

THE HERALD

Committed to bringing you news of the courageous,
compassionate and creative life of Sparsholt C of E
Primary School Community

Welcome to the New Year 2023 Edition of **The Herald**
produced by
the Sparsholt C of E Primary School Pupil Worship Team

Herald: 1. noun – a person who brings news or announces something

Similar: proclaimer, announcer, messenger

The Pupils of Sparsholt C of E Primary School proudly present our school magazine, **THE HERALD**. We hope you enjoy reading about and celebrating the life of our school in our special New Year edition where we look back at the vibrant activities of the autumn term.

Our vision is that **THE HERALD** will give a platform for the diverse perspectives in our school community; a herald for all the voices of our readers.

Please send your contributions for our Easter 2023 edition of **THE HERALD** to adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk

THIS EDITION OF THE HERALD INCLUDES...

- † Apple Fest
- † Poppies for Remembrance
- † Christingle 2022
- † Courageous Advocacy
- † Our School Charity – Karis Kids
- † KS1 and KS2 Christmas Presentations





We celebrated Harvest Festival together as a whole school community. We gave our thanks for food as part of the outdoor service that helped us connect with the ancient tradition of harvesting the land. Willow Class said a grace, Beech and Maple Class performed poems. Rowan talked about sharing food and Oak Class reminded us about the importance of caring for our world. Revd Jax give a thought provoking talk about the work of local food charities and the significance they have to our local community.



Revd Jax gave a talk about the vital work of local food charities.



Mrs Wesley (Foundation Governor) delivered our Harvest collection to the 'Beacon' the Winchester Night Shelter.





Apple Fest 2022



Apple Fest 2022 was a Highlight of the Autumn Term



Apple-solutely Fantastic Team Work! Thank you to our parent volunteers and children who helped prepare apple-tising apple



Apple Fest 2022 was so - a- appealing we decided there had to be an Apple Fest 2022 and make it a core event of the autumn term! Children from Oak Class wrote letters to Mrs Milburn (Seb's Mum) and Mr Stokes (Amelia's Dad), the Principal and vice principal of Sparsholt College asking for a donation of different apple varieties grown in the college orchards. The Apple Fest was held in aid of locally based global charity, Karis Kids. Everyone who took part had great fun apple tasting and rated 10 varieties of English apples.

The apple fest was an apple-solutely amazing event and raised over £200 to help support the education of orphaned children in Kampala, Uganda.

2022 Apples varieties included:

Newton Wonder

Pixie

American Mother

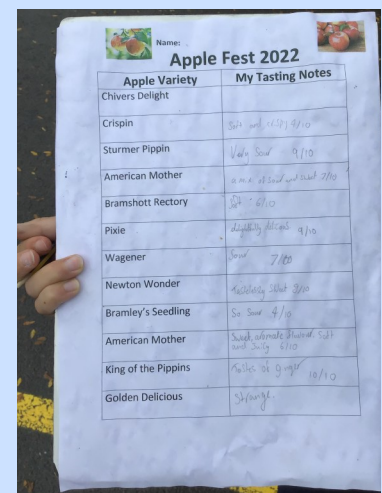
Bramshott Rectory

King of Pippins

Chivers Delight

Wagener

Crispin



Apple Variety	My Tasting Notes
Chivers Delight	
Crispin	Soft and sweet 8/10
Sturmer Pippin	Very sour 9/10
American Mother	Same as Bramshott Rectory 7/10
Bramshott Rectory	Soft 6/10
Pixie	Slightly acidic 9/10
Wagener	Sour 7/10
Newton Wonder	Acidic but sweet 8/10
Bramley's Seedling	So sour 4/10
American Mother	Small acidic but sweet 6/10
King of the Pippins	Acidic 8/10
Golden Delicious	Strongly 10/10

Our Apple-solutely a-peeling Apple-fest!



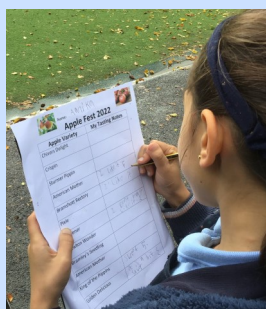
2022



We apple-laud Year 6 for their great work organising and running Apple Fest 2022



We rated the apple varieties and voted for our favourites!



Sparsholt C of E Primary School Apple Fest **Apple-lauded** by Young Apple Taster Experts!



Poppies for Remembrance

This year we held our whole school Remembrance Service outside by the Sparsholt War Memorial.

Members of Pupil Worship Team took the lead in the service by reading prayers and poetry. They played the powerful and reflective piece of music, Nimrod, from Elgar's Enigma variations before we all joined together for a minute of silence.

