



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made it to the end of a very busy term, operating in some quite unique circumstances once again. Fortunately for us, our children's education has seen minimal disruption and in fact, this term we have tried to ensure they have had plenty of (safe) experiences and opportunities. I am sure you will agree, we have a very special team of staff who have made this possible!

The Christmas season in school is very special and this year has been no exception. We have squeezed in the most wonderful Christmas performances, a festive lunch with crackers and hats, a Candlelit Carol service, visit from Santa and a very sparkly Christmas decorations morning- we couldn't have fitted in much more. We hope that the children have had a magical end of term and that you all manage to spend some much-needed time with your families over Christmas.

Many of you will be aware that our wonderful Mrs Border, who has managed Leighfield Lions since the start, will be saying her goodbyes on today as she starts a new role at UCC. The hours at UCC will allow Mrs Border to spend more time with her grandchildren. Miss Dalia is taking over the reins and we are recruiting a new WAC assistant to join the team. We all wish Mrs Border the very best of luck in her new role and thank her for the care that she has given to the children and families at Lions.

We welcome the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January and we will be prepared, as always, to steady the ship and sail through the Spring term as best as we can. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,
Mrs Eaton
Headteacher

Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday 5th January
2022 - School reopens

Thursday 6th January 2022-
EYFS/Year 6 Measure
Checks

Tuesday 8th February 2022 -
Safer Internet Day

W/C 31st January 2022-
Children's Mental Health
Week

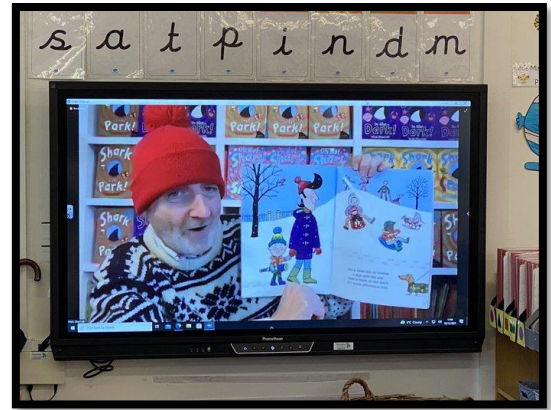
Monday 7th & Wednesday
9th February 2022- Parental
Consultations

W/C 14th February 2022 –
Half Term

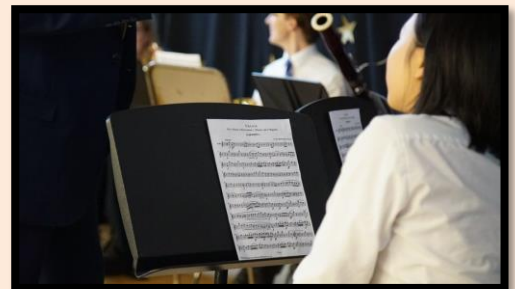


Notices

We were very lucky to have author Nick Sharratt join us for a wonderful virtual visit. The children loved hearing about his books, learning how to draw the characters and joining in with his fabulous storytelling using their telescopes!



Uppingham School Music Students joined us for a wonderful music performance and workshop. The children loved seeing and hearing the instruments.



Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day/Poppy Appeal

Our Christmas Jumper Day this year helped to raise an amazing £138 for Save The Children! Thank you to everyone who contributed, it was great to see all of your festive jumpers 😊

Thanks to all your kind donations, we also managed to raise an excellent £42.50 for the Poppy Appeal.



Thank you to FOLs and the COOP for raising an incredible £3925.56 for our school. We can't wait to spend it on something wonderful for our children!

