

Message from the Head Teacher

Well, what a wonderful term! It has been a challenge in many ways, but the response from everyone has been truly exceptional. My first term as substantive Headteacher has been full of happy and joyful moments: I have delighted in spending time with the children every day and they have all made incredible progress. Extra special well done to all of the children in reception - their first term of 'big school' well and truly completed!

To see how much the children have grown in all year groups has been a delight and to have been able to work so closely with everyone in our community has also been a real pleasure.

I must give a HUGE well done and thank you to ALL of the incredible staff at KPS from: office to site and from classroom to kitchen, every single person has worked tirelessly to provide a safe and happy environment for the children as well as being innovative, adaptive and positive to overcome the Covid challenges that we have all faced.

As 2020 draws to a close, may I wish you all a wonderful break, a safe and happy Christmas and the very best wishes for 2021!

With kindness and festive cheer

Mr Pajak



What have the children been up to at school?

For the past couple of weeks the children have been learning We're Going on a Bear hunt by Michael Rosen and this led to a fun filled Friday afternoon as Kingfisher's visited the Wild Garden. As a surprise, on the way, we stopped and had a hot chocolate (with marshmallows!) under the shelter. The children really enjoyed the warm treat and we talked about what we like about hot chocolate. It makes us feel warm on cold days, it tastes really yummy and for some it is a lovely treat to have at home around Christmas time. Some children told us they had not had hot chocolate before and were happy to tell us they really liked it! We followed this with a visit to the wild garden where we explored the area, noticing the changes we could see from the last time we visited. We noticed there were a lot less leaves, and it was VERY muddy. The children enjoyed chanting the parts of the Bear Hunt story as they moved around the fields.



Year 5 were lucky enough to be joined by the Paralympian Triathlete Andy Lewis MBE, from Bespoke Mentoring, on Monday 7th December. They completed their next session in their wellbeing leaders work, discussing qualities of a leader, five ways to wellbeing and how to overcome disagreements on the playground. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and also helped them consider how everyone has the right to be treated equally as Andy shared his life journey about overcoming his disability.



The Elf on the Shelf



Far, far away in the northern hemisphere there is a magical place, which is cold and icy. The trees are coated in snow and the indescendent lights sparkle and gleam.

In this marvellous place lives a gentle, charismatic man who brings festive cheer to the entire land. He has a large tummy because he has eaten so many mice-pies and drunk far too much sherry. His beard is long and fluffy and his eyes sparkle with warmth and contentment.

To make his mission complete, he needs a team of helpers who are responsible for checking that every child in the entire land has been good in the lead up to Christmas Day. This is where the elf on the shelf comes in ...

Have you ever wondered how Santa could know if you are naughty or nice? The elf on the shelf has a special assignment. They are delivered to your home and once they have a name they become magical and report to Santa. All sorts of magical tricks await ...

The naughtiest elves on the shelf have been spotted writing, "Please clean your teeth!" in toothpaste in the sink. Some have even unrolled toilet rolls and thrown the paper all over the house! One impish elf even went for a ride on the back of the dog! What adventures do you think our elf will get up to?



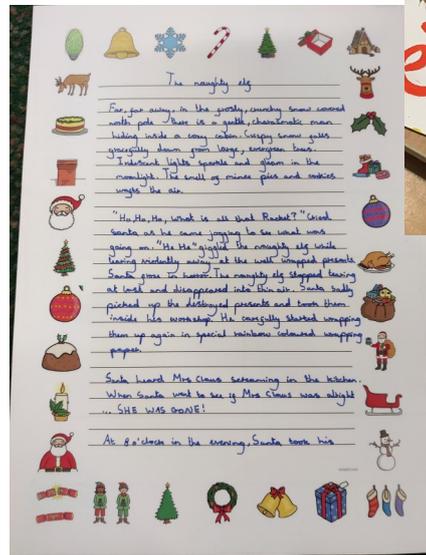
The Elf on the Shelf Quiz

WAG! To make inferences using evidence from a text

- 1) Look at paragraph 1. Find and copy three words that show that the Northern Hemisphere is a frosty place.
- 2) Look at paragraph 2. Why do you think this paragraph is about?
- 3) How does the second paragraph make you feel about this person? Use evidence to support your explanation.
- 4) Write in the speech bubble what you think the elf may be saying. Use the evidence in Paragraph 3 to support you.



Drop Challenge: Write a diary from the view of an elf on the shelf who lives in your home. What adventures would he get up to? Use the text to help you.