Sparsholt C of E Primary School proudly support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and raised over £250 for their vital work.

Revd Jax, Rector of The Downs Benefice commented, 'Sparsholt has a faithful and compassionate community determined to remember the lives of all who fell to give us peace'.



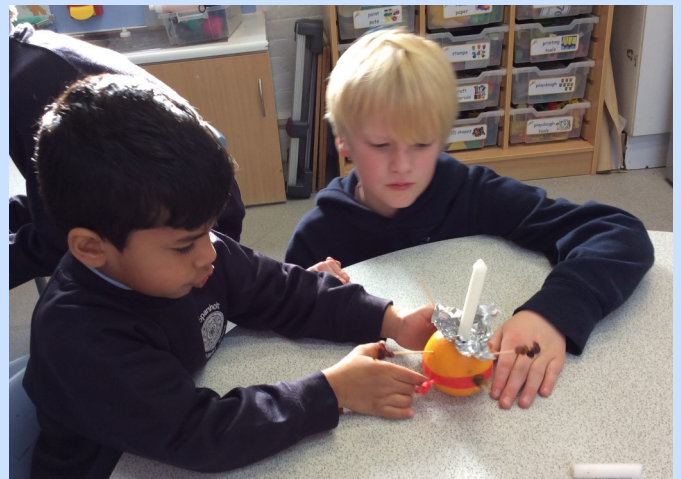
We made poppies from recycled plastic bottles...



Making our Christingles

We had such fun making our Christingles!

With the help of our fantastic Year 6 prefects every child in the school made a beautiful Christingle!



Lighting our Christingles

We lit our Christingles at home and said our Christingle prayer ...



**Dear God,
I hold my
Christingle as a
sign of love
shining light in
the darkness.**

Amen



Christingle 2022

What do Christingles Represent?

The Pupil Worship Team did a brilliant job of presenting the Christingle service in St. Stephens Church. They explained the symbolism of each element of the Christingle. Representatives from each class lit their Christingle and we said our Christingle prayer.

The **orange** represents the world

The **dried fruits and sweets** symbolise God's creation and the four seasons

The **red ribbon** symbolises God's love wrapped around the world

The **lit candle** symbolises Jesus, the light of the world

What does Christingle mean?

Christingle means 'Christ's light'.

- ★ Our thanks go to Revd Jax for all the Christingle resources and prayer ideas.
- ★ Many thanks to all our families for your kind donations to the children's society totalling an amazing £300!
- ★ Thank you to Sally Wesley for her prayers and blessing during the service.
- ★ Thank you to our Year 6 Prefects and Our Pupil Worship Team.



Places of Worship Visits

Visiting places of Worship are not just a building but a living community of believers, giving us a 'feel' of the faith and a sense of the 'spiritual'.

During the term we Willow Class visited **St Stephen's Church in Sparsholt**, Rowan and Oak visited the **Masjid Abu Mosque in Southampton** and Oak Class visited **Chithurst Buddhist Monastery near Petersfield**.

We hope you enjoy the photo galleries and captions on the next few pages...

St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt.

Revd Jax, our school Rector is the vicar of St Stephen's Church and we are always welcome to visit. As part of their RE, *Special Places*, Willow Class enjoyed a special visit. Mrs Wesley (Foundation Governor is also a point of contact for St Stephen's Church. We often attend services at key points in the Christian Calendar and the Pupil Worship Team enjoy leading Sunday Services during the year.

You are warmly welcomed to our next school service on Sunday 22nd January. 2023.



Masjid Abu Mosque in Southampton.

We were invited by Nuzhath, a 6th form student, visiting speaker and friend of the school to her Mosque in Southampton.

We were keen to find out more about Nuzhath's faith, the wonderful community and sense of belonging she said she experiences at her place of worship. We were warmly welcomed by the Iman, Zahir who hosted our visit and provided us with lots of information and an intriguing insight into Islam. Please see the photo collage of our visit.



