



## PRE-PREP CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

As part of our Christmas preparations in Pre-Prep class, the children have been learning all about the story of the birth of Jesus.

As well as rehearsing and filming for the virtual Nativity play, the children have created their own figures to retell the story and have worked really hard to draw different characters.

They have even taken part in virtual drawing sessions with different artists to help improve their technique.

Pupils learnt top tips such as how to draw arms showing the Three Kings holding gifts and how to draw some very friendly looking sheep for the shepherds to look after!

The children also enjoyed making the first decorations for our classroom Christmas tree. They all thought very carefully about what they wish for this Christmas and recorded this on a star which they decorated before hanging them on the tree for everyone to see.

*"My wish is I can see my family and that all my wishes come true."*

*"I wish everyone stays safe."*

*"I wish that everyone will have a present and that everyone will be happy."*

*"I wish that everyone has a present to open and enjoys their Christmas and everyone stays happy."*

**Miss Hall**



# WELCOME

There will be a cheerful balance of our usual academic rigour and lots of Christmas fun in the final two weeks of term.



We received a surprise and on-the-spot compliance inspection this week from the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Their short notice visit aims to review policies

and procedures within school and to reassure the Inspectorate that our Covid measures are robust and effective. Whilst the outcome of the inspection will not be made public for some time, I will be delighted to share the results with you in due course.

Despite the heightening anticipation of the activities we have planned for the weeks ahead, we recognise that there has already been significant disruption to 'normal' classroom learning this year, and we remain committed to delivering an outstanding teaching and learning experience until the final bell rings this term. A reminder that school closes on Friday 11 December at 2.00pm.

Students at the top of the school are looking ahead to mock examinations after the Christmas break and this provides a huge opportunity to showcase the progress they have made since being back at school.

Our collaborative ethos here at Teesside High School means that we all have valuable contributions to make towards every student's success. Whilst subject teachers will continue to provide detailed feedback, additional resources and specific direction, your children need you, as parents, to continue to develop good habits at home. We are grateful to you for providing a quiet purposeful area for revision over the Christmas break, where you are able to keep an eye on what work is being completed.

I also insist on the highest levels of attendance in school. As we move towards the end of this term, every lesson and intervention session counts, as I am sure you can appreciate.

On a slightly more festive note, it has been lovely to

read your feedback following the introduction of our Christmas lights at the front of school. As you have hopefully been able to notice, we are pulling out the stops this year to ensure our pupils have the very best 'school Christmas'!

It's always a great week when our Christmas trees arrive in school and they certainly bring a touch of magic to our communal spaces. Whilst you are not able to share these sights personally with us this year (ordinarily it would have been our annual Speech Day earlier this week), we hope you enjoyed the photographs we posted to social media on Wednesday.

I am enormously grateful for the support you have given to the charitable initiatives we have running in school at the moment. Already, in both the Prep and Senior schools, our donation tables are overflowing with items ready to be passed on to both our local Trussell Trust foodbank and TFM's Mission Christmas, ensuring this time of year is a cause for celebration for everyone, including those most in need in our local community.

I am delighted to share with you the artwork we have chosen to adorn our Christmas postcards this year; well done to Emily Milne in Year 8 for producing this incredible drawing of a stag, which has been given a couple of festive touches by Mr Connor!

We hope you enjoy receiving your copy very soon.

**Mrs K Mackenzie, Head**



## FITNESS TESTING

Over the past two weeks our Senior pupils have taken part in their termly fitness testing.

We have been really impressed with the scores our pupils have achieved. Overall, 79% of our pupils from Years 7-11 have improved their score from the start of the term, with Thea Poole in Year 10 being our most improved pupil, increasing her score by nearly two levels.

Well done to the following pupils who came top in their year groups:

Year 7 Boys - Luca (7.1)

Year 7 Girls - Holly (8.1)

Year 8 Boys - Rohan Vagadia (10.1)

Year 8 Girls - Veronica Snaith (10.0)

Year 9 Boys - Kiyon Bayat (10.6)

Year 9 Girls - Isobel Leighton (11.11)

Year 10 Boys - Daniel Snaith (11.3)

Year 10 Girls - Becky Poppitt (9.5)

Year 11 Boys - Jack Brown (11.8)

Year 11 Girls - Maia (10.0)

**Miss Turnbull**



## Forest School developments

We have been very busy in the Forest School this half term, expanding our fantastic mud kitchen.