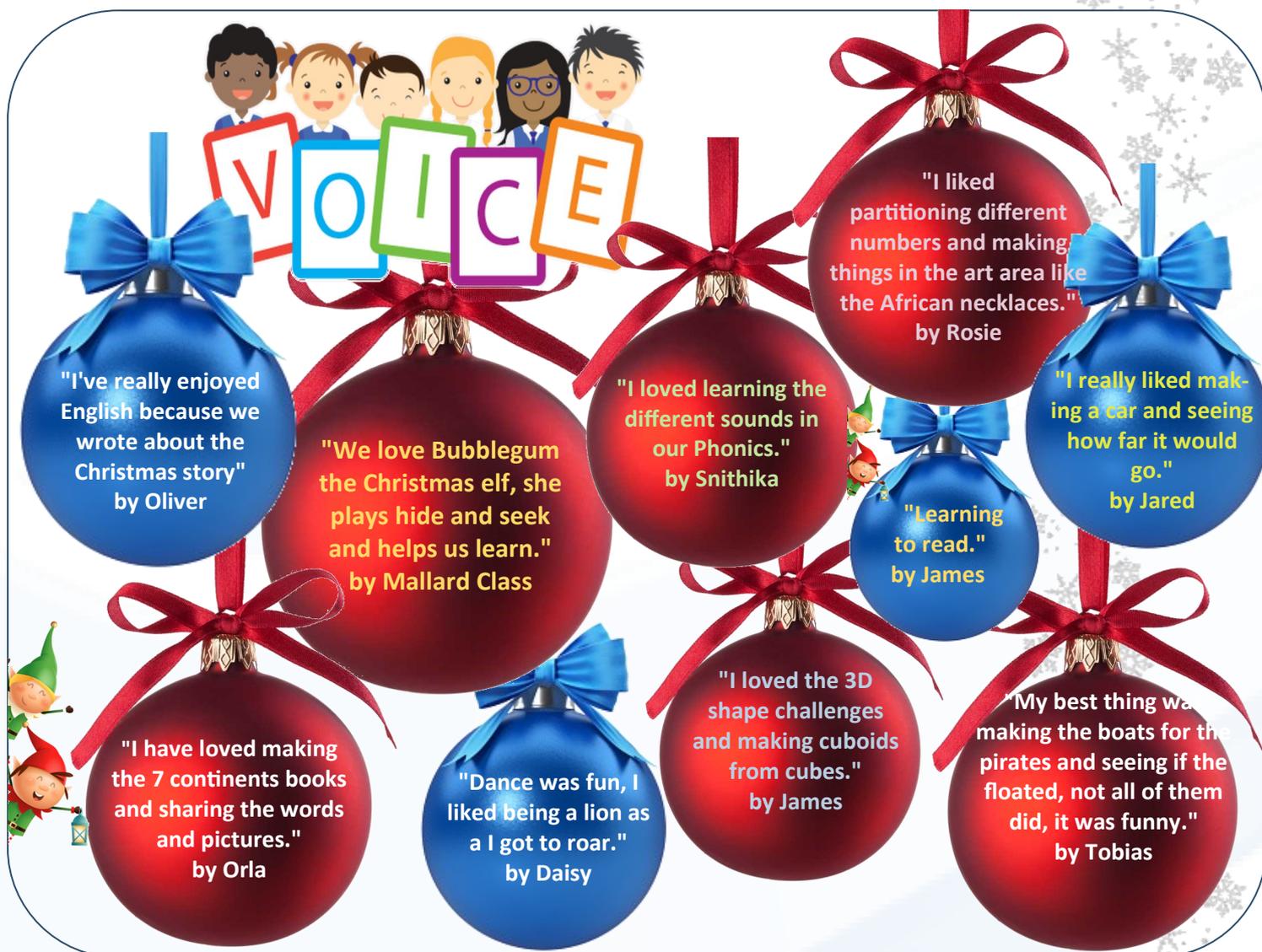


Year Four have had unexpected visitors ... of the magical kind ... elves on the shelf, who have been getting up to all kinds of mischief. The children have enjoyed reading about elves and their magical powers of sending news to Santa. They have also written their own festive stories based on a winter wonderland and the magical helping power of the elves.



Pupil Voice - From Year 1

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?



Notices

Thank You

We would like to say a very big  to Amber Pirie, who has taken time out of her cake making business to donate Christmas Hamper Boxes to schools in the Gloucester area. Kingsway has been very lucky to receive a few of these boxes to share with families that may be in need of some support over Christmas time.

House Points

Don't forget to check out the 'House Points' total on our website: <https://kingswayprimary.org.uk/house-points/>. Children are given house points/Dojo points for Perseverance, Kindness, Success and Positive Behaviours which are updated weekly. Well done everyone.