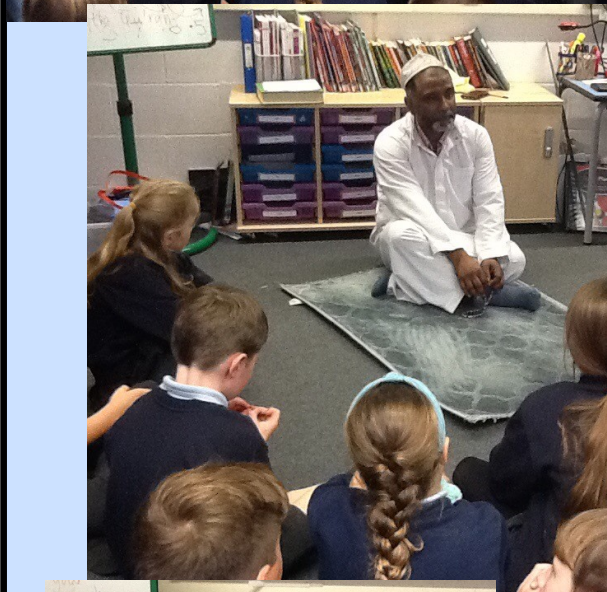
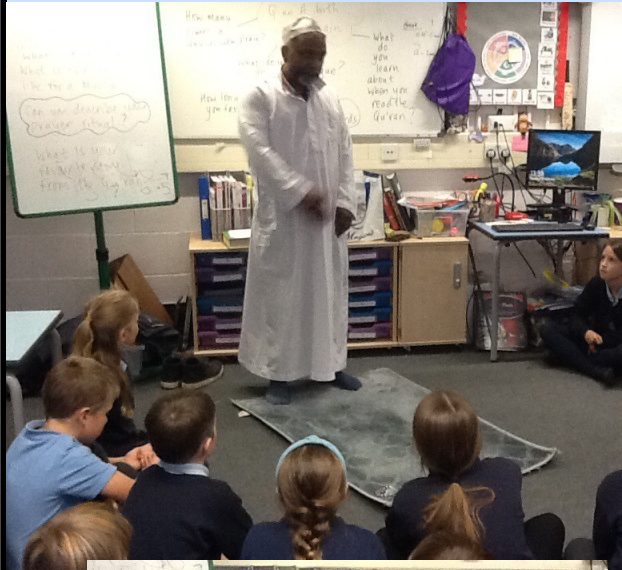
Chithurst Buddhist Monastery, Petersfield.

Our visit to Chithurst Buddhist Monastery in Petersfield gave us a unique insight into Buddhism and the Thai Forest tradition. Chithurst monastery is one of the five monasteries in the same tradition located in England. Recently ordained, Bhikkhu Cagadhammo who hosted our visit was an inspirational teacher of Buddhism. Please see the photo collage of our visit.



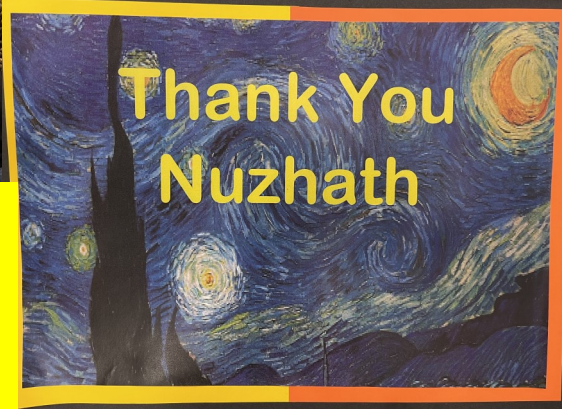
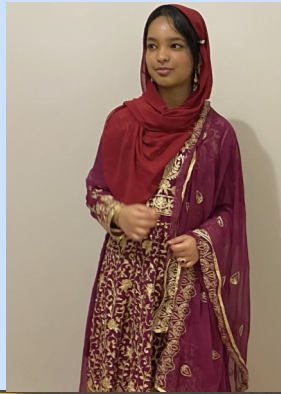
Many thanks to Shafi Hussain for talking to us about being a Muslim

Jannah from Maple Class asked her dad to come into school and talk to us about Islam. Shafi showed us his prayer mat and prayer beads and read from the Qu'ran.



Meet our Muslim Friend Nuzhath...

We were delighted to welcome 18 Year old Nuzhath to Sparsholt C of E Primary school. Nuzhath answered all our questions on Islam and told us about her life as a young Muslim. The three words she used to describe her religion were: Belonging, community and love.



Nuzhath said she learned to read Arabic at her Mosque to help her read the

We wrote thank you letters to Nuzhath and she invited us to her Mosque.

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Dear Nuzhath,

Thank you for coming into our school. I really enjoyed it. Your religion is so very interesting. We hope to come across you in the Mosque in Southampton. I hope you could join our community as a Islamic teacher because you are really great at teaching. When you came I mostly enjoyed you telling us about the hadiths. We hope to see you again, at the mosque.

Best wishes,
 From Gregory, Sparsholt Yr 4

P.S You will always be in our hearts.