Our EYFS and Pre-Prep children have most enjoyed exploring the new kitchen area and have already started work on varieties of soups, pies and cakes!

I have been overwhelmed with your donations of tins, jars or old pots, pans and utensils - please do pass on what you no longer use and I assure you our pupils will put them to good use!

It has been lovely to see our older students getting involved in their

spare time to develop our woodland and create resources for the younger pupils to enjoy. Lexie and Millie in Year 12 and Scarlett, Holly and Beth in Year 7 have been an enormous help in preparing for our Christmas fun!

**Miss Hopkins**

## Duke of Edinburgh update

Our Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh groups have been conscientiously attending their meetings every Friday. With restrictions preventing students venturing further afield, our Bronze groups have been concentrating on their map reading skills and our Silver and Gold groups have been planning their practice expeditions, hopefully for the Easter holiday.

**Miss Hopkins**



# Nursery Rhyme Week

It was World Nursery Rhyme Week last week, and the Nursery children enjoyed exploring a new nursery rhyme each day.

The children had lots of fun making buses and singing *The Wheels on the Bus*, as well as making up actions for *Hickory Dickory Dock* and creating speckled frogs and singing *Five Little Speckled Frogs*. For *Old MacDonald*

*Had a Farm*, the children explored mark making using tractors and trucks, looking at the different patterns they could make.

**Mrs Hannah**



## Reception Avenue

As part of their topic work, Reception children have been using their knowledge of houses to design their ideal home.

The children talked about their house and how it compared to different styles of houses from around the world.

They discussed what they wanted their house to look like when they were older; we had some interesting choices, including a pink house with flowery curtains!

The children moved on to consider who lives in houses around them, and who they would like as neighbours. They decided they would like their classmates to live next door to them, so they can continue the fun they have at school together at home!

We created Reception Avenue to show their thoughts. This is their perfect street in a perfect world!

**Mrs Clapton**



## ADMISSIONS UPDATE

In light of yesterday's announcement around the Tees Valley being placed under Tier 3 restrictions from next week, Taster Days will continue to be postponed here at Teesside High School.

We are grateful for your support as we adapt our admissions procedures to best ensure the safety of our school community.

It is safe to say we expected this announcement and have been busy planning alternative arrangements. With a high level of interest for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, we are pleased to share our slightly revised plans which will hopefully provide reassurance at this unusual time.

Early Years new starters: For January entry (start of term), Taster sessions will be rearranged for w/c 4 January 2021. Taster sessions for summer term entry will be organised prior to the Easter break. **Please note, we are approaching a waiting list for Nursery entry this academic year. Please get in touch if you wish to register your interest in a place.**

Prep new starters: For January entry (start of term), Taster Days will be rearranged for w/c 4 January 2021. Taster Days for summer term entry will be organised prior to the Easter break.

Year 7 entry, September 2021: We

hope to be in touch soon to confirm plans for our Year 7 Transition Day in January which will allow all applicants interested in joining Year 7 next September the chance to visit us for a full day of exciting lessons and co-curricular opportunities. We know how highly parents value the chance for pupils to experience a day in school before finalising plans for the next step in their education.

Sixth Form entry, September 2021: Following any announcement around relaxed Tiered restrictions, we will be in touch to arrange an opportunity for your child to sample A-level subjects at their convenience during the spring term.

Other admissions enquiries will be managed through slightly revised arrangements, but rest assured we are working hard to ensure all new pupils experience a smooth, seamless and safe start to their time at Teesside High School.

If you wish to discuss a school move, please get in touch via [admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk](mailto:admissions@teessidehigh.co.uk)

**Miss Hockney**



## Forest School

Pre-Prep children always look forward to their Forest School lessons. We are incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful grounds to explore!