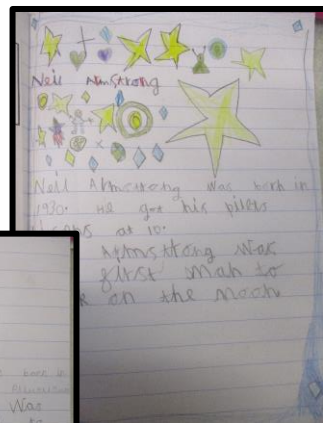
EYFS

Our Early Years children have had a wonderful start school and even Chicken Pox doing the rounds hasn't impacted on the amount of progress they have made. It is hard to believe they have only been with us for two terms! Our Christmas festivities have included a visit from Santa, Christmas decorations morning and Christmas lunch. The highlight for us however, was our Christmas Concert. We were thrilled that we were able to have our parents in school for the first time for our performance this year. The children did such an amazing job and they should be incredibly proud of themselves. Having worked hard all term, the children are understandably very tired and definitely ready for a break. We now want the children (and their parents) to have a lovely, relaxing and well-earned rest over the Christmas holiday and we will look forward to seeing you all again in January.



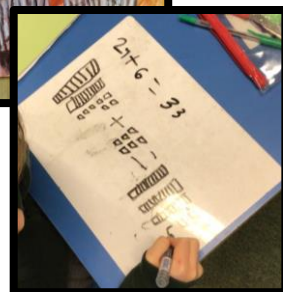
Year 1

Year 1 have worked so hard this term and really thrown themselves into life in Year 1. Our topic this term has been 'Zoom to the Moon' We have looked at the moon landing and found out loads about Neil Armstrong. As usual, we have loved getting muddy and doing our outdoor learning at forest school! As you are well aware, we have also been doing our first Nativity! The children have tried so hard and performed so well. I am a very proud and lucky teacher! Have a lovely and safe Christmas, see you in the New Year!



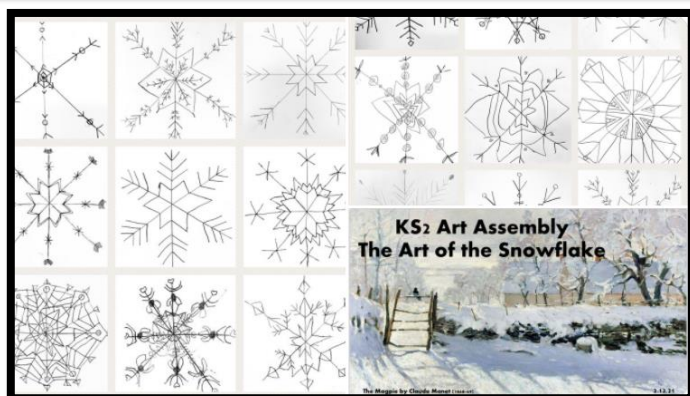
Year 2

This half term we have worked incredibly hard to learn our words and rehearse our nativity. We really enjoyed both of the performances and are very proud of ourselves. We have been learning about the Great Fire of London in History and have produced Great Fire of London artwork using colour mixing and painting skills for the background and charcoal for the foreground. In Maths, we have worked really hard to remember our place value when adding 2-digit numbers. Our English writing has been a narrative and we have enjoyed collecting lots of ambitious vocabulary to make our sentences exciting!



Christmas at Leighfield

Visitors to our school over the winter months will be greeted by this beautiful winter snowflake dress in our foyer. Each child has created a snowflake to add to the design and I'm sure you'll agree it is a real work of art!



Continuing the snowflake theme, we had another one of Mrs Darlington's Art Assemblies. Together the children looked at and discussed famous snowy landscape artworks, admired the beauty, uniqueness & symmetry of individual snowflakes, then designed their own!

We felt very lucky to be in a position to allow the children the opportunity to perform to an audience. Year 1 and Year 2 children were wonderful in a very well rehearsed performance of "Little Angel Gets her Wings". It was just fabulous!

EYFS children performed a very special Christmas Concert. The dancing and singing couldn't help but make you smile and feel the magic of Christmas.

Well done to the children and thank you to the staff!



Our Carols by Candlelight was a lovely festive evening. The choir were able to perform and parents joined in with some Christmas carols and a glass of mulled wine. Thank you to everyone who came!

Santa came to Leighfield. The children were all very happy to learn that they were on the nice list. Thank you to FOLs for organising!