Dear Nuzhath,

Thank you for coming into our school to tell us about your religion Islam. 5 pillars and the praying 5 times a day. I know how important it is to you. I thought was very inspiring you telling everything you know like your mosque and Islam. Also love you telling us about your scarves and how you love the black sears. I can't wait to come over to Southampton to visit your mosque I learnt a lot.

from scout

Visit to Masjid AbuBakr Mosque Southampton Photo Gallery

We gathered in the Prayer Hall where Zahir gave us a fascinating presentation and Q and A about The 5 Pillars of Islam. We observed Wudu and listened to the call to prayer and observed lunchtime prayers.



Above: Two pupils help Zahir demonstrate Wudu in the ablution area of the Mosque.



The Hajj pilgrimage is the fifth pillar of Islam. This is worn by Muslims on their religious journey to Mecca. The white robe symbolises purity and holiness. Photo left: Zahir helps Year 6 Pupil dress in an 'Ihram' robe. Left: Photograph of Year 6 Pupil wearing 'Ihram'.



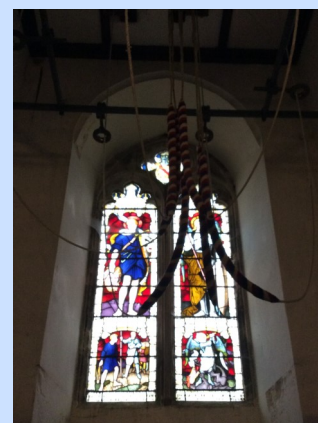
Willow Class Visit St Stephen's Church

What's in a Church?

We looked at the altar, this is the table where the bread and wine are blessed for communion. We saw the eagle lectern and the pulpit where Revd Jax presents her sermon. We sat in the pews and looked at the stone font where babies are baptised in the holy water.



Mrs Wesley gave us a guided tour of the church. Mr Wesley played the church organ for us.



Visit to Chithurst Buddhist Monastery

Oak Class were warmly welcomed by monk, Bhikkhu Cagahammo who gave us a guided tour of the monastery and beautiful grounds. We listened to the monks chanting and took part in guided meditation in the Dharma Hall. We reflected on our experience and all agreed how much we had enjoyed it and how it helped us to understand Buddhist teachings and the Buddhist way of life.



We took part in a fascinating Q and A with ordained monk, Bhikkhu Cagahammo who has been part of the Chithurst Buddhist Monastery for six years since leaving university.



Ketrah from Kampala, representing Karis Kids, visits Sparsholt C of E Primary School

We were delighted that Ketrah from Kampala was able to visit us during her trip to the UK. We really enjoyed meeting her and presenting her with the money we have raised from Karis Kids in Kampala. Many thanks for your support and because of your generosity we are able to help fund the education of orphaned children.



Dear Children and families of Sparsholt C of E Primary School,

Thank you so much for hosting Ketrah. The children were wonderful, particularly in their answers to our questions, and their overall enthusiasm. Ketrah was amazed, and wanted to know if every school was like this!

The collection has now been counted (£912.10) and passed to the charity. It will go to very good use, kitting out the children ready for their new school year in January.

Ketrah has worked out that a pack containing a set of uniform (shirt, sweater, trousers/ pinafore, uniform long socks) school sportswear (sports shorts & T-shirts *) school shoes and a set of 6 exercise books per term costs £78 per child. That means that the money the children raised will cover all 11 Primary school children from St Paul's Okuvu ready for the new term in 2023. Praise the Lord!

***The children wear their school uniform for 3 days and school sportswear for the other 2 days. This allows for the uniform to be washed ready for the next day.**

Thank you for your support,

Carol Coleman (on behalf of Karis Kids)





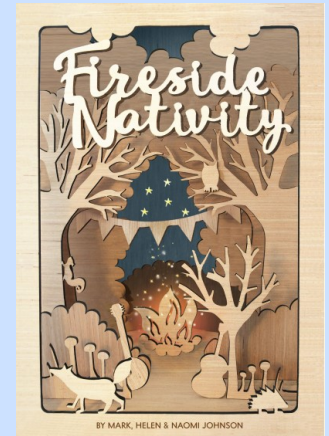
Our Special Visitor Ketrah from Kampala Photo Gallery



EYFS and KS1 Fireside Nativity and KS2 Christmas Kaleidoscope 2022

Willow and Beech presented their version of the traditional nativity story. A **Fireside Nativity** set under the stars and around the campfire was a beautiful festive celebration of community and song. ✨ ✨

Children from Oak, Rowan and Maple performed songs music and drama during their hugely praised **Christmas Kaleidoscope 2022**. Everyone got into the festive spirit and reflected on the real meaning of Christmas.



