



Twycross

Twycross House School | Twycross House Pre-Preparatory School

TIMES

AUTUMN/WINTER 2024



CHICAGO...

AND ALL THAT JAZZ!



THE HOLLIES THE GREEN | TWYXCROSS | NEAR ATHERSTONE | WARWICKSHIRE | CV9 3PL | T: 01827 880725

TWYXCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL THE GREEN | TWYXCROSS | NEAR ATHERSTONE | WARWICKSHIRE | CV9 3PL | T: 01827 880651

Whole School

CHICAGO

From the 4th- 6th December, the students of Senior 4 to Upper Sixth had the pleasure of performing 'Chicago', a satirical musical about the trials of Roxie Hart as she tries to ascend to stardom and evade punishment for murder in the 1920s era of vaudeville and jazz .

With Mrs Shaw as a stunning director we had rehearsals every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday after school and sometimes during lunch.

It was wonderful to be part of this production. Working with so many talented people made it a joy to create such a dazzling show in just three months!

In the cast we had: Madeleine Kerrigan as Roxie, the lead with Kara Mitchell as her understudy, Evie Callery as Velma, the second lead with May Minderides as her understudy, Baris Clarke, Euan Limer, Sophia Hudson-Lawless, Isla Robbins with Darcey Gibson as her understudy, Oliver Timberlake, Scarlett Tombs, Niamh Daniels, Lily Messer, Aryana Thankey, Ashlee Collins, Jonty Gilman and Daisy Dennis. Ella Walker was our backstage manager.



Henry Thomas, William Baines, Iszy Corby, Amelia Carthy and Zoe Wolferstan were all involved in the sound and lighting. Mrs Avaraki and Mrs Haynes helped to create the props for the show. On the first night the understudies played the main roles, and on the second and third night the main cast performed.

Everyone is so grateful to Mrs Shaw for giving us the opportunity to perform this fabulous musical and we had a fantastic time doing it.

Lily Messer S5Y

IT'S PANTO SEASON!

Grace Bennett (Form 4Y) starred in in the Pantomime Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs at the Abbey Players theatre in Nuneaton. She Performed as the dwarf Blushful and with all performances sold out the pressure was on!

She had an amazing time and has now been cast in the next production "A Pigs Tale" to perform in April, May and June. She has also achieved a place in the Footwrx dance squad to go to New York in the summer of 2026!

Well done Grace!



BASKETBALL

With the basketball season fast approaching, autumn term is used for friendly matches with the majority of league ties taking place after the Christmas break. The U11 team played first against St. George's Edgbaston and winning comfortably 42-26 thanks to a dominant performance from Alvin L and good rebounding from Hugo L. Dan M had a good start to his career at Twycross and Ezra W stepped on to the court and scored with the first shot he took. An unusually large but inexperienced U13 team with lots of new faces travelled to Derby High only to fall short in overtime in a golden next basket wins situation. This was despite a Herculean effort by Preston C, backed up by Justin L, and with some stifling defence by Tash M and with Sam G figuring out his strengths late on.

The U13's banished the ghosts of that match by playing St. George's Edgbaston in a friendly the week after but this time with Brody V added to the line-up. An even match throughout the game saw the scores tied at half time, but the experience and memory of the last match ignited a hunger in the boys which saw them dig deep and win 31-26. There was a stellar performance from Robert N and Elliot G helped steady the ship paving the way for Brody V and Preston C to score the last few baskets.

We look now look forward with enthusiasm to the basketball season that starts in January.

G Assinder

SAM HAYWARD RACE SUCCESS

During this term Sam has competed in four races (three of which where he was representing Twycross).

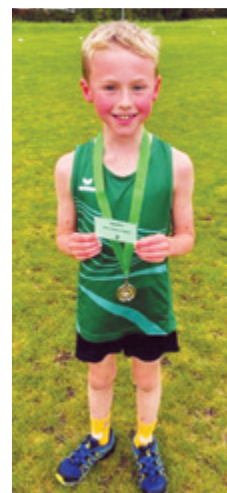
Race 1 - Northern Warwickshire Year 5 & 6 boys 2k primary schools cross country race. A fantastic first run of the season for Sam coming 2nd out of approximately 90 boys, which he was very pleased about especially as half of the field were year 6 boys.

Race 2 - Central Warwickshire Year 5 boys 1.6k primary schools cross country race. A fantastic true cross country course (even included running through a brook) which Sam ran perfectly to take 1st place very convincingly. 98 boys took part.

Race 3 - South Leicestershire Year 5 boys 1.5k primary schools cross country race. A very flat, twisty

course with a small hill at the far side, the course had to be run twice. Sam ran another very strong race, taking an early lead to finish another race winning with conviction. Around 50 boys were in this race.

Sam is hoping to carry on the season in this fashion and has lot of races to take on. His aim this year is to qualify for the ISA cross country finals again (this will be Year 5 and 6, so this may be a challenge) and be selected to represent Warwickshire or Leicestershire in the National Primary School finals...both races will take place in March next year.



TWYCROSS HOUSE EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Congratulations to the equestrian team who made it to the Championships in Stoneleigh this year for the second year running. Representing the school was Harriet Bennett, Jessica Rayson, Isabel Greenall, Florence Whitehead, Charlie Moreton, Sophie Mawdsley, Lara Davenport and Isabella Morton.

The team won the 60cm class, came second and fourth in team 70cm class and also first and second in the team 80cm class. We also have some amazing individual placings with a second place in the 70cm for Harriet Bennett on Popie and sixth place on Tonto. In the 80cm class Lara Davenport achieved third on Joby then she went onto to win the 90cm class on pony Fizz!

A great championship for Team Twycross. Well done to all involved and we are looking forward to 2024/2025 season ahead!



TOBY'S TENNIS SUCCESS

The TenPro tennis tournament took place at the end of November at Rafa Nadal's Academy in Mallorca. Designed to identify future tennis stars, it attracts aspiring junior players from around the world with more nationalities represented than at the last Olympics.

Toby Sanders attended for the third time in the U14 and U15 categories playing 11 games over the week. Playing against quality opposition from USA, Austria, Panama, Peru, Spain, Germany and South Korea, Toby was successful in winning 9 out of 11 matches and winning the U14 Boys single category, whilst finishing 4th in the U15 to cap off a successful year.



U10 ISA GIRLS FOOTBALL

In their maiden campaign in ISA football the U10 girls did themselves proud. On a sunny early October morning we made our way to the Dixie's playing fields where schools from all over the midlands area would fight it out to see who would be crowned victors.

It was an exhausting day for the girls who were constantly on their feet for the best part of 5 hours. The day culminated in the girls playing Dixie for the bronze medal. After a 1-1 draw and after a fruitless extra time being played, Dixie sportingly agreed to share the bronze with us as both sides had reached their limit and were visibly tired. A fantastic experience and achievement, well done!

G Assinder



DOUBLE AWARD

Congratulations to both Effie and Seth Bowman who won their respective age groups in the Derbyshire cross country league representing Derby Triathlon Club. The new season is about to commence so hopefully another fun block of mud, rain and snow adventures awaits.



U11 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Huge congratulations to our U11 Girls Football team who came away with a silver medal at the Regional ISA tournament.

We were the stand-out team in the group, winning all matches save a draw against Dixie in the last group game after having already qualified for the

semi-finals, finishing top of the group.

We then faced Southbank International school (a football academy) in the semi-final and after a very close, well matched game, it took a moment of genius by captain Annie, who ran the length of the pitch with the ball at her feet, to



score the winning goal in the dying seconds.

We then went on to lose to a very well-drilled St. Dominic's Grammar in the final 2-0. A fantastic day of football was had by all - well done, girls!

