

# Chadsgrove Newsletter

Merry  
Christmas

## Headteacher's Message

The Christmas activities, including the school plays, assemblies, South Bromsgrove High School Choir and the Christmas dinner have all been amazing as always and the children have had a wonderful time! I would like to express my thanks to all of you for supporting us with the above and sending in mince pies for the performances!

Father Christmas has been in school this week and his visit was very well received of course! The children loved their presents and I would like to give a huge thank you to Father Christmas for spending time here when he must be so busy!

This will also be a busy time for Chantelle Perry who is getting married to Anthony on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December! We wish you both the most wonderful day!

We are delighted to have Claire Farrand back from maternity leave. Claire will be based part-time in 5LS.

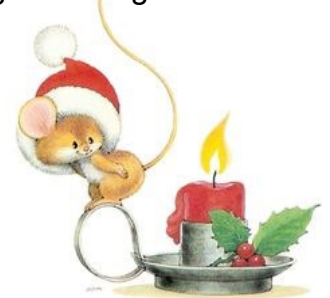
Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Sharon Jones, Teacher in our Outreach Team, we wish Sharon all the very best with her next venture and thank her for her contribution to Chadsgrove!

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your amazing support and generosity over the year; it is much appreciated. Thank you too, on behalf of the staff, for all the generous gifts and cards that have been sent into school.

I hope you have wonderful Christmas break.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Deb Rattley



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## Chadsgrove School Values

Welcoming Teamwork Friendship Trust Independence Fun

## 2LS Enjoying the Run up to Christmas

2LS are getting into the Christmas spirit, making Christmas cards, enjoying Christmas sensory stories and posing in their fabulous costumes ready for their Christmas play.



## 3LS Visit Dudley Zoo



3LS had a fantastic class trip to Dudley Zoo. Thanks to The Mad Hatter's Charity, we were invited to explore the Zoo, watch a Pantomime and meet Santa himself! The children had an amazing time and particularly enjoyed seeing the meerkats and sealions. It was a great start to the Christmas season.



## 4LS Enjoy Sensory Activities

As part of our Sensory Exploration lessons, 4LS have enjoyed sensory activities involving Christmas themed items, such as: tinsel, baubles, spiced cake, whipped cream and pretend snow.



Thea enjoyed using her hands to independently explore the cake and cream, and even put some to her mouth to taste! Caesee enjoyed twisting the ribbons and tinsel and practised asking for 'more'!





## 5LS Enjoy the Christmas Play

5LS have been practising hard for their play. They had a great time singing to their parents and carers.

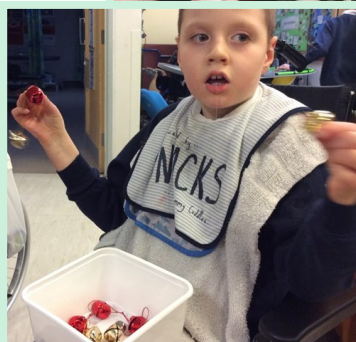


## 6LS Kurling Tournament

We participated in a New Age Kurling tournament at the Ryland Centre. Our class had two teams who participated against teams from Aston Fields School and Parkside School. Both of our teams got through to the quarter finals of the competition. The Chadsgrove Dolphins missed out on a medal this time but the Chadsgrove Cubs won the Key Stage 2 competition. This means we will be taking part in the North Worcestershire competition in March 2020. Well done to everyone.

## 7LS Decorate the Christmas Tree

7LS have enjoyed joining in our sensory story about decorating the Christmas tree. Aiden liked exploring the red and gold bells, Mason loved the tinsel and Jessica was very excited to see the Christmas tree when it had all its decorations!





