

*Newsletter #13
17th December 2021*

Dear parents and carers

There we go –we have all made it to the last day of the autumn term! And what a term it has been! We were faced with so many challenges but we rose to all of them, took them in our stride and got on with the job. You were all fantastic. I cannot thank you enough for your support, patience, resilience and flexibility during this term.

As you know, the staff and children have worked tirelessly doing their best to ensure that everyone keep up with every aspect of their learning. We have made lots of progress both in class and on the sports field too. However, as you can imagine we still have a way to go. Next term will be no different - we will continue with all the good work that we started. You can continue to support your children by ensuring that they are reading, learning their spellings and timetables every day! If you can get them a book or sign up at the library this holiday, that will be fantastic. **Remember reading books opens many doors for children!**

You would have already guessed that next term will be very similar in terms of where we are with COVID and illness. If anything, we are expecting a rise in positive cases in the community. All I can ask is that you take care and observe all the measures that are in place and keep safe.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a smooth and relaxing festive season. May you enjoy the holiday and best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year. Enjoy the time with your loved ones. If you are travelling, I wish you a safe journey.

I will see you all at the gate on Wednesday 5th January 2022
Happy Christmas and happy holidays

Mrs Powys



READING AT HOME

Reading at home is really important as it encourages your child to write creatively, develops their imagination and improves their spellings. It is also a relaxing activity! It is recommended and expected for Year 6 children to read for a minimum of 20 minutes each day at home.

In School, we have a wide range of books for all children to choose for home reading. We encourage you to take an interest in your child's reading, listen to them read aloud and ask them what their book is about (even for 5 minutes over morning breakfast), to encourage a love of reading. All children can choose a book to take home with their reading record each week.



Reception Class

We have been investigating how to make a bridge this week. The children had many resources to choose from to create a strong and sturdy bridge for the man to cross.

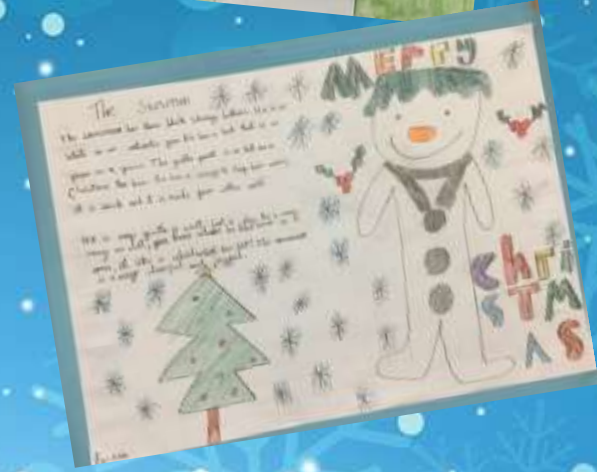
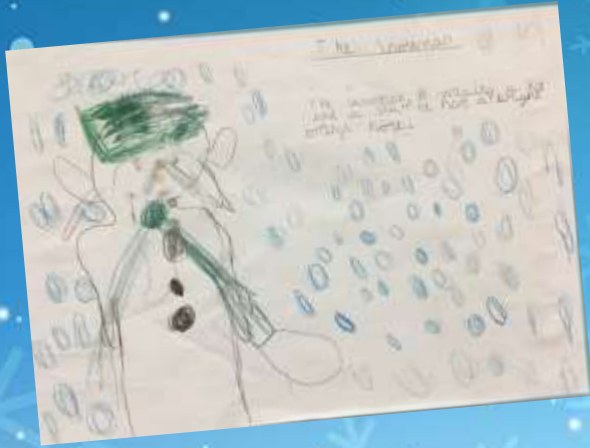
Yasmin — Escher Class

We are very proud of Yasmin who has just passed her 5th chosho in Karate. This means continued learning and is the stripes they earn after completing the Black belt.

She has one more to gain before she takes her second Dan Blackbelt test in March.

Well done Yasmin!!!





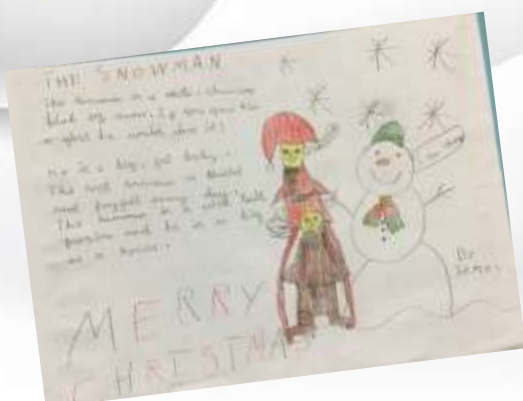
YEAR 3

In Year 3 this past week we have been looking at time, and all the things we associate with that. Please test us on our clock reading skills and the facts we have learned! We were also given small 2022 calendars as a keepsake and some of us created our own 'seasons image' where we used water colours to make it into something to last the year. Take a look at some lovely examples!