Miss H Blencoe

U15/17 BADMINTON

A fantastic day of badminton was had in late November up at the University of Nottingham which was the venue for this year's ISA Badminton competition. Whilst we tried our hardest and enjoyed the day of sport

sadly none of the participants made it to a medal match. Well done to both Sophies, Emily, Corbyn and Austin for their enthusiastic badminton play all day and real commitment to the sport

G Assinder

U13 BADMINTON

We made the same journey the day after the U15/17 competition. Victory was ours at last after some intense group matches Vivaan and Bobby both won their respective plate competitions with Rita winning the third 4th playoff to come away

with bronze overall. Tejas and Bahauddin just missed out on winning a medal due to a tough draw but had a fantastic day of badminton nonetheless. Well done!

G Assinder

ISA U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Girls Football has continued to flourish! We have had excellent success at a range of age groups. Our U10's finished 3rd in the ISA Midlands, the U11's finished 2nd in the National ISA competition and the U13's won the National ISA Plate competition. The U13's girls are into the last 32 on the ESFA small schools 9 aside competition - over 124 teams started the competition.

All the girls deserve a wealth of praise for their efforts. Notable mentions to Annie McKenzie for leading the



U11 team, Scarlett Wong for scoring invaluable goals in the last round of the ESFA cup, Eliza Gilman for some incredible saves that almost defied physics and finally Amelie Ewing-Gerrard for leading the U13 team. The next round of the ESFA is due to be played in January, fingers crossed we continue on with our best ever cup run!

L Knight

Whole School

U9 HOCKEY

Our U9's have had a fantastic first term in games, learning the new skills and tactics used for hockey and representing the school well in fixtures. Our season started with the annual THS mini hockey festival, where we hosted teams from OVS, Crescent, DHS and Highclare. It was a fun-filled afternoon of friendly (but competitive!) hockey, where the girls learnt lots, worked as a team throughout and scored some great goals which helped us win majority of our games.

The girls then went on to play against Repton Prep, DHS, Highclare, Pennine Way and Notts High in friendly fixtures, winning some, drawing one and losing a couple. Special mentions go to our midfield maestro's - Dora and Ellena and our goal-scoring machine Arya - well done girls!

Miss H Blencoe



U15 HOCKEY

The U15's have played some skilful and exciting hockey this term. Our first match was against Kingsley High School and it was end to end but we just couldn't score. We then played Lichfield and scored a great goal but unfortunately we just lost and our last game was against KES on a very wet night and we scored again.

A huge well done to all who have played this season but special mention goes to captain Darcey and Emily D for her fantastic goal-keeping skills! Well done girls.

S Jelley

U10/11 HOCKEY

It has been a superb term for our U10 and U11 hockey teams, with lots of lunchtime and after school training and numerous fixtures being played. Our U11's finished the season unbeaten, with some big wins against Derby High, Pennine Way, Repton Prep and Notts High and a draw against a very well-drilled OVS team. Special mention goes to our hat-trick hero in the last fixture of the season - Mira. Well done to all the U11 girls!

Our U10's almost followed suit, with a fantastic start to the season (a 15-1 win against OVS!) and some good wins following on from that. However, they just fell short of their

unbeaten season, losing to a very skillful Repton Prep side. The girls have shown excellent teamwork throughout the term and really are a force to be reckoned with on a hockey pitch - well done to all the girls!

Miss H Blencoe



U13 HOCKEY

The U13 started their season off at Maidwell School with the A's losing but playing some skilful hockey and the B's winning an exciting match. The A's went on to play Stoneygate School and had a convincing win which helped them to get ready for the ISA competition.

We then went to the ISA competition at Kings High School in which the girls played some fantastic hockey in hard fought games and we came an incredible

3rd place. Special mentions go to Phoebe, Eliza G, Amelie and captain Jasmine for some fantastic hockey. Well done girls!

Mrs S Jelley



ISA SWIMMING - NATIONALS

Two students represented the Midlands ISA swimming team at the National swimming championships, held at the Olympic pool. Jackson Beavan (Form 5) and Jesse-Luca Adams (Form 3). Both swimmers represented the area in an individual race and as part of a relay team.

The Standard was high, with National records being broken from swimmers from all over the country. Jesse finished 7th in the 50m Freestyle and his relay team also finished 7th. Jackson swam a PB and finished 6th in the 50m Breaststroke and his Medley relay team also finished 6th.

Both boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience of swimming at a long course pool and the atmosphere of the competition. Big thank you to Miss Rowland and Miss Blencoe for preparing them.

M Beavan



ATHLETICS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Emily Norman from Senior 4 who competed in the British Transplant Games over the summer in Nottingham. There were competitors of all ages that took part in sports over the course of 4 days. Emily has taken part in the Games on five other occasions since her kidney transplant in 2014 and this was her most successful year. She gained a gold medal for ball throw, silver medal in the obstacle race, bronze medal in badminton and a bronze medal in 25m backstroke.



U9 RUGBY

This U9 group of players are destined to achieve great things. They have a balance of determination, grit and skill. It is hard to give special mentions to individual players due to there being so many positives. Albie N and Patrick C have been tenacious and fearless in every match - their efforts have won us games. Tayyib A's running with the ball has terrified tacklers as he scored decisive tries.

I wouldn't be doing the team justice if I didn't mention our female stars - Bea P and Dora M have tackled, organised and led the teams at critical points in matches. This is a group of players that has the potential to win almost any competition they enter if they continue to work hard as a team.

L Knight

ISA SWIMMING

Once again this year, we saw a significant increase in participation from our junior swimmers, especially among the boys. A total of 23 children were selected to represent the school at the annual Junior ISA Gala.



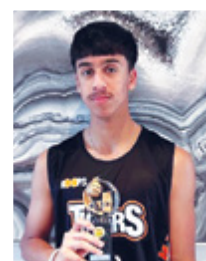
The competition was even tougher this year with 35 schools participating in the ISA Gala (33 last year). Our swimmers performed exceptionally well, with many finishing within the top three in their heats. Special mentions go to Jesse-Luca A, who won a gold medal in the Year 4 boys' 25 metre front crawl, and Jackson B, who secured gold in the Year 6 boys' 25 metre breaststroke. The Year 4 boys' relay team—Daniel F, Jesse-Luca A, Aren U, and Ethan K—earned a well-deserved silver medal. The Year 5 girls relay team came very close to earning a bronze. Overall, Twycross boys were placed third out of the 35 schools that attended that day.

Both Jesse-Luca and Jackson qualified for Nationals, where they represented the Midlands, competing in their individual strokes and taking part in a relay with some of the fastest swimmers in their age bracket nationwide. This remarkable event took place at the London Olympic pool on November 29th—a truly unforgettable experience for them. A huge congratulations to all who participated in competition and attended the trials. Many thanks to all the parents who came to cheer on our swimmers. We eagerly look forward to seeing the children break new records next year!

Miss A Rowland

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Harvin Uppal, Senior 4, who won the defensive player in the U14 Tamworth Grassroots Basketball Academy team 23/24 which was awarded to him in the summer. In his first game of the season for the U15's he scored a career high of 36 points and he was awarded MVP.



U10 RUGBY

The U10s carried on the fantastic success at ISA Rugby events with a bronze medal. I was particularly impressed with Arthur's leadership, Jenson's decision making and Joseph's running.

That doesn't even mention the seven U9 players who were playing up a year and competing at a high level. Fingers crossed to build upon the bronze next year as the team will be even more prepared for success. Well done

L Knight



Whole School

U12 RUGBY

Under 12 Rugby have had a successful term. Recently the U12 boys took part in the ISA Midlands Rugby 7's tournament held at Market Bosworth. They played six tough games during the day and had to rely on their determination and technical ability which enabled them to win all of their matches. Many of the tries scored were a result of excellent team work.

