud to announce our Gold, Silver and Bronze award winners, pictured with their certificates.



Gold

Jasper Bromage
Georgia Wright
Helena Fleming
Claire Voilemont-Choi
Olivia Arbuckle

Silver

Sofia Trajtenberg
Anastasiya Sinitisyna
Max Lucking
Sid Davies
Rufus Worrall
Kai Knowles
Emmy Pink
Tom Liddiard

Bronze

Samrakshini Ramesh
Laurence Maggs
James Snell
Thomas Francis
Dora Crump
Holly Andrews
Jaya Hill

YEAR 5 SCIENCE OUTDOOR EXPLOSIONS

As part of the Year 5 topic on reversible and irreversible changes, the children learnt about changing state, dissolving, rusting and the pH scale. They discovered what happens during neutralisation by mixing an acid with an alkali inside a plastic canister. They waited for the gas pressure to build before the gas canister lid exploded off.

Back in the lab they filled a test tube with an acid and an alkali and watched a balloon inflating due to the chemical reaction. Both experiments were met with squeals of delight and excitement!



YEAR 6 ENGLISH

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

Year 6 have been learning about The Christmas Truce, drawing inspiration from the poem by Carol Ann Duffy, film interpretations, and documentaries. They explored the true story of a cold winter's night in 1914, in the midst of the horrors of World War 1, when soldiers at the front ceased fire and the magic of Christmas took hold. Chandlings' Year 6 writers have created their own narratives retelling the miraculous truce between the trenches. The sound of gunfire was replaced by the singing of Christmas carols from both sides. Enemy soldiers shook hands, shared songs, swapped gifts, and even played a game of football; peace found a place in No Man's Land.

The Christmas Truce

The sudden stillness froze my soul, misty walls surrounded us. We were having a war at Christmas. I gazed up at the sky stars, hoping to meet my wife's gaze. Suddenly a heavy package fell on my lap. George had delivered the parcels and letters. I hesitantly opened it to see that it contained a box of chocolate and a picture of my wife Mary. Suddenly the German trenches burst into singing, all right they sang. A huge choir of soldiers singing Christmas carols. As the singing faded away, a cold white glow dawned and peaked on a sea of darkened winter, bringing relief to the deserted land.

I stretched my parcel and started to climb out of the trench my face painted and decorated with face paint. The Germans suddenly took to their positions. They were all alert and ready to fire at once. One of the German first missing my first day on the line. All of a sudden someone shouted that I wasn't armed and they lowered their guns. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a German crawl out of his trench and meet me in the

The Christmas Truce

My face was decorated with face paint. I slowly dragged my heavy face across the mud covered walk. Suddenly a damp parcel fell onto my worn, bruised legs. Unwrapping it slowly my hands shook in the cold midwinter breeze. Before I could take a look inside a rush of hope fell through the air. Harmonious singing rapidly glided between the trenches.

With hope rising up inside me I stepped out. Out into the open. A colour of hope gelled within me. I heard away into the mist. Lonely no-man's land. I heard the click of triggers being pulled. With gear rushing through me and bravery bubbling up inside me I struggled through the boxed snow. Silver frost lined branches lay abandoned. Slowly a man arose out of his trench, his face painted with face paint. Coming closer and closer, he stood like a mirror.

I reached my hand up towards him, a fake smile was placed on his dull face as I wasn't going to harm him. Shaking hands, a warm surge



of belonging gelled through me. A German rushed out of his trench and kicked a black-brown football to my feet. Kicking my jacket off, I threw it down onto the white carpet of snow that covered the damp ground. Two goals had formed, creating a pitch of excitement. Joy gelled my body from head to toe. Suddenly, like an eagle, the ball soared through the sky. I ran up, into a crowd of Christmas spirit. The pines upon being out a medal in the sky. Shivering sky stars let out a bright shining light.

The darkness had broken the sky was on fire. Loud glory explosions gelled the night sky.

Stopping all the gun and joy, the soldiers swarmed abruptly back to the grim trenches. I found Otto and shook hands with him for the very last time.

'Aug Wiedersehen' Otto said 'Aug Wiedersehen'.

By Olivia



SPORT

GIRLS' GAMES

Despite current circumstances not allowing for competitive matches, the girls in the Prep department had an exciting term of games nonetheless. They were able to compete in their House in not one, but three sporting events; House Cricket, Inter-House Athletics and House Hockey. All of the children performed exceptionally well and enjoyed the competitive elements of each event.

With more training time than a normal term, the girls relished the opportunity to develop their skills in a wider range of sports. In the first half of term they honed their technical hockey skills and capitalised on favourable weather; refreshing their basic bowling and batting techniques for Cricket. In the second half of term, the girls in Prep began to apply their hockey knowledge in conditioned games during their core lesson time before moving on to some preseason Netball for the final two weeks of term. In addition to this, they enjoyed sessions in Touch Rugby and Football.

BOYS' GAMES

September was a balmy month, perfect for playing cricket and making up for a summer of lost sport. The boys were not able to play inter-school matches but honed their skills for a hugely competitive House cricket competition with Astley being the victors.

Moving into Autumn and the return of Premiership football was mirrored in games lessons across all years. Astley were once again the overall winners but every house won a particular age group. Later in the term the boys played rugby and there were mixed feelings about not being able to tackle but they certainly enjoyed tackling on the astroturf during their hockey lessons. Year 3 were thrilled to be playing hockey for the first time whilst a combined Colts group of Year 5 and 6 showed great promise if competitive play is possible next term.

