

## S2A

In S2A this term we have enjoyed learning through sensory exploration. We have worked hard to develop our social and communication skills as part of a group. We have had a lot of fun exploring sensory resources!

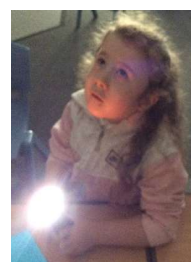


## P2

We have had a very exciting first term in P2! We have enjoyed exploring exotic fruits, textures and tastes in our 'Handa's Surprise' topic. In Science, we have continued to explore our senses learning about light, vibrations, sound, tastes and textures.

P2 have particularly enjoyed our Christmas preparations this term. Children enjoyed our class story 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' so much we just had to perform it in our Christmas production. We have learned all about advent and how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus through singing, dancing and some brilliant drama.

All the staff in P2 are very proud of all the childrens' achievements this term and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

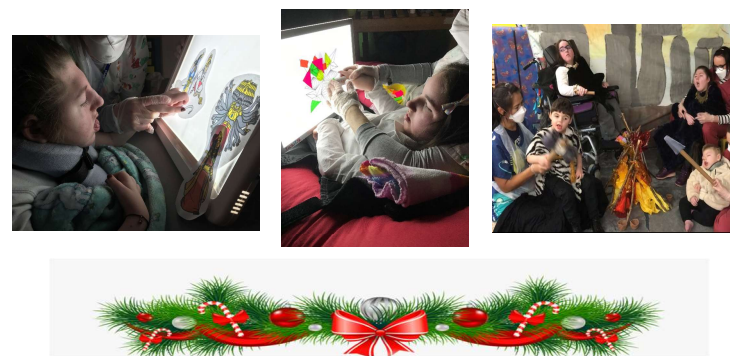


## FFP3

In FFP3 we had a wonderful time learning and celebrating Diwali as part of International Education week. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita in Literacy. We made Rangoli patterns with shapes on the light board in Numeracy.

The pupils made diva lamps and held a light festival, playing our instruments and listening to Diwali songs on Charanga in Music. We made some curry, chapattis and coconut ice sweets for our families.

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and we are having lots of fun with all our Christmas activities in class.



## S1CE

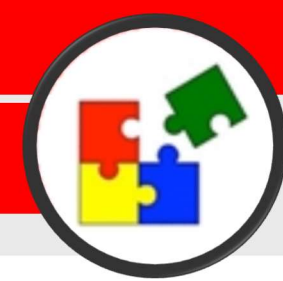
We all felt that this term has flown away having lots of fun. All students were so happy to get back to school and show off how hard they can work. We've been lucky that at the beginning of the year we could spend lots of time outside tidying up the allotment area and learning about Harvest.



Running up to Christmas students enjoyed taking part in our Medieval Winter Celebration as well as getting familiar with the Christmas Story and finding out why we give presents on Christmas day.



# VILLA REAL | CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



## DEPUTY HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of another year! I think it's fair to say that this has been one of the most challenging years we have faced as a community, and as a school. Despite the immense challenges of a global pandemic, I am exceptionally proud of the resilience and positivity shown by the pupils/students and the professionalism of our tremendous staff. It is clear to see from this newsletter, the fabulous work and activities that the pupils/students have been doing.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021, and thank you all for the continued support you offer the school.

Take care,  
Louise Burns  
Deputy Head

## GOVERNOR NEWS

Dear Everyone,

What a year, but I must take this opportunity to thank all our fabulous pupils, parents/carers and staff for working through this incredibly difficult time. We have had some truly wonderful moments in the work we have seen, in the relationships we have made and your commitment to education at Villa Real School.

Governors have obviously not been in school since our last monitoring visits and meetings in March, however we have continued to work behind the scenes and have had all our meetings electronically. We have been involved in staff interviews, curriculum reviews, finance meetings, and meeting with year group heads and subject leaders.

I am remaining as Chair, and Caroline Givens, parent to Tara, is taking on the Vice Chair role this year. Thank you to Cllr Ivan Jewell, outgoing Vice Chair.

We are also very pleased to announce we have 2 new parent governors starting with us this term: Gemma Scott, parent to Cole in yr 11 and Lyndsey Robinson, parent to Darcy in yr 3.

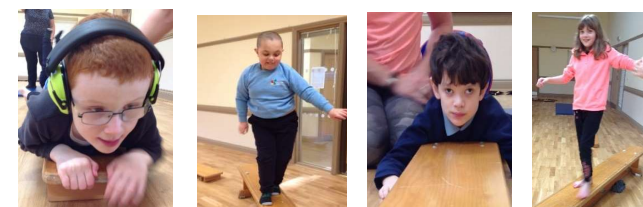
We look forward to meeting again in 2021, until then we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Suzanne Bailey

## PE NEWS

During the Autumn term, classes have successfully completed the Government's ambition for all children to achieve their daily 'school-based' active 30 minutes of physical activity. We have seen pupils enjoy a lovely range of activities, including an increase in Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, plus lots of health & well-being activities, such as chair-based fitness and yoga. Physical activity plays a key part in physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and boosts academic learning. The online 'Active 30 Durham Hub', provides a centralised bank of resources, which will provide parents with inspiration on how to embed physical activity into young people's lives at home.

Now more than ever, is an important time to support all young people to be active for their physical & mental health and wellbeing. It is never too late to gain health benefits from taking up any amount of physical activity. This can also boost cognitive function and engagement in academic learning. Being more physically active is good for a child's health, now and in the future. Please take a look at the link for activity ideas to enjoy at home with your child <https://www.countydurhamsport.com/young-people/active-30/home>



## P3

This term, we have enjoyed lots of literacy activities linked to our 2 set texts; 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and 'The Enchanted Wood' by Enid Blyton. We've been identifying characters, retelling stories and writing a mini saga!

The class have enjoyed learning about a Victorian Christmas, decorating the tree and singing carols. In RE we have been learning about Advent and enjoy opening our class Advent Calendar and electronic version which has lots of facts about Christmas traditions.

In Music, P3 have been learning Christmas songs and listening and appraising classical music such as 'The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'. We are looking forward to watching live performances from Durham Music Services, joining virtually with schools from all over the County.



## P2A

Pupils in P2A have had an excellent half term. They have been working hard in reading, listening and answering questions about 'The Enormous Crocodile' and 'A Christmas Carol'. Our class came first in the completion for Harvest scarecrow when we designed and made a 3D Enormous Crocodile eating one of our pupils!

In Music pupils have been singing, playing instruments and acting out parts of the story 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

Pupils have also been working really hard in our Christmas performance about the History of Christmas in Roman times.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





## S2

It's been an amazing term at Villa Real School in Senior 2. We have recently been lucky enough to be granted access to Kodu programming software and students have learnt how to create and program their own games. We have also been lucky enough to purchase Purple Mash. The students are using this software to develop reading, programming skills and many other subjects. Here you can see students developing their music skills using Purple Mash. To end the term, we have enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner prepared for us by our wonderful kitchen staff. Have a lovely Christmas from Senior 2!



## P2CE

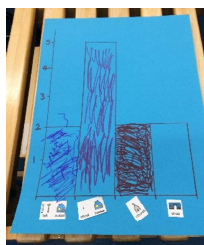
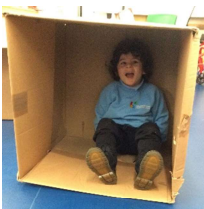
P2CE have been exploring Buildings and construction over the term.

We have built towers with bricks and measured how tall they were.

We read 'The Three Little Pigs' and wrote our own version, deciding what we would build our house from. We got inside of the 'Little Pig's house, testing out if cardboard would be a good material to keep us safe.

We went into the community to count how many tall houses, short houses, churches and shops we could see, making a tally mark each time we saw one.

When back in school, we made a bar chart of our findings.



## S1

S1 have been working hard in English exploring plays, poetry and novels from Shakespeare to The Wizard of Oz and acted out the Wizard of Oz in Drama. We have also had a confidence building day of trials and challenges based on 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!'. We were very brave and tried lots of foods in the bushtucker trials. Pupils have also learnt how to use an old fashioned sewing machine in History and Design and Technology and sewed their own face mask. We have worked hard, had lots of fun learning and all wish you a Merry Christmas.



## S1A

S1A have been taking part in an Outdoor Education programme to increase pupil's fitness, stamina and look at nature and what it offers. Over the last term the pupils have taken part in many walks around the region from Plessey woods in Northumberland to local walks on the Lanchester Valley Way. This has also linked well with parts of the curriculum in Science, Art and Personal & Social Development. All of the students have been lucky enough to visit 'Wild Track Wilderness' at Lumley, where they experienced the great outdoors, making items with natural materials, wildlife walks and sampled food cooked on an open fire.



## S3A

The students in S3A have enjoyed taking part in our daily Attention Autism sessions; they have all loved the anticipation of what will be next to come out of the bucket! The whole class have then played a group game together which has been such fun for all of us. It has been great to see how competitive the students can be as well as how well they can work as a team. Well done S3A!

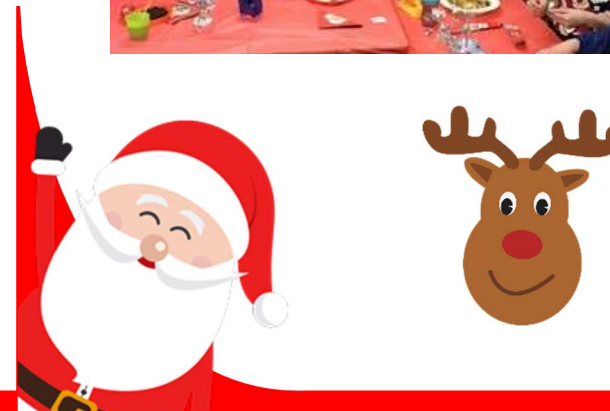


## F1A

This term F1A have looked at their class text 'The Gruffalo' and made some lovely crafts based on the story. They have worked hard all term, settling into routines, building connections with staff and above all, making lots and lots of mess!

F1A have been working hard on their Christmas video to show parents! They have been making some lovely Christmas gifts and cards and practicing some Christmas songs.

We would like to thank parents for all their hard work and contributions to Earwig and their child's homework, it is lovely to see how hard the children work both inside and outside of school!



## P1A

What fun we've had in P1A this term. We've read 2 class texts, 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' as well as exploring celebrations in Science, especially light and sound. Happy smiles and lots of hard work. Many of us have filled our books up and learned the routines and expectations of being in a new class. We are so proud of how our new starters have settled too, we are all friends in P1A! Fantastic work in every subject, with lots of targets met and exceeded. More recently we have had specialist Music lessons from Jo and also Attention Autism sessions too. A fabulous first term for all.



## S2CE

S2CE have had a fantastic term, everyone has worked super hard in all lessons, a favourite lesson being Science/NCFE where we have explored animal habitats and made decisions on how we can improve our outdoor area for ourselves and the wildlife around us.



We set up our wildlife camera and discovered that we have blue tits, robins and a lovely black cat visiting our area! Check out the school Facebook page to see our recordings! We have had great fun outside performing 'A Medieval Christmas' with other pupils in our bubble. It was lovely to meet up with friends in a COVID safe way! And finally we celebrated Lucy's 18th birthday last week with a fancy dress party in our class bubble! Fun was had by all!

