

# Thomas Ashton School Newsletter



Welcome to the Christmas Issue, we would like to thank you for your continued support

## Sleeping Beauty Pantomime



The whole school were treated to a Pantomime this year of Sleeping Beauty by M& M Productions. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. A quote from a pupil 'it was the best thing I have ever seen'.

## Derek Fisher—WW2 Veteran

We met Derek Fisher through the Mayor at the local community Scarecrow event. Derek agreed to come into school and share his own personal journey with the students. The event was well received by the pupils who all enjoyed meeting Derek. It also gave some of the KS3 pupils a chance to mentor the KS2 pupils.



## Celebrating Marley!

As a reward this term, Marley class visited Laser Quest at Total Adrenaline. We all had an amazing time! Both staff and children joined in, creating different teams, although, it was a little unfair when the children took on the staff and won!

As part of our Arts Award, we visited Contact Theatre in Manchester. The show was interactive and as a school we had to help save the spirit of Christmas. Needless to say, we were triumphant!

From everyone in Marley group, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## The Wild Roadshow



On 8th December we were visited by The Wild Roadshow. All Key Stage 2 and some of Key Stage 3 were able to join in the experience. Ozzie the bearded dragon was the star attraction amongst staff and pupils alike, and spent most of the time being pampered and stroked by everyone there. We learned that all the reptiles on show are rescued from places where they are no longer wanted or cared for. Also where in the world they originally come from—places much warmer than the UK. Many pupils had never seen a live snake before never mind hold one. The tarantula, luckily, had to stay inside it's container!



## Van Zant



Van Zant are very grateful for all the donations they received for the market stall. The day on the market started at 6.30am. Tyler Campbell, Morgan Ross and Mrs Butler all assisted the whole setting up and selling. The Van Zant team visited and offered support, altogether we raised over £100. Later that week the group visited Nicola at Reuben's Retreat to present a cheque for a total of £303 from all the money raised from previous charity events..

### Legacy 110 Project

I am very proud to be able to announce that both Shania Keegan and Tyler Campbell have been successful in being shortlisted to attend the House of Lords. This has emerged as a result of their hard work on return from their trip to Belgium last year.

The project involved creating something that would be shared with their local community. Their YouTube video received lots of attention and their involvement with the community has been well received. They were awarded a National 2016 Award by the Secretary of State for the Environment.



### Soup Kitchen

Twice weekly Mark Brindley accompanied by other pupils create and make soup for staff to purchase, money raised from this is donated to charity. Since September a different soup has been created weekly. So far Marks soup kitchen has raised £25 for charity.



### Hyde Town Hall - Remembrance

Pupils created their own Remembrance Day by making their own poppies. These were then proudly displayed in Hyde Town Hall reception area. On 11/11/16 the Van Zant class held a stall outside the Town Hall and sold items they had made back at school. Lots of the KS2 pupils helped make the items. We raised £62.72 which was donated to the Poppy Appeal.

### Coffee Morning

This year's coffee morning was run by Van Zant and Bowie. Our selected charity was the Hummingbird Project in Buxton who help child refugees, Jo Gregory from the charity came into our fair to meet the children and tell us about their charity, in return Bowie and Van Zant who have been studying about refugees presented a short film they had made.

# Christmas Term 2016

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to come and support the coffee morning and the Christmas Assembly on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. There was a packed audience in the hall and a fantastic atmosphere!

The work the children had produced in support of the Hummingbird Project was simply stunning, and this is a word I do not use lightly. The fact that the children will also gain an Arts Award qualification for their work is the icing on the cake!



Whilst the core curriculum of literacy, numeracy and PSHE remain absolutely vital for all our children, *how* we learn the skills of communication, number work, awareness raising and developing confidence is often the key to success. The visual image of that tiny hummingbird doing its own little best to help put out the forest fire helps us to understand that we all have a contribution to make that will help not only ourselves, but others as well.

