

26 November 2020

Dear Parents,

Next week we will be into December! As we embrace Advent, a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's nativity, already we are hard at work preparing for how in school we can celebrate Christmas in different, but still meaningful and relevant, ways. Tomorrow the children will be decorating the Christmas Tree.

Christmas Cards in a different way

We are planning a Coronavirus free way for the children to share Christmas Cards. If your child would like to bring Christmas cards for their classmates in their own class, these can be brought in and quarantined in class, before being distributed on the last day of term. If cards are in school by Monday 7 December, they will be kept until the final day and then can be given out to the children.

We are asking that the children do not bring in treats or small gifts and hand them out to each other.

There is no expectation that your child should bring in any cards at all. We know that some families will be choosing to be entirely electronic in sending cards this year – so please do not feel your child has to participate. An electronic Christmas card or message for the class could be sent to the school office, receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk for the class teacher to share with the children, should you so wish.

School Blazers in School

We are going to begin filming various aspects of our Christmas experience next week. May we ask that pupils bring their school blazers into school on Monday 30 November and keep them in school for the week, until filming is completed. Your children will then take home their blazers on Friday 4 December.

Cake

Marie Antoinette famously quipped, 'Let them eat cake.' Sadly, not even a royal decree can overrule the reality of COVID-19. In ordinary times, we would wholeheartedly embrace celebrating pupils' birthdays with cakes brought into school. However, due to the current situation and in light of government guidance we would ask that families not bring cakes (or indeed other items) into school.

Thank you for your understanding. Rest assured we will return to sharing in our cake tradition as soon as it is reasonably safe to do.

Celebration of Christmas

Although we cannot all gather together in person to celebrate the triumphant story of Jesus' birth, we are looking forward to virtually joining together. Our Celebration of Christmas will be exclusively streamed behind the password protected Parent section of the website at 19.00 on Wednesday 9 December. It would be our hope that, just as we would all gather for the event in the church, we could all gather 'as one' in our homes as the pupils recount the story through song, readings and drama. Please write the date in your diaries now.

Virtual Tour

As you know, we love our beautiful little school and we love to show visitors and prospective parents around. Although we have been constrained by the current COVID restrictions, we have found a way to shine a little of our sunshine out beyond the walls of our school. If you have not already done so, please visit our website for a Virtual Tour and, if you feel so inclined, share it with a friend.

<http://dolphinschool.org.uk/virtual-tour/>

Year 5 Assembly

Year 5's assembly will be shown to the school on Friday 27 November. It will be available on the Parent Portal section of the school website, tomorrow.

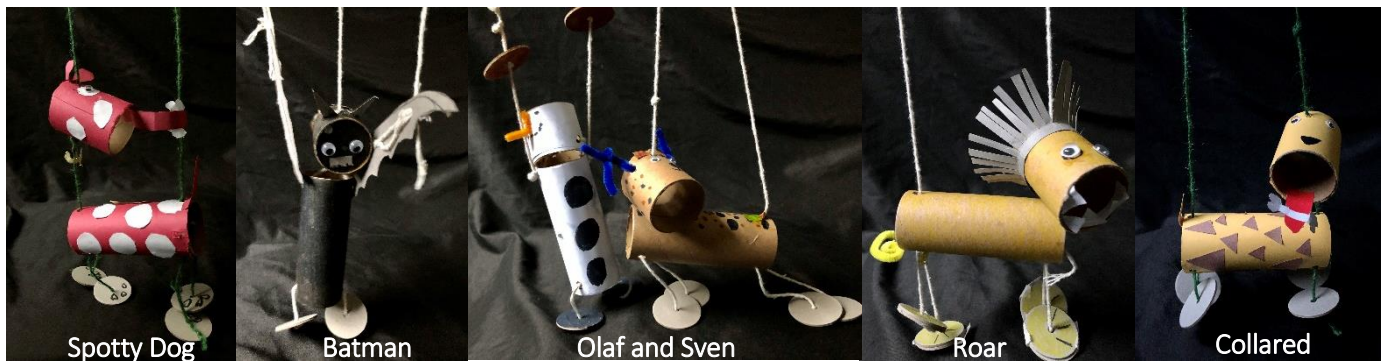
Staff News

I am delighted to share the happy news that Mrs Colman is expecting a baby in March. Our congratulations go to her and her husband as they embark on the adventure of parenthood.

