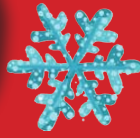




The William Ransom



Orbit

MERRY CHRISTMAS

It seems only a short while ago that I was getting ready to step into a new role at William Ransom Primary School. Now here we are with the first term having almost finished and what a busy first term it has been!

I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming immersed in the William Ransom community and getting to know the school. The most memorable parts have been the interactions with the wonderful children here! From a 'good morning' to finding out about what they are most looking forward to at the weekend or what their favourite aspect of their Maths lesson was, I have enjoyed every one of the conversations! Although celebrating successes, and the journey it took to get there, have been particular highlights. Whether that was a stride forward or a relatively small step, that has been an obstacle for some time and has taken a huge amount of effort and commitment to get over, they all matter.

Seeing so many sports clubs, competitions and festivals taking place, with so many children being active and developing a real enjoyment of a wide range of sports also sticks out. But then, so do all of the visits, trips and terrific learning experiences that all of the staff have worked so hard to provide this term for all the children - there really is a great staff team here at William Ransom!

Finally, a big thank you to all of the staff, parents, governors and children for the very warm welcome and the warmest of wishes to all of you and your families for a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024!

Mr Plunkett

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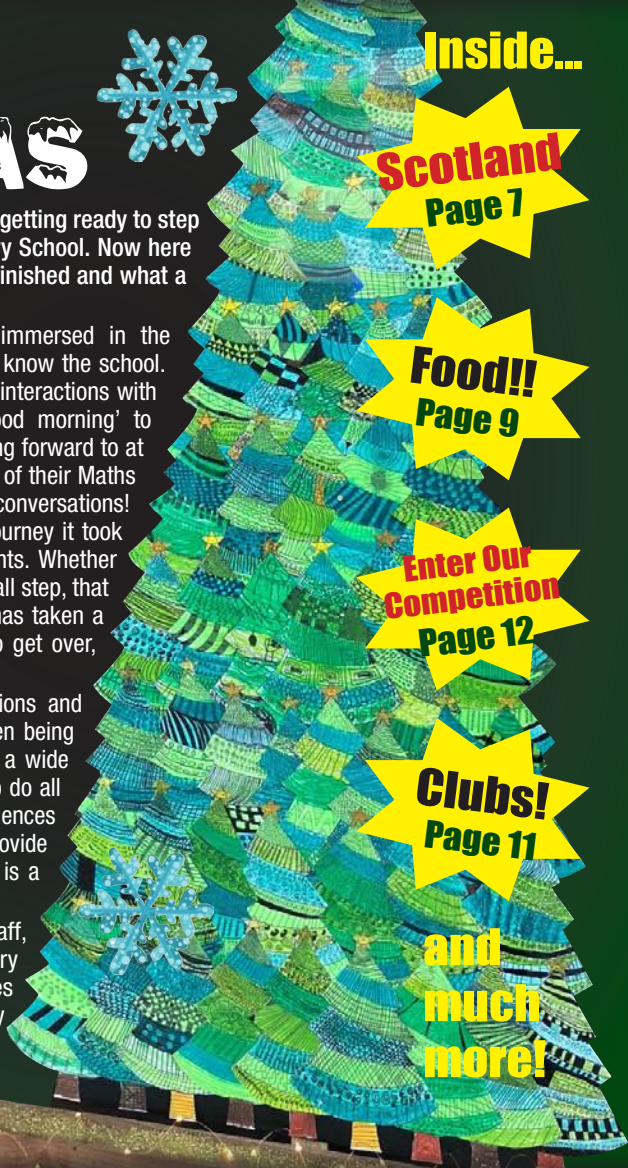
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and much more!



Merry Christmas to everyone at William Ransom





School News

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is a time of the year where people get together to be thankful for the harvest of crops.

In school, we had an assembly about Harvest. Reverend Andrew came from Walsworth Baptist Church to teach us about how a little seed can grow into something massive. Most people brought in tinned, canned or dry food this year. Instead of holding a raffle we are donating all the food to a food bank on Friday. During assembly, the school choir sang a Harvest hymn. By Molly



Shoeboxes

This year like any year we supported the shoebox appeal. Each year you can put presents into an old shoebox then take it into school and then it will go to a different, poorer country. Every shoebox makes somebody's Christmas. Thank you to the Reverend Andrew for collecting our shoeboxes this year. By Thomas

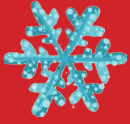
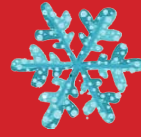
Christmas Shows

Everyone is busy practicing for their Christmas shows. For the first time this year the year fives and sixes are singing Christmas carols outside. Some of the Christmas carols include the theme from HOME ALONE which is called *Somewhere in my Memory* and Silent night. The Reception classes will be performing the Nativity with lots of songs!