Recently the children have had fun creating forest crowns which turned us all into knights and princesses! They have also been exploring our mud kitchen area where they have used their wonderful imaginations to engage in collaborative role play.

The latest creations in the kitchen have been pizzas, lots of chocolate cakes and even some Christmas cakes.

**Miss Hall**



# Year 6 Horror Stories

Year 6 pupils have been busy over the last few weeks writing their own horror stories.

All stories were based on the same structure taken from a model text that we examined.

The structure saw our central character leave a safe place (pupils decide upon their own safe place and a reason why the character would want to leave it) and enter a wood.

At first the woodland is a place of beauty and tranquility, but as the weather closes in and it begins to get dark, things take a turn for the worse.

Needless to say, the pupils' stories contained haunted houses, mysterious creatures and chases through the undergrowth. Thankfully, all central characters returned to their safe place by the end. We hope that you enjoy reading these short extracts...

*Horrifyingly, Jim's candle lost its flame... Jim had a sudden urge - an unknown presence was stalking him! Suddenly, red, glowing eyes appeared! Jim was trembling with fright! The eyes were surrounding him. He immediately ran as fast as a cheetah. He never looked back. He never stopped. His heart raced and he could hear some heavy breathing chasing him. As Jim ran, the creature raced towards him. He knew then, his only hope was safety, home...*

**Hadi Younis**

*Abbey slammed her diary on her head. Was Jo Shirley really not lying? Her*

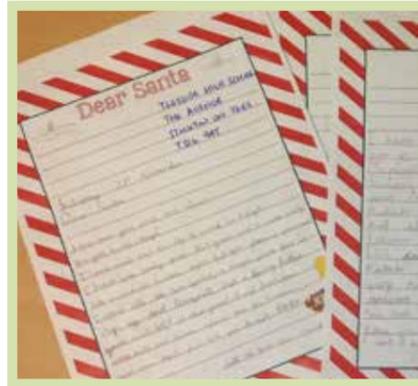
*friend was telling her about a haunted cottage in Harrow woods. Abbey was writing down the pros and cons of going and exploring the wood, as well as finding the run-down cottage. Imagination winning, her crumpled diary fell to the floor and still in her pyjamas, she dodged the ear-splitting creak of the third stair, pulled on her scuffed boots, then snuck down the field into Harrow woods.*

**Shreya Gujjala**

*Fern ran for her life. The leaves crunched under her like bones, and the twisted trees seemed to reach out at her from behind. Twigs slapped in her face making blood like stains on her face. Birds flew from trees, and snapped at her. She looked behind, immediately regretting what she did. She saw a massive creature, eyes glowing red like the muted moon above her, and a massive salivating mouth with rows of sharp teeth ready to shred her like a paper dispenser. Claws and tentacles were reaching out to try and grab her. She started losing breath and her lungs stung. Nettle stings making rashes on her legs and arms. How much further till safety? Sweat was dripping down her head even though it was the middle of winter.*

**Poppy Brion**

**Mr Griffiths**



## Year 3 English

Pupils in Year 3 English had the opportunity to write to Santa this week and, this morning, they wrapped up warm to walk to the nearest postbox to post their letters to Reindeerland. Their letters have a long journey ahead of them but the children are looking forward to their replies.

We are sure that they are all on Santa's 'good' list!

**Mrs Bryson**



## UPPER PREP IPC

Upper Prep 1 are nearing the end of their Going Global topic with only a few tasks left.

This week, the children have been challenged to prepare for a debate to consider whether it would be a good idea for McDonald's to open a restaurant on Yarm High Street.

One group took on the role of McDonald's business leaders, the second group were the local residents in favour of this and the final group were the local residents against this development.

Each group had the opportunity to present their views and arguments before being able to challenge the points made by the other groups.

There were some interesting challenges but all of the groups were able to



counter argue the points raised by the opposition. The children commented on issues ranging from traffic and parking to childhood obesity, litter and the potential impact on local, independent businesses. All of the comments showed that the children were applying their learning from their other tasks throughout the unit. At the end of the debate, the children voted to show whether they were for or against this proposal. The majority vote went to those who were opposed to the idea of McDonald's opening in Yarm.