Year 3

This half term we have been learning all about volcanos! The children have enjoyed learning about volcanos from different countries and exploring how and why they erupt. We have had a fantastic opportunity this half term to learn how to play the recorder each week. I hope you all enjoyed the video performance, the children have improved amazingly! Next half term our learning focus is Predators where we will learn about the food chain and predators and prey. I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2022!

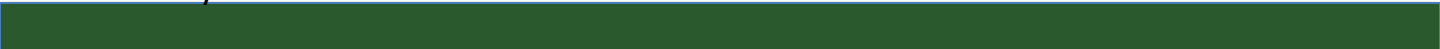
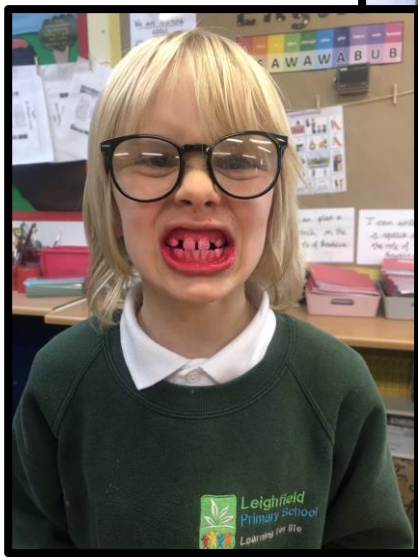


Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic term learning all about the Romans in Britain. We wrote inspiring speeches as Queen Boudicca, and stories about a young Roman soldier's adventure to deliver an important letter from the Emperor. We were also very excited to be able to share our learning with you in the class assembly.

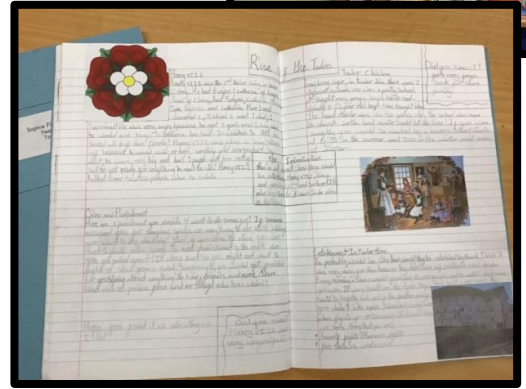
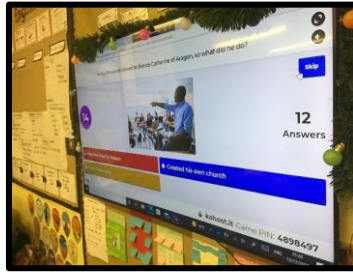
We learned all about digestion in Science and got to do some wacky experiments, including using disclosing tablets to see the plaque on our teeth! Friday trips to the Science labs at Uppingham School were a highlight of the week for many, with impressive experiments and discoveries with Mr King.

Next term, we will be returning with our new topic 'Stars and Stripes', where we will learn all about the USA. But before then, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas!



Year 5

Year 5 have really embraced our Tudor topic this term. We enjoyed creating our own Coat of Arms and then acting out the Battle of Bosworth. Everyone was amazed at the different punishments people suffered in Tudor times. Did you know Henry VIII had 6 wives and he beheaded two of them? In our English lessons we have written some super letters inspired by our book *Treason* and then to finish this term we have created some amazing non-chronological reports. Lots of us remembered to use brackets, colons and different sentence starters to make our writing interesting too.



Year 6 - Extraordinary Evolution

Ship ahoy! Year 6 have been off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin and his crew on HMS Beagle, stopping off at the magical Galapagos Islands to see the amazing species that helped Darwin develop his theory of evolution by natural selection.

Do you know what's so special about a lava lizard? Or why the blue-footed booby has blue feet? We do!

We have also written biographies of Charles Darwin and found out many interesting facts about his life.