Final Day Dismissal Times

We will be staggering our dismissal times on the final day as follows:

Time	Year	Door
12.00	Reception	Northcote
12.05	Year 1CB	Gate
12.05	Year 1SS	Wakehurst
12.10	Year 2	Northcote
12.15	Year 3	Gate
12.25	Year 4	Gate
12.30	Year 5	Wakehurst
12.30	Year 6	Northcote



Upper School Marionette DT Day



"It was a challenging day, but the feeling when you accomplish it (making a puppet) is amazing!" Year 5 Dolphin Pupil.

Last Friday was an extraordinary day for the Upper School! Pupils were treated to a Google Meet call with master marionette maker, Tony Sinnett- one of only 3 Marionette craftsmen in the UK. (<https://companyofmarionettes.com>) He beamed in from his studio in Sussex and shared his journey, inspiration and the process of making puppets with us. 'Inspired' was the most common word used to describe the call.

Pupils then effortlessly set to work designing, creating and constructing their puppets. Marvellous ideas erupted within the classrooms and the pupils charged into a full day of problem solving and building. In the end, the classrooms held an extraordinary range of creations; pupils learned so many new skills and overcame a wide variety of challenges. It was unanimously a 10/10 day.

A huge thank you to Mrs Nicholson who put the whole day together.



