



Headteacher

I can't believe it's the end of term already! It has been a very busy autumn term in school with lots of amazing learning taking place across school. I have witnessed great singing, fantastic art work and listened to brilliant readers recently and I continue to be very proud of all our children and their hard work, effort and talents they demonstrate on a daily basis. It has also been a term where we have had some challenges too and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. As we approach 2022, we again hope for a settled time in school and we are really hoping for the opportunity to invite parents back into school again during the spring term, but we will have to see how the new year goes.

Whatever happens I know as the Headteacher at Gillibrand, that this school will continue to provide a truly amazing education for all your children. I wish you all a very relaxing and Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2022.

EYFS

This month we have continued to learn about traditional tales including The Enormous Turnip. We have also been considering the Nativity story of the first Christmas. The children have been working very hard on learning the songs and actions for our Nativity play. The Nativity is now recorded and we are excited to share this online with parents and families this week. The children have enjoyed lots of Christmas art and design projects including making calendars, decorations and cards. There have also been lots of exciting literacy activities such as writing letters to Santa and reading messages from the cheeky elf! We were very excited when Santa replied to the letters we wrote him. Enjoy a well-earned break children and Merry Christmas!

Year 1

I cannot believe that we are writing the last newsletter of 2021!
December always is a magical month in school, with many fun and exciting activities happening. Much of our learning has been linked to our class text – 'How Winston Delivered Christmas' and we will soon find out if he was successful and did, indeed, manage to deliver Christmas! We have also been sharing an 'Advent bookshelf', where we read one book for each day of December. This month, we have also enjoyed the Christmas shop, Christmas jumper day and a lovely Christmas dinner. We have also had an amazing Christmas party and recorded our wonderful Christmas Nativity to share with parents and carers. We have used our DT skills to make amazing moving Christmas cards for our community and families. Our class elf has spent each day with us this month and we are very much looking forward to our letters from Father Christmas after we posted our Christmas letters to him.
I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas!



Year 2

Where has December gone! It has been a really busy, festive December. Year 2 have worked incredibly hard on the nativity, learning their lines and performing them with expression and singing the songs beautifully. We all enjoyed a fantastic Polar Express Day that included spellings in the snow, a STEM challenge to build a train out of cardboard boxes and of course, delicious hot chocolate too! In DT children have made wonderful Christmas cards with a working lever and slider that controlled the Polar Express moving across a mountain, I was so impressed with their engineering skills. We have transferred our learning about the Polar Express to our English work, where we have written descriptive pieces, capturing the smells and sights of the trip to the North Pole. In Science we have been learning about animals and humans and part of the learning has been about different food groups, using their knowledge the children created their own Polar Express menu, and clearly understood the different foods we can have a lot and little of! It has been a magnificent half term, and all of Year 2 deserve a truly magical Christmas, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas time and return to school in January for more hard work and fun!





Year 3

What a great end to the 2021! The children have worked well all term with our Victorian topic and this week saw us making our very own 'Victorian Afternoon Tea'. The children really enjoyed making their biscuits and sandwiches and then eating them. We also completed our Victorian dance with the School Sports Partnership. Pearl did an amazing job choreographing the whole dance. We have continued to look at the Vlad and the Florence Nightingale Adventures and in maths we have looked at statistics, collecting data for our DT project. This December we saw the arrival of our elf Jingles, which has brought lots of laughs. We have also enjoyed watching the pantomime 'A Christmas Carol' and we have made cards for the community as well as for the children to take home.

Have a great Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Year 4

This December has been lots of fun in Year 4. The children really enjoyed Christmas jumper day, watching a live pantomime and creating their Christmas cards.

The children have continued to work extremely hard with maths and English. In English, we have continued to look at the novel Podkin One Ear and the children have loved writing their own version of the story. Over the past few weeks, we have been busily designing and creating our Christmas cards using our DT skills of sewing. The children have really enjoyed learning the different stitches to use to create their Christmas design. We have also come to the end of our Victorians topic and the children have used their computing skills to show what they have learnt.

Enjoy a well- earned break and Merry Christmas!



Year 5

In Year 5, we have been creating Christmas cards using our first half-term art skill of pointillism. We have worked hard to complete our DT Victorian projects creating a moving structure with cams mechanics. We have also finished our Computing unit where we have been using Scratch to learn about coding. The children managed to devise algorithms to make a working maze on Scratch and debug any errors along the way. We now look forward to creating some fun festive learning as we fast approach the Christmas holiday.



Year 6

Can you believe it the Christmas break already? This first part of the year has certainly flown by. The children have enjoyed finishing off the Victorian houses made with working electrical lights, linking our history, DT and science topic together. We have also enjoyed creating our maths inspired Christmas cards, linking our work on the four quadrants and our art skills to make an amazing star design using coloured threads. They look spectacular! The children had the opportunity early this month to take part in our Christmas shop so look out for an extra special gift under the tree this year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an amazing Christmas and a great New Year. See you in 2022!

