

## Chalking the door and traditions around the world to bring in the New Year

In our worship as the children returned for the new term, they enjoyed learning about the New Year traditions around the world which included singing 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'Chalking the door' on the Epiphany to bless our school for the year ahead. The children were amazed at some of the traditions. They included the Danes smashing dishes at their front doors and the Germans dropping molten led in cold water, and trying to tell the future from the shape it made. Louie in KS1 brought in the New Year as an Englishman bearing gifts of coal for the fire, bread for the table and a drink for the master. Jayden chalked the door by inscribing the lintel with the letters CMB for the three kings- Casper, Melchior and Balthazar and also the year was placed before and after the letters 20+C+M+B+22. Let's hope 2022 is a great year for us all!



## Judo Taster sessions



At St. Peter's we aim to give our children a wide range of opportunities and experiences, believing every child can enjoy a sport if they choose to do so. We have recently held Judo taster sessions for all children in Key Stage 1&2 which they have thoroughly enjoyed. Some children have now chosen to join a local club and continue to learn this martial art.

## Forest School at St Peter's

**If you go down to the woods today...** you might find a class of busy children learning and playing amongst the trees. Dressed head to toe in waterproofs and warm clothing they come to explore, learn, play and connect in nature every week, all year round.

The adventure begins with the journey to 'camp', the thrill of the chase across the school playing fields, then down into the ancient natural woodland. Children marvel at the seasonal change they see, feel, smell and touch. Carrying their own kit including water, snack, a piece of string, scissors a pencil and sketch book, children descend into the wooded valley and walk along narrow trails to find base camp.

This month in winter you might hear a sudden gasp of surprise as they realise the natural pinecone bird feeders, they had left the previous week have disappeared. A full-scale investigation must be launched to find the culprit...bird or squirrel?

Mrs Thompson is currently completing her two year training to be a Forest School Leader. This will be a fabulous resource for the school and the trust with staff and children having the wonderful opportunities to learn outside the classroom. We should see confidence grow, imagination explode, skills and knowledge absorbed, language learned, bodies becoming stronger, and minds growing happier. A sense of community is fostered through respectful connection to each other and to nature. Very exciting times ahead.



Best wishes

Richard Unthank,  
Head Teacher,  
St. Peter's C of E Primary School