Our rucking skills led to many phases of play until the opposition ran out of defenders. Robert N. worked extremely hard throughout

the tournament, counter rucking, winning scrums and maintaining possession for the team. Edward W ran in some very good individual tries at crucial moments, with Charlie and Myles making good progress in the centre of the field, adding to the try tally in most matches.

Hugo D made some good breaks with a very good try in a tight game. I would also like to mention the contribution Jayson, Casey and Hugo B made throughout the tournament all of them contributing to rucks or making important tackles.



Finally, Ralph G at scrum half kept the team moving forward with purpose. Well done boys, a great win.

W Grattan

U13 RUGBY

U13 started off the term playing a very strong Maidwell team with a narrow loss 20-25. A very strong performance from the captain got us back into the game in the last 10 minutes. But we couldn't quite get over the line.

That was our only defeat this term. We have had victories over Stoneygate, Derby, Stafford and Pitsford. All of them convincing wins. We have had some very impressive performances from many members of the team. Brody V always leads from the front, Preston has scored some great tries. Edward W always gets involved, with or without the ball and Rob N wins a lot of possession for the team. Well done everyone for a great attitude throughout the term.

W Grattan

U14 & U15 RUGBY

The U14 and U15 teams have represented the school to the highest level. U14 won the ISA Midlands rugby competition, captained by Brody V. Some incredible tries scored by Taylor A and Ayaan O clinched tight matches.

We entered the ISA U15 10s rugby for the first time ever and won that competition! Stan H and Archie P led from the front with solid rucking and winning vital turnovers. Rudi C was almost unstoppable with his running and terrorising defences.

L Knight

U16 AND U18 RUGBY

As we continue to talk about ISA success the U16s finished 2nd in the ISA Midlands competition losing out to Worksop College in overtime in the final - a desperately close match that could have gone either way. Our U18 team played against Lichfield and ran out winners, 29-5. The team was described by an opposing player as a group of pretty backs who can tackle - an interesting complement!

The U18 lads have also had some great football matches against Trent College and Derby Grammar School each match averaging over 4 goals - the 6 -3 thriller at Trent was a highlight.

L Knight

U16 AND U14



U10 AND U12



ISA U16 FOOTBALL

Our U16 Football team were crowned Midlands champions in September. It is the first time that we have entered the event and every player stepped up to perform at their best.

We played well in the early matches of our group scoring 9 and conceding 0, some excellent team performances and clinical finishing from Rudi and Oscar. Even Archie's penalty miss, that rocketed off the bar, wasn't enough to stop us from topping the group.

We came across a well organised St Dominic's Priory team in the semi finals and after many chances our captain, Carter, stepped up in the last minute and found us the goal we desperately needed.



The final was controlled and one of the best team performances I have witnessed in a long time. Each player stuck to their roles. Baris, Archie and Carter nullified any threat and this gave the team the space to play and eventually Oscar the opportunity to score the winning goal.

Congratulations to all players who were involved, an outstanding team performance.

Luke Knight

U15 BOYS TENNIS

Our boy's tennis team continued their fine run this term with a very hard fought win away at Uppingham to crown us County Champions. The match went down to tiebreak shootout after Toby and Saehj won both of their singles (Saehj coming back from 4-2 down to win 6-4) and then their doubles. The shootout went down to the wire, with Toby and Baris playing some clever doubles to outwit their opponents and win the match for us - well done on a great achievement.

Our Regional knock-out match against West Bridgford was a different kettle of fish altogether, with the opposition having some very talented players - that put an end to our fantastic, unbeaten run. Let's see how far the boys can go this summer!

Miss H Blencoe

ULTIMATE

What an amazing adventure we had as we set off at the crack of dawn—6.30 am to be precise—for our journey to Bristol for the UKU Women's Indoor Nationals! With a fabulous group of 30 eager young ladies, our U14's, U17's, and U20's were buzzing with excitement, especially as many of whom were experiencing their very first Ultimate Frisbee tournament!

We had an impressive turnout with three U14 teams, one U17 team, and one U20 team, all bringing their A-games. The atmosphere was simply electric as the girls played with enthusiasm, demonstrating both competitive spirit and fair play throughout the day.

Our U14 Team 1 shone brightly, securing a fantastic second place after an intense final. Meanwhile, the U17's also brought home silver, showcasing their skill and teamwork. The U20's put up a valiant fight, finishing with silver against a newly formed team, making it a memorable final game.

A special mention goes to our U14 Team 2, who for the second year running won the coveted Spirit Award! This award reflects the team's understanding of the game's spirit and fairness, and their sportsmanship was well recognised. What a day it was - a huge well done to all the girls involved!

Mrs M Morrell

Our MVP's for the day were as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| U20 - Mollie W | U14 team 2 - Eliza S |
| | |
| U17 - Tabitha A | U14 team 3 - Charlotte W |
| | |
| U14 team 1 - Maddie McC | |



SPORTS SUCCESS AUTUMN TERM 2024

FOOTBALL

- Midlands ISA U16 Football (Boys) - Winners
- Midlands ISA U10 Football (Girls) - 3rd place
- National ISA U11 Football (Girls) - Runners up
- National ISA U13 Football (Girls) - Plate Winners
- ESFA Football (Girls Small Schools) - Last 32 (still in competition)

ISA JUNIOR SWIMMING GALA

- Year 4 Boys Individual Freestyle - Gold
- Year 6 Boys Individual Breaststroke - Gold
- Year 5 Boys Individual Breaststroke & Backstroke - Silver
- Year 4 Boys Relay - Silver

BADMINTON

- National U15 & U17 Badminton - Girls Singles 4th place
- National U13 Badminton - Girls Singles Cup Bronze
- National U13 Badminton - Boys Singles Plate Gold x2

HOCKEY

- Midlands ISA U13 Hockey - 3rd place

RUGBY

- Midlands ISA U16 Rugby (Boys) - Runners Up
- Midlands ISA U14 Rugby (Boys) - Winners
- Midlands ISA U15 10s Rugby (Boys) - Winners
- Midlands ISA U10 Rugby (Boys) - Bronze
- Midlands ISA U12 Rugby (Boys) - Gold

TENNIS

- U15 Boys Tennis - County Cup Winners, (lost in Regional round)

ULTIMATE WOMEN'S NATIONALS

- U14 - Silver
- U17 - Silver
- U20 - Silver

FIXTURES

Over 80 teams have been involved in matches ranging from U9 - U18. Sports: Football, Rugby, Basketball, Tennis, Badminton, Swimming, Hockey, Netball, Ultimate. Boys, Girls and mixed teams including A, B and C squads to include as many players as possible. House competitions across all Autumn Term sports, results as follows (1st, 2nd, 3rd place)

- | | |
|--|---|
| U10/11 Hockey - Scott, Hillary, Johnson | U14/15 Rugby - Hillary, Scott, Johnson |
| U12/13 Hockey - Hillary, Scott, Johnson | U10/11 Boys Dodgeball - Hillary, Scott, Johnson |
| U14/15 Hockey - Scott, Hillary, Johnson | U12/13 Boys Dodgeball - Hillary, Johnson, Scott |
| U10/11 Girls Dodgeball - Johnson, Scott, Hillary | U14/15 Boys Dodgeball - Johnson, Scott, Hillary |
| U12/13 Rugby - Hillary, Scott, Johnson | |

Whole School - Twycross House

ECTON HILL COPPER MINE VISIT

In September, Senior 2 went on an amazing trip to Ecton Hill Copper Mine. It was a fantastic experience where we got to take part in fun activities. One of our favourite moments was when we explored the copper mines and learned about how people used to work in the mines! We even climbed Ecton Hill, and when we reached the summit, we collected minerals such as copper, lead, and iron. When we got back down the hill, we conducted experiments on the minerals we collected, to test if they were really, copper, lead, and iron. We also conducted other experiments, and ended the day making tiny explosives, and safely blowing them up!

This was a really enjoyable and educational experience, and we both recommend it for the next Senior 2s. Thank you so much to Mr Smaditch for organising the trip, and to Mrs Fellows and Mr Assinder for going with us

Eva Williams & Eloise Winfield Senior 2



LUNT TRIP

In September Senior 1 took a trip to Lunt Roman Fort located near Coventry. We were greeted at the entrance by two Roman soldiers who were our guides for the day.



The soldiers took the students through their paces: teaching them how the Romans would engage in combat and allowing the students to have a go themselves (albeit with foam spears!). We also spent lots of time learning about life in ancient Britain and looking around the museum on site.

Mrs S Blake



THEATRE TRIPS

Students of English and drama enjoyed two exciting theatre trips this term.

First, we headed to the RSC to see Shakespeare's 'Othello', starring John Douglas Thompson in the title role, with Juliet Rylance as Desdemona. Watching such professionals in this innovative and intriguing production stimulated much discussion for all.

Next, we headed to the Curve Theatre in Leicester with over seventy of our Senior



4 and 5 students to see the National Theatre tour of 'An Inspector Calls'. This creative staging draws parallels between the Birlings' home and the Titanic, leading to a dramatic climax that made many of us jump in our seats! Overall, two very entertaining evenings, with the added bonus of knowing they will also enhance our studies.

Miss H Carr

C H E S S C L U B

The Chess Club continues to go from strength to strength. We have had a new intake of players who are really enjoying their chess and occasional traditional board games. The Club Championship is once again well underway and the children are also once again playing Ladder Games, playing with a specific chess opening with the black, then the white side. This term's theme was The French Defence. Next term we will be looking at and playing The Caro Kann Defence. The last club before Christmas saw a Christmas Raffle take place with 3 selection boxes as the prizes. Congratulations to the winners, Ted Scott, Finbar Millen and Robyn Crossley. Everyone also had a Kit-Kat for the great effort shown this term.

We all look forward to the next term.

R D Henfrey, Mrs Z Haynes



Whole School

A LEVEL PRESENTATION EVENING 2024

We welcomed past pupil Joe Gault to the annual presentation of A level certificates to our Upper Sixth leavers 2024. Joe left Twycross in 2006 to read Chemistry at Imperial College London. After spending the fourth year of his degree in France at the Ecole Polytechnique (l'X) near Paris he graduated with First Class Honours and won a scholarship to continue his PhD in France, split between Ecole Polytechnique, Institut Pasteur and Boston Medical School, USA. Combining biochemistry, physical chemistry and microbiology Joe discovered how a bacteria that causes meningitis in humans, can use a sugary "invisibility cloak" to help hide themselves from the immune system.



He returned to the UK in 2013 and joined the pioneering lab of Prof Dame Carol Robinson, at University of Oxford to study how drugs and other small molecules control the function of membrane proteins. He helped build instrumentation and methods for a technique called "native mass spectrometry", publishing some 30 papers. He was awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at the Queen's College, Oxford in 2016 to start more independent research, and in 2021 a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship to set up his own group at University of Oxford.

However, he chose instead to move into the pharmaceutical industry. He now works at Astra Zeneca as an Associate Principal Scientist in the Hit Discovery group, striving to discover molecules that might one day be developed into drugs. Joe presented certificates to past pupils who had travelled back from all parts of the UK from universities in Exeter, Bristol, Newcastle, Leeds, Bath, Lancaster, Durham, Liverpool and St Andrews.

TOP OF THE BENCH

On the 16th November, two teams from Twycross went to Coventry University to participate in the Top of the Bench chemistry competition, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. There were eight rounds as pairs across ranges of topics with the pairs coming together for one last round as a full team.

After the question rounds, we were taken on a tour of the science building and shown around a few of the high-tech university labs and the model houses used in forensic sciences. Both of the teams did extremely well and came first and second out of 8 teams competing. Team 1 consisted of Katherine Thomas, Baris Clarke (S5 and S4), Henry Hardwicke and Ben Clark (S3) and were placed first, but also first out of the entire West Midlands region of 29 teams. Team 2 was Mya Khela, Grace Siame (S5 and S4), Nathanael de Jongh and Edward Lauder (S3), and were placed second, and were also sixth out of the



29 teams. We all had a great day and would like to thank Mr Smaditch for organising this opportunity and giving us support with it. There is a second round held at the University of Birmingham in January 2025, which Team 1 will definitely be going to, and we are hoping that Team 2 can join us, which consists of some more questions and also a team practical challenge in an undergraduate chemistry lab, from which one team qualifies for the national final.

Katherine Thomas S5

GCSE PRESENTATION BREAKFAST

It was a great privilege to celebrate our Lower Sixth students GCSE successes during our presentation breakfast. Students were invited into school to be presented with their GCSE certificates by Mr Assinder. After the ceremony we were all treated to a celebration breakfast together. The event was the perfect time to reflect on the student's hard work and dedication.

Mrs C Lauder



BEBRAS

November ushered in another year of the BEBRAS challenge, the international Computational Thinking challenge. Students from Form 3 to Upper Sixth were posed eighteen tiered logical thinking problems that somehow involved beavers in an online assessment that ran over a two week period.

The challenge differs very little in the first round compared to previous years, however the second phase is invitation only and based on a determined level of attainment. The BEBRAS Coding Challenge will begin in March of next year, contestants for this event will be notified as soon as the level is determined - I will let you know as soon as I know!

I am very much looking forward to the new coding format for this new challenge. Once again, I am very impressed with how all of our students handled the challenge. There were several Gold Award Winners this year, these students have been awarded this by scoring in the top ten percent nationally for their category level. A huge congratulations goes to the following students who all achieved this standard. Well done!

D Westaway

Annorah Antrobus	Justin Lin	Charley Shuker	Nathanael
Roy Stevens,	Saul Westaway	Henry Hardwicke	de Jongh
Jenson Longhi	Edward	Florence	Leo Johnson
Barnaby Johnson	Woollaston	Whitehead	Katherine Thomas
Finbar Millen	Evie Knight	Eddie Lock	Niamh Daniels
Keira Holmes	Ponticelli	Tanveer Nijjer	Amelia Carthy
Eliza Parker	Jemima de Jongh	Max Faulkner	Henry Thomas
Arya Gunputh	Effie Bowman	Libby-Mae	Thomas Blackwell
Juliet Thai	Bobby Sun	Mullaley	
	Lara Davenport		



ISA DEBATING COMPETITION

On Friday 22nd November Twycross House School was proud to host the ISA Debating competition, welcoming teams from across the country.

The school was full of energy and excitement as the competitions took place across key stages 3, 4 and 5. As a school we were very pleased to see our debating teams in action demonstrating their skills and ability to work under pressure.

It was clear the judges were impressed too as they awarded the 'Strongest rebuttal' award to Emily Davis and the 'Best team effort' award to our key stage 4/5 team.

Our Key Stage 3 team consisted of Emily Davis, Oscar Thompson and Ben Clark and our Keystage 4/5 team were Jiya Parmar, Zakiyah Ahmed and Niamh Daniels.

Well done to all schools involved.

Miss K Lees



FORM 3 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Form 3 Religious Studies have been studying the story of Creation. Reading from their Children's Bibles each Form 3 class have together discussed and followed the story of how God created the world. In their class books they have completed an extended writing task retelling in their own words the journey of God's Creation and thoughts when making the world we live in today. As a whole class and in small groups the pupils have discussed the order and content of each day and thought about how we can create and develop a new area here at Swallows Hill. This is when the idea of the Form 3 Swallows Hill Garden of Eden was created. Pupils were tasked to create a mini shoe box garden of Eden and or bring in a plant to help create the very first Swallows Hill Garden of Eden.

I am sure you will agree that their creative designs and thoughtful planning have not only cheered up an area of the garden outside Swallows Hill but have themselves created a legacy that will be passed down to the next generation of Form 3 pupils of Swallows Hill. As you can see Form three pupils have created a beautiful and inspirational garden where all sections of God's creations can be celebrated throughout the year. The current Form 3 have now become guardians and head gardeners of our new Form 3 Swallows Hill Garden of Eden.

Mrs H Williams



GCSE CHRISTINGLE

In Religious Studies this term S4 have been studying Christian Practices as part of their GCSE work. They made Christingles in preparation for a Twycross Christingle Service at St James Church.

Even though plenty of sweets were provided for the Christingles we nearly ran short as some of our hungry students couldn't resist trying them out. Mrs Starr would like to thank S4 for an amazing first term. Students have been wonderful, hardworking and an absolute pleasure to teach. Merry Christmas to all!

Mrs J Starr



GEOGRAPHY TRIPS

This term the Sixth Form students visited London and attended a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society on 'Changing Urban Landscapes'. The students explored the city, visiting case study locations at Canary Wharf and the London Olympic Park before heading to the Earth Science section of the Natural History Museum and then attending the lecture.

The trip helps to put the classroom lessons into context and exposes the students to higher level education. The Senior 1's visited Twycross Zoo as part of their Ecosystems topic. There they received a talk about 'Biodiversity and conservation' engaging in activities that helped to solidify the ecology learnt in lessons and a chance to see Mr Beavan's favourite animal the Orangutan.

M Beavan



CHRISTINGLE

The start of what is going to be a wonderful new tradition saw all Swallows Hill Pupils attend St James Church in Twycross for a Christingle Service full of festive carols, readings and reflective prayers lead by the Reverend Sue Frost.

To have all church pews full of Twycross House pupils, staff, members of Twycross Church and the wider Twycross community was a very wholesome experience for all involved.

S4 GCSE Religious Studies students have been discussing the significance, importance in the components of the Christingle Orange. In class they made some Christingles so they could be lit alongside Form 5 who also had candles to hold joining together to make a circle of light around the church. This created a beautiful opportunity for personal prayer and reflection and carols by candlelight.

Form 4 lead the service by reading prayers and verses telling the story and relationship between the Christingle Orange and Jesus.

Form 3 had the opportunity of experiencing being a member of a church congregation and for many their first time in St James Church. They were supported by members of the senior school and Sixth Form.

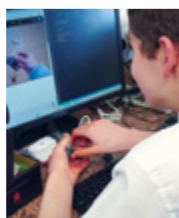
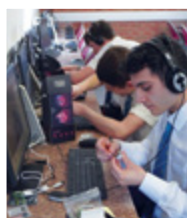
A special thanks to Poppy Simpson from F5 who made and decorated the sweets for our huge display Christingles. Thank you to Reverend Sue Frost and members of St James church for being so welcoming and supportive. We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year. This has been a lovely experience for all involved.

Mrs H Williams, Mrs J Starr and Mrs M Westaway



JAMBYTE WORKSHOP

Twycross House were delighted to be contacted by former pupil James Scarr (formerly Carlyle) who, with an associate from his current employer, wished to offer a workshop to promote programming as an important career opportunity. Initially, James delivered a talk to those in Senior 3 and the Lower Sixth interested in a Computer Science pathway which was extremely enlightening and useful for all, especially for the Lower Sixth with their UCAS applications right around the corner. James and Pinchu Ye, followed this up with a three hour workshop for our Gifted and Talented students currently taking GCSE and A Level Computer Science. Their products - an online platform for teaching programming with physical computing components including Raspberry Pi's and a multitude of sensors - were put through their paces by Amelia Carthy, Mya Khela, Katherine Thomas and Harry Trye in Senior 4 and Thomas Blackwell,



Steven McHale and Henry Thomas in Lower Sixth. Over the course of the workshop the students constructed a Pi-Guard the - JamByte equivalent of a Ring doorbell system from the ground up - giving them insight into how they can combine what they are currently learning and apply it to control hardware.

James and Pinchu were impressed with the students' working knowledge and how quickly the students took to elements they may not have had experience in before.

Likewise the students were impressed to learn from James what was expected in industry. Personally, it was fantastic to witness alumni actively seeking opportunities to pay back to the school (Pinchu is now an honorary member) and to hear

how the school has progressed since James has left. One thing he was keen to impress upon is that when he himself has been applying for programming roles, he has been set apart from UK-based competitors and he feels strongly that this is due to the teaching and ethos instilled at Twycross and that there is a real opportunity to be seized upon by our students.

We look forward to welcoming James and Pinchu back next year, with talk of a new project in the pipeline. It is a very exciting time for both the students and JamByte.

If the Pi-Guard described sounds interesting you can find out more at <https://jambyte.io/>

D Westaway

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

The Senior Maths Challenge took place in October and, once again, several of our Sixth Form Mathematics students took part. This challenge is a 90-minute, 25 multiple choice question paper aimed at Sixth Form students. The problems are designed to encourage mathematical reasoning and problem solving, allowing pupils to develop creative thinking skills. The scoring rules for the Senior Mathematical Challenge are as follows:

- All participants start with 25 points
- 4 marks are awarded for each correct answer
- 1 mark is deducted for each incorrect answer
- Answers left blank will be marked as 0

This is done to encourage participants to not simply guess answers. To recognize the highest performers in the Challenge, the top-scoring 66% of participants receive Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Students not amongst the high scorers receive a Certificate of Participation.

Congratulations to all the students who took part. The following certificates were awarded.

	Lower Sixth	Upper Sixth
Bronze	Oliver Salt	Thomas Blackwell
	Jessica Salt	Ava Downs
	Rhys Sarveson	
	Georgina Saunders	
	Alice Shotton	
Silver	Oliver Edwards	
	James Garland	
	Lauren Garland	
	Harry Sneath	
Gold		Elliot Lewis
		Henry Thomas

Special congratulations to James Garland who was awarded ‘Best in Year’ and to Henry Thomas who achieved ‘Best in School’. Henry and Elliot also scored highly enough to qualify for the follow-on Kangaroo round.

Here are a couple of questions from the challenge to think about. The full question paper can be accessed at ukmt.org.uk

Mrs Buckle

1: A *twip* is a very short unit of length, derived from imperial units, and is equal to approximately 0.000018 metres. A *league* is a long unit of length which is equal to approximately 4800 metres. Roughly how many twips are there in a league?

A 270 000 000 B 27 000 000 C 2700 000 D 270 000
E 27 000

2: A set of cupboards containing eight identical blue doors is arranged in a 2 by 4 grid as shown. A fussy decorator wishes to paint three of the doors red such that at least one door in each row is painted red and at least two of the four corners are painted red.

How many ways are there to do this?

A 12 B 24 C 36 D 40 E 56

Answers:

1: The number of twips in a league is $\frac{4800\text{m}}{0.000018\text{m}} = \frac{4.8 \times 10^3}{1.8 \times 10^{-5}} = \frac{4.8}{1.8} \times 10^{3+5} = \frac{8}{3} \times 10^8 = 2.6 \times 10^8 \approx 270000000$.

2: So the total number of ways is $4 + 16 + 4 = 24$.
Finally, suppose the two red corner doors are in the same row. If they are A/E then the third door must be F or G and if they are B/H then the third must be D or C. This gives a further 4 ways.
So the total number of ways is $4 + 16 + 4 = 24$.
Let the doors be labelled A to H as shown. If all three red doors are corners, the one which remains blue can be A, B, D, E or H. This gives 4 ways. Now suppose that just two corners are red. If those two corners are in different rows, that is A/E, A/H, D/E or D/H then the third red door is in different row, that is F or G giving four ways for each of the four cases. This gives another 16 ways.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H



MATHS ENRICHMENT CLUB

Since half term, on Thursday mornings we have begun a Maths enrichment club for the enthusiastic mathematicians in Form 5 and Senior 1. When we first brought up the idea, we hoped for 16 children. There was lots of interest from both years and this week we had 26 arrive! We are leading up to prepare them for the Junior Maths Challenge and our aim is to stretch, challenge and enthuse the children: hoping they develop a passion for mathematics through competitive and interactive sessions.

For example, in their teams we have given them a maths relay, cross number and logic grid. The results of these have gone towards a very tight overall leader board of the teams. We hope it leads them to later success in their mathematical journey!

L. Garland



TRIUMPHS IN WEST MIDLANDS TOP OF THE BENCH CHEMISTRY FINAL!

We are thrilled to announce that Twycross House School has emerged victorious in the West Midlands Top of the Bench Chemistry competition on Saturday, January 11, 2025. Heartfelt congratulations to our brilliant team members: Katherine Thomas (S5), Baris Clarke (S4), Ben Clark, and Henry Hardwicke (S3).

Competing against 16 teams from across the region, our students showcased their exceptional chemistry knowledge and practical skills at the state-of-the-art Collaborative Teaching Laboratory at the University of Birmingham. The competition included a

demanding general knowledge quiz followed by an engaging practical challenge.

As regional champions, the Twycross House team will proudly represent the West Midlands at the Royal Society of Chemistry's National Top of the Bench final. This marks the third time in six years that our school has advanced to the national stage. Despite two previous finals being cancelled due to snow and Covid-19, we are hopeful that this year will be third time lucky!

The national final is scheduled to take place in March, and our

team is eagerly anticipating the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and make our school and region proud. Once again, congratulations to Katherine, Baris, Ben and Henry! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you the best of luck in the national final.

I Smaditch



FORM 5 RELIGIOUS STUDIES - THE DISCIPLE OF JESUS

We have been researching, reading and discussing all about Jesus and his disciples focusing upon their values the importance of loyalty, friendship and how these attributes can affect and influence the way we decide to live our lives.

Vincent Van Gogh's famous Sunflower painting is said to depict gratitude and a warmth of colour while referencing his fascination with the apostolic number twelve.

In a letter to his brother Theo, Van Gogh explained that the twelve sunflowers represented the twelve disciples of Jesus, and the painting of fourteen sunflowers includes himself and Theo.

Form 5 were set the challenge of recreating this famous sunflower painting. As they were recreating this sunflower painting they were tasked with thinking about twelve people / items and or objects that are important to them and create a new modern day version of Van Gogh's Sunflowers.

Their only criteria was to have a vase and twelve representations

reflecting their individual influences. How they developed and created this was entirely down to their own creativity and design ideas. From the art work produced

we have some very creative and thoughtful students here in Form 5 Religious Studies.

Mrs H Williams



S2 STEM CLUB LAUNCHING AFTER CHRISTMAS!

With over thirty enthusiastic students signed up for the S2 STEM Club, we're excited to announce that the club will begin after the Christmas break.

Recently, a few students gathered during lunchtime to create our festive Chemis'tree', skilfully mixing acids, alkalis and universal indicator to produce some vibrant colours. Well done to everyone involved!

Our weekly club sessions will be led by dedicated teachers from

the science, geology, mathematics, and ICT departments. These sessions aim to:

- Enhance students' learning
- Develop essential skills
- Explore exciting career opportunities
- Improve academic performance
- Build confidence
- And most importantly, have fun!



The highlight of the year will be when all participants will have the chance to complete a short investigation, leading to a prestigious Bronze CREST Award.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates next term!

Mr I Smaditch

MOVEMBER

For the first time in Twycross history, Mr Assinder very kindly relaxed the rules for the month of "Movember" so that not only could students grow facial hair but also to do so in the name of men's health.

Several students in both years and some teachers committed to the cause and grew out their moustaches raising nearly £200 for a health topic (like many others) that needs talking about more.

Thank you to James McKenzie, Arthur Davies, Travis Salisbury, Adeson Hanson, Thomas Blackwell, Ali Mobayed, David Fyfe and Harry Sanganee for participating and also to those who donated. Here is the most unflattering staff picture taken to mark the end of November.

Mr T Buckton and Mr D Westaway



REMEMBRANCE DAY AT TWYCROSS HOUSE

On Monday 11th November pupils and staff from Twycross House School gathered to pay tribute to the men and women of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

Emily Norman from Senior 4 sounded the last post and then Ava Downs from the Upper Sixth read a verse from the Remembrance Day poem 'For the Fallen,'

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

We will remember them."

After the two minutes silence the Reveille was sounded and the parade was dismissed.

We were proud to support the British Legion and wear poppies as a symbol of Remembrance and in the hope for a peaceful future.

Mr T Buckton and Mr D Westaway



MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

Once again this was a great success with the school £1029.57 for this charity.

It always amazes me how many cakes are donated from the families of Twycross House School.

The students are always very excited when lunchtime comes and they are presented with a room full of delicious looking cakes. The hardest part of the day is choosing which ones to buy.

Thank you to everyone who continually supports this event. Same time next year!

Mrs C Lauder



CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERTS

On Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December the Kirkpatrick theatre was buzzing with festive spirit in our last week of term for our two Christmas Concerts this year. As the music department of our school grows so does the number of performers which is wonderful to see.

With over 60 pupils involved in many solos and ensembles we had a very full program of nervous but very excited pupils. All the performances were absolutely outstanding, keeping our audience very entertained!

This was a whole school Christmas concert with pupils performing from Swallows Hill right through to the 6th Form. Performances included the Orchestra, a selection of our Swallows Hill Young Voices Choir,

Senior Ensemble, Jazz Band and many instrumental and vocal solos, duets, trios and quartets!

All donations raised at our Christmas Concerts and the Christmas Jumper day are going to the St Giles Hospice and with your kind support we were able to raise £1055.

As always, many thanks to all parents for your support.

Mrs R Saunders, Mrs Z Griffiths and Mr A Taylor



SWALLOWS HILL CHRISTMAS PARTY

A fantastic time was had at the Swallows Hill Christmas party. The senior students organised their first charity event in aid of their trip to Cambodia and it was a huge success. The children all looked festive in their party clothes with prizes being awarded to Finbar and Azalea for the best dressed students.

Party games, balloons, tuck shop and dancing were all welcomed with great enthusiasm. It was definitely a party to remember. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a special event.

Mrs C Lauder



CHRISTMAS STAMPS

This year our chosen charity for the Christmas stamps sale was Tommy's. Tommy's is the UK's leading charity funding research into pregnancy and maternal health. They raise money for life-changing research into the causes of pregnancy complications and are committed to finding out why miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth happens.

The postal elves (Lower Sixth students) were kept very busy collecting and sorting the cards into individual folders. Every

lunch and break time were spent in the Twycross sorting office (aka B6). Their hard work paid off and we raised £250 towards this great cause.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. I know the students look forward, every year, to sitting by the fire and opening their cards together and it is definitely a memory that returning students always talk about.

Mrs C Lauder



FUNDRAISING EVENTS ORGANISED BY EUROCLUB

Euroclub's European Day of Languages Events- September 2024

This year, for the European Day of Languages, Euroclub organised a French Breakfast and a Salsa dancing class.

The French Breakfast:

Students from Form 3, 4 and 5 attended the French Breakfast. They were served with some delicious French classics such as hot chocolate with croissants to dip into! This money went towards St Giles Hospice, a well-known charity who offers a range of hospice and palliative care to patients and

support their families. In total, we raised £100. Thank you to everyone who has come and for their generosity towards the breakfast.