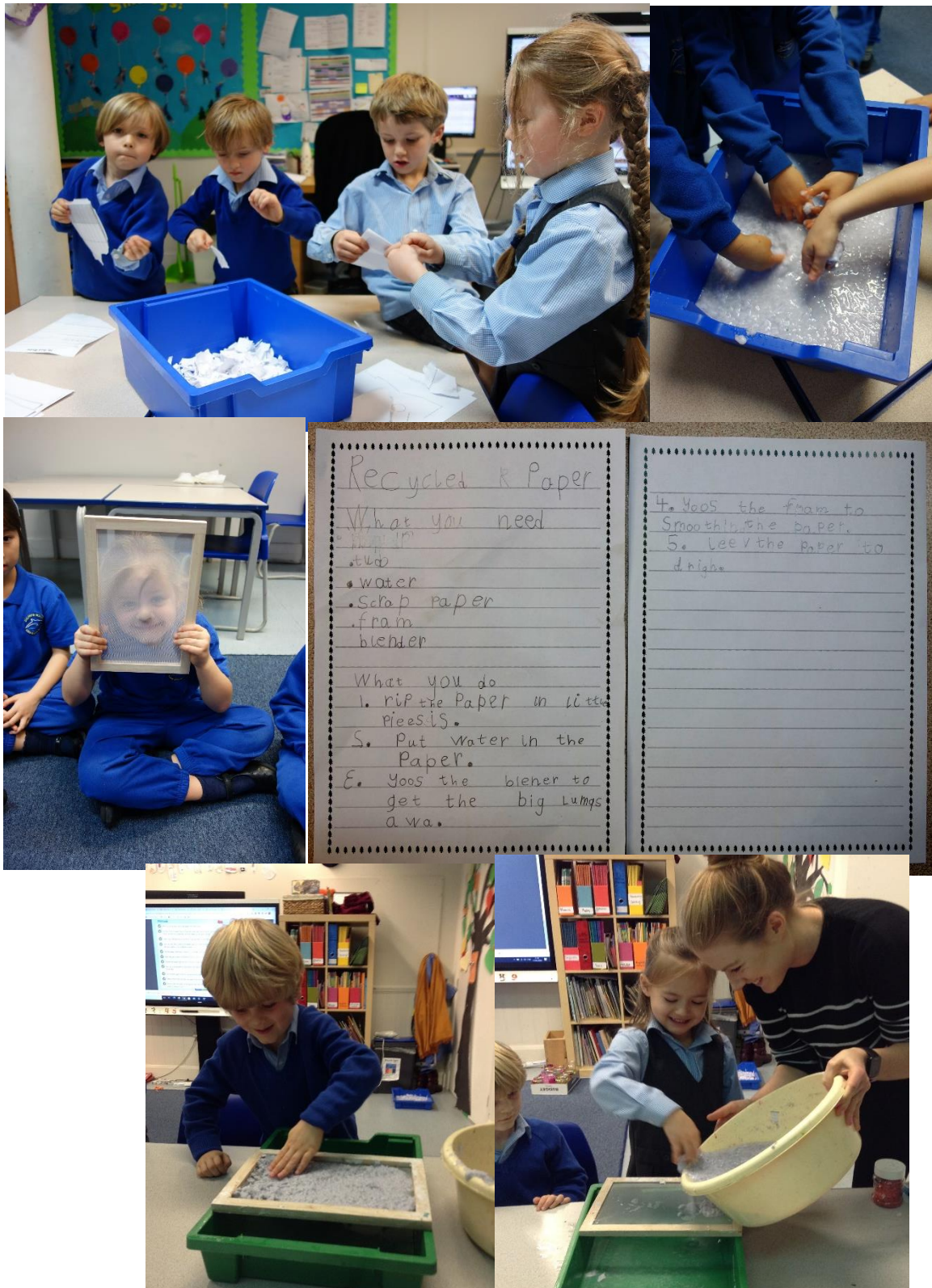
Year 4 Emeralds

Year 4 Emeralds started their scientific studies about capacity with a cold and wet investigation outdoors. After careful measurements, discussion and estimation of capacity amounts, they predicted the number of trips required to fill a classroom tray with water using their allocated vessels. Working in partners, they impressed their teacher with super duper teamwork and clever maths skills to record their ideas and their findings. They were then ready for close analysis back in the warmth of their classroom. Well done, troopers.



Year 1 Pearls

The Year 1 Pearls have been learning about recycling with some help from Michael Recycle and Litterbug Doug! Feeling inspired, the Pearls had a go at making their own recycled paper using a mould and deckle. After ripping up sheets of old scrap paper and soaking them in hot water, the children really enjoyed putting their hands in the blended mixture of fluffy paper porridge! The mixture was then put into the mold and left to dry before being turned out as a piece of recycled paper.



Year 5 Topaz - Science

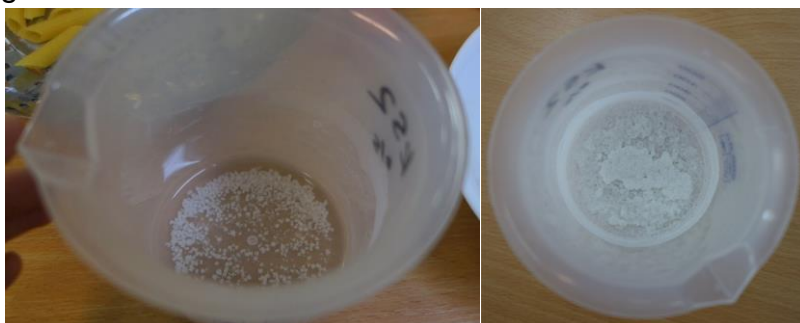
Year 5 have had a tremendous time investigating which materials are soluble. We tried dissolving salt, sand and glitter in separate beakers then filtered the mixtures to see which materials were collected by the filter paper. We noted the sand and glitter were not soluble since they were collected in the filter paper but the salt in the salt solution passed through the filter, proving salt is soluble.



Our next challenge was to separate the pasta, rice, sand, salt and paper clips using a variety of objects such as sieves, filters and magnets.

Separating the sand and salt was the most difficult. We dissolved the salt and sand in water because salt is soluble and then filtered the mixture to collect the sand. Finally, we left the salt solution on a radiator so the water would evaporate.

The first photo shows what the salt solution looked like after 24 hours on the radiator. The second photo was taken once all the water had evaporated. We could see the salt clearly at the bottom of the beaker, proving our prediction that dissolving salt is a reversible change.



Our final investigation last week explored what happened when we added bicarbonate of soda to vinegar.

We poured 100ml of vinegar into a water bottle and then poured two teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda into a balloon using a funnel. Next we had to attach the balloon carefully over the top of the bottle and then we lifted the balloon so that the bicarbonate of soda dropped into the vinegar.



You can see in the photo that this caused a dramatic reaction and the balloon captured the carbon dioxide gas that was created, blowing up as more and more gas was created.

With best wishes for continued good health and good spirits.

Yours sincerely

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal