



THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish

26/11/21

Headline

Advent is almost upon us, and soon the Knit-ivity (our famous knitted wise men, shepherds and Holy family) will be processing towards Bethlehem through the school corridors. We will also light our Advent Wreath each week. It's traditions like this that maintain 'normality' for our children and staff and remind us that, despite the many difficulties caused by the pandemic and the difficult news we hear around the world and on our own shores, life goes on and we have reason to hope for a brighter future. This term for our staff we have been focused on 'thriving not surviving'. Our children deserved a return to a rich and full curriculum and the opportunity to experience 'life in all its fullness'. Trips are beginning again, Year 4 and 5 are swimming, singing assembly has returned (in two parts!), clubs are back and they can all play on the nets again (the best part for most children!). This week children have undertaken assessments and we look forward to reviewing their progress. We anticipate great things as we have been so impressed with their attitude to learning and focus since September.

Louise

Nativity

Class 1 and 2 are busy practicing their nativity play at the moment. At present, we are limiting numbers in the BB Hall to two classes (around 50 people), which means that under the current risk assessment we would not be able to also invite in parents. Courtesy of the CO2 monitors provided by the government, we can see that larger numbers of people quickly counter the ventilation provided by keeping doors and windows open. We would love to invite parents of children in Class 1 and 2 to watch in person, but we will hold off on making a decision until a little nearer the time, so we can take into account the national picture and any cases in school. If we cannot invite you in, we will look at other options such as live streaming or video recording. The nativity will be performed on 15th and 16th December in case you would like to save the date.

Christmas lunch

A tasty Christmas lunch will be served to all pupils on Wednesday 15th December. Unfortunately we will not be able to invite parents in this year, but we will send you photos and hope to have you back in 2022.

From Rev'd Simon at St Anne's

THE CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON in St Anne's Gardens this Thursday (2nd Dec) at 4pm. Carols from the school choir and for all to sing, along with free hot chocolate, mulled wine and sweet festive treats.

SOHO PARISH SUNDAY on Sunday 12th December at 11am in St Anne's Church. A service for and involving all ages and featuring Revd Simon's puppet presentation Advent windows. All welcome!

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st December – Parents evening

Thursday 2nd December, 5pm – Christmas tree switch on, St Anne's Gardens

Friday 3rd December, 3:30-5:30pm – Soho Parish Christmas party, St Anne's Gardens

Sunday 12th December – Soho Parish Sunday at St Anne's Church, Dean Street. 11am.

Monday 13th December – Parents evening for Class 4

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas lunch

Friday 17th December – Last day of term, 1:30pm finish

HARVEST FESTIVAL



After the disruption of the past eighteen months, it was a delight for the school's community to join altogether in person and to hold the school's annual Soho Parish Harvest Festival at the beautiful St. James' Church, Piccadilly on Tuesday 2nd November 2021. Every year group from Class One to

Class Six, the school's clergy, RE/Worship Ambassadors, Choir and staff attended and took part, with Bible readings, hymns, songs, prayers and by their generous donations. Harvest Festivals are an annual tradition that, in the UK, dates back to pagan times and are rooted in thanks given for a successful or bountiful harvest. It is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the ample food we are fortunate enough to grow or buy and enjoy. This year, we used our Harvest Festival as an opportunity to collect and donate food to St James' church designated food bank, in support of the fantastic work that they do to provide much needed meals to those in need. Many thanks to all who took part in the event both physically and by their thoughtful gifts.