The Salsa Dancing Class:

The Salsa dance, originating from the vibrant Caribbean country of Cuba, was taught for half an hour one lunchtime to the students. This event was completely free! So, everyone could come and have some fun dancing to the music. Thank you everyone for coming!

Christmas Breakfast

On Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th November the Euroclub organised a

Christmas breakfast to raise money towards a charity in Malawi.

The pupils ate mince pies, spiced biscuits and drank hot chocolate. The dining room was decorated with fairy lights and Christmas decorations. It was a great success and we raised £150. Thanks to Mbedza we were able to double the amount of money that will be sent to the people in need in Malawi.

A very big thank you to all the pupils, staff, kitchen staff and parents for their tremendous support! We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas time!

The Euroclub



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

The last day of term was Christmas jumper day and this year we were supporting St Giles Hospice. St Giles supports families with specialist palliative and end of life care.

We were pleased to raise £1055 for the charity. Thank you for your support.





Autumn term is always very busy in the library, particularly with student librarian training. Training is ongoing; however, eleven students completed all their tasks and qualified.

The students used the library for homework, revision and reading, and had fun with seasonal activities such as Halloween and Christmas decorations and various displays.

The students relaxed with mindful breaks, wool crafts and games. We also had fun creating props for the impressive 'Chicago' theatre production using unwanted or damaged books.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT LIBRARIANS!

Thank you for your enthusiasm, for helping your peers borrow books, and for all your help in the library!

F3X: Arya Brown, Aariz Rizwani, Kairo Kang, Rocco Taylor, Annorah Antrobus, Willow Jones, Gracie Davies-Wort

F3Y: Thomas Glenn, Tayyib Ahmed, Austin Saywood,

F5Y: Ettie Spencer

MINDFULNESS CORNER - THREE OBJECTS ANXIETY CALMING TECHNIQUE:

Try this simple technique before a presentation, interview or just to relieve anxiety and help your mind refocus.

1. Choose an object from the room you are in.
2. Repeat its name 3 times in your mind, emptying your mind from all thoughts or worries.
3. Take a deep breath (inflating the belly not the chest) after each repetition of the object's name, to enhance your focus and relaxation.

Repeat the above steps for two more objects and check how you feel afterwards.
Hopefully significantly calmer!

Mrs T Avaraki



XMAS SNOWMEN OF LITERATURE COMPETITION

Thank you all for your beautiful entries! This was a very tough choice, but the top three winners are:

Poppy Simpson (**F5X**), Sayvie Meah (**F5X**), Ruby Griffin (**F5Y**)

Special mention:

Roy Stevens (**F3Y**) and Cruz Cordy (**F4Y**)



HARRY POTTER EXPERIENCE!

Well done to Bahauddin Awan, Annabel Gibson and Freya Brown for helping out with the Harry Potter experience in the Main School Library, our favourite activity around Halloween time!

A big thank you to the kitchen for providing the Jellybeans protecting us from any nasty flavours!



THANK YOU!

To the very talented and knowledgeable Ben Clark and Nathaniel de Jongh from S3 for repairing the library computer! Amazing skills!

Thank you to Leo Johnson as well for helping them out.

To Annabel Gibson, Freya Brown and Leo Johnson for their constant and enthusiastic support.

To Saul Westaway and Riley Mayles for the donation of lovely books.



PHONIC FUN – ORANGES/ HEDGEHOGS, TIGERS

We learn and practice our phonics in lots of different ways. We drew ‘t’igers, made ‘p’laydough, ate ‘o’ranges and made spikey ‘h’edgehogs



SUMMER SCHOOL

We had a wonderful time in Summer School. Meeting new friends and learning all about school.



First Year

MINIBEASTS AND SHEPHERDS HUT

Our minibeast hunt was exciting as we searched for and found many interesting creatures.

After we had found many small animals we went into the Shepherds Hut and looked at the books about them!



COOKING — BREAD, EGGS

Cooking is great fun. We have baked bread, decorated biscuits and scrambled eggs!



DIWALI

We transformed the Discovery Room so that we could celebrate Diwali.

SHADOWS

We made amazing shadow puppets and found out how to make the shadows larger and smaller.



NEW STARTERS

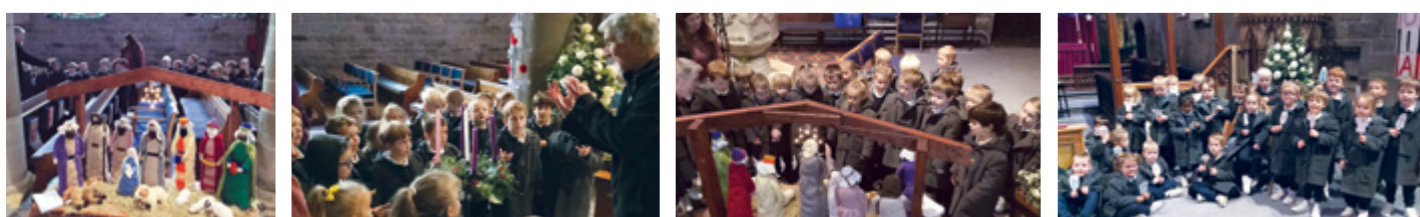
Welcome to The Hollies!



POLESWORTH ABBEY

We went to Polesworth Abbey. Father Philip talked to us about Advent and the Nativity story. We saw a real Advent wreath, a knitted Nativity scene and the Nativity on a stained-glass window.

We retold the Christmas story with puppets. It was a very special visit.



Second Year

KING'S AND QUEEN'S DAY

After spending our first half term finding out about Kings and Queens of the past, we decided to dress up as royals! In preparation for the big day we designed and made our own crowns and learnt the words to the National Anthem. We all enjoyed wearing our best clothes and parading around the school demonstrating our best royal wave!

We then took turns to sit on 'the throne' and played lots of games. Finally, we enjoyed a delicious slice of Victoria Sponge cake, named after Queen Victoria.



CHRISTINGLE MAKING

Throughout November and December, we have been learning all about different festivals of light including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We discovered that all 3 festivals have a traditional candle that is lit during the celebration.

We had a go at making our own Christingles using an orange, candle, cocktail sticks, raisins and marshmallows. We discussed what each part of the Christingle meant before taking them home to light when it got dark.



Third Year

HEALTHY WRAPS

We have been learning about healthy eating by exploring food groups and discovering the importance of eating a balanced diet.

In the school kitchen, we grated and sliced colourful fruits and vegetables to create our own healthy wraps. They tasted delicious!



Third Year

ARCTIC

To finish our learning on the Arctic, we had a visit from Mrs Jan Croft.

Jan had travelled to the Arctic and was able to share her experience with us.

She brought lots of beautiful photographs of her time in the Arctic, which included photos of polar bears, foxes and snow owls.

Thank you for coming to visit and for sharing your wealth of knowledge with us.



DOCTOR VISIT

We had a special visit from Dr. McNeela when we were learning about how to look after our bodies.

Dr. McNeela shared the equipment she uses every day from her doctor's bag and brought models of different body parts for us to look at.

We found out about the important role doctors play in keeping us healthy. Thank you for visiting us!



FIRE VISIT

During our Great Fire of London topic, we looked at the fire service then and now. We learnt that there was no organised fire service at the time but the consequences of the fire resulted in the establishment of the first fire brigades.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from a parent, Mrs Lees, a Protection Officer, who gave us important lessons on how to stay safe in a fire.



We even practised 'stop, drop and roll' to see how it works and played games and songs to help us remember the safety tips. Thank you for visiting us Mrs Lees!