Online Safety - TikTok Update

Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature

The TikTok family pairing feature allows parents to link their accounts to their children's. Find out what features are available and how by following this link:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

More online safety information can be found on our website: <https://kingswayprimary.org.uk/online-safety/>

Important Diary Dates

Please be advised that this is only a rough outline of the year ahead. More dates will be added in the new year and some events may be subject to change due to Covid.

January 2021

4th: **INSET Day** - focus on supporting pupils with additional needs.

After School Clubs Start

February 2021

5th: NSPCC Number Day

9th: Safer Internet Day

Talent Show

March 2021

Parents' Meetings

April 2021

Easter Assembly

2nd: Bank Holiday

May 2021

3rd: Bank Holiday

KS1 Assessments this month

10th: KS2 SATs Week

31st: Bank Holiday

June 2021

Year 1 phonics screening check

Year 4 multiplication tables check

Year 6 Residential Trip

Year 6 writing submitted for LA moderation

July 2021

5th: Annual reports to parents

w/c 12th: Year 6 Production

20th: Final day of school for children

21st: INSET DAY

Term Dates

Term 1: Thurs 3rd Sept - Fri 23rd Oct 2020

Term 2: Tues 3rd Nov - Fri 18th Dec 2020

Term 3: Tues 5th Jan - Fri 12th Feb 2021

Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb - Thurs 1st April 2021

Term 5: Mon 19th April - Fri 28th May 2021

Term 6: Mon 7th June - Weds 21st July 2021

School Admission Information

Admission to reception at Primary school/ Year 3 Junior School & lower to middle school places for September 2021 - Gloucestershire County Council

From November 2020, letters were sent out explaining how to apply for a school place. If you are a Gloucestershire resident and you still have not received a letter by **December 2020** please contact Co-ordinated Admissions. For more advice and information go to

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-or-infant-school-place/>

Coronavirus Information



Coronavirus Information can be found via our school website or from the following :

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Or check out our school website www.kingswayprimary.org.uk/coronavirus/

Adult Education Courses

Wellbeing courses:

 **Calming the Mind for Parents** 

A free* 5 week online course to introduce you to mindfulness in the comfort of your own home.

- Explore ways to manage your stress levels
- Find new ways to relax yourself and your family
- Learn how to be mindful everyday

Tuesdays from 12th January
10.30am - 11.30am

 **Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home** 

A *free online course for parents

We will be guiding you through the latest science on how to build a happier and calmer home

- Find ways to settle yourself in these uncertain times
- Discuss ways to make your family calmer
- Get tips to make you feel happier
- Develop yoga and mindfulness skills

A 5 week course running on Wednesdays starting on 13th January
9.30 - 11.00am

 **Yoga and Guided Meditation for Parents** 

A free* course for Gloucestershire parents

Maxine is teaching an 11 week course for all abilities.

There's no need to be an expert

All you need is enough space to lie down in and some comfortable clothes.

She will teach you how to relax (on purpose)

This will help to relieve tension and build your resilience skills

If you have children at home they are welcome to join in.

Starting on 19th January
Tuesdays 12:30 - 2:00 on Zoom

Maths courses:

 **Give Your Kids a Boost in Maths in the Infants** 

A free* online course for parents

Lydia can help you understand how maths is taught in Reception, Year 1 and 2.

- Learn how to make maths fun
- Get tips to boost your children's skills
- Build your child's confidence

Tuesdays from 9:30am-10:00am
Starting on 12th January

 **Keeping Up with the Kids Maths** 

A free* online course for parents

Do you find your children's maths work challenging?

Lydia can take the mystery out of maths. As a primary teacher she can explain the terms used in school at the moment

This course will focus on maths skills taught in the Juniors

Find out how to:

- Give your child a boost in their maths skills
- Get tips to help your children learn their tables
- Find out about fractions

Tuesdays from 11:00 to 12:00
Starting on 12 January

English courses:

 **Improve Your English and Help Your Child on Zoom** 

A free* ESOL course for parents

- Learn English
- Find out how to help your children
- Build your skills

Wednesdays 9.15am - 11.15am
Fridays 9:30am - 11:30am

Classes are starting on 6 and 8 January

 **Help Your Child with English in the Early Years** 

A free* course for ESOL parents!

The course will be delivered via Zoom

- Find out how young children and babies learn English
- Build your children's language skills
- Boost your own English skills

Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30
Starting on 7th January



For more information about these online courses or to book a place, please email fay.tucker@gloucestershire.gov.uk

These courses are being delivered via Zoom to keep everyone safe. You can access this via your smartphone, tablet or computer.

Please note: Some of these courses are free if you are over 19 years old, have lived in the UK/ EU for 3 or more years, or have a valid Residence Permit, and are one of the following: Unemployed or earning below £17,000 per year; Qualified below a Level 2 (less than 5 GCSEs); Have mental health challenges, Have a learning difficulty or disability.