A great effort by all of the children in Upper Prep 1, including Eshel who took part remotely.

**Mrs Kennedy**

## Road Safety

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been busy raising awareness of the safety campaign 'Be Bright, Be Seen'.

They have presented an assembly to Prep pupils and are now selling reflectors to help our children be seen in the dark.

The reflectors can be ordered during form time (they cost between £1.20-£1.60) and our Officers are busy making deliveries each day!

**Mrs Hannah**



## Whizz Pop Science!

In Whizz Pop Science Club this week, Louis and Harry explained to their friends how clouds are formed, using the water cycle to demonstrate.

They ensured to use the correct terminology including precipitation, condensation and evaporation and they even discussed different types of clouds using some diagrams.

Following this discussion, Louis and Harry set up a demonstration of how to create their own cloud using shaving cream, water and food colouring.

The shaving cream represented the clouds, the water represented the air and the coloured water represented the rain. As the coloured water saturated the 'cloud', it became heavy and eventually it was so heavy that it could no longer hold the water. It 'rained' down into the jar - through the 'air'. Just like real rain falls through the air.

Perhaps you would like to have a go at making your own cloud.

**Mrs Bryson**



# Durham University Languages Club

This year, the MFL department is lucky to be involved in the Durham University Languages Club.

Each week we have a languages student from Durham who joins Y10 and Y12 via Google Meet to do some speaking practice. This week, Abbie and Kate enjoyed doing some individual work with Alla, our German-speaking student to talk about “Die digitale



Welt”, including advantages and disadvantages of new media and how young people and older people are using new technologies. All in German, of course!

**Frau Butterfield**



Year 9 students have been busy creating media studies from a food still life as part of their extended project in Art this term.

## Public Speakers wanted!

We are delighted that the English Speaking Union is continuing to organise its prestigious competitions this academic year and, as ever, we will be preparing our pupils to take part. The English Department will be looking to form a Public Speaking team to represent the school in the North East round in the New Year. We have developed a reputation for being formidable opponents in this competition and, I am sure, that this year’s team will rise to the challenge.

Any Year 10 or 11 pupils interested in being part of the THS team should speak to a member of the English department.

**Mrs Reid**



## A-level English

Liam was crowned the winner of our A-level English Language class competition to create an advert for a product that might not usually appeal to the assigned audience. Students were asked to create the advert and then present their ideas using their learning to date. Liam’s presentation demonstrated a real confidence and understanding when applying key subject specific terminology and a keen ability to comment critically on his linguistic choices. Well done Liam, enjoy the chocolate!

**Mrs Reid**

# NATIONAL THEATRE

Teesside High School is pleased to announce its membership to this stunning resource in which to stream live theatre.

Like a Netflix for Theatre, all of the THS community can now share this access.

Drawing on 10 years of National Theatre Live broadcasts alongside high-quality archive recordings never previously seen outside of the NT’s archive, the National Theatre Collection is now complete and contains 30 filmed performances.

In the absence, largely, of traditional pantomimes this year, families may wish to gather together over the break and share a piece of top quality theatre together. All performances offer guidance for age suitability.



Login credentials:

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/home>

Public Username: TeessideHS

Public Password: M@cbeth

(Please note, the username and password are case sensitive.)

Then go to the ‘National Theatre Collection’.

Enjoy!

**Mr Coates**



## Year 7 Drama

Year 7 students have been putting themselves in the shoes of children evacuated from urban to rural areas as part of

Operation Pied Piper in Drama this half term.

Within a whole class still image, they have used ‘spoken thoughts’ to reveal the feelings of

their characters as they assemble, ready for evacuation, at Waterloo Station in 1939.

**Mr Coates**



## Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students in Years 12 and 13 across the UK.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think.

Congratulations to Hanah Yoon in Year 13 who achieved a Silver award and qualified for the Senior Kangaroo which is a follow-on round to the Senior Mathematical Challenge. The Senior Kangaroo is a 60-minute competition consisting of 20 problems. Entry to the competition is by invitation only and is based on a qualifying score, which is variable from year to year.

