

# Anstey First School

29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Newsletter 7

## A Note from Mrs Myers

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for joining us for the Autumn term parent conferences. We hope you found them helpful in understanding your child's progress and had an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. As you know in a very small school we all have many jobs and wear many hats. One of the several hats we wear is website designer and content manager on our school webpage. Where many schools have one person or company solely dedicated to its development we have only our staff. We try to keep our content and photos updated but as I'm sure you will understand sometimes that is tricky- the whole teaching and planning thing tends to take precedent (as it should ☺). Now that I am not splitting my time between schools I am back to being able to update our Facebook page more regularly and our website. If you haven't already, please have a look. We are adding content daily and you will find curriculum information and photos of activities of what we are getting up to in our learning. I will also be sending out a parent questionnaire for any feedback you may have for us as we are always working to improve our lovely little school. I look forward to seeing you all at the Winter Wonderland and at our Winter performance. As always thank you for supporting our school to be the best it can be!

Sincerely

Mrs Myers

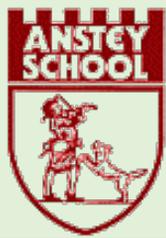
**Non Uniform Day  
– Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December**

**Please bring in tombola  
or raffle prizes for the  
Winter Wonderland  
Fair as 'payment' for  
non uniform day!**

## Dates and Things to Note

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Non-Uniform Day (Please bring along a tombola or raffle prize as 'payment')
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Winter Wonderland Fair 3.30-7pm
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Occasional Day – **No School!**
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Affinity Water workshop - Pollution Solutions
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas performance dress rehearsal (owlets parents invited to watch)
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm First Christmas performance (Nursery parents invited to watch. Nursery children will participate in this performance only)
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 6pm Second Christmas performance
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – The Snow Queen pantomime visit
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – 1.15pm end of term assembly and Dimsdale award  
2pm School finishes
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Inset Day – **No School!**
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Return to school

Hand knitted  
School colours  
hats and  
scarves on sale  
from Mrs  
Walby-Williams



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## Messages from the Classrooms



**Owlets** have been learning about Autumn and some of the festivities and events that happen at this time of year.

The children have glued fallen leaves back onto trees, have made firework pictures, and made our own poppies for Remembrance Day.

They also had a great time exploring what a pumpkin feels like, what's inside and hammering golf tee nails into them.



**Fledglings** have been continuing with the Montessori first great lesson topic 'my world' learning about the season Autumn and the weather. We have also been learning about our senses, taking part in different smelling and listening activities. The children have also written a class poem about bubbles and made their own bubble pictures. We will be working on practising for the Winter play learning lots of different songs.



**Little Owls** Have been writing autobiographies and working on mental strategies for plus and minus in maths. They have been looking at everyday materials in science and had a lesson about recycling. They have also been designing flyers and posters for the Christmas show in photoshop as part of their computing curriculum. In forest school the kids have been making leaf garlands and rubbings and continuing to make a map of the site.





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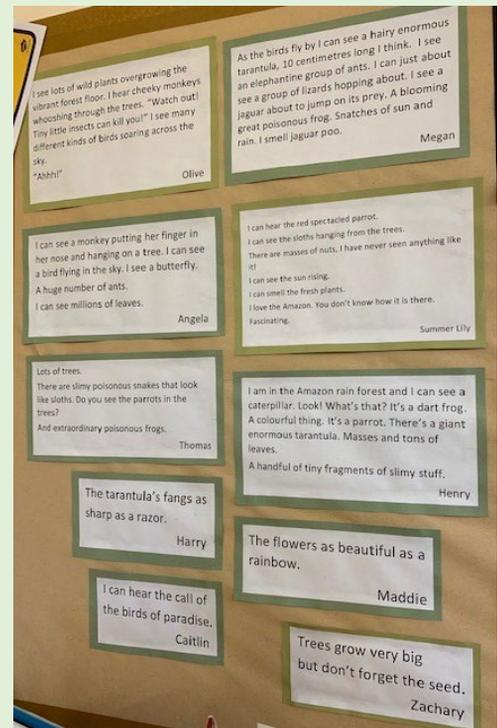
## Messages from the Classrooms



Years 1-4 made chocolate apples (a safer version of bonfire night/Halloween toffee apples!) with Mrs Modeste. The apple activity was linked to geography with the apple representing the Earth with the core, crust and mantle (skin is the crust, pulp is the mantle and core is the core). They discussed tectonic plates and volcanoes as well as how land is formed and moves. The children were asked to place the 'bracelet of Japan', the mountains of the Himalayas and a country of their choice using butterscotch cinder toffee chips. They then drew pictures of cross sections of planet earth/apples. This activity relates to this term's focus on the first great Montessori lesson about how the earth was born and went really well.

**Wise Owls** have been doing a lot of vocabulary expansion. They looked at the poem 'overheard on a salt marsh' by Harold Monroe and then had a go at creating their own vocabulary trees and writing

Wise owls have also been making salt dough models of the earth and blow pictures inspired by the book 'Born with a Bang'. They did some work on bullying during anti bullying work listening to a song called 'With my own two hands' by Jack Johnson. They observed the 2 minute silence for remembrance day.