To help inspire our writing, we watched 'The Snowman' and began to write character descriptions of the Snowman and his creator, James. We were trying to share details about physical appearance and their personalities and this was our first real look at paragraphs. We then got to illustrate our descriptions, ready for display! If KS2 children pass by our classrooms, you will see some ready for you to enjoy, and here are a few for those of you at home!

Miss Clayton & Mr Gumble



SSC Christmas Panto!

Earlier this week the SSC had their amazing outdoor Christmas Pantomime [*Oh yes they did!*]! The audience of socially-distanced parents and carers were wowed by a host of mysterious characters!

The story revolved around Cinderella's glass slipper being stolen by a mysterious villain [*Boo, hiss!*]! Luckily Cinderella was aided in her quest to find her missing slipper [the life and **SOLE** of the party] by her two beauty-challenged sisters and an inflatable horse! [The **MANE** attraction].

Along the way, she met a number of other characters including the snowball-throwing snowmen, hilarious cracker jokers, dancing Christmas trees, Christmas poets, Candy cane dancers and even some hard-working elves. The villain was almost caught several times, but got away after a mad chase or two!



At the end of this strange but amazing journey, they found the missing glass slipper and Cinderella was transported by special chariot back to her magical castle! All supported by a cracking soundtrack of festive tunes and singing!

After all the excitement of looking all around the world, they were treated to an amazing solo of Let it Snow and the whole extravaganza was rounded off by a Makaton-signed version of We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Thanks go to the staff of the SSC but especially to the children. This was the first time the children have performed in several years and all of the children rose to the occasion and performed brilliantly.



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

HERE ARE OUR STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done everyone!!

KS1

Van Gogh -	Darcy & Jayden
Cezanne -	Aukse
Mackintosh -	Vanessa
Matisse -	Harper
Gardner -	Max/Oliver

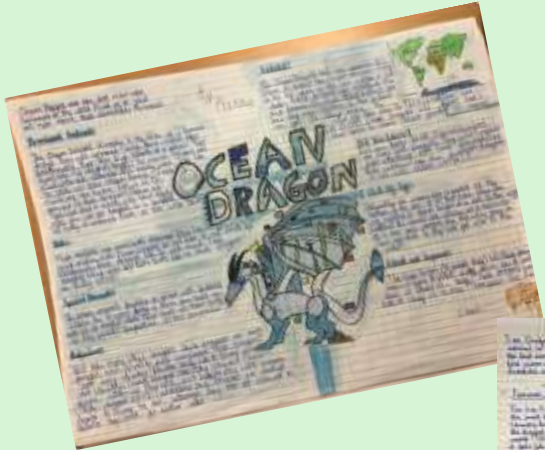
KS2

O'Keeffe -	Joseph
Turner -	Chloe
Monet -	Oscar
Miro -	Joel
Picasso -	Billy
Dali -	Leah
Hockney -	Ada
Escher -	Lucy
Wiltshire -	The Whole Class

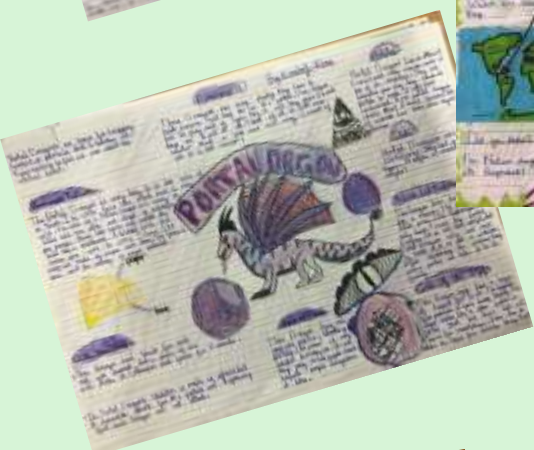
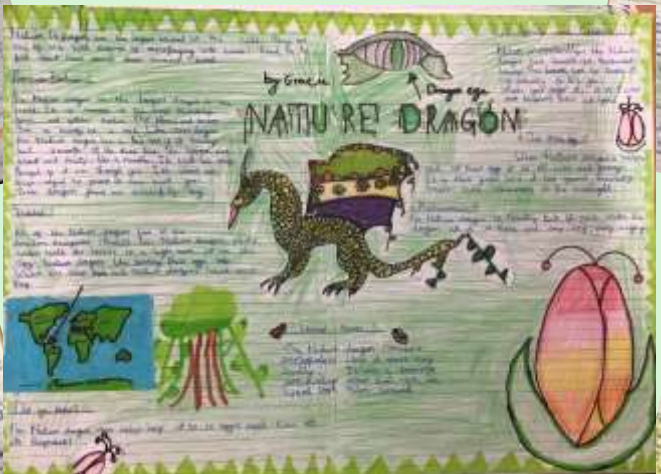
Reading Certificates