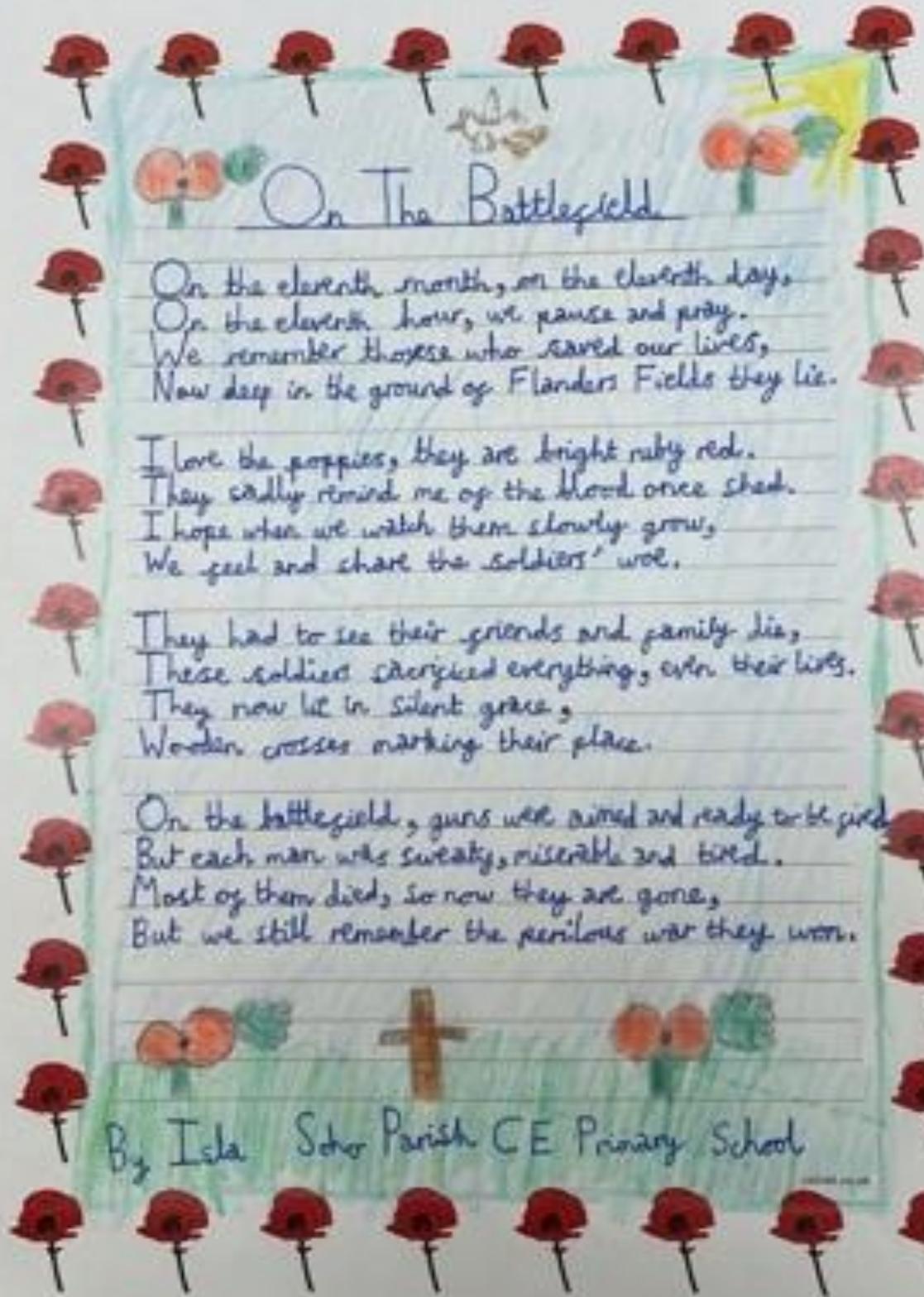
REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Thursday 11th November, Class 6 attended St. Anne's Church Remembrance Service, which took place in the church's gardens. Each member of the class composed and illustrated their own poignant Remembrance poem to portray their tributes to those who have fallen in conflict. A selection were read out before the two minutes silence at 11am before the gathered community. Revd Simon and Revd Paul led the moving service.



All of the poems were donated to the church for the parish and community to read. The class, also, made their own wreath to place at St. Anne's War Memorial. Meanwhile, in tandem, the remainder of the school culminated the week's assemblies by holding a respectful two-minute silence during their class assembly.





On The Battlefield

On the eleventh month, on the eleventh day,
On the eleventh hour, we pause and pray.
We remember those who saved our lives,
Now deep in the ground of Flanders Fields they lie.

I love the poppies, they are bright ruby red,
They sadly remind me of the blood once shed.
I hope when we watch them slowly grow,
We feel and share the soldiers' woe.

They had to see their friends and family die,
These soldiers sacrificed everything, even their lives.
They now lie in silent grass,
Wooden crosses marking their place.

On the battlefield, guns were aimed and ready to be fired,
But each man was sweaty, miserable and tired.
Most of them died, so now they are gone,
But we still remember the perilous war they won.

By Isla Schar Parish CE Primary School

13-14 Archer Street

We are most grateful to the London Diocesan Board for Schools, who have granted us the temporary use of the building next door, called 13-14 Archer Street. This building houses our own BB Hall and two similar sized spaces above with additional breakout rooms. The upper floors are usually let to companies as office space, but are currently available and therefore have been offered to the school for this academic year. Class 5 and 6 are using the space and have settled in well, as you can see!



