



Christmas Addition

I just cannot believe I am writing my piece for the final newsletter of 2020! Where does the time go?

For the country as a whole 2020 has been a very difficult year and of course this has impacted too on our school but I also see 2020 as a year which we at Charing School can look back at with real pride in how we have worked together and coped really well with the challenges. I feel that the way everybody has conducted themselves is a credit to the whole community and that this has set an excellent example which will stay with our children for the rest of their lives.

I strongly believe that when compared against the normal school improvement criteria our school is in a far better position than this time last year. The wider Covid challenges thrown at us have not hindered this desire to be the best. I am delighted that despite all of this, the progress has indeed been truly amazing. The lessons learned will be something we can all look back at in the future with a real sense of pride.

The children have genuinely relished the challenges presented to them and have grown in confidence and maturity. Back in the Spring and early Summer the time away from formal education helped rejuvenate their love for school; both as a community of friends and a place of learning. It was very clear that this time away made all the children realise just how important their friends and classmates are to them all.






Moving forward in time I was very impressed how, despite the occasional technical issue, the children rose to the challenge of the online class Christmas services this week and produced, what I believe to be the best Christmas services I've seen in my teaching career. It was delightful watching every child take part and enjoy themselves and seeing the parental pride shining on the adult faces. I went home on Tuesday with a big smile on my face as a result! It was particularly good to see "the show must go on" spirit being put into action by the Foxes class despite the class closure! I am delighted to say all Foxes children are now out of isolation.

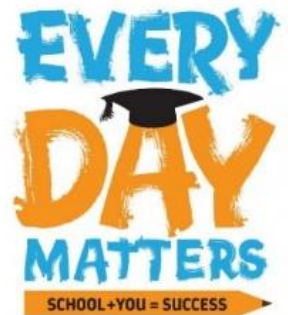
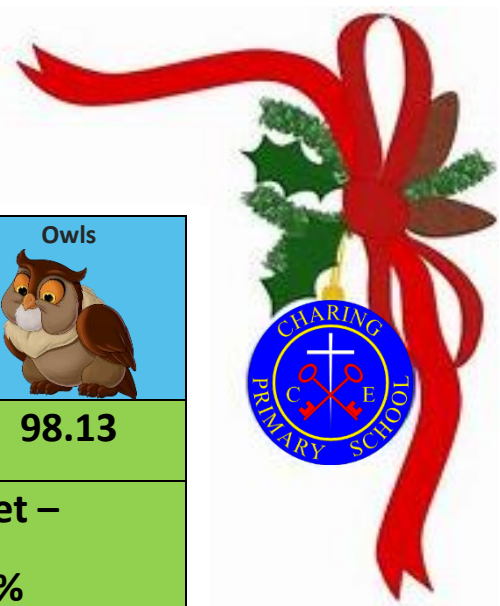
I would like to say a particular thank you to the parents for their ongoing support and understanding as we have battled to stop the spread of the Covid 19 virus at school. I do strongly urge you to continue to remember the "hands, face, space" rules and to allow fresh air to circulate in your homes as you follow the guidance over Christmas to control the virus. It is essential that we keep everybody safe and stop Covid coming into the school at the start of Term 3. I will be regularly checking my emails over the Christmas holidays so please do email me at headteacher@charing.kent.sch.uk if any child tests positive over the holiday period. For the first six days of the holidays I may have to contact parents if I am told to by Track and Trace as a result of someone connected to the school testing positive.

The continued support and dedication of the staff has made my job so much easier and I would like to record my thanks to them for everything they have done for the school in 2020. They daily go the extra mile for the children to ensure they feel safe, happy, learn well and enjoy coming to school. It is a privilege to lead such a strong staff team.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas. It is such a special time of the year when the message of God's love for the world comes to us through the story of the baby born in Bethlehem. I look forward to 2021 as a time when the vaccine starts to help us defeat the virus but in the meantime we keep our guard up against it. I also believe 2021 will be a time when we continue to develop our school as an even better place for the children to learn and thrive in all respects. Charing is as a great place to be and I am so excited by the opportunities that the future offers to us.

Attendance

Rabbits 	Squirrels 	Foxes 	Badgers 	Owls 
77.78	92.86		83.90	98.13
Whole School – 88.86%		Year to date – 95.26%		Target – 96%



Prayer

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.