If everybody does a little bit, put together the impact can be life changing..... our pupils have learnt that they are as important as everybody else in terms of the contribution they can make.

I was **so** proud of the two Year 9 pupils who had been invited to the House of Lords to share their 'Legacy 110' project. To be one of six schools to be invited out of the thousands that had taken part was a huge honour and a fantastic learning opportunity that will stay with them forever. Please take a moment to look at the 'Legacy 110' project on our website, from their trip to the World War 1 battlefields in Belgium, through the fund raising to the visit to London.

It was lovely greeting pupils as they came in this morning, seeing them in their Christmas jumpers and T shirts, everyone with a smile on their face. We work hard so that our children can enjoy school and have fun, as well as working hard and making progress with their learning.

And we know just how much more we can do with your help and support, so thank you to everyone for the contribution you make to your child's school. We can all feel proud and give ourselves a round of applause!

And just to give you the heads up - we have spent this term getting ourselves sorted so we can begin the parent workshops next term. There will be a letter home in the New year inviting you to a brief meeting to find out more, and hopefully to sign up if you think it would helpful to you.

I would love to work with as many of you as possible over the course of the coming months and years. Let's make our Parent Partnership a real strength of the school!

Have a merry and safe Christmas!

Remember, you can always view our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and others on our website, or ask for a copy of these or any other policy from the office.

## School Dates

Finish for Christmas	Tuesday 20th December
Return	Weds 4th January
Finish for half term	Friday 17th February
Return	Monday 27th February
Finish for Easter	Friday 31st March
Return	Monday 18th April



## SHOE BOX APPEAL

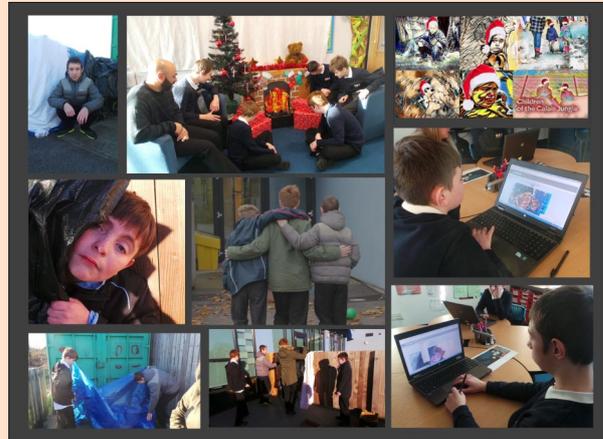


Pupils at Thomas Ashton School were asked to bring items into school suitable for the shoe box appeal. Pupils then created a shoe box per group and these were delivered to the local drop off point by a select number of pupils.

### Bowie

This term Bowie class has been researching the plight of the refugees housed at Calais, France. We have been using PC software to turn images of children in the Calais Jungle into pieces of art, as well as recreating these images with the pupils in our class they have been discussing how we spend Christmas compared to others. This has also linked to our Literacy project this term based on the book 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Our class has also been working with Contact Theatre, Manchester, in creating Christmas poems which are in the process of being filmed and edited into a short DVD.



**Pick n Mix:** Tyler and Morgan continue to run their Pick n Mix shop at break. They are now mobile and take the goods door to door. They have taken over the responsibility of the shop now and do a stock take and profit margin each day.

**Arts Award:** Shania Keegan, Tyler Campbell, Morgan Ross and Addison Stretton have been awarded Arts Award Explore. As this is their 2nd Explore Award they are now working towards their Bronze.

**Hour of Code:** Pupils at Thomas Ashton have been taking part in the hour of code. This is a government initiative to enable pupils to give coding a go. Pupils successfully completing an 'hour' of code receive a certificate.

**Anti-bullying Competition:** Shania Keegan and Chelsea Ormerod have been entered into a national anti-bullying competition. Both have created powerful Art pieces in order to get across the message that bullying is not acceptable. Shania created a 3D sculpture and Chelsea a Rap. Good luck girls !!

