



Advent at Annan

We all know how special this time of year is for children. The weeks leading up to Christmas can be magical and filled with joy. This is no different in school this year. One parent emailed with words which I hope will resonate with everyone.

"Thank you for making so much effort for the last few weeks of term. Despite the doom and gloom outside, the school remains a hive of activity and fun. Our children are really very lucky to be in a special location doing special things."

This year everyone has taken part at home and in school making some beautiful lanterns. When the Advent Festival comes together next week you will hopefully see that whilst everyone has the same base design which gives us unity and connectedness, there will be progression through from kindergarten to Elders.

Children have been busy making decorations for the Christmas Tree. This year they have chosen to link to the topic of the term "up, up and away". We have stars, moons, angels and hot air balloons on our tree. This week the tree and a few children, were filmed for the Uckfield Festival of Trees. We will let you know how to access the link to the video as soon as we have it.



Lanterns

'I go with my bright little bright little lantern'...This week the Kindergarten have been learning the Lantern songs and making decorations for the Uckfield Christmas Tree festival... "I love my lantern!"... "The tree is so beautiful"



Willow class made some wonderful little angels, including one that looked suspiciously like Alastair!





To learn a thing in life and through doing is much more developing, cultivating, and strengthening than to learn it merely through the verbal communication of ideas. Friedrich Froebel

Behinds the Scenes at Annan!

On Monday, we'll be continuing our schedule of upgrading the school fencing. Whilst for the most part, the fences are not seen, this is a large cost of having such a large and irregular shaped site. The next phase alone will come in at a cost of just under £10,000.

Whilst on a fencing theme, Roy, our new groundsman and caretaker, has been busy carrying out repairs and replacement of the boundary fence to Slays Wood. This is the area of woodland that we walk to from the school and we have a lease-agreement with the landowner to use approximated 15 acres. The boundary runs alongside a re-routed public footpath and a fallen tree last year meant that the old barbed-wire boundary fence needed to be taken down.



MOT's are always a worry, and when it's an older vehicle, the cost of keeping it well maintained gets more each year. That is the case with our old minibus. An estimate of £2,000 for the current MOT brought forward our plans for a new minibus.

Our new Peugeot Boxer was delivered yesterday and has already started the school run! It isn't brand new, but a fully refurbished ex-fleet vehicle, which we are leasing from Red Kite, the UK's leading supplier of school minibuses - so we know we will be in very good hands.

We were able to negotiate on a 17-seater which has always been on our wish-list, the old minibus having 14 seats. This means class outings will be even easier to accommodate. The new bus will be going in for 'branding' over the Christmas holidays.

Our old minibus was driven away yesterday and will be retiring to the New Forest.





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Wind Science

Oscar led another magnificent science lesson this week. He demonstrated and prepared investigations for the children to try, which showed them that warm air takes up more space than cold air. Using a Power Point he had made, Oscar explained how this causes wind. He then taught all the children how to make wind vanes and had all the equipment ready so every child could make one.



Forces Science

Oak Tree class were also learning about forces and gravity. They learnt how to make parachutes for gnomes and tested them to see if their gnomes had a soft landing. Next week they will be using their parachute making skills for a secret challenge!

Willow Class also planned science investigations in small groups. The children thought carefully about how to make sure that their test was fair and that the data they collected was accurate. The children investigated how changing a single variable when designing a paper airplane can alter how far it flies.

Children had great fun trying out design ideas on the playground as they recorded the results of the flight tests.



Angles around school

Elders have been learning about angles in maths. Using string, protractors and chalk the children worked in groups to draw and measure angles on the playground.



Menu for next week:

Monday: Pasta with tomato sauce, cheese & veggies
Tuesday: Tacos with rice, beans, salsa, cheese & veggies

Events:

Monday: Lantern Festival
Thursday and Friday: Nativity Production filming

Dates for your diary:

Last day of Autumn Term: Thursday 10th December
First day of Spring Term: Tuesday 5th January
Spring Half Term: 15th to 19th February