



Newsletter 2

Autumn half-term (2) December 2024

To do
the best
we can

Hey with Zion V.C. Primary

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a wonderful half term, full of fun learning and opportunities. I would like to thank the staff, the PTFA and thank you also to parents and carers for your support. As a team we can achieve so much together!

The nativities have been amazing - the children really rose to the challenge and were fabulous - We have a talented group of children! Thank you to the nursery children that performed their nativity for a second time at Zion Methodist Church - they shone and made the service memorable!

The Choir have been fantastic with performances in both churches, and they plan to sing at Medlock Court this week. They sing so beautifully and their commitment to attend the performances at the weekend is to be commended. Thank you to the children.

BBC Visit I am pleased to tell you that on Friday we had a visit from the BBC in response to the Children's Wellbeing Act that is currently being explored in Parliament. Elaine Dunkley (BBC Education Correspondent) visited, to highlight how our school is going over and beyond for our children and families. They filmed throughout the morning, starting with the homework club, interviewing staff and children and asked about all the great things we do at school like the foodbank, Cool to Be Kind Week and Dare to Be Different Day. We talked about our partnership with the PTFA and Our Community Wardrobe. The children represented HWZ beautifully and were praised by Elaine. The clip was aired on BBC 1 NEWS at 1 o'clock on 17.12.24.

Our Homework Club continues to be a success - The impact on progress is clear. The Homework Club runs from 8am- 8:50am and 3:30 to 4.15pm each day, it is open to all ages. We require a small voluntary contribution of £1 per session (it is free for those on FSM) to buy resources for the children and to staff it appropriately. To book a place, we do need a month's notice, please see the parent mail which was sent early December.

Joint Church of England and Methodist Worship Service on Saturday 7th December was lovely and it was good to see the many families that attended. Thank you again to the choir and to Miss Taylor.

News from our Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies -

Dear all,

The BBC came to interview us about the Children's Wellbeing Bill and what we do in school. We talked about the partnership with Our Community Wardrobe who have supported us by providing clothing, gifts, food and duvets. We also would like to thank our families who have given to the foodbank to help those in our school that need some support.

Did you know that our super PTFA are paying for the coaches of our trips and have raised money to do this through the Summer Fare, the Light Party, a Totally Taylor Swift event and Dare to be Different Day? Without their support trips would be unaffordable. Please help us keep our trips by paying the donation needed for the venue costs. Without donations and the PTFA's kindness, trips may not be possible. The PTFA are looking for helpers for the next big event - please contact them through the Facebook page.

Our vision for 2024- 2025 is John 10 verse 10 Jesus said, "I have come that they may have fullness of life." Within the love of God, we aspire to do the best we can for ourselves and others." Let's do the best we can!

Next January, some of the School Council will meet with the Deputy Prime Minister - Angela Rayner and our local MP Debbie Abrahams, to discuss plans for a project that we hope to develop within our Epworth Education Hub.

Happy Christmas!

Harry, Eve, Tilly-Ann and Zak.

An overview of the half term-

Nursery This half term, Nursery have been super busy. They practised for their Nativity and did an amazing performance at school and at Zion Methodist Church. They have been learning about Christmas and why it is special. They have also looked at seasonal changes in autumn and winter and have learnt about the number 1, 2 and repeating patterns. Another brilliant half term!



Reception Wow, what can I say.... I am so proud of each and every one of them! Every child has worked so hard, and the nativity was the icing on the cake, they performed fantastically. Well done everyone 🙌 A superb term's work!



R/Y1 Reception/Year 1 have had a fun-filled half term! We have enjoyed our focus text, *Lost and Found*, in which we have created our own fact files about penguins and retold the story in our own words. We have designed our own weather forecasts in *Geography* this half term. learnt

Year 4 The children are really enjoying improving their Spanish this term, they are learning key phrases for classroom instructions, for example *Es la hora del recreo*, *Necesitamos sus cuadernos de Ingles* alongside our weekly lessons. In *Geography* they have been learning about the climate in different regions of Spain. The children have enjoyed the topic on solids, liquids and gases during science lessons, they finished the topic with an investigation on the melting point of chocolate. Our class book for English this half term has been the *Iron Man*, the children loved the end of this book when the Iron Man defeated the Dragon by tricking him into flying into the sun.