Finally, a word about tennis and table tennis which we played indoors and can only be described as a huge success. Both sports proved very popular especially with the younger years who ended the term being able to play points and score themselves.



CHANDLINGS POTENTIAL SPORTS SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

The Chandlings Potential Sports Scholars Program entered its second year with new pupils joining the group. It was the turn of Year 5 and 6 pupils to take part this term and they enjoyed weekly lunchtime sessions in which they learnt more about the principles of training and developed their strength, agility, speed and endurance. The group also developed skills in team work and problem solving.

PRE-PREP ART

Year 1 has been looking at colour mixing and different media. Their topic has been dinosaurs.

Year 2 have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh and created their own Starry Night using his impasto technique. They added hot air balloons linking to their Year 2 topic 'Up and Away'.

Year 3 created beautiful paintings based on a talk about Climate change, life circle and endangered species.



PRE-PREP YEAR 4 COB HOUSES

The Year 4 students learnt about the history and use of cob to make houses and other structures. The pupils mixed cob using clay, straw and sand in order to construct their own shelters. They came up with lots of imaginative ideas and developed some very good problem-solving skills. They also made little forest-dwelling characters out of natural materials such as twigs, acorns, leaves and seed heads.



YEAR 5 GARDEN COLLAGES

The pupils invented these beautiful garden designs by using magazine cutouts to create collages. They explored using perspective by creating a foreground, middle ground and background, with objects getting smaller as they go into the distance. The pupils copied from their garden collages using watercolours to explore different ways of creating textures and using colour.



YEAR 6 OUTDOOR ART

These artworks are inspired by British artist Andy Goldsworthy who works outdoors in different environments. The pupils gathered natural objects from the school grounds, such as leaves, seed heads, berries and flowers to create their own arrangements. These are photographed and used to design wall hangings or mobiles, which are decorated with colourful leaf rubbings using a technique known as wax resist.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Outdoor learning has always been an important part of life at Chandlings and from the start of this term, along with our usual outdoor offering, we have introduced dedicated weekly Outdoor Classroom lessons as part of our curriculum which Miss Papp is currently teaching to Years 1 to 4. This term's topic was knowledge about trees, leaves and habitats.

The children looked at structures of trees and identified trees in autumn and winter. They worked both in groups and independently. All the activities linked with the curriculum and were based on children's knowledge from their classroom settings.

During their outdoor learning lessons the children develop a sense of self, independence and confidence. They started off very much in their comfort zones, but over the weeks they began to work outside their immediate group of friends and talk openly in a positive way, supporting each other.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

PYGMY GOATS AND BEES

The goats have settled happily into their new home in the orchard and the bees are busy in their hives in the top corner of our grounds. The bees and their hives were a wonderful gift from our 2019 Leavers. We have got them from the Oxfordshire Beekeeper's Association who are helping us learn about the bees and all their benefits in nature. We are hoping to start a Bee Club once we are fully trained up, and learning about the bees will be part of our school's Outdoor Learning programme. Mrs Hicks and Mrs Hanslip are going to be our resident beekeepers!

We are all thoroughly enjoying having Frank and Fred at school. They have come from a local family and are very tame. The children are visiting them regularly and they are bringing a lot of happiness to us all. Caring for our school animals will build a sense of responsibility in children, helping them to develop empathy and increased awareness of the needs and feelings of others. We know that the children will continue to have lots of fun with the goats and they will definitely help with our children's wellbeing.



CHARITIES

ODD SOCKS DAYS

This day started off our Anti-bullying Week and this year's theme was United Against Bullying. We showed our support by wearing odd socks celebrating what makes us all unique.



JEANS FOR GENES

Earlier in the term, the pupils and staff came to school in their jeans in order to raise money for Jeans for Genes.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On the last day of term we finished the school year with our traditional Christmas celebrations. We had a fantastic array of festive jumpers and outfits.



PATCH

This Autumn Term the new PATCH team has risen to the challenge of organising our events in the new Covid world, and were so pleased to be able to run a magical G4G day, a successful Christmas Auction & Raffle and a virtual AGM.

CHARITY

The children have chosen to support Helen and Douglas House, a local children's hospice, as their annual charity. We are thrilled to be able to raise money for such an important and wonderful Oxford organisation.



GIFTS FOR GROWNUPS

Thank you to all parents and staff who helped organise one of the most loved events at Chandlings! We had lots of help and fun preparing for the day, by filling mugs, wrapping gifts and tying ribbon. The big day was as merry as one can get! Music, lights, beautiful gifts to choose from, all contributed to a wonderful and memorable day for the children.

CHRISTMAS AUCTION & RAFFLE

This year it was not possible to organise our usual Christmas Bazar, but instead, thanks to all your help, we raised almost £1000 by raffling and auctioning 2 VIP Parking spaces. Congratulations to both the Sheppard and Murgai families who now have the benefit of parking next to the school gate on those cold and wet mornings until the end of the school year.



WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES

Last but not least we would like to give all new families at Chandlings a warm welcome. We hope that you have settled in and are enjoying being part of this big family! We hope to be able to share more social events with you in the coming terms. If you have any questions or would like any help, please feel free to contact PATCH patch@chandlings.org.uk.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas time!

Your PATCH Team

Joana, Caroline, Julie and Fabian





Chandlings Prep School

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