Children from Willow and Beech performed their magical re-telling of the first Christmas with their 'Fireside Nativity'

Year 5 presented their poetic version of the Nativity as part of the fantastic key Stage 2 Kaleidoscope Presentation. ✨

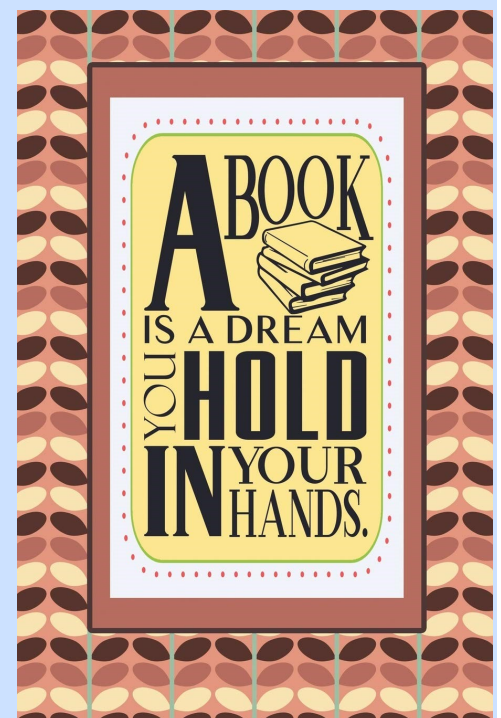


Courageous Advocacy update- The Autumn Book Sale

During the autumn term our Eco-Warrior leaders organised a book sale. It was a huge success and proceeds from the sale were given to our global charity, Karis Kids, who support the education of orphaned children in Kampala Uganda.



Due to the generosity of our school community we are able to support orphaned children in Kampala buy school uniform, shoes, books and school supplies.



We raised over £150 for our global charity Karis Kids. Many thanks for your support!

Christmas Worship 2022



On the last day of term we had a special whole school worship. Year 6 brilliantly acted Hans Christian Anderson's sad story of the Little Match Girl who endures the freezing temperature on New Years Eve as she tries to sell matches on the street. Through this classic story we were reminded to appreciate what we have and to be kind and charitable to those in need.



Emily from Oak Class played the Little Match Girl in the Year 6 play



The Pupil Worship Team talked to us about the symbolism of the Advent wreath as we lit the candles. They explained that circular shape of the wreath reminds us of Christ's eternal presence and reflects the unending love of Christ. The holly leaves represent the crown of thorns placed on Jesus's head during his crucifixion. They explained the meaning of the candles symbolising: Hope, Joy Peace and Love. It was a wonderful and spiritual moment as we lit our advent wreath and said a Christmas prayer in the glow of the candle light.



Courageous Advocacy

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Mark 12:29-31

During the Autumn term we have continued our courageous advocacy activities by supporting local, national and global charities.

We recognise that at times all people face challenges that they need help and support with overcoming. Our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity help us to think about how we work together in activities that can help others and bring about change to benefit others. By making small personal sacrifices we can have an impact on the well being of others. Since September we have supported the vital work of these charities:

- ★ The Children's Society
- ★ Children in Need
- ★ The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- ★ Winchester Basics Bank
- ★ Diabetes UK
- ★ The Beacon-Formally the Winchester Night Shelter
- ★ Our Global Charity - Karis Kids



Reverse Advent Calendar Collection Supporting the Winchester Basics

Many thanks to our School Community for your generous donations!

We reversed things again this Christmas with an advent calendar that gives back! Our school community came together to channel their compassion and generosity by donating Christmas food items for families in need in our local community. Generous Donations of Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolates, sweets and Mince Pies flooded into school. The items were delivered to the Winchester Basics Bank to ensure the food was ready for those in need in the Winchester district this Christmas. Due to the cost of living crisis, donations to the basics bank are desperately needed throughout the year. Watch this space for opportunities to donate to this vital charity during 2023.



Please donate to the Basics Bank during 2023

Wonderful Winter Wander in Sparsholt!

Under the Winter moon and atop the frozen ground, the Friends of Sparsholt C of E Primary School, created an enchanting winter wonderland at Ham Green. 

Several families produced creative and magical stations of festive lights, alongside a woodland walk, enabling the awe and wonder of an illuminated woodland wonderland to be enjoyed by all who came for a frozen festive frolic!

Not only was the evening a splendid visual spectacle, but the sweet symphonic sounds of the Children's Christmas Choir (as well as steaming mulled wine) kept our spirits warm despite the winter chill.