Key Stage 1 are performing 'The Music of Christmas' with lots of singing and dancing and a few jokes too! Music from all parts of Christmas including pop music, carols, musicals and favourite tunes. Year three and four will be performing an advent calendar show and each class will open six boxes, each full of singing and dancing and maybe even a few poems. By Georgia

Spotlight on ●●●



Mr Plunkett

Our New Head Teacher

Mr Plunkett, our new headteacher, is warming to the school very well. He said the school is wonderful, the children are fantastic and the staff are welcoming. If he wouldn't have been a teacher, he would have been in advertising and marketing.

When he was younger, he attended Mary Exton Primary School and he lived in Toronto Canada (for four months) and Australia too. He also has a brother in Chicago (USA). He enjoys holidaying but no normal holiday – it is usually mountain biking.

He says his greatest achievement is his wife and children and unsurprisingly he loves Christmas. He has a pet Cavapoo dog named Pippa. He also says he wishes he could be a bear if he had a choice because they like to wonder in the wilderness.

By Ottoline and Georgia



Fact File

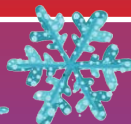
- Mr Plunkett likes great white sharks
- Mr Plunkett's favourite movie is Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1
- He supports Tottenham Hotspur Football Club
- Mr Plunkett says he has never seen Teletubbies
- His favourite colour is blue
- His favourite food is thin crust Italian pizza
- His favourite drink is coffee

Merry Christmas

from the Orbit team

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Orbit, written by our new Orbit team. We really hope you enjoy reading it.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year!



Successful Sale



School council meets on Wednesday in Beech at 12:05. They talk about ways to improve the school.

There is one member of school council in each class so if you have any suggestions, find out who your school council member is and tell them your ideas. Recently school council organised

a bake sale for children in need and they not only ran out of cakes, but they also raised more than eight hundred pounds! Now they are designing a garden for a space next to the arcade in town. They are hoping it will bring a bit more life to Hitchin.

By Thomas



Christmas Displays

This term the whole school made Christmas trees in different styles. They are displayed in the window of the old

M & Co store and they all look amazing! Year 3 went to see the display. Pop down this Christmas and see if you can spot your tree in the window!



Stunning Stone Age

On Monday 2nd October Year 3 went to Celtic Harmony which is a Stone Age place.

When we got to some wooden gates there was a man who said we had to shout our names when we went through.

The first thing we did was trading items. The choices were whistles, gems, bracelets, rainbow pencils and books.

A Stone Age man showed us how to make a fire without matches (he used sticks). The next activity was learning how to build dens out of sticks.

After lunch, we were hunters and gatherers. We used a training spear to hunt for bears, jaguars, wolves and a woolly mammoth. We gathered mushrooms and plants to make a soup using a muddling stick. Finally, our group leader showed us how to make a knife out of flint.

By Jayven and Anaya



Working as a team to build a den.



Learning how they lit fires in the Iron Age.



"I really liked the den building." Anaya said. "I really liked trading items." said Jayven.

"We all had really good fun and learnt a lot about the Stone Age."





Scenic Scotland

Scotland is in the north of the UK. It's well known for its unique food such as haggis, shortbread and tatties (Scottish potatoes), beautiful landscape and mountains and interesting wildlife.

You might find animals like the moose, hare, prawns and fish such as haddock, salmon and pike. The population is a staggeringly small 5,463,000. Although Glasgow is the biggest city in Scotland, the capital is Edinburgh. The most stunning thing about Scotland is the lochs that stretch from coast to coast.

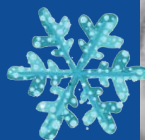
Fun Facts

- The longest ferry ride in Scotland is the Lerwick to Aberdeen which passes the stunning archipelago of Orkney.
- Barra island [in the west Hebrides] has a beach that planes land on.
- There is a Scottish Fold Day which celebrates the cuteness of these adorable cats on December 13.
- The shortest plane journey in the world is on the Island of Westray and it goes to Papa Westray. It takes only 87 seconds!

Another iconic part of the culture and landscapes that shape the iconic parts of Scotland are the islands in the north and west. As part of the late Queen's jubilee celebrations, ten towns were made cities. Although the tartan clothing is mostly associated with Scotland, tartan originated in China.

The Scottish flag colours stand for the robes of St Andrew, perseverance, loyalty, justice, peace, truth, vigilance and honesty.

Scottish Fold cats originate from –you guessed it–Scotland what a surprise!!!!!! They were discovered in a Tayside region, on a farm near Coupar Angus. They are a breed of cat with a relatively brief history as this discovery only occurred as recently as 1961.



By Thomas and Molly





By Molly

YULE

LOVE THIS

LOG



Ingredients

For the chocolate sponge

- 4 large free-range eggs
- 100g/3½oz caster sugar
- 65g/2½oz self-raising flour
- 40g/1½oz cocoa powder

For the chocolate ganache

- 300ml/½ pint double cream
- 300g/10½oz dark chocolate (around 35-40% cocoa solids), broken into small pieces.