Soho Parish School PTA

School Christmas Party

December 3rd, 3:30pm – 5:30pm at St. Anne's Garden

Details to follow

Volunteers NEEDED – we are looking for volunteers to help make our first school-wide event in a very long time. We will need as much help as possible in the following areas:

- Set-up
- Decorating
- Carrying heavy items from PTA cupboard (school lower ground) to St. Anne's Garden
- Assembling tents
- Setting up tables
- Clean-up
- Removing decorations
- Carrying heavy items back to PTA cupboard (school lower ground) from St. Anne's Garden
- Disassembling tents
- Breaking down tables
- Running Various Stations
- Activities station(s)
- Food station
- Beverage station
- We are also looking for **additional prizes for our raffle** – we have a number of terrific prizes already but would love to add as many as we can. Email sohoparishpta@gmail.com to donate. Prizes up until the close on the 3rd of December. Tickets can be purchased online this year and all process will go to the Soho Parish PTA: <https://raffall.com/269690/enter-raffle-to-win-soho-parish-xmas-raffle-hosted-by-soho-parish-pta>





Christmas Cards will be arriving soon – look out for additional information on when to collect your items. Thank you for supporting the PTA through your orders!

Class Coffee Mornings – in order to help build community we are hosting a series of coffee mornings for individual classes. Our first such gathering, in which we invited Reception/Year 1, was a great success. We were delighted to be able to gather together inside the school once more and enjoyed meeting so many new people as well as watching our newest families meet one another. It was a lovely reminder of the community that makes our school so special. Keep an eye out for your invitation in the coming weeks and months.



Rosie is our Education Mental Health Practitioner. She is supporting Soho Parish as part of an extended Mental Health Support Team. The team provides the following:

- Early intervention for individual parents on some mental health and emotional wellbeing issues such as anxiety, low mood or behaviour challenges related to their child
- Helps provide a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing including:
- Staff training
- Workshops for parents
- Workshops for children

Please do join Rosie for a virtual coffee morning (date to follow), to say hello and find out more about the exciting work she and her team are doing and how it could be beneficial to you and your child.





For ages 4-5 and up

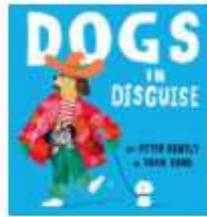


Bathe the Cat

Author: Alice B. McGinty **Illustrator:** David Roberts

This enormously entertaining tale will be a big hit with cat lovers and is sure to strike a chord with any family who has gone into frantic overdrive when tidying up for a visitor.

[Read more about Bathe the Cat](#)



Dogs in Disguise

Author: Peter Bently and John Bond

In this brilliantly funny rhyming picture book, lots of silly dogs in even sillier costumes demonstrate their wily ways, blending in (or not) to their environments like the doggy geniuses they are.

[Read more about Dogs in Disguise](#)

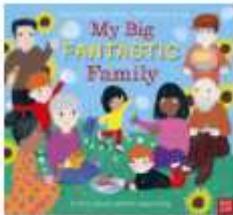


George and His Nighttime Friends

Author: Seng Soun Ratanavanh

George is a lonely little boy who is afraid of the dark and finds it difficult to get to sleep at night. This wonderfully reassuring tale is sure to become a favourite bedtime read.

[Read more about George and His Nighttime Friends](#)

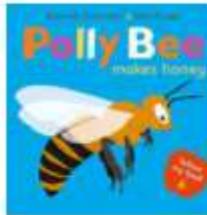


My Big Fantastic Family

Author: Adam and Charlotte Guilain
Illustrator: Ali Pye

A positive and encouraging story about a young girl coping with the separation of her parents. Families come in all shapes and sizes and this cheerful picture book celebrates that wonderfully.

[Read more about My Big Fantastic Family](#)

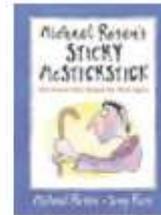


Polly Bee Makes Honey

Author: Deborah Chancellor **Illustrator:** Julia Groves

This colourful picture book fuses factual information and fictional narrative to present a day in the life of Polly, a worker bee. This is one of a series of books that aims to teach children where their food comes from.

[Read more about Polly Bee Makes Honey](#)



Sticky McStickStick

Author: Michael Rosen

In March 2020, Michael Rosen became ill with Covid-19 and was admitted to hospital. In *Sticky McStickStick* he manages to tell the honest story of what happened to him accessibly for children, using his trademark directness and sense of humour.

[Read more about Sticky McStickStick](#)

For ages 6-8 and up



A Tale of Two Dragons

Author: Geraldine McCaughrean **Illustrator:** Peter Malone

Two wealthy kingdoms stand back-to-back: if only the two cities shared their resources, all would be well, but the proud kings will not hear of it. This story carries a poignant message for modern times, beautifully packaged as a classic fairy tale.