SAND ANIMALS

This term, the children were captivated by the enchanting tale of The Sand Horse by Ann Turnbull. After listening to the story, they teamed up with a partner to create their own sand animals.

Their imaginations flowed as they produced delightful tales about their creations, showcasing their imagination and storytelling skills!



Second Year

SUPER SCIENTISTS

We've had a fantastic time exploring science with lots of hands-on investigations! We learned about germs through an experiment inspired by Louis Pasteur, and explored how sound travels by making our own telephones, just like Alexander Graham Bell. We also looked at light and rainbows, discovering how light is made up of different colours, just like Isaac Newton did.

We even built circuits to light a bulb, learning from Thomas Edison, and explored Rachel Carson's important work on water pollution. We're definitely becoming super scientists!



HERE WE ARE CAROUSEL

As the children returned to school, we understand that the transition can be quite daunting. To help ease this process, we introduced them to a delightful book called *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers.

Over the first few weeks of term, we explored the book's themes about our world, leading to an adventurous day in the school garden where the children engaged all their senses whilst learning about the environment.

We split into small groups for a carousel of activities, allowing the children to read in the peaceful shepherd's

hut, our first visit to this lovely addition. Another task involved lying on the warm grass, watching the clouds drift by as they discovered various objects in the sky.

The children also created nature bracelets by collecting leaves, seeds, and feathers, resulting in some wonderfully unique creations. The day was topped off with making ribbon sticks, dancing around the garden to see how the wind swirled their ribbons.

Thankfully, we enjoyed a sunny, warm day, and the children had an absolute blast!



Third Year

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

This term we stepped back in time to September 1666 and the Great Fire of London. With the help of eyewitness statements, in particular the diary of Samuel Pepys, we looked at how the fire started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane and how the fire progressed.

We learned that the fire spread quickly thanks to the hot summer that year, strong easterly winds, houses made of wood and straw and no organised fire service to help put it out.

The children made their own brilliant models of Tudor houses for us to mock-up a miniature London street which we then set on fire on the Hollies field. The children themselves became firefighters and doused the flames with the help of tiny buckets and syringes to replicate the equipment used at the time.

Despite seeing their hard work go up in flames, this was without doubt the topic highlight!



Fourth Year

MUSIC ASSEMBLY

The 4th year children who are learning to play a musical instrument had the opportunity to entertain the other children at The Hollies during a music assembly showcasing their talents.



CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS

The 4th year children have had a wonderful time cutting, moulding, painting, sewing and glittering to create their Christmas artwork which they were proud to display.

We hope their creations took pride of place in houses over the festive season!



Fourth Year

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

4o and 4y have been learning to sign, British Sign Language (BSL.) BSL is used to communicate in the deaf community using finger spelling, actions and facial expressions.

So far, the children have learnt to finger spell the alphabet, their names, family members and numbers.

I am super proud of all the children that have attended the group, they have all shown a good understanding and compassion towards others that communicate in this way.

Mrs S Parsons



POETRY WRITING

In the autumn term, the 4th years enjoyed reading and writing poetry.



AUTUMN ART

What lovely autumn displays the children created for the classroom walls!



CHRISTINGLE

The 4th Year children have been learning about Advent and have made some clay Christingles.



Whole School - The Hollies

LAST DAY OF TERM PARTY/PICNIC

Christmas Party season was in full swing at The Hollies!



Whole School - The Hollies

FATHER CHRISTMAS

The culmination of our Christmas celebrations is always the annual visit by Father Christmas. Once again, this year, he managed to squeeze in a visit to us at his busiest time of year.

He was impressed by the manners that the children showed and he made reference to some of the hard work they have completed including our poppies of remembrance, on the green, that he had spotted when out on a training flying mission with his reindeer in November.



CHARITY

We were delighted to welcome a visitor from the Air Ambulance charity to do an informative assembly detailing the important work carried out by this charity.

We were so inspired by this that we decided to split our Christmas concert money making a donation of £900 in order to help keep the Air Ambulance and the Children's Air Ambulance flying.

The second charity benefiting from the concert ticket sales was St Giles

Hospice, which is currently facing a major funding crisis, together we donated £900.

On hearing the dreadful news that a child of a former pupil was suffering from a form of cancer, we asked you again to dig deep for your loose change in order to support a very small local charity, Parents Association for Seriously Ill Children.

We were delighted to be able to offer a donation of £1,308.52 in order for them to be able to keep supporting children and their families at the most awful time in their lives.



DIWALI

Diwali was one of the many festivals from across a range of religions and countries that the children enjoyed learning about.



FOOD BANK

A huge thank you to all of you who sent in contributions to Atherstone Foodbank for both harvest time and for the Christmas gift appeal. As always, the volunteers at the food bank were thrilled to receive your generous donations. Thank you to you all.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Save the Children were delighted that we were able to send £211.50 from our annual Christmas jumper day. Thank you.



Whole School - The Hollies

CHRISTMAS DINNER

What would Christmas be without a good old Christmas dinner? We were all treated to a lovely Christmas feast on the last week of term. We thank the ladies in the kitchen for their hard work throughout the year!



CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION (MRS NORMAN)

The children in the Hollies worked very hard on learning their lines and song words for the Christmas concert, It's A Party.

We first met some carol singers and then the angels had an important job to do - invite all of the special guests to the party of all time, the birth of Jesus.

Mary, Joseph and the donkey took a bumpy journey to Bethlehem where there was no accommodation for them.

They ended up in a stable and were visited by some shepherds, sheep, angels and wise men. The children all looked wonderful in their costumes and spoke and sang with confidence in their two performances.

We even had some 4th year children sing and sign We Wish You a Merry Christmas.



Whole School - The Hollies

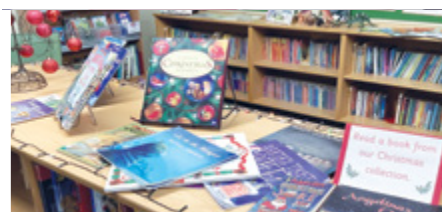
LIBRARY

As part of our focus on reading at the Hollies, we encourage the children to take an interest in books of all kinds.

This term we have encouraged the children to notice particular collections of books that we have in the library

We have created many different displays of these books under themes such as Families, Harvest, topics of interest such as Cats, Author focus such as Enid Blyton and Lynley Dodd and a range of books to celebrate Black History month, Spooky stories and poems and now we have a Christmas collection all for the children to borrow each week; share at home and talk about.

Using libraries is a skill that we need to encourage our children to develop. Please take your child to the local town and village libraries. Our libraries need to be used and seen to be valued so that they stay open!



REMEMBRANCE

The children had a lovely time creating this year's Poppy Display.

Using recycled milk cartons, the children's poppies were secured to two large wooden stands.

These were then placed by the memorial on the village green. The wreaths have been safely stored away for next year. Plans are already in place for a new poppy design.

Member of staff, Janice Hawkes with her husband and friends, travelled to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. They took along with them three poppies made by the children at The Hollies. These were placed in the remembrance garden.



Whole School - The Hollies

NSPCC SPEAK OUT

All of the children at The Hollies have participated in the NSPCC PANTS lessons.

The Pantosaurus song is on the NSPCC website if you would like to play it.

The children love the song and it reinforces the rules they have learned.



YOGA

Here the 1st Years are demonstrating their tree and candle poses.



SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school was as busy as ever this year, but in honour of the Olympic Games we decided to change things up a little bit! The children were divided up into countries, and spent the day competing for points in the hope that their country would be the overall winners.

We started the day with a few Olympic based facts and lit the 'Olympic flame'. At the end of the day children were awarded certificates for both their individual achievements in activities such as: swimming, hurdles, throwing, long jump and many more, as well as an additional treat for the winning country.