Congratulations to Ed in Year 8 (pictured) who achieved a Gold award, best in school and qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 which is a follow-on round to the Senior Mathematical Challenge. As well as challenging high-scorers from the Senior Mathematical Challenge, the British Mathematical Olympiad is an entry point to the training and selection programme for international competitions.

We are extremely proud of you both.

**Mrs Mardon**

# THIS WEEK PHOTO GALLERY



The Nursery children loved seeing Mrs Connor and joining her in a Google Meet singalong!



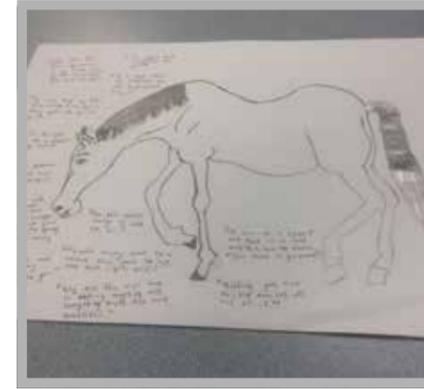
Olivia in Reception has drawn this colourful picture showing what her Shepherd costume looks like in the Nativity.



Reception class have been recording their happy memories at home as part of their busy book homework.



This week it is our Year 8 pupils' turn to impress with their homework! As part of their study of the novel *War Horse*, Roman, Martha and Barnaby in Year 8 made these excellent 3D models and artwork pieces. Barnaby used the climax of the story for inspiration, fashioning his own barbed wire to show when Joey is horrifically injured. An excellent effort all round!



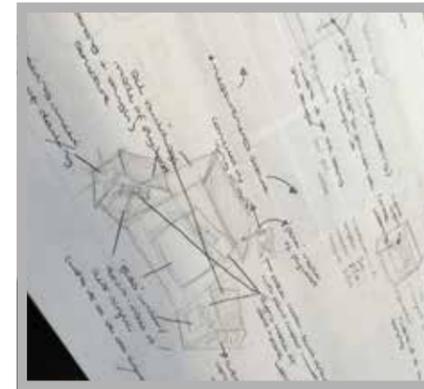
Pre-Prep class had a very exciting IPC lesson when they engaged in a virtual presentation from Cats Protection. This supported their work around pets and animals as part of their topic study of *Live and Let Live*. The children loved learning lots of interesting facts.



Pupils in Upper Prep have been reading the text 'Clockwork' by Philip Pullman and have developed their comprehension skills by answering a range of questions.



Mr Thomas recorded PE lessons from home during isolation to ensure his Year 9 boys' did not miss out on their weekly training.



Year 9 pupils are excelling in their 'bathing beauties' architecture project in Design Technology.



With just two and a half weeks until the end of term, Christmas has truly arrived at Teesside High School! We are extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Boal and the team at Castlegate Lights for donating yet more lovely light up treats for under our Prep Christmas tree. Follow the hashtag #THSChristmas to see what our children are getting up to celebrate the festive season!



In what is fast becoming an annual tradition, Sixth Form students enjoyed an afternoon decorating their Christmas tree, with Abbie kindly making the group a delicious hot chocolate after all of their hard work!



# BIG ADVENTURES HOLIDAY CAMP



October half term; Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays

Teesside High School runs an action-packed and fun-filled Holiday Camp for young children during the school holidays. Our Big Adventures Holiday Camp pupils love the wide range of activities we offer, led by qualified and experienced Teesside High School staff.

Based in the Prep School, using our full facilities and grounds, we offer: ■ Woodland School sessions ■ Sports Days ■ Cinema experiences ■ Party games ■ Super scooter races ■ Movie making ■ Trips and visits ■

We love seeing new faces join our exciting holiday programme.

Please contact us to enquire about availability for the next Holiday Camp; call **01642 782095** or email **INFO@TEESSIDEHIGH.CO.UK**

**WWW.TEESSIDEHIGH.CO.UK**



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