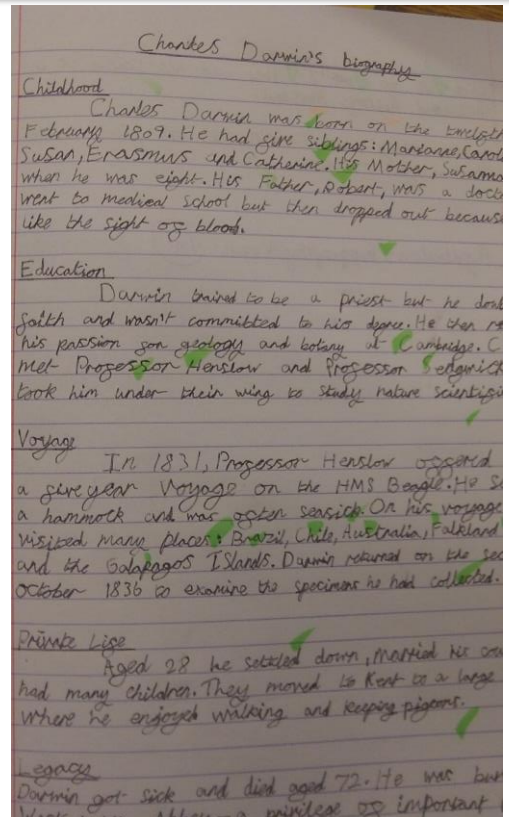
Interesting Facts

"In his diary, Darwin described iguanas as horrible, clumsy creatures!" Ethan E.

"Darwin had 10 children!" Ethan Mc.

"Darwin originally trained to be a doctor, but didn't like the sight of blood!" Maia

"Darwin was born on the same day as Abraham Lincoln." Jamie



By Noah



Sporting Achievements



I am very pleased to announce that the Town Council have agreed to provide some funding for our new Astro/MUGA court. We are awaiting the final arrangements to be made and then we will be pressing ahead with its installation. We hope this will enable us to improve our already excellent sports provision all year round.

PE

This term in PE KS1 children have been developing their object manipulation skills. These skills include learning ways to throw, catch and roll using a range of objects such as bean bags, balloons and different sizes and shapes of balls. KS2 children have been focusing on their invasion game skills through basketball and handball. These two sports encourage a high level of passing and moving, a need to think about rules and tactics whilst playing and forces ways to use new skills that were taught in the lesson



Year 6 basketball tournament

Eight year 6 children were chosen to take part in this year's basketball tournament. They made it through to the finals after finishing second in their qualifying round. After some fantastic displays of basketball through two different days, the team finished 4th out of the 16 schools that entered the Rutland competition.



Girls basketball festival

The year 5 girls got a fantastic opportunity to take part in a basketball festival at Uppingham school sports Centre, led by Chris Thomas and ran by coaching students of Stamford College. The event was a way to introduce girls to the game of basketball, where they learnt the basic skills of basketball in a circuit layout. They then took part in simplified matches against other schools at the event.

Year 3/4 boys football and year 5/6 girls football

On Tuesday the 30th of November, boys from year 3 and 4 took part in their first ever team competition for Leighfield. Despite the initial nerves the boys played fantastically, winning four games, drawing one and losing one. The year 5/6 girls put on a terrific performance on their football tournament evening, finishing a very impressive 2nd overall. The girls played with a real grit and showed their endurance throughout the night as all seven of them had to play every minute of every game.



Sporting Achievements



Year 5/6 sports hall athletics

Sports hall athletics is a fantastic way to introduce children to a different style of athletics competition. The children compete in different track and field events to accumulate points for their team to create a final overall score. The event was run over two nights, the first being a qualifying round where Leighfield finished 1st, therefore qualifying for the finals a few weeks later. After a fantastic display in the finals, Leighfield finished a very close 2nd place out of 12 schools.



Year 6 sport ambassadors

Hello, we are Scarlett, Oliver, Ollie and Jess and we are this year's Leighfield sport ambassadors. As sport ambassadors we will be running after school clubs, lunchtime/break time activities and help run different multi sports festivals. We are very excited about our roles as we love sport and look forward to helping run events.



Have a lovely Christmas!