



18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## Christmas bonanza!

Santa and his elves teamed up from far and wide to ensure the countdown to the Christmas holidays was bursting with fun. There were presents for every pupil - thanks to an extremely generous donation from Otter Valley Rotary Club - plus a traditional Christmas dinner for the whole school and plenty of sparkle and the obligatory dodgy jumpers!

**Class 9 were ecstatic with their delivery from Santa**



**Class 7 tucked in to a right royal feast!**



**Big thumbs up to our Class 10 catering team!**





Class 2 pupils got into the Christmas spirit, making cards and ensuring baby Jesus was snug!



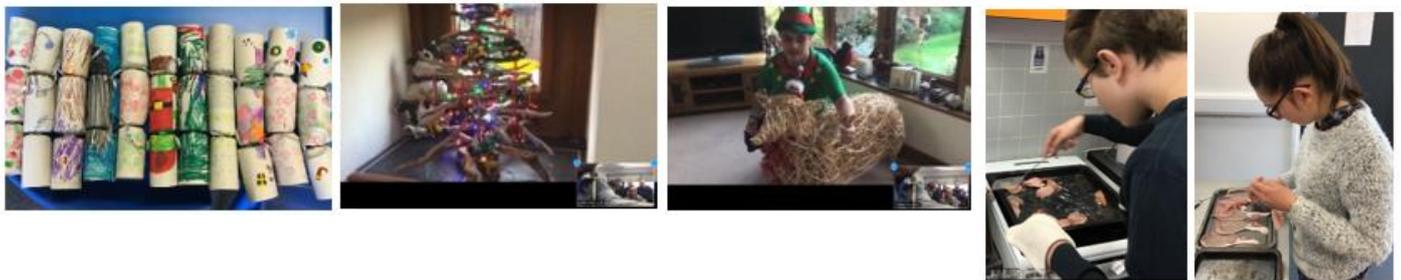
The smiles said it all as Class 10 received their presents from Santa!

## Festive crafting and baking

There was plenty of learning through crafting and baking in Class 10 this week. Great attention to detail and colour went into the creation of their Christmas tree display and festive cookies.



Class 12 were busy making their own Christmas crackers, joining classmates isolating at home via zoom (and admiring Alfie's tree tractor) and making bacon sandwiches!



## Extra special mentions...

... go to Class 7 pupils for amazing home learning last week and for joining in with our daily zoom sessions, including our virtual Christmas jumper day disco! Also for the great entries to their virtual Christmas tree competition (who can create the most imaginative Christmas tree using items they have at home).

## A busy week for 6<sup>th</sup> form students

Our 6<sup>th</sup> formers managed to cram lots into their last week of term. Isabella enjoyed her Christmas swim session. Students Macey and Alex helped post some special deliveries for Dee.



But all fell silent when it came to Christmas dinner, apart from the occasional...  
“mmmm, mmmm”!

## Christmas raffle winners



Congratulations to all our raffle winners. We raised an awesome **£662**, so thank you to everyone who bought tickets! The money raised will pay for extra resources for pupils.

Pupils in classes 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form all had lucky tickets, plus Class 10 teacher Niki and our top handyman Tony.

Mill Water parents Sarah Steggles, Sarah Bamford, Charlie Palmer and Sharon Foxwell were all winners.

School drivers Richard, Tammy and Maggie all bagged prizes (thank you Dee for accosting them with your raffle ticket book!).

And further winners were community supporters Michael from Exmouth, Kim from Exeter and Catherine and Maria from East Budleigh.

## Welcome and thanks to Mill Water PTFA committee

We are delighted to welcome our new PTFA committee, who are taking over the reigns from the highly successful outgoing committee. Charlie Palmer (who has a son in class 4) was voted in as Chair at the PTFA's AGM this week, followed by Jikta Jakubcova (whose daughter is in class 3) as Treasurer and Beth Legowska (with a son in Class 4) as Secretary. Special thanks to our parents Maria Scholey, who has stood down as PTFA Chair, Sarah Steggles, who has stood down as Secretary, and Linda Taylor-Cantrill who has stood down as Treasurer. The PTFA does an amazing job creating imaginative ways to raise extra funds for the school, while having a load of fun (and biscuits!). In departing, Maria welcomed the new committee members and emphasised the important role the PTFA plays in the school community, especially as we don't have the school gate contact.

## Outdoor learning has blossomed at Mill Water

One positive aspect of the global pandemic is how nature has had an opportunity to thrive. We are so lucky to be based in such a beautiful natural surrounding and we now have our new Outdoor Learning team, led by Kay and helped by Lucy and Tracey. The newly relocated outdoor shed, mat pathways, outdoor kitchen and sensory areas ensure that there is learning for all our pupils in the outdoors. Our work is supported by the Sensory Trust and Nature Friendly Schools, allowing us to implement outdoor learning both for curriculum work and to support physical and mental wellbeing.



We had a visit from the Sensory Trust on Friday, who have installed a gorgeous set of boxes to create a Sensory Trail within the school grounds. They have also given us more wellies and waterproofs, so we can all make the most of the wet and muddy days!



Our new pathway going through our orchard to the Outdoor Learning shed was installed this week, with help laying the matting from Class 12 students. We were given some trees by Coombe Estate, Gittisham, which were planted today. This was the finale to this half terms Tree project!



And Class 3 made the most of the outdoors when they went on a hunt to find Jingle the elf. They all worked really well together to find him and bring him safely back to school.

## School Audiology and Ophthalmology appointments

The school has been informed by Audiology and Ophthalmology that clinics generally held at Mill Water are on hold for the foreseeable future. If parents have an urgent request, please contact Gemma Corry at school, via phone or email: [clinics@millwater.devon.sch.uk](mailto:clinics@millwater.devon.sch.uk). In some cases, students may be offered an appointment at the hospital.

### SIGNPOSTING...

## Online Saftey

Help young people to be safe online over the festive period. Follow advice from Think U Know Parent's Guide:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-being-social-online](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-being-social-online)



## Meet fellow resilient women

The CoLab Exeter Resilient Women Spectrum Project is extending its provision to East Devon. It provides safe places for women to connect and seek advice. Meet (currently online) and support other women locally, learn new skills and improve your wellbeing. For more details contact Rachel on 07513 122038 or email [Rachel.shepperd@colabexeter.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.shepperd@colabexeter.org.uk)  
See: [www.colabexeter.org.uk](http://www.colabexeter.org.uk)



## Online wellbeing support for farming families

Kooth Plc, together with the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), are offering free mental health and wellbeing support to farming families. For more details visit: [www.rabi.org.uk/kooth](http://www.rabi.org.uk/kooth).

 kooth

Online wellbeing support and counselling for farming people

Provided in partnership with  
 RABI