



THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 - DECEMBER 20TH 2023



COMING UP 2024... and a Happy New Year!

Children Back to School
Monday 8th January 2024

Year 3 Synagogue visit
Wednesday 24th January 2024

*It's beginning to look
a lot like Christmas!*



School Values

DECEMBER



The Bible is full of stories where Jesus shows how showing love to each other and to God, is the most important value and commandment.

“Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

Find out how these stories depict love. Share with your family at home or with your teachers in school:



**The Story of the Baby Moses
Exodus 2:1 - 10:**

The Bible says that God is love, which makes the Word of God the perfect source to know what love means and how we can be loving people.



**The story of Ruth and Naomi
The Book of Ruth:**

The month of December is also a special month because Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the font of love.

Think about what you will do this month to show the true spirit of Christmas, which is all about sharing and caring.

The Nativity Scene: The birth of Christ

**DEAR LORD,
HELP US TO BE LOVING
TOWARDS ALL
CREATION, EVERY
WAKING MOMENT.
AMEN**

ATTENDANCE STARS

This month's
attendance stars are: **Moorhens!**

**WITH 95%
ATTENDANCE**



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who
contributed to help the charity,
Save the Children.
We raised £179.00!



YEAR 3



This month in Year 3, numerous thrilling events have unfolded! We embarked on a journey to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. During our visit, the children actively participated in a workshop focused on exploring various religious paintings depicting the narrative of the nativity. The gallery's staff provided insightful explanations about the significance of each painting and explained the various artistic techniques used. One fascinating revelation was the recurring use of blue in many paintings to symbolize Mary. We learned that the vivid blue pigment in these artworks was made from the precious blue gemstone, Lapiz Lazuli.



In addition to this, the Year 3s had their first Sound Start concert, where they had the opportunity to display their musical talents for family and friends. The children have made remarkable progress since September and are becoming increasingly confident in playing the string instruments! We can't wait to continue our learning when we return in January.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE
YEAR 3 TEAM**

YEAR 4



In Science, we have been looking at the different states of matter. We made jellies so that we could observe their changing state. The changes from a solid to a liquid (once heated) and back to a solid again (once cooled).

In addition, we observed a boiling kettle, identifying the water's change of state from a liquid to a gas. Lastly, we looked at the water cycle and considered how elements of the cycle can be seen in everyday life. For example condensation, which can be seen on windows when it becomes hot and a gas changes to a liquid.



Year 4, successfully ran their Christmas stalls at the Fayre this year. Thank you parents for your support in visiting our stalls and joining in with the festive fun! We hope you enjoyed the interactive 'Find The Snowman's Nose' activity (Kiwis), the artistic Christmas Tree Decorations (Penguins) and the glittery Seasonal Photo Frames (Grebes).

Merry Christmas from the Year 4 team

YEAR 5 - CELEBRATE WINDRUSH 75!



Seventy-five years ago, on 22 June 1948, 492 people stepped off the Empire Windrush ocean liner at Tilbury Docks to start a new life in Britain.

They were the first of thousands encouraged to migrate to Britain to help fill labour shortages in the armed forces, industry and NHS.

Known as the Windrush generation, they became a symbol of the post-war migration that transformed the UK and its culture.

On the 75th anniversary of the journey across the Atlantic, Year 5 took a look at the Legacy of Windrush, and the Caribbean culture of Notting Hill carnival that was also brought to England.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE YEAR 5 PUPILS AND TEAM!



On Tuesday 19th December
Year 5 headed in to Trafalgar
Square (the centre of London).

We visited the Nativity manger,
the Christmas Market and
Norwegian Christmas tree and
then popped in to the National
Gallery to look at many of the
Nativity paintings on offer for
free!

It was a lovely experience that has
put us all in the mood for a happy
Christmas with our own families!



YEAR 6

On Tuesday 5th December, children from classes across Year 6 participated in our whole-school 'Black History Matters' celebration worship. The theme of this year's black history learning was the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of 'HMT Empire Windrush', which is now celebrated as being the first ship to bring large numbers of migrants from the West Indies to the UK (1948). Amongst the work presented, were the children's persuasive posters encouraging migrants to come to the UK to work in industries such as nursing, construction, transport and the emergency services.

As part of our learning, children read 'Windrush Child' (written by Benjamin Zephaniah) which recounts the experience of a boy sent from Jamaica to live with his father in Birmingham, where he finds settling-in and being accepted by the local population much more problematic than he'd imagined.

Swimming

Year 6 pupils have all had the opportunity to participate in two weeks of swimming lessons this term. Despite the long walk to and from Waddon Leisure Centre each day, the children's enthusiasm for swimming was remarkable. All pupils made great progress over the two-week period, many of whom were able to swim 25 metres by the end of their lessons. Swimming is a very enjoyable form of exercise - Waddon Leisure Centre provides classes for swimmers of all abilities, so why not give swimming a try!



Christmas Church Service

On Tuesday 12th December, Year 6 pupils played a key part in the Christmas Service at the Minster, which was led by Father Alan. As well as reading verses from the Bible, recounting the Christmas story and offering prayers, the children enjoyed singing a range of traditional Christmas carols.



Croydon Baby Bank

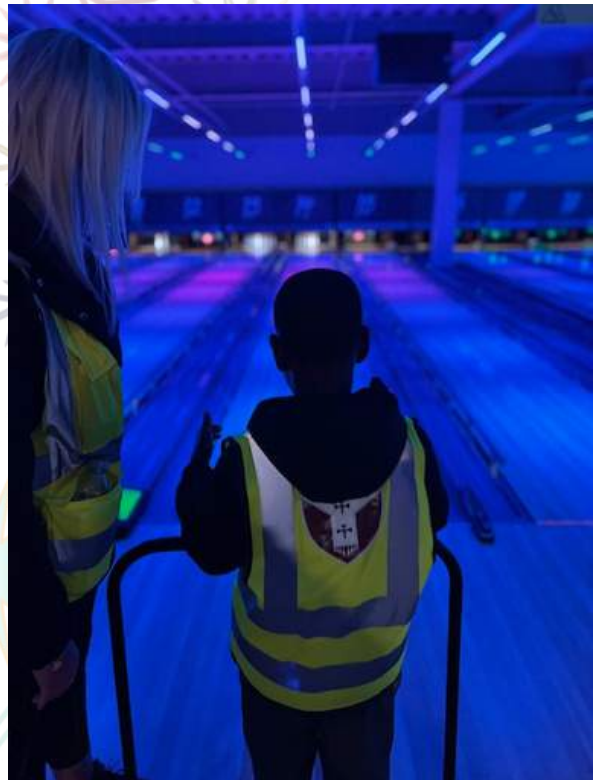
Thank you to everyone who attended our Open House evening and Christmas Fayre. We raised an extra £63.00 for our charity.



Croydon Bowling Partnership

Well done to those who participated.

We came 4th in the competition!





FOOTBALL



Recently, our boys' football team competed in a very tough football tournament consisting of 16 schools across Croydon and Beckenham. After coming top of our group, we then played in the semi-finals which we won 1-0 with the last kick of the game. In the final against Selsdon, we drew 0-0 but then won the penalty shootout after scoring all three of our penalties.

We now qualify for the finals in January against the best schools in Cheam, Sutton and Bromley. The standard of football was very high so we did brilliantly to win.



READING



Benjamin Zephaniah was also the poet who wrote, 'The British' which pupils from Green Hub performed: it tells the story of how, over thousands of years, people from all over the world have come to live and settle in Britain. Inspired by Zephaniah's poem, some pupils then performed their own poems, reflecting on how proud they were of their own identity.



Tragically, Benjamin Zephaniah passed away earlier this month (aged just 65) which saddened the children – the impact of his work, however, will be felt for generations to come.

Maths Challenge:



Puzzle of the month: What is the value of ?

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

As we approach the end of this term, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your involvement has been invaluable in creating a nurturing values based, learning environment for our pupils.

This festive season, let's reflect on the true meaning of Christmas – a time for kindness, compassion, and togetherness as we celebrate the arrival of baby Jesus.

The school fayre raised £1046.92 and it will be used wisely to support our vision. Your presence at school events is not just welcomed; it's cherished. Next year, please join us in creating more memorable moments for our pupils. Your support makes a significant difference.

Looking ahead, we anticipate an exciting new year filled with continued growth especially with our new Executive Leader, Ali Silke strengthening our Senior Leadership Team.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year. May the joy of the holidays bring warmth to your homes and hearts.

Matthew 19:14 NIV

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Mrs Green