Emilia in Turner Class—20 points

**Special award goes to Luca in Escher Class for
passing his Grade 1 in Clarinet exam from Trinity
College in London—Well done
Luca!!**



Year 5 created reports all about their dragon. Here are some examples from Picasso Class.



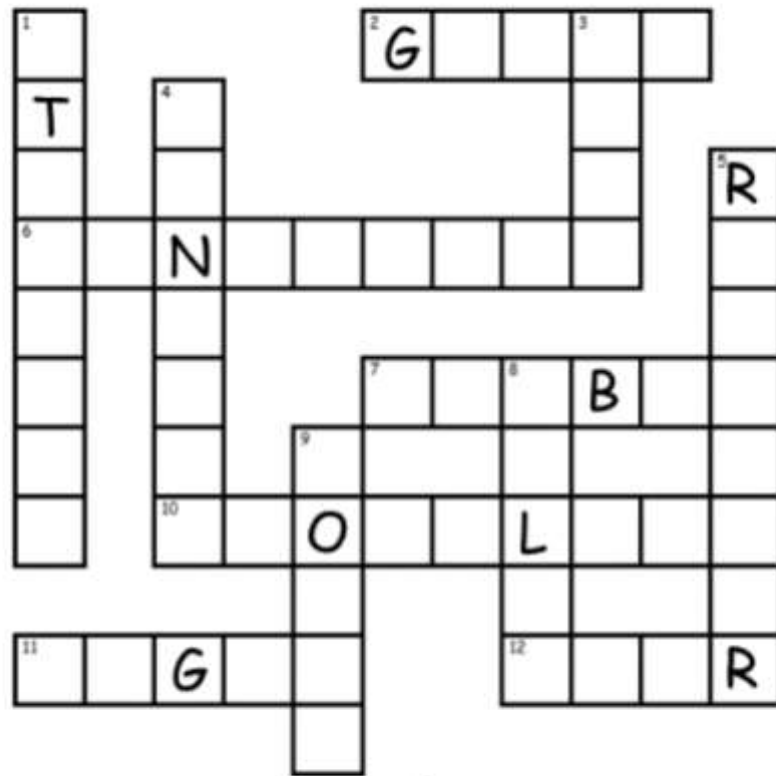
DAPA donates to local charity



A huge thank you for all the donations for Crawley Open House. You have all been so generous in everything that you have given and I know that this will be appreciated by so many individual people and families over the Christmas period.



'Tis the Season



Across		Down	
2. 	10. 	1. 	5. 
6. 	11. 	3. 	8. 
7. 	12. 	4. 	9. 

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021/22
(Subject to change)

Term 2
(7 weeks)

Dec 2021

Friday 17th December

Break up from school at **1.30 pm** Christmas Holidays

20th Dec – 3rd January 2022 Christmas Holidays

Term 3
(7 weeks)

January 2022

Tuesday 4th January

Wednesday 5th January

Thursday 13th January

Inset Day (School is closed)

Term 3 starts (Spring Term) - Back to School

Year 4 Swimming starts

Feb 2022

Friday 17th February

Friday 18th February

21st Feb – 25th Feb

Break up from School - Feb Half Term (normal time)

INSET DAY

Half-term

Please don't forget to phone the school office before 9.30 am in the case of any absences for your child(ren).



Communication with Staff

If you would like to request a meeting or communication with a staff member, you can call the school office on 01293 525596 or alternatively fill in our [Contact Form](#) and a member of staff will get back to you ASAP. Thank you for your understanding during these changes.

Please find the contact form here: [DAPA Staff contact request](#)



You can follow us on [@proudtobeDAPA](#) for all academy news and updates.