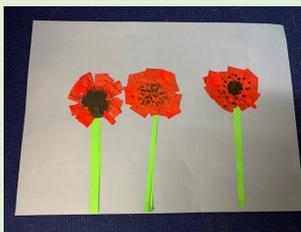
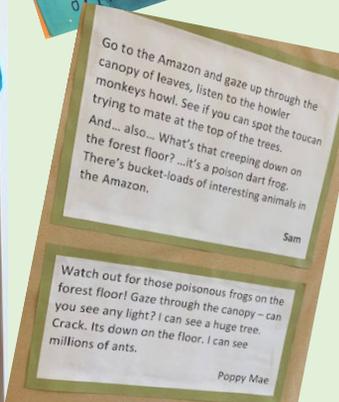
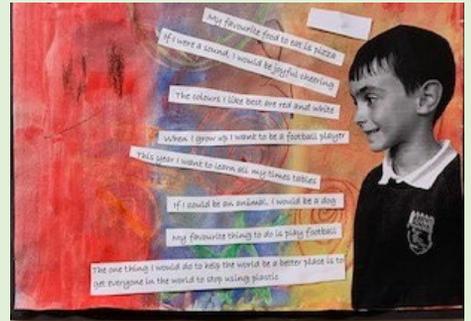




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## Pictures from the Classrooms





# Anstey First School

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## From the Governors:

Our family moved to Anstey back in 1990 and our daughter Leah still recalls her time at Anstey School as her best school years and the then Headteacher (now Chairman of Governors) as her best ever teacher. I was parent governor then and left to run a local business that remains an avid supporter of the school to this day. Now I have stopped working in the corporate world I am enthused to find Anstey First School remains a proponent of great state education, not obsessed with stats and targets, instead a brilliantly child focused environment that is both creative and nurturing and doggedly determined to find the best in every child, while at the same time meeting and exceeding its statutory targets. As an older governor I hope there is some experience and a certain down to earth-iness that I can bring to the party (I do love a party). I have only been a co-opted governor for a few months and so far it has been my joy to contribute to the refurbishment of the Little Owls Classroom, giving it a fresh and Montessori style feel and to put some gardening time into revamping the raised beds to create a sensory, child friendly outdoor area, mainly featuring culinary and medicinal herbs. I look forward to helping with the Forest School and adding to the children's enjoyment of reading and writing.

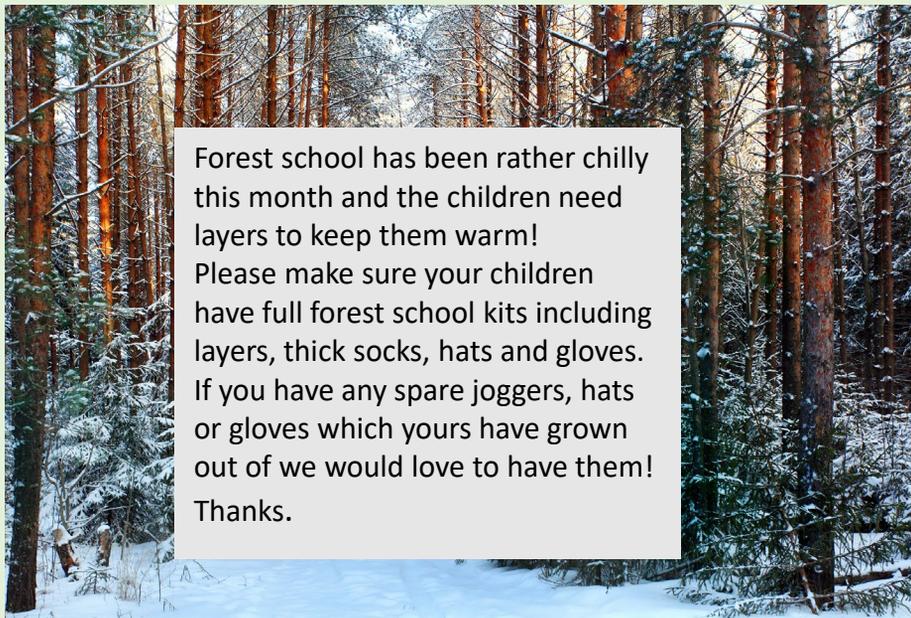
Liz Bagnall  
Governor

## PTA Events 2019-2020

5<sup>th</sup> December –  
Winter  
Wonderland  
Fair

6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 –  
Fairies and  
Fantastical  
Creatures  
Festival

Lost Property  
will be on the  
playground on  
Friday  
afternoons at  
3.25pm



Forest school has been rather chilly this month and the children need layers to keep them warm! Please make sure your children have full forest school kits including layers, thick socks, hats and gloves. If you have any spare joggers, hats or gloves which yours have grown out of we would love to have them! Thanks.

**If you haven't yet signed up to help at the Winter Wonderland Fair please do if you can! Please send a message via the Parents Whatsapp group or let Chrissy, Debbie or Natalie know what you can do!**