

## EYFS

This month we have learned songs and actions for a short Nativity play. The children have really enjoyed learning the story of the first Christmas and dressing in costume as characters from the story. The Nativity is now recorded, and we are excited to share this with parents and families this week. The children have enjoyed lots of Christmas art and design projects including making hats, calendars, decorations, and cards. They have been developing skills in cutting, joining, collage, printing, drawing, and painting.

We were all very excited, last week, to meet Lightning the reindeer. The children asked lots of questions about Santa's reindeer and wanted to know how reindeer can fly. It was such a special treat to meet a real-life reindeer.

This week we have been learning Christmas songs and joining in with a festive, whole school celebration. We have also enjoyed a Christmas party and lots of lovely treats. We have now reached the end of a busy and sometimes tiring first term at school. Enjoy a well-earned break children and Merry Christmas!



## December Newsletter 2020

### Free School Meals Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals you will receive an email on the 21/12/2020 from Edenred, when you will be able to download an e-code for you to claim your shopping voucher for the 2 weeks holiday. Please also check your junk email. Thank you.

Merry  
Christmas



## Year 2

What a busy December we have had in Year 2! In English we have written fantastic stories, linked to our book 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. We created our own characters and wrote brilliant descriptive pieces. We had a visit from a historian who showed us lots of toys from the past and we were even able to play with them too! In Geography we have been learning about the world's continents and planning Santa's route to each continent for Christmas Eve! We have transformed our classroom into Santa's workshop and designed and made moving toy vehicles. We have also been working hard on our 'Virtual Nativity' learning our lines and performing carols. Finally, a highlight of our half term has been the visit from 'Lightening the Reindeer'! We loved finding out about reindeers and their home in Finland!

## Year 1

What a fabulous final month to our first term in Year 1! The children have been amazing, settling in well and even performing our first ever virtual Nativity!

This month has been fun filled with a visit from 'History Alive' who shared toys and games from the past with us and a special visit from Lightning (one of Santa's very own reindeers)! It was an amazing experience for the children – one I know they will never forget!

The children enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner with music and Christmas fun and a great Christmas Celebration and Christmas party the following week!

What an amazing end to an amazing term!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It has been a lovely end to the term this week, and with the return of our Year 4 bubble on Tuesday, it meant all the school could take part in our Christmas celebration on the KS2 playground. (all at a social distance of course!) It was lovely to see all 209 children singing outside for each other, and I have to admit it brought a tear to my eye! The children too loved seeing each other together and it was a lovely moment for us all.

All the staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that Christmas at Gillibrand, although it has not been the same, they have ensured the children have enjoyed the celebrations and hopefully have some lasting memories. Our reindeer visit was definitely something I hope they will all remember.

It has definitely been a difficult and challenging year for us all but what I am constantly reminded of in this school is how wonderful all the children are. Their resilience, positivity, happiness, and kindness toward each other always continues to shine through and makes this school the amazing school that it is.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Please enjoy the time spent with your family and have a relaxing break. I hope 2021 is a better year for us all and I look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### Year 3

Year 3 have had a great month so far. We started the month off with our letters to Santa asking for an Elf. We gave suggestions of how we would take care of it and keep it safe. Santa must have read our letters as we had an elf delivery on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The fun has not stopped there as we all got to meet Lightening the Reindeer. The children were so excited when they met him and asked lots of questions.

Christmas jumper day was a magical day especially singing around the Christmas tree. As we enter our last week, we have even more festive fun activities for the children to enjoy. We have parties, art activities and a singing extravaganza.



### Year 4

Year 4 have started their new English topic on Newspaper articles and are beginning to plan and write their own article based on Little Red Riding Hood.

As part of our History topic on World War One, we have been looking at historical sources and have been asking questions about them. Last week, History Live visited us and we had lots of fun looking at primary sources and how they have changed over time. We have also been reading War Game as it links with our topic and the children have been enjoying finding out information about the Christmas Truce.

In art, we have been learning a new skill of quilling. The children have been creating a Christmas card using this skill which they will be bringing home.

## December Newsletter

2020



### Year 5

This December has been lots of fun in Year 5. We have finished our World War One topic off with a 'History of Life' session where we got to look at lots of artefacts to learn about what life was like on the home front. The children have really enjoyed the topic this term and it has inspired some great work.

Preparing for Christmas, we have also had a visit from a real-life reindeer (Lightening). The children were so surprised and had a great time learning about them. We have also been learning and singing some lovely Christmas carols. Please look out for the recordings on the school website. We hope that you enjoy them!

### Year 6

This month Year 6 have been fully emerged in Festive Fun. We have been busily learning our carol Hark the Herald Angles Sing to perform in the hall and send to you. We had a fantastic Christmas Lunch, with Christmas music and some amazing festive treats from home. We enjoyed a challenging Christmas Quiz which tested our knowledge of all things Christmas. On the 11<sup>th</sup> we had super day whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers, and we have had reindeers, snowmen, and everything Christmas in between. Throughout this we have been working hard in English and have completed our class novel, which was described as the best book ever! We have continued to work on our fraction knowledge and finish off our topic on World War 1