Year 5 This half term in Year 5 has been full of excitement and learning! We've explored fascinating topics in our lessons, worked hard on improving our skills, and embraced the festive spirit through creative activities and teamwork. It's been wonderful to see the children's progress and enthusiasm.

English: Through *Journey to Jo'Burg* by Beverley Naidoo, the children examined themes of apartheid, inequality, and courage. Reading and analysing this text each lesson enhanced their reading comprehension, narrative writing, and analytical skills while discussing the historical and social context of the story.

Geography: Students were introduced to the topic of Trade, its importance, and its impact on global economies. They have started to explore concepts like imports, exports, and fair trade, gaining an understanding of how trade connects different parts of the world and supports communities. This will be continued over the next half term. In the final *Geography* lesson of this half term, the children were tasked with each taking a country that the UK trades with and create a convincing, clear and concise presenting pitch to convince the UK to trade with their designated country. The children displayed amazing presenting skills and persuasive language, with the overall winners being the team of Jack and Mathias representing China, winning with their excellent sales pitch focusing on imports and exports and the quality of the products.



After finishing our topic about Normans, the children were then tasked with the job of creating a calendar for 2025, which was to include an inspirational quote encouraging the children to do the best that they can. Also, children created their own Christmas cards by using their cutting, measuring and designing skills. The end results of the cards were amazing.

Year 6



Year 6 have had a busy first term and we've made lots of amazing memories. Children really enjoyed their weekend residential to Robinwood where children took part in a range of outdoor and adventure activities including ziplining, caving and jumping to a trapeze. Many children faced their fears and tried new things. We were very proud of every single child. They behaved excellently and represented the school well.

In class, children have been working exceptionally hard in Mathematics, developing their arithmetic skills. All children's overall scores have greatly increased. In History, we have been learning about the first and second World Wars. They have shown a keen interest in rationing and enjoyed planning their own weekly menu. Our War theme continued in our English lessons as children composed their own alphabet poems using ambitious vocabulary. We have also explored different pieces of War art and developed our shading and sketching skills.

Money Raised for School and other Charities

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|------------------------|-----------|
| • School Fair | £1,062.32 |
| • Nativities | £304.36 |
| • Poppy Appeal | £450.57 |
| • Dare to be Different | £436.80 |
| • Christmas Jumper Day | £87.80 |

Thank you for your continued support, we really couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to our School Kitchen & Mid-day Staff

Last week our children enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner, cooked by our kitchen staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for such a wonderful meal and thank you to our mid-day staff for working so hard to make sure everything ran so smoothly.

Thank you for all their hard work all year round, we wish them all a very Merry Christmas!



Dates for your diary

- Monday 6 January Term Begins.
- Tuesday 14 January Reception/Year 1, Lees Library
- Wednesday 15 January **Closing date for primary applications is 5pm**
- Wednesday 22 January Magistrates visit to Year 6
- Friday 24 January School Council meeting with Angela Raynor - Deputy Prime Minister.
- Tuesday 28 January Nursery, Lees Library
- Tuesday 04 February Year 6, Lees Library
- Friday 7 February Year 6 trip Imperial War Museum
- Monday 10 February Man City Sensory experience
Chemistry with Cabbage - Year 6
- Tuesday 11 February Year 5SP, Lees Library
- Friday 14 February Non-Uniform Valentine's Day theme of red/pink
£1 for school funds.
- Friday 14 February Bake Sale - biscuits 50p

**Break up for half term Friday 14 February
Return to school on Monday 24 February**

- Tuesday 25 February Year 5NP, Lees Library
- Tuesday 04 March Year 4, Lees Library
- Thursday 6 March World Book Day. Dress up as favourite book character. Costume alert!
- Friday 7 March Scholastic Book Fair arrives.
- Tuesday 11 March Year 3/4, Lees Library
- Tuesday 18 March Year 3, Lees Library
- Tuesday 25 March Year 2, Lees Library

Week beginning 31 March, Parents Evening

- Tuesday 01 April Year 1/2, Lees Library

**Break up for half term Friday 04 April
Return to school on Tuesday 22 April**

- Tuesday 22 April Reception/Year 1, Lees Library
- Tuesday 29 April Reception, Lees Library
- Tuesday 06 May Nursery, Lees Library
- Thursday 22 May Class Photographs

Have a wonderful Christmas and happy new year!
Mrs Machin