## 8LS Enjoying the Festive Activities



8LS have had a great term leading up to Christmas. The children have enjoyed taking part in the festive activities and are looking forward to a well-earned break. This half term, 8LS have worked really hard in all of their subjects; from nouns, verbs and adjectives, to internet safety and how to keep safe. What a wonderful opportunity it was to welcome Joseph and Mary

into our classroom. We were reading, 'George's Marvellous Medicine' at the time and they both got stuck in with the story, laughing at horrid old grandma's bossy demands upon her poor grandson! 8LS loved sharing the story with our guests and they told them all about their favourite characters. Merry Christmas from all in 8LS.

## 9US Christmas Trip to Safari Park

9US have had a busy term learning about Africa. In PSHE they have been learning about the differences between Chadsgrove and our Partner School, St. Anne's in Nairobi. They decided to organise a cake sale and raised a brilliant £120 to buy them sports equipment for their pupils. They enjoyed meeting the Kenyan teachers when they came to visit and even had the chance to see some African animals up close on our Christmas trip to West Midlands Safari Park.



## 10US Enjoy Visits from CBSO

10US have enjoyed the visits from CBSO, playing different types of instruments, and the musicians incorporated our theme of Africa into the musical pieces.



The pupils also had the opportunity to play their own musical instruments they had made in their Art lesson and they sounded wonderful!



## 11US Kurling Competition



A huge well done to all pupils in 11US who competed in a New Age Kurling competition against local schools at the start of this month. They had been training this term in their PE lessons, and their hard work paid off as four of the class went on to receive a gold medal following their win in the final against 'The Den' at Parkside. The team have therefore qualified for the county's Winter School Games 2020 and they will be competing at this in March next year.

## 12US Working with Bromsgrove Police

Several members of 12US have been working in partnership with Bromsgrove police station; they helped rejuvenate the communal garden. Firstly they braved the rain and cleared away the overgrown plants and foliage, then the pupils chose plants and pots from the local garden centre finally planting the pots to bring a bit of colour to the garden.



## 13US Take a Trip to the Pantomime

13US had a fabulous time watching Cinderella at the Palace Theatre, Redditch. They particularly enjoyed shouting 'He's behind you' when the ghost came on the stage. They also enjoyed eating ice cream during the interval.





## 14US Engaging in the Community

14US have been getting ready for Christmas and applying their skills out in the community. Ice skating was a success and pupils noticed the cold temperature, they shouted out to go faster and one pupil had a go at pushing his own wheelchair on the ice! Christmas shopping was a success and pupils made some great choices and confidently expressed their preferences. We were also made to feel very welcome at the Myriad Centre which gave pupils the opportunity to interact with new people.



## South Bromsgrove High School Orchestra

We all enjoyed a fantastic performance last Thursday from South Bromsgrove High School's amazing orchestra. The Head of Music at South, Mr Chris Cobon, has been bringing his talented students to perform a festive concert to us for many years now. We all love hearing some well-known pieces and singing along to our Christmas favourites!





## 15US at Where Next Industries

All of the pupils in 15US have enjoyed a block placement at Where Next Industries in Redditch, they have been learning how to make and create different types of objects out of wood. They have made coat hooks and Christmas tree decorations. The students have been taught to use drills, sand paper, hammers and other wood working tools safely.

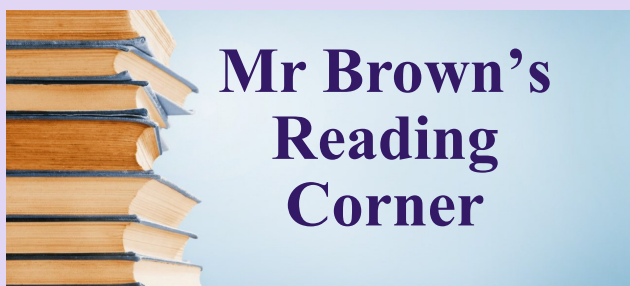
In their final week they were given a gooey chocolate task, to make a Christmas pudding using a chocolate orange, maltesers, melted chocolate and icing, they had to purchase the items from the local supermarket, using their Maths skills prior to the activity.



African Art around the school. We have practiced and developed our skills with drawing, painting and sculpture.





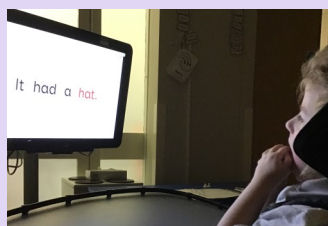


## Mr Brown's Reading Corner



### Exciting New Technology!

We've recently purchased new software '**Look to Read**' for use with our 'Eye Gaze' systems. '**Look to Read**' enables children with disabilities to enjoy the excitement of reading. This brand-new software title comes with 16 fully accessible stories to explore, each one written to help AAC users develop early literacy skills (such as developing left to right tracking). Each story is designed to delight children with fun animations and a range of magical characters. The stories in '**Look to Read**' are grouped into four different reading stages – each stage gradually introduces new sounds and vocabulary to build on what has already been learned. As you progress through the stages they introduce more complex sounds, and longer stories with more words on the page. Each story comes with four accompanying activities, exploring everything from phonic sounds and story recall, to building words and sentences with keywords from the books. The software also comes with a 'High Contrast Mode' which is designed for learners with visual impairment. Our 'Visual Impairment' specialist TA4, Eva Hogan, is introducing this software with some of our pupils and is excited about the possibilities.

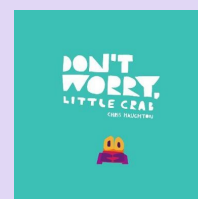
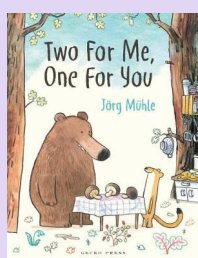


### 'Reading Buddies'!

This term we've relaunched our '**Reading Buddies**' initiative, bigger and better than ever! Every Thursday morning at the start of the day, a selected group of our older and most able readers meet with some of our younger pupils in the Library and share some quality reading time together. The older pupils will read to the younger pupils, choosing one of a selection of new high quality picture books from the '**Pie Corbett's Reading Spine**' recommended reads purchased from **Scholastic** using the commission from our annual **Book Fair**. Often, the older pupils will also listen to the younger pupils reading their reading scheme book. All pupils involved in 'Reading Buddies' are enjoying this initiative; and engagement with reading is increasing as a result of these sessions.

### Mr Brown's 'Recommended Reads'

Looking for a picture book as a present or your child, this Christmas? Worry not! Look no further than Chris Haughton's '**Don't Worry Little Crab**'. The bold, bright, but simple artwork offers a riot of colour to engage young readers. A little crab is both very excited and very scared about taking a dip for the very first time. This adorable story is about working up the courage to take on a big challenge. Another great picture book option is Jörg Mühle's '**Two For Me, One For You**.' A hungry bear, a hungry weasel and three mushrooms - life can get very complicated. A wonderful book about the difficulties of sharing and how things can get sorted in a very unexpected way (at least for a while). G Brown





## Thank You BICA!



Last week we received an extremely generous donation towards resources for our School Choir and Chadsgrove's Open Orchestra. Steph Wellings attended a presentation evening for the Birmingham Irish Cycle Appeal, following their 909km charity bike ride this summer which took 34 cyclists from Mizen to Malin Head. The weather wasn't great for them, but they persevered and ended up raising £5,000 for Chadsgrove! A further £75,000 has been shared amongst various other charities. We are so very

thankful, and would also like to thank Will Lewis's mum, Wendy, for suggesting 'Music at Chadsgrove' to BICA as a nominated charity.

## Local Christmas Lights Switch On

The School Choir were busy on two consecutive Saturday afternoons in November to kick start the festive season. We sang in Bromsgrove's town centre (with the Staff Choir too), and then a week later in Catshill village. Both events were really well supported, and the children did us all proud with their fantastic singing efforts!



## African Christmas Celebrations

Congratulations to every single pupil in the school, who over the last couple of weeks have performed alongside their class peers in front of an enthusiastic audience (thank you parents, families and friends for supporting us)! All musical material was linked to this term's whole-school theme of 'Africa'. In Swahili we would like to wish you all a 'Merry Christmas': 'Heri ya Krismasi!'





## Kenyan Visitors

In the Summer term Ms Wellings and Mrs Hockey were lucky enough to go to Nairobi as part of a British Council 'connecting classrooms' project. This term we were privileged to be able to return the hospitality and host 2 teachers from our partner School, St. Anne's in Kenya. They came as a part of a group of 8 Kenyan teachers visiting schools across Worcestershire. They enjoyed a weekend of cultural activities; including afternoon tea in Worcester and visiting Birmingham Art Museum and Art Gallery and the German Markets. They then had 3 busy days in school meeting all the children at Chadsgrove, watching some lessons, hearing the school choir, and delivering some lessons themselves. It was a brilliant for the children to be able to ask them lots of questions and hear all about schools in Kenya and to learn some Swahili too! We're looking forward to continuing the partnership.







# Family Dog Workshops



Workshops for parents/carers of a child aged between  
3-16 years old with a clinical diagnosis of autism



Family Dog Workshops are ideal if you:

- ♦ Are at the early stages of considering getting a dog to help your autistic child
- ♦ Know that you want to get a dog and are looking for help choosing and handling a dog
- ♦ Already have a pet dog but would like training ideas and support

The series of three one day workshops use a combination of practical demonstrations, discussions, hands on learning and course hand outs.

Following the workshops, ongoing support is available to families including telephone support, online resources, and a private Facebook group.

**For date and venues visit: [www.dogsforgood.org/family-dog](http://www.dogsforgood.org/family-dog)**

## Message from the Chair of Governors

Hello my name is Lorraine Petersen and I am the newly appointed Chair of Governors at Chadsgrove School. I have worked in the field of education for over 40 years, the last 15 being dedicated to children and young people with special educational needs.

I am very proud and honoured to be associated with Chadsgrove School and hope that I can offer guidance and support in my new role.

The Governing Body meets six times per year and is made up of a variety of different representatives.

We are currently looking for Parent Governors who may like to come and join us. On Monday 13th January we are holding a Governor's Day and we would like to invite parents/carers to come and meet us and find out what we do.

The meeting will take place in school from 2.15 pm  
and you are all welcome to attend.

Please can you let school know if you will be attending  
so we can organise refreshments.





# Chadsgrove School

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Please ensure all  
Respite Bags  
are clearly labelled  
with your child's name.

Thank you

The raffle raised  
**£405**  
towards Christmas  
activities.  
Thank you to all who  
donated.

**SMILES QUIZ**  
**7th February 2020**  
**at Chadsgrove**  
**Doors open at**  
**6.45pm**

## Dates for your Diary 2020

Friday 20th December 2019	School Closes for students (3.30pm) Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January 2020	School Opens for students (9.00am)
Monday 20th January 2020	EIYSS Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm <i>(Dependent on interest)</i>
Monday 10th February 2020	Foster Carers Coffee Morning 10.00-11.30am <i>(Dependent on interest)</i>
Friday 14th February 2020	School Closes for students (3.30pm) Half Term
Monday 24th February 2020	INSET DAY School closed to students
Tuesday 25th February 2020	School Opens for students (9.00am)
Monday 16th March 2020	EIYSS Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm <i>(Dependent on interest)</i>
Thursday 26th March 2020	Ladies Pamper Evening 6.00-8.30pm <i>(Dependent on interest)</i>
Thursday 2nd April 2020	Easter Disco 6pm
Friday 3rd April 2020	School Closes for students (3.30pm) Easter Holidays
Monday 20th April 2020	School Opens for students (9.00am)