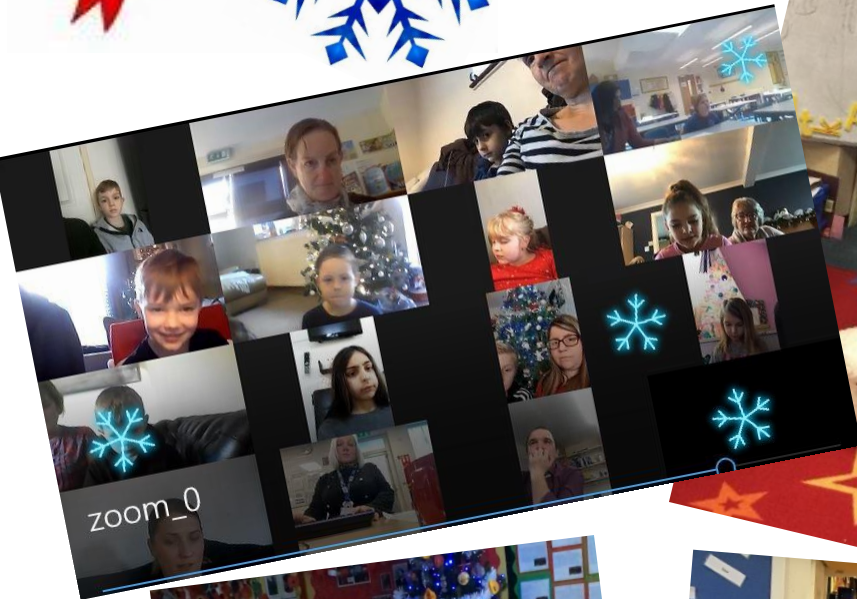


Merry
Christmas

It has been amazing to see so many children and parents joining us for our Christmas services this week. Each one was unique and personal to the class and it was a privilege to be in each service. Thank you to the parents who 'Zoomed' in to either watch the service or to help their child participate from home.



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



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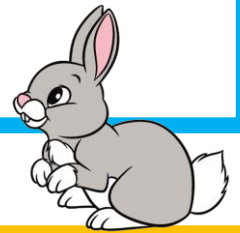
Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



What we're learning NEXT

Next term we are learning all about 'Amazing Animals'. We will be looking at wild animals and pets and hoping to meet some real life animals (pets not wild animals!). We have lots of stories to support our learning, from rabbits, to bears, dogs and cats.

In Term 3 Miss Reeve will be continuing her teacher training at Kingsnorth Primary. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her back in Rabbits Class in Term 4.



Next term, our Topic is 'Land Ahoy.' We are going to be Pirates so we will be focusing on Geography. We will be making our own maps, using compasses to navigate the stormy seas as well as looking at the oceans of the world and learning about weather and weather charts. We are also going to have lots of fun and exciting art activities, such as painting and collages as well as exciting DT projects. We will be making boats and compasses and testing our map skills through this. In addition to this, we will be looking at weather in Science and how weather changes. This will be a very exciting topic! I hope you have your Pirate hats at the ready!

We also welcome Mr Goodsell into Squirrels Class for Term 3 as part of his teacher training. He will be working along side Miss Macmillan.



Foxes Class have had a good term 2 and have worked really hard. We wish the children a well-deserved holiday and a good rest before we begin our fun filled learning for term 3. Our new topic will be the Romans and our class text is Escape to Pompeii by Christina Balit. The children will learn about events surrounding Pompeii and the volcanic eruption of Vesuvius. In Maths we will be continuing to become more confident at multiplication and division calculations. In RE our new topic is Incarnation where we will be discussing the question 'What is the Trinity?'. In science, our new topic is Light and we will be learning about how we see things and also designing our own experiments to find out how shadows are formed.



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We are excited to start the new year with the topic of refugees. We will investigate some famous refugees, why people move and what makes them choose certain destinations. We will use this topic to broaden our knowledge of continents and countries. In English we will be using a picture book called *The Journey* to inspire our writing along side *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. In maths we will be learning how to multiply up to 4 digits by 1 digit. We then move on to learning about fractions and of course the daily times table practice will continue. In science we will look at how animals and humans 'work' and what we need to survive. Our R.E. will make us consider how Moses has affected Christian beliefs and whether as a race we can find freedom and justice from these teachings. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year. We can't wait to see you all again in 2021!



In term 3 our topic will be 'Migration' and we will be exploring the reasons and effects of the same. As Owls class enjoyed reading Michael Morpurgo in term 1, we will be indulging in another one of his novels next term. In Maths, we will be learning algebra and geometrical concepts alongside continuing to consolidate learning from previous two terms. For science we will be focusing on our unit 'Animals including humans' and learning about Islam in RE. In art the children will be looking a bit deeper into who they are and how to show that through Art.

We would like to congratulate Owls class for showing great resilience during these difficult times and would like to wish them and their families a very enjoyable Christmas! Be safe and see you soon!



Merry Christmas

From all at Charing School



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