For the cream filling

- 300ml/½ pint double cream, whipped.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Lightly grease a 33x23cm/13x9in Swiss roll tin, and line with non-stick paper.
2. For the sponge, in a large bowl whisk the eggs and sugar until the mixture is light and frothy. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder and fold together until all the cocoa and flour are mixed into the egg mixture.
3. Pour the mixture into the tin and spread evenly. Bake for 8–10 minutes, or until well risen and firm to the touch.
4. Dust a piece of baking parchment bigger than the Swiss roll tin with icing sugar. Invert the cake onto the paper and remove the bottom lining.
5. Score 2.5cm in along one of the longer edges. Starting with this edge, begin to tightly roll up the sponge using the paper. Leave to cool.
6. To make the topping. Heat the cream in a pan, at finger temperature. Remove from the heat and add the chocolate, stirring until it is melted. Cool to room temperature, then put into the fridge to firm up.
7. Uncurl the Swiss roll and remove the paper. Spread the whipped cream on top, and re-roll tightly.
8. Spread, the chocolate icing on top to look like the bark of a tree. Cover each end with icing.



Behind the scenes: Delicious Dinners

School dinners are vital for a good school environment. But few people know what happens in the kitchen.

Our survey showed that behind the scenes there are people everywhere helping in the background making William Ransom a happy and healthy environment for everyone.

We asked lots of children what their favourite dinner is. And the survey produced a surprising conclusion.

The top three favourite foods are pizza, chicken pie and hot dogs. The surprising piece of the survey was that out of the 45 people we asked, only one person said that Wednesday's roast was their favourite. There is also a salad bar and a vegetarian choice for people who want both to help the environment and to be healthier.

The salad bar and enjoying their dinner!



Serving up a delicious dinner everyday.

Cool Cooking Club



Cooking club is run by Mrs Kitchen and Mrs Halliwell. Every week they do a savoury and a sweet dish. It's for year fives that love experimenting in the art of food technology. We found out that it's a great way to ease you into more experienced baking. They learn important skills such as mixing, frying, chopping and more!

By Thomas





London's Burning!

On the 7th of November the Year Ones had Great Fire of London day.

They had great fun making soda bread because the fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.

They recreated the streets of London and burnt them. In the morning they passed water in a bucket along a line to show how the people of London collected water from the river Thames to put out the fire.

They then wrote a diary as if they were Samuel Pepys. In the afternoon they made flame pictures and they rebuilt London out of Lego.



The children had an enjoyable day. Here's what they said about it:

"My favourite part was making the pictures of the Great fire of London."
Rosie

"I liked burning down the houses."
Daisy

"I loved making the bread." Ela

"I liked watching the houses burn."
Nicky



By Ottoline and Georgia



Clubs at WR



Chess Club



Chess club is on any Wednesday at 12.05 and Mrs Airey runs it. YAY! It is only for years 3 and 4. DOUBLE YAY! Anyone is welcome to chess club even if they don't know how to play chess. We can teach you. *"I really enjoy chess club because it makes you think hard, and the pieces move differently."* said Aaron. By Evni and Aaron



Dance Club's Got Talent



Dance club takes place on a Thursday lunchtime in the hall and it is run by Miss Vivian. There was a sign-up sheet at the beginning of term, and it was overloaded with sign-ups from students in years 5 and 6. Dance club are preparing for a dance competition in March and only a few can be taken. The competition will take place at the famous Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage where a variety of schools will dance their hearts out to win. The track that the William Ransom Dance club have decided to dance to is Shivers by Ed Sheeran. By Molly

Netball

The boys and girls netball team is run by Miss Hallahan and Miss Swinburne. The difference between Basketball and Netball is that in Basketball you can bounce the ball while moving and in Netball you can't. Also, Basketball has 5 players and Netball has 7. The netball team have played matches against Our Lady's and Whitehill so far. By Jayven and Anaya

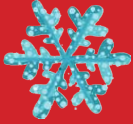
Football

There are girls and boys football teams for years 3 and 4, and years 5 and 6. The Girls' Year 5 and 6 Football team won against Our Lady's in two separate games. The football is super fun and they are picking up some fantastic skills.

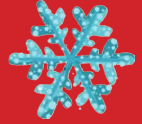
Year 5 and 6 football club is run by Mr Vincent and Mr Maranian. Mr Plunkett says that they should play on the field, which has been good fun despite the cold weather. One of the team's players, Jayven says *"The best thing about it is that you get to play matches. We're looking forward to playing against some other teams in February."* The Year 5 and 6 boys have had some excellent results so far this year including a 6-1 win against Wilshere Dacre. By Jayven and Anaya



CHRISTMAS ELF



COMPETITION



This competition is to decorate and colour your own Christmas elf.

You can draw your own or use the template here. Make sure it is as colourful and Christmassy as possible.

There will be prizes for the best design.

The deadline is Friday 12th January 2024. Please hand them in to

Mrs Thorn, in Holly Class. Remember to put your name on it and please give your elf a name too! Yay!

You can download a copy of the elf by visiting the Orbit page on the school website.

