Dolphin School (incorporating Noah's Ark Nursery Schools)

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12 November 2020

Dear Parents,

This week in school it has been appropriate to think about peace and remembrance, including observing our own 2 minute silence on Wednesday, in all classes. Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion through purchasing poppies. The children have been reflecting about the sacrifices others have made to ensure the peace and freedom we enjoy today. By learning from the past, we can influence the future.

Parents' Choir

Originally we felt unable to have a parents' choir this year as we could not safely hold rehearsals. Last week, however, Mrs Coad discovered the most beautiful song. She would like to teach it the Upper School children, but it really does need an adult choir to join them. Might you be interested in helping with this?

If you were willing to be involved, she would send you an audio track of your part and ask you to learn it. Should we have enough voices, she would then ask you to send in a recording with you singing your part (via your phone). You would receive clear instructions on how to do this. We would then put these together to form a virtual choir. The song is called 'A Christmas Blessing' by Philip Stopford.

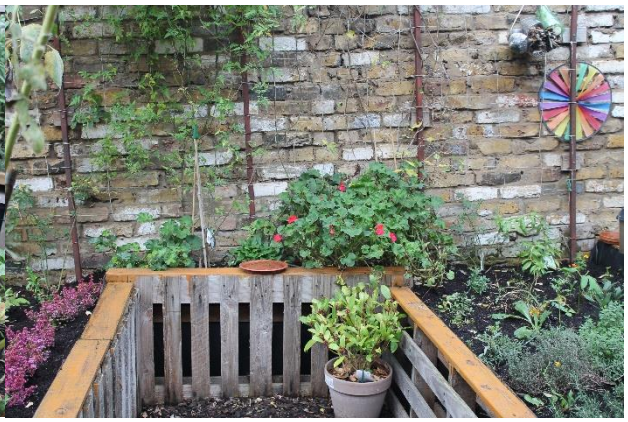
Ideally, we would need at least four voices per part to make it work. Please let Mrs Coad know by emailing Mrs Saunders receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk by Monday 16 November, if you are able to take part.

Garden News

This is the month for making the garden a paradise for our feathered friends. We have been discussing how we can help the birds during winter and the children have set up a bird feeding station for a variety of foods, as well as a bird table, ably helped by Mr Southworth. They have been planting spring bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, alliums and crocuses; also herbs, including lemon verbena, lavender, tarragon and hyssop. Other new additions are winter wildflowers, pansies and violas; an orange berried pyracantha; a viburnum, and pink and white heathers. Pupils have also planted some winter vegetables and are watching our colourful summer chard and spinach continue to grow. In spring we aim to plant lots of flowers that will attract a variety of pollinators.

The joy of the garden is that each year pupils can try something different and learn more about cultivation and the importance of growing food and flowers. Do ask your children about their time in the garden as they are very enthusiastic.

Much of this is made possible thanks to your generosity: many of you have kindly sent in your receipts from Neal's Nurseries. We put your invoice total onto the Dolphin School Privilege card and earn lots of points which have enabled us to buy plants, bulbs, and the bird feeding stations as well as wonderful bags of compost. Please continue to send in your Neil's Nurseries receipts to Mrs Benson, however small, and she will ensure that the points are added to the school garden card, ready for lots of lovely plant buying in the new year. Thank you for your help – the children are really benefiting from time in the Dolphin garden.



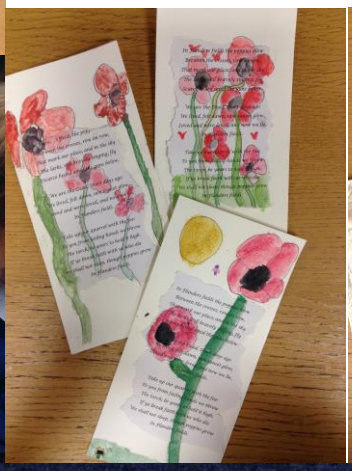
Year 1 Pearls

In Year 1 the children have been learning about Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot. Bonfire night may have been a little bit different this year, but it did not stop the Pearls from getting excited about fireworks! 1CB created these colourful fireworks pictures using pastels and glitter.

The children have also been learning about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. 1SS cleverly used potato stamps to create these beautiful poppy paintings!

Year 3 Rubies

On Wednesday, the Year 3 Rubies spent time reflecting on Remembrance Day, considering the many millions of lives that have been lost to war and discord. We wanted to create something that would act as a reminder, in the days and weeks to come, of how much we have to be thankful for as well as giving us a prompt to lift in prayer those who are still experiencing fear and danger of any kind. Our beautiful bookmarks will do just that - poppies painted over the words of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' to remind us of lives lost and the hope we have for a better, fairer and safer future for all.



Scaffolding

It would seem that the scaffolding in Wakehurst Road will be coming down at the weekend. By Monday, we should be scaffold-free! Thank you for your co-operation at drop off and collection times at The Gate, by navigating around the poles and discouraging the children from playing on them.

With best wishes for continued good health and good spirits.

Yours sincerely

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal