



F.T. News

News from First Tower School

December 2023



A Word from the Head

Dear parents/carers,

Well, we have finally made it to the end of term. It has been a very busy time, we certainly didn't expect storm Ciaran to arrive and cause so much devastation across the island, impacting many of our families, thankfully our school building and site was relatively unscathed by the high winds.

It has been lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas events. Mrs du Feu arranged for both the EYFS and KS1 performances to be filmed and links are available with this newsletter.

Today we said goodbye to both Mrs Rive (school admin assistant) and Mrs Beaumont (school crossing patrol and teaching assistant). Both ladies have long connections with the school, Mrs Rive came to First Tower as a pupil and Mrs Beaumont has worked here for 23 years. We thank them both for their service and commitment to the whole school community. We wish them both an amazing retirement and hope it is a peaceful, healthy and happy time.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous New Year. I look forward to seeing you on the school gate on Thursday 4th January at 8:30.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lyn Linton

Headteacher



DIARY DATES

Term ends Tuesday 19 December

Term starts Thursday 4 January

Half term Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February

Inset Day Monday 19 February

Attendance

Please can all parents be reminded to contact the school office (ideally by telephone) should your child be off sick or attending a medical appointment. We have a legal duty of care to locate any pupils not at school and it takes a lot of time to call parents who have not informed us.

Please remember to complete a 'Leave of Absence Request' if your child will be absent from school. We cannot 'authorise' an absence if we have not received this *before* the period of absence.

Medical appointments should be made out of school hours where possible, however if your child needs to attend an appointment during school time, please inform the school office as well as your class teacher.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs du Feu.

Nursery



A very important letter!

The children in nursery have been writing their letters to Santa. We thought very hard about what present we would like him to bring and then represented this with marks and drawings. Once we had written our letter we placed it in an envelope and sent it to Santa.

Reception



Reception had a wonderful time visiting the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter's church.



There were so many beautifully decorated trees to see. The children were amazed and we all left feeling very Christmassy!



Year 1

1W have been using the balance bikes during PE! Its been wonderful to watch the children build skills and confidence on two wheels!

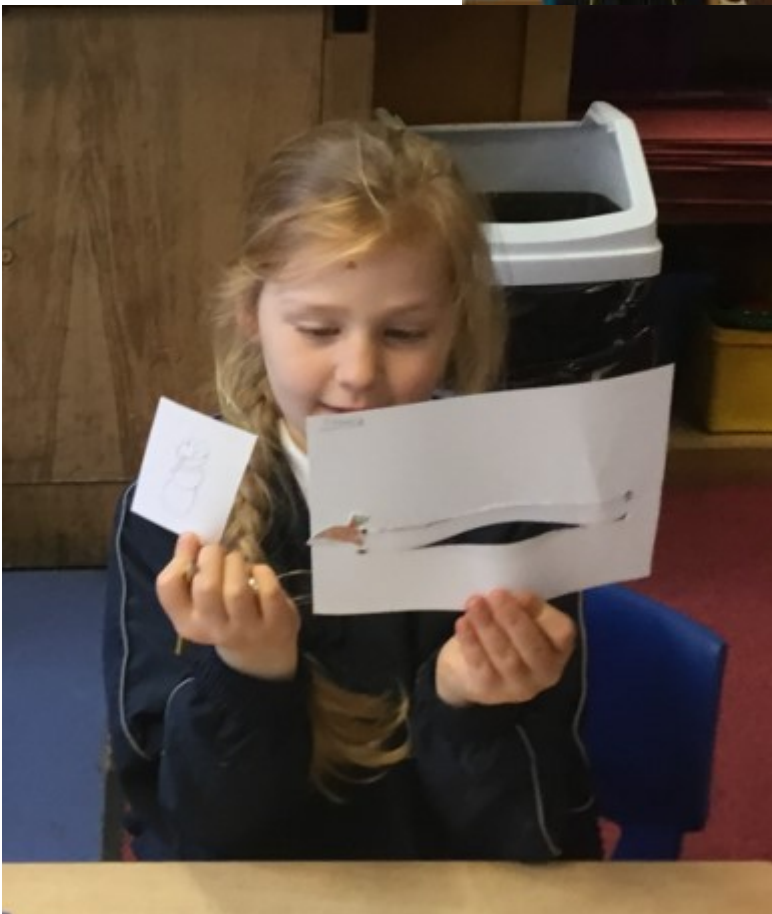
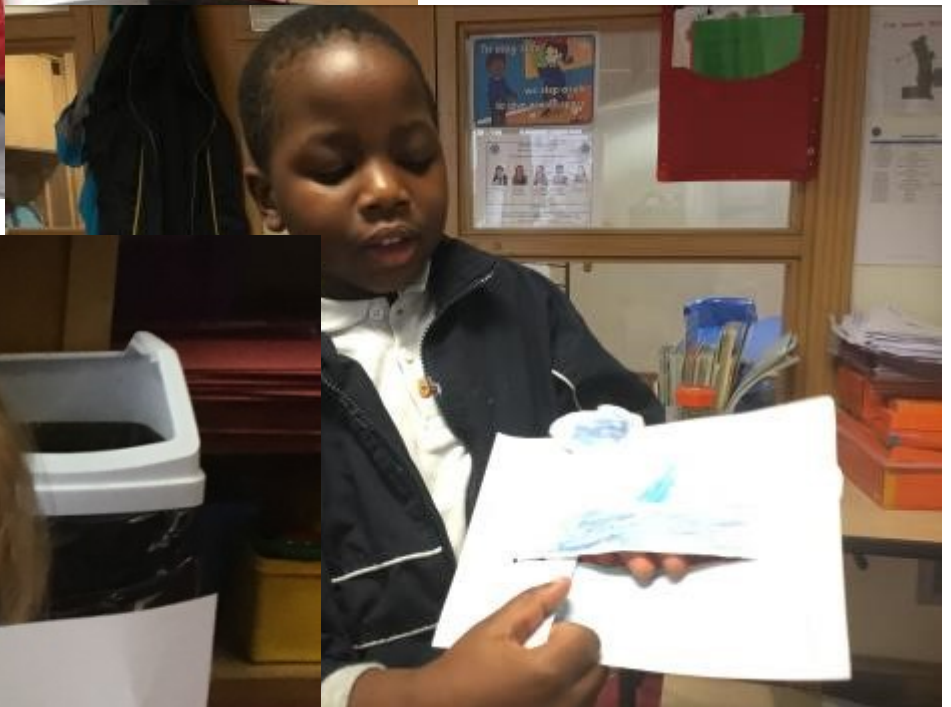
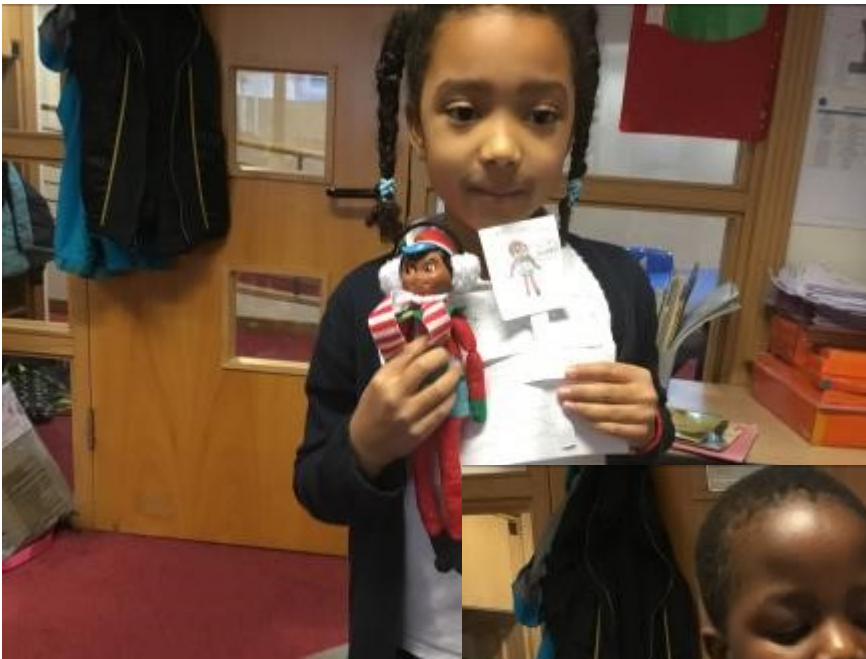


The children have also had an exciting month with lots of different activities taking place; including deco day, the Christmas disco, and watching Christmas



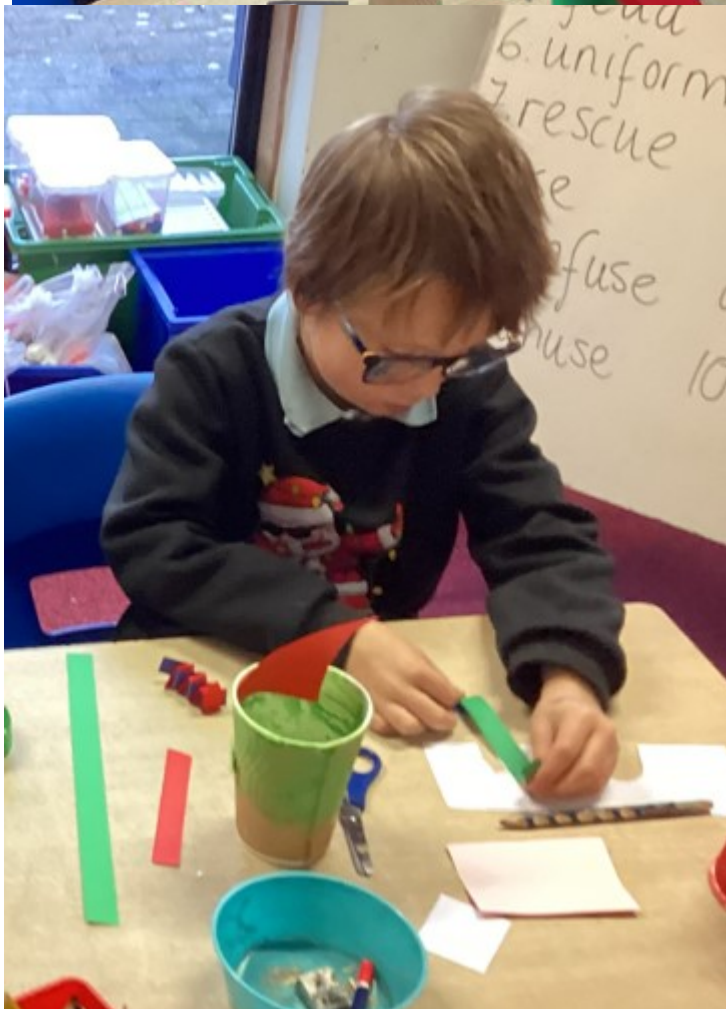
Year 2

We have been getting all festive in Year 2! We have been working on our Christmas card designs. We have practised making cards with sliders, pop ups and spinners.



Year 2

On Deco Day, we enjoyed making our elves and snowmen decorations. We also looked super cool in our Christmas jumpers!



Year 2

We hope you enjoyed our Nativity 'Baarmy Bethlehem'. We did! We worked so hard learning our lines, the songs and the funky actions!



Year 3

In P.E we have been learning how to play tag rugby and we have enjoyed kickboxing with our visiting coach. We enjoyed getting our white belts in kickboxing.



In science we have been learning about light. We did an experiment to show that dark is the absence of light. We have also been learning about reflectors, shadows and how light travels. We had fun making torches using spaghetti to show how the rays of light from a torch shine and how this affects shadows.



We made shadow puppets to investigate what changes the size of a shadow.



Year 4

Year 4 had great fun ice skating as part of their Christmas celebrations. The children tried really hard and helped others to skate around. Even some of the teachers joined in!



The children also took part in a trumpet concert to showcase what they had learnt this term. It took lots of bravery to perform and the children were really proud of what they had achieved. Some enjoyed learning the trumpet so much they want to continue to learn the instrument in January.



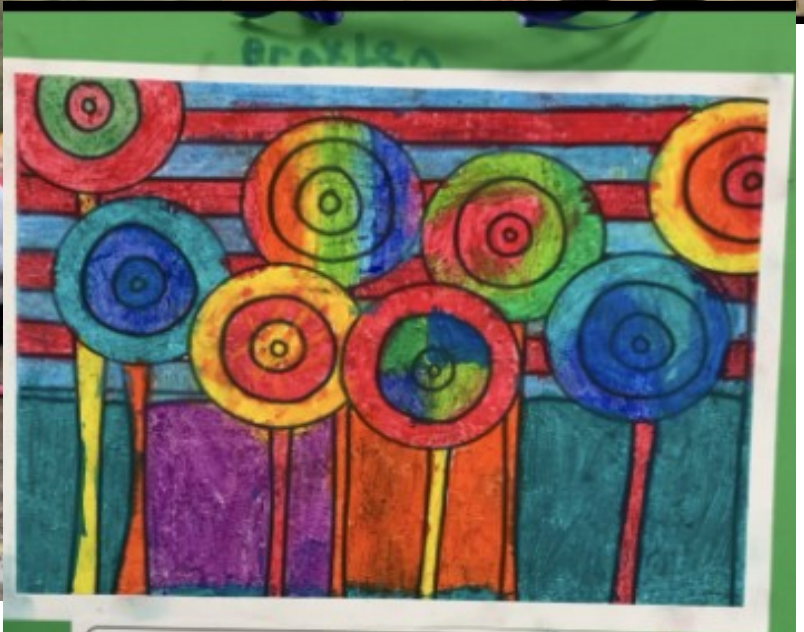
To finish our Rainforest topic we visited Jersey Zoo and learned more about the different rainforests of the world. We got to look at the animals around the Zoo and see which animals could be found in the different rainforests.



The children have enjoyed learning Jerriais this term. They have learnt about the history of the island and some Jerriais phrases. They also had a chance to play some traditional games played over 100 years ago.



Year 5 — Another packed month leading up to the end of term. We have been learning about levers, pulleys and gears in science. We made a delightful selection of Christmas decorations on Deco day. We had to pass our swimming test wearing our pyjamas!! We concluded our topic on Rivers with a visit to De Quetville Mill in St Peter's Valley



Year 6

December has been busy once again for Year 6. We have focused a lot on the Carol Service where the pupils retold the Christmas Story, sang some songs and even signed 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' in British Sign Language. We are very grateful to Haute Vallee School for allowing us to use their stage for the service.



The children have also been working hard on their practice assessments, which we are sure they have told you about. They showed fantastic perseverance.



PE

In PE this term there has been lots of extra-curricular activities taking place. Firstly, the Year 6 Mixed Netball Team had their first tournament of the year. The children took part in 8 matches over the afternoon performing exceedingly well, growing in confidence as a team and showing fantastic ability.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to a 'Friend of First Tower' who very kindly donated brand new netball skirts for our girls to wear! Once again, a big big thank you!!



Last weekend, children from Year 6 also got the chance to be mascots for the Jersey Bulls at Springfield. This involved, walking out with the players and the opportunity to play a small match on the pitch at half time!!





Maths

This week, we continued the whole-school 'Times Tables Rockstars' house tournament.



The winning house this week is ...

Earth House

1	Earth House	58
2	Air House	54
3	Water House	37
4	Fire House	21



JOIN A CHOIR

JOIN US FOR FUN AND EXCITING
FREE
WEEKLY CHOIR REHEARSALS

FOR CHILDREN
IN
YEARS 4, 5 & 6



REGISTER HERE

SCAN ME



✦ STARTING:
THURSDAY 11th JANUARY

4.00pm - 5.00pm at the
JERSEY MUSIC SERVICE
REHEARSAL
ROOMS AT FORT REGENT



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may come younger once or contain themes or language that your child won't expect to see. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or exercising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PUSHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 8+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof It!' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles for what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 8 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 8+, 10+, 12+ or 14+.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety researcher, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various evidence-based papers and worked as a research for the Australian government regarding teenage use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://theplatform.com/en-gb/news/article/parental-controls-on-disney-plus>
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