



# Saighton Church of England Primary School and Pre-School

## December Newsletter 2023

It has been yet another exciting term at Saighton which has been filled with lots of visits, activities and some festive cheer in recent weeks! We are delighted to have received the Gold award for the Religious Education Quality Mark this term. This award is testament to the hard work of both staff and children in making Religious Education an enjoyable, enriching subject that is given lots of recognition in our curriculum. We received the award 'For embedding excellent, creative and innovative RE practice throughout the school and for recognition as outstanding in the wider community.'



Throughout the term, we have been very fortunate to support a number of local charities. Our harvest donations were gratefully received by Chester Aid for The Homeless and Save the family. Grosvenor and Miss Eaton organised a wonderful coffee morning for MacMillan where they sold cakes, refreshments and some beautiful homemade bracelets, raising £140 - well done Grosvenor! We donned our best spots for Children in Need's spectacular celebration and created a beautiful coin Pudsey Bear. This week, the children took part in a festive fun run for The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. They had a fabulous time running, jumping and hopping around the playground and were even greeted by Father Christmas at the end of the trail! We raised £600 for a very worthy charity close to our hearts.



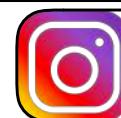
A huge thank you to all of our families for your incredibly generous donations throughout the term - they are very much appreciated by our school family and all of the charities that we support!



December saw the return of our Saighton Christmas tree in Chester Cathedral. This year, all of the children created an angel to represent themselves on our tree and we're sure you all agree that it looks absolutely beautiful! The Christmas trees will remain in the Cathedral until Sunday 7th January for those that would like to visit.



Grosvenor have enjoyed peripatetic music lessons this term from music for life and have been learning to play the guitar. They showcased their new talents in a concert for parents and performed a range of songs including a fantastic rendition of 'We Will Rock You'. The staff and parents were all very impressed with the confidence and ability of all of the children and we can definitely see some young musicians in the making!



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There were lots of exciting visits for our children this term. Eaton and Pre-school enjoyed a trip to Imagine That where they explored science, construction and art zones and spent time in the imagination village.



Westminster and Belgravia visited Blue Planet Aquarium and learned lots of fantastic facts about creatures who live under the sea. They thoroughly enjoyed watching the different creatures in the water and even managed to spot Nemo hiding amongst the anemones!



Our Year 5 children took part in Pilgrim Days in Chester Cathedral where they learned about the Cathedral's history, the Benedictine Monks and the role of pilgrimage in many religions.



Year 6 enjoyed a visit to Crucial Crew and learned lots of safety skills ahead of their transition to secondary school. The children put this learning into practice during their recent Bikeability training where they practised cycling on the roads and extended their knowledge of road safety. Despite the wet and chilly conditions, all of our year 6 children earned their Level 2 Bikeability certificates - well done everybody!

### Meet the Governor - Chris Parkin

I'm Chris Parkin and have been a Foundation Governor since February 2023, although you may know me as Martha Parkin's Dad (Westminster - Year 1).



I'm a qualified solicitor and senior leadership team member at Speedy Hire plc (the tool hire company), working in-house as their legal counsel and company secretary.

Whilst I hope to put my professional skills and experience to good use on the Governing Board, particularly as Chair of the Premises, Staffing and Finance Committee, I also intend to work hard with staff and other Governors to try and find much needed additional funding opportunities, to help improve the school's facilities for all.

I live in Hope, not just metaphorically(!), a Welsh village just south of Chester with Martha, my partner Nina and her two primary-age girls, Claudia and Lydia. Whilst family life is very busy, I enjoy the gym, cross-country running and outdoor adventures with our two dogs not to mention the care of our 87 year old tortoise!

If you spot me in or around the school, please say hello.



The last few weeks have been full of Christmas cheer throughout the school. The children's performance of The Nativity was outstanding and we are so very proud of their singing, dancing and acting skills.



We also visited Chester Cathedral to take part in 'Sing the Christmas Story'. This event has been a real highlight of the year and it was wonderful to come together with other schools in this incredible venue.



Outdoor learning has continued to be a great success this term, with some memorable Forest

School days led by Ms Pearson. The children enjoyed learning how to use tools in forest and created some wonderful forest animals using clay and natural materials. A particular highlight, of course, was making s'mores around the campfire and enjoying them with a cup of hot chocolate!

