

# Loving, learning and flourishing in community

## Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Each week, our staff noticeboard contains something for us to reflect on during the week. At the start of this Advent season we have been reflecting on a short passage from the beginning of the Gospel of John which contains this line "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." In this season, I find it so encouraging to reflect on this Christian belief that whatever challenges we face, however dark the days, there is light and there is hope. Jesus' birth, which we remember and celebrate at Christmas, reminds me that God has not left us alone, but cares profoundly about us.

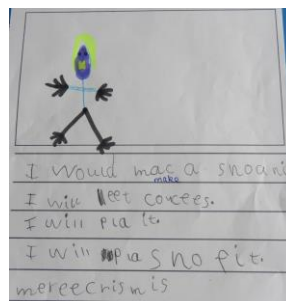
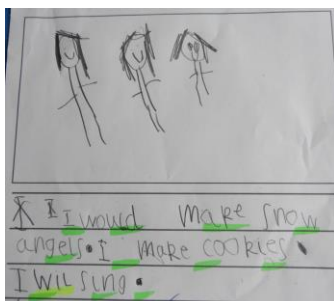
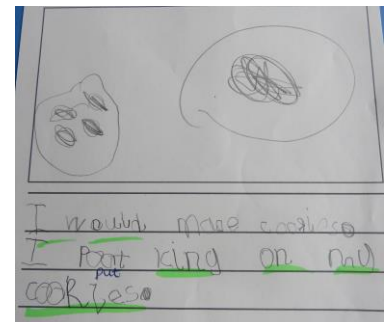
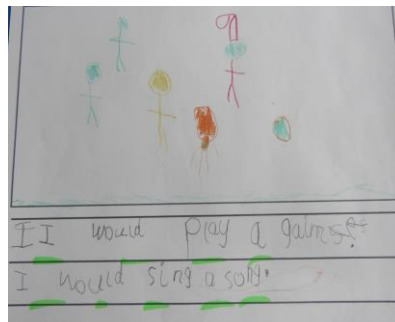
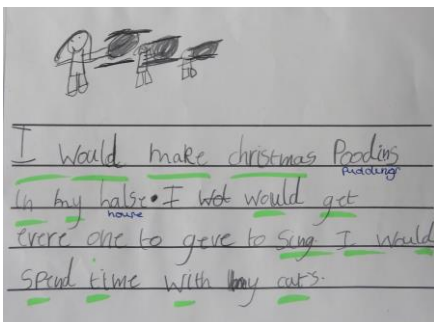
Our value for this month is 'Thankfulness' and in Collective Worship we are thinking together about all the things that we have to be thankful for. It is an appropriate value not only for this Christmas season, but also for this time in our world. As I talk to your children and to the staff I am constantly prompted to be thankful. There is so much to celebrate in school, from great learning to friendships new and treasured, from challenges conquered to memories made. As we continue to face restrictions and limitations I would encourage you to spend time sharing with your children all the things that you have to be thankful for – it is a great way to spend some time this weekend.

As the end of term begins to draw into sight, staff are working hard to make sure that Christmas is marked and celebrated. Your children will be sharing with you what they are doing in their classes, including some Nativity performances, readings and reflections. At the end of term we will be sharing with you a compilation of all these celebrations so that you can enjoy a flavour of 'Christmas at The Blake School.'

We look forward to a busy and exciting last two weeks of term. I hope you and your children can have a relaxing and restorative weekend, being thankful together.

## News from around the school

This week we asked Mr Noble and Mrs Lee to share with us what they have been learning in Year 1. We loved looking at examples of children's work; their letter formation and spelling means that they are able to share their ideas and their thinking. The children have read the story 'The Grinch' and are using it to reflect on 'Is Christmas just about the presents?'



We hope the children do have time over Christmas to sing, play games, ice cookies and make Christmas pudding. Maybe they will even be able to make snow angels...

## Christmas jumpers/non-school-uniform day

We would like to support Save the Children by having a non-school-uniform day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December (next Friday).

If your children have a Christmas jumper that they would like to wear, then we would love to see them on that day.

In order to support The Friends we will be splitting any donations that come into school on that day 50/50 between Save the Children and The Friends.

We look forward to seeing your children looking especially festive next Friday!



## Christmas is coming...

As Rudolph and Santa cannot travel the streets of Witney this year, the 'Lions' are running 'Santanory' instead, an opportunity to hear Santa reading stories. You can find out more about this by watching their [promotional video](#).

As it is not possible for Radio Oxford to come out to schools and record children singing carols, as they have done in previous years, they will be playing recordings that they already have throughout December. If you want to hear children from The Blake School, tune in on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December on both the morning and afternoon shows.

## Please be careful

We are aware that the ground around the back gate to the school is becoming very muddy.

Please be careful if you leave the site via this exit. You may want to consider leaving the site by the double gates at the front of the school and then walking to the back of the school via the path that runs along the side of the playground.

## A new opportunity

At the end of this term, Mrs Doland, our Deputy Head and currently also Year 5 teacher, is temporarily leaving The Blake School in order to take on the role of 'Acting Head' at St Mary's Infant School in Witney.

We are delighted that Mrs Doland's skills and experience have been recognised and that she is being given this exciting opportunity.

We asked Mrs Doland what she was most going to miss about The Blake School and she told us that more than anything else she will miss the wonderful children, who inspire and challenge her every day. Mrs Doland also said, "There is a wonderful staff team at The Blake, there is so much fun and laughter, I will miss seeing them every day."



Mrs Doland asked us to pass on her thanks to everyone who has already congratulated her and wished her well. We would also like to add our very best wishes to Mrs Doland and look forward to hearing about and benefiting from all that the next six months will bring her.

## End of term

On the last day of term (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December) school will be finishing early.

If you usually pick your child up at the earlier time (3pm) please collect them between 1pm and 1:10pm. If you usually pick your child up at the later time (3.15pm), please collect them between 1:15pm and 1:25pm.