[Read more about A Tale of Two Dragons](#)



Beetles for Breakfast

Author: Madeleine Finlay **Illustrator:** Jisu Choi

Climate change and global warming is a huge problem but this utterly fabulous and uplifting book tells children all about the new inventions currently being worked on by scientists, from insects as a new food source to making fuel from fatbergs.

[Read more about Beetles for Breakfast](#)



Everything Under the Sun

Author: Molly Oldfield **Illustrator:** various

Why are dogs domesticated? Why are sweets bad for you? These, and 364 other questions (including an extra one for a leap year), were sent to Molly Oldfield for her children's podcast Everything Under The Sun, and are answered in one extremely helpful book.

[Read more about Everything Under the Sun](#)



It's Up To Us: A Children's Terra Carta for Nature, People and Planet

Author: Christopher Lloyd with a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales **Illustrator:** various

Based on HRH The Prince of Wales and his Sustainable Markets Initiative Terra Carta, *It's Up To Us* highlights the things that organisations need to do to slow down climate change and create a better future for everyone. A beautiful, poignant and important book.

[Read more about It's Up To Us: A Children's Terra Carta for Nature, People and Planet](#)



Midnight Magic

Author: Michelle Harrison **Illustrator:** Elissa Elwick

A fabulous and fully illustrated rhyming story about a magical kitten and the family who adopt her. Ideal for newly independent readers or as shared reading with younger children.

[Read more about Midnight Magic](#)



Once Upon a Tune: Stories from the Orchestra

Author: James Mayhew

Classical music often tells a story, and James Mayhew has retold and illustrated six of the most exciting ones in this wonderful volume. A really gorgeous book, which would be a wonderful gift or addition to your bookshelf.

[Read more about Once Upon a Tune: Stories from the Orchestra](#)

For ages 9-11 and up

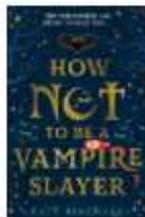


Following Frankenstein

Author: Catherine Bruton

When Maggie sneaks onto her father's boat to find the famous "monster", he is not what anyone expected. A kind of sequel to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, this gripping Gothic adventure ingeniously blends fact and fiction and explores a message of 'otherness'.

[Read more about Following Frankenstein](#)



How Not To Be A Vampire Slayer

Author: Katy Birchall

Maggie hopes desperately that her new house is haunted as she loves horror and scary stories. But is not at all prepared for what she finds. A hilarious adventure that is more funny than frightening.

[Read more about How Not To Be A Vampire Slayer](#)



Julia and the Shark

Author: Kiran Millwood Hargrave **Illustrator:** Tom De Freston

Julia and her family are spending the summer at a remote lighthouse - her dad to work, and her mum to study the elusive Greenland shark which lives in the waters nearby. But as the summer reaches its height, her mother's obsession with the shark threatens to engulf them all.

[Read more about Julia and the Shark](#)



Paradise On Fire

Author: Jewell Parker Rhodes **Illustrator:** Serena Malyon

On a wilderness holiday in California, Addy and her friends are caught in a forest fire. Addy guides her friends to safety while dealing with the memories of a terrible fire that killed her parents. A lyrical and important story.

[Read more about Paradise On Fire](#)

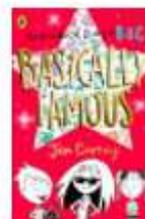


Real Pigeons: Eat Danger

Author: Andrew McDonald **Illustrator:** Ben Wood

Can the Real Pigeons solve the mystery of the bird-bottler, catch up with a criminal ostrich, and foil the evil plans of Mr Pie, who wants to do unspeakable things to baby blackbirds? A great book if you like solving mysteries, defeating baddies, and massive food fights.

[Read more about Real Pigeons: Eat Danger](#)



The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.: Basically Famous

Author: Jen Carney

Stardom beckons at Billie, aka B.U.G.'s school when a fancy TV company wants to make an advert about school uniforms - but can Billie be the biggest star of them all? More madcap fun from Billie and her doodle-filled diary.

[Read more about The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.: Basically Famous](#)

If your child has a book that they would like to recommend, please email Robyn:
robyn@sohoparish.co.uk

Soho spotted in...

BBC
NEWS

Shona helped Westminster City Council create a lights display in central London, designed by children from Soho Parish Primary School.

The children's 21 creations were unveiled earlier in November and include penguins, reindeer, stars and a Christmas pineapple.



Soho Parish Primary
@SohoParishScoop



Look out for the new Soho Christmas lights, designed by our creative pupils and supported by our whole community thisissoho.co.uk/christmas/ @stormlondonltd @antonio46854400



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