

Newsletter



Mammoth

We enjoyed a visit from Sally and Dr Neville Hollingworth about the incredible discovery they made that was the basis for the BBC documentary "Attenborough and the Mammoth Graveyard". Our pupils even had the chance to view some of the finds for themselves.

The ancient treasures were unearthed in the silt and gravel of a quarry in the Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire – just a few miles from the school – operated by Swindon firm Hills Group, and representatives of the company also joined the visit to the school.

The remains of the five Steppe mammoths – ancestors of 'woolly mammoths' – were discovered in 2017, along with a flint hand axe, which is evidence of early humans dating back more than 200 millennia

After school clubs and wraparound care

Our wraparound care is available from 7:45am to 5pm daily and is run by Mrs Paterson and Mrs Woodruffe. In addition to this we have an exciting after school programme.



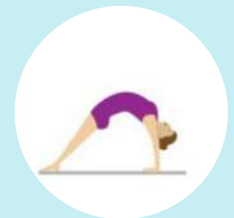
Strike!

KS2 enjoyed penathlon fun in Gloucester at Tenpin.



Bee Netball

Children enjoyed a great, friendly game against Ampney Crucis Primary School.



Gymnastics

Children were bending over backwards to learn new techniques in Gym Club!

Science Focus in Class 1

Class 1 have been learning about 'uses of materials' in Science. As part of our investigations into the properties, uses and changing the shape of materials,



we created 'Rocket Mice'. We compared different sized bottles to see which would have the strongest force to propel the mice into the air. We all used our own methods to measure the distance the mice travelled and used this to explain how we knew which one went furthest. Reception used this activity as an introduction to their 'Earth & Space' topic. We discussed what we thought might be in space and what we could see when we looked up in the sky!

History Focus in Class 2

We were thrilled to have a loan box from the Corinium Museum to bring our Prehistory topic to

life. We examined artefacts from the Stone Age,



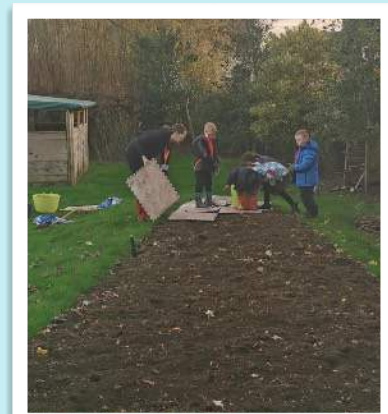
Bronze Age and Iron Age and identified which came from which era, based on our knowledge of how people lived. The children have been thinking about continuity and change and the significance of archaeological evidence to help us understand how life was.

English Focus in Class 3

We explored 'Greta and the Giants' as our writing focus. The book highlights the importance of recycling, sustainability and looking after our planet. Children put themselves in place of others, trying to understand the Giants' perspective and why they couldn't see the impact they were having on the world around them.

PLANTING THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW

The Eco Club have been thrilled to begin planting in our newly developed Forest School area over the last two weeks. Our Wildflower meadow was ready to seed after being dug over by wonderful parents early in the Autumn. Thank you so much to Will Milton and Sarah Kjellgren for giving up time to prepare and till the field area ready for planting and for sourcing the seed mixtures. We planted the first seeds, as well as our 30 saplings which were kindly donated by the The Woodland Trust for our copse. The children learnt which seeds could be planted now, and how to prepare the seeds in a compost and sand mixture and how to spread them carefully and flatten the soil.



Armistice Day

On November 11th, Down Ampney remembered and paid respects to, our service men and women around the world as part of our Remembrance Morning.



Alongside our teaching sessions, which focused on the importance and significance of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, our pupils had the opportunity to design and create peaceful remembrance stones which have been placed at our community remembrance monument. Pupils placed poppies as well as other iconography that they felt symbolised the efforts of all those that have served and given so much for our country and countries around the world.



As a further part of the morning, Rev. Scoones joined the pupils of Down Ampney to give a personal talk about 'Remembrance' and his own family's contributions to service; leading us in quiet reflection and our two minutes silence.

Gloucester Cathedral

On Wednesday 30th November we all went to Gloucester Cathedral to learn about why Christmas is important to Christians. We walked around the cathedral and acted out the different parts of the Christmas story with everyone having the opportunity to dress up. We also did some crafts and a lady from the clergy team at the cathedral answered our questions about her beliefs and the cathedral building. It was a lovely day and the children were a real credit to the school.

Concert Pianist!

On Tuesday 29th November we were visited by Clare Hammond who is a concert pianist. She played pieces by different composers including Helen de Montgeroult, Ludwig van Beethoven and George Walker. We learned about each composer and tried to imagine what the music might be saying to us.



PTA News

Working with All Saints Church PCC, our wonderful PTA are running a Christmas in the Community event on December 14th from 5pm to 7pm in the school hall.

It's a chance for the whole village to get into the festive spirit with tombolas and stalls selling Christmas gifts, crafts and sweets. Our pupils will be singing carols and performing a preview of their Nativity play.

Refreshments include mulled wine and mince pies as well as authentic Italian pizzas from Pizzeria Italian 2020.

There will be the Christmas Raffle with prizes including £100 cash, hampers, tickets for Cotswold Wildlife park, £20 New Wave Seafood Voucher, Barn theatre tickets, afternoon tea at the De Vere, Ice Skating at South Cerney, A Mole Valley "cosy night" hamper, a £100 voucher for Cotswold Driving and much more!

School Council

Thank you for the donations to our school council's reverse advent calendar for the Cirencester food bank. Children from the council delivered the items during the last week of November.

Lynn showed them around the warehouse and explained how the food bank works and how they create bespoke boxes for clients depending on their family's needs such as having pets, babies or dietary requirements. They watched a team from St James' putting together boxes ready to be delivered.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 14th December - School Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day.

Thursday 15th December - Panto & Christmas Party - children to be dropped off and collected from Cirencester.

Friday 16th December - School Nativity play at 1.30pm all parents invited.

January 3rd 2023 - Term 3 starts.

Friday 3rd February - INSET day.

