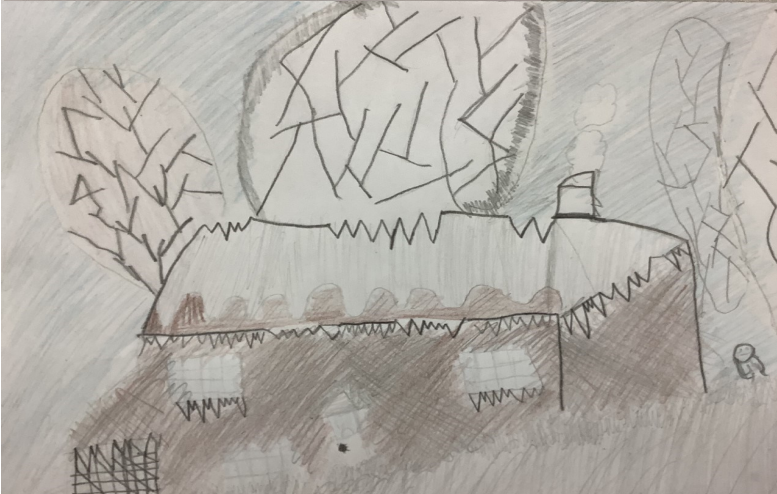
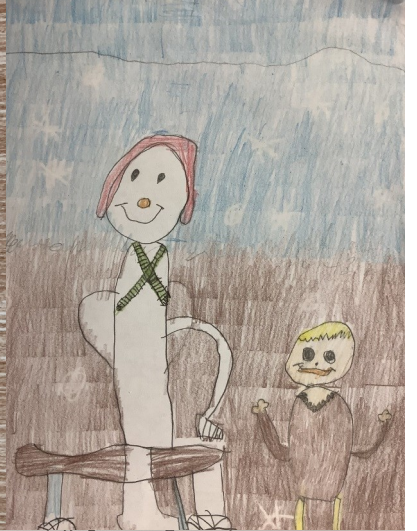
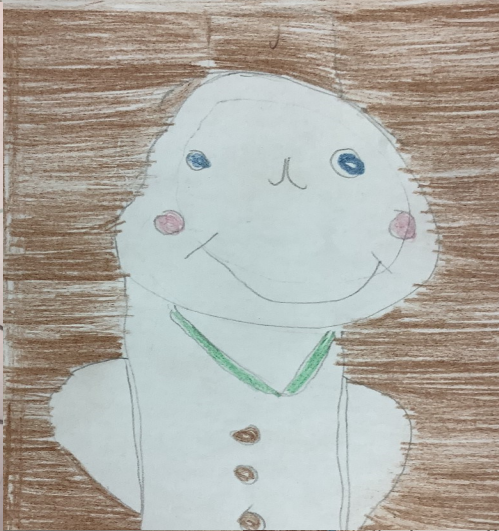
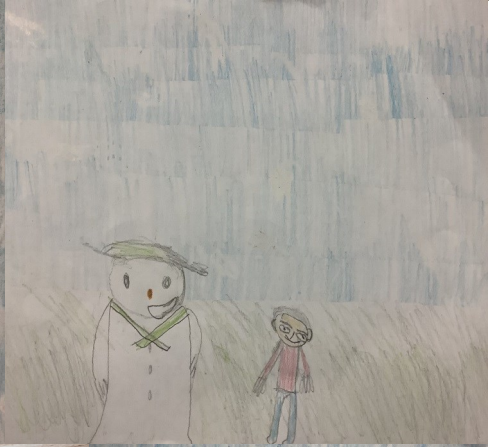
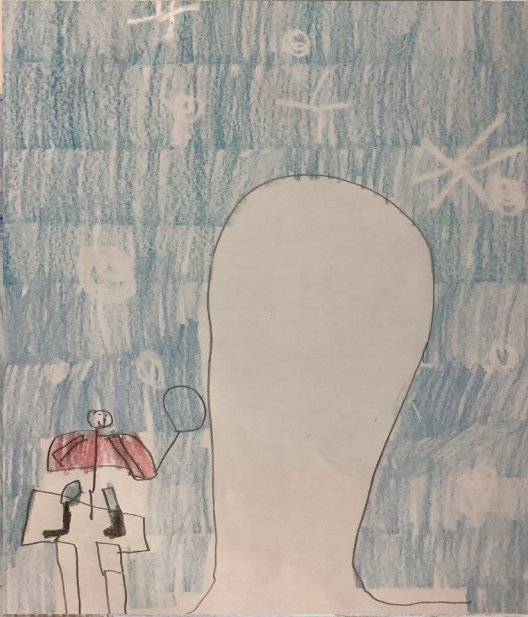
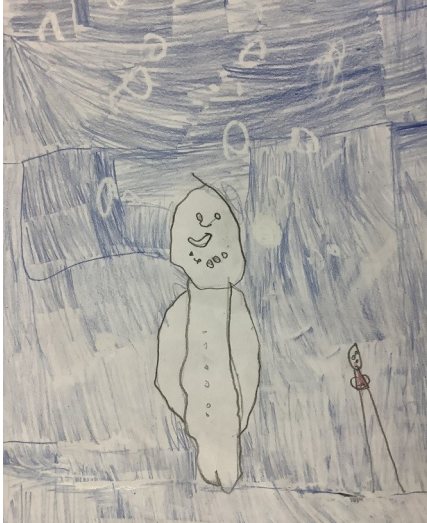
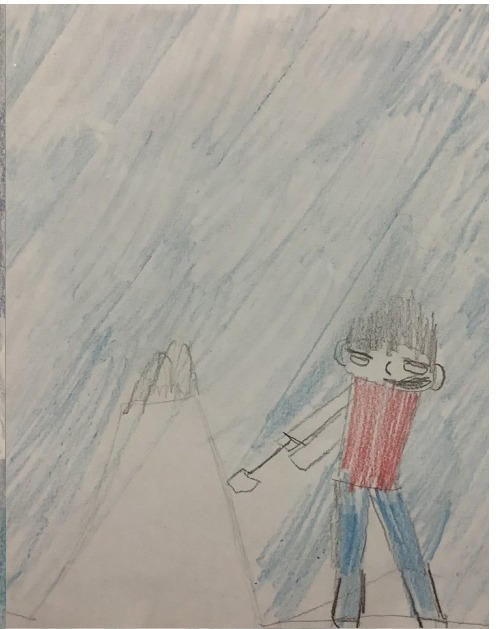
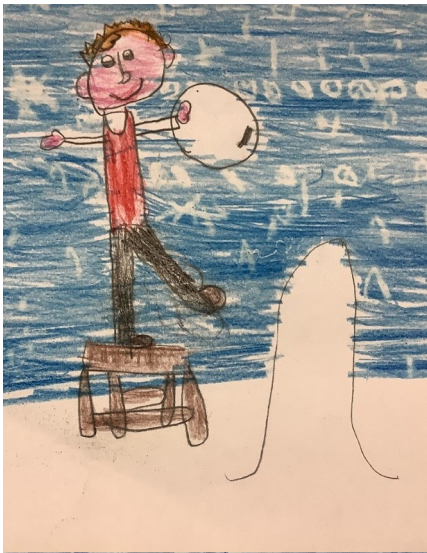




The Snowman

**A retelling by the Year 3 & 4 Children of
Mill Lane School**

Based on the book by Raymond Briggs
and the Channel 4 Film

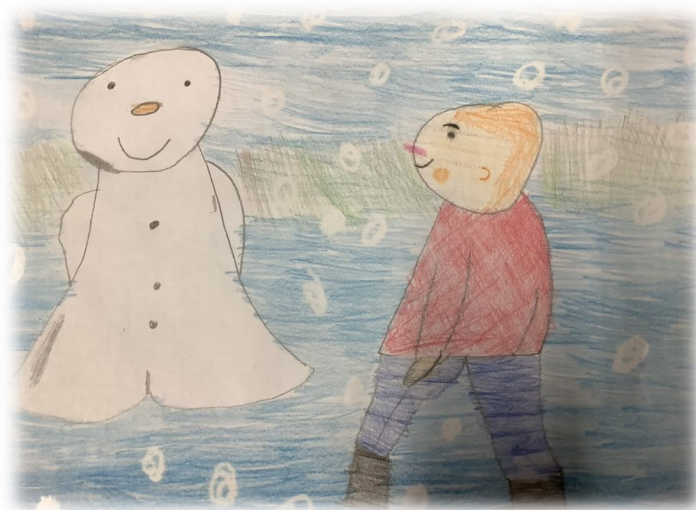


Freezing cold snowflakes fell slowly onto the beautiful house, covering it in a massive sheet of icy snow. That was where James awoke from his slumber in his red, cosy bed. He looked out of the window and saw the snow. "It's snowing outside and I'm going out!" exclaimed James. So he quickly got dressed and rushed downstairs. James got some socks on, picked up his wellies and opened the door. His mum put a hat on his head as he raced out into the snow. The first thing James did in the colossal, snowy garden was to throw a snowball at the kitchen window. "Don't do that!" shouted his mum.



After a while, James had an idea to build an amazing snowman. It was freezing cold but that didn't bother him one bit. He grabbed his dad's spade and started digging in the fluffy, white snow. The body of the snowman got so tall, he had to use his dad's stool to stand on to put the head on the snowman. He stared admiringly at his wonderful creation, however something was missing. Excitedly, he ran back in the house and asked, "Mum, please can I have a hat and a scarf to put on my snowman?"

"Here you go, here is a nice warm hat and scarf. I wish you would wear one too, it's very cold out there," his mum replied.



He added an orange for a nose and coal for the snowman's buttons and eyes. James made a smile for the snowman using a stick. He kept on building with the cold, wet wind behind him in the freezing, icy snow.

It was getting late but James couldn't stop admiring his creation from earlier that day. He stared longingly out of the window by the Christmas tree wishing he was back outside. The cat lay by the warm fire whilst dad kept the coals alight. "Come on James, it's time for bed," said mum.

"But I want to go back outside and play with my magnificent snowman!" replied James.

"It's too late now dear, now upstairs and brush your teeth,"

Eventually, James snuggled under his warm duvet and mum gave him a kiss and a cuddle good night. However, he couldn't sleep.



James silently crept downstairs. He looked up at the colossal grandfather clock and it was midnight. He went outdoors in his pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers on his feet. As he entered the freezing, icy-cold garden, the snowman suddenly turned on the spot, lifted his hat and said, "Hello, little boy!"

James stuttered as he couldn't believe his eyes, "Hi, I am called James,"



After their greeting, James invited the snowman into his house. They walked into the living where the cat was sat by the warm fire. The cat looked up and nearly jumped out of its fur in fright!



The living room had shiny, amazing baubles on the Christmas tree. The snowman held a bauble up and gazed into it. He saw his cute face and said, “Cool!”



As the snowman stepped inside the kitchen, he frantically scanned the room. He turned on the very hot, steaming water but James turned off the tap very quickly. Next, the snowman got the washing-up bottle and squirted it everywhere. “Why did you do that?” asked James. The snowman’s eyes suddenly came to a stop when he saw a very neatly iced cake. For decorations, there were: a small but tall Christmas tree, a yellow canary and a snowman which was identical to him. He then saw a fruit bowl. The snowman carefully took out his nose and replaced it with a banana and then a pear. “Ta-da!” yelled the snowman. The boy let out a little giggle, “Haha!” the snowman replied. Something extremely cold caught the snowman’s eye, “Oooh, what’s that?” the snowman asked.

“It’s called a fridge,” replied James, “Ahah, you like the cold don’t you?” The snowman nodded and with that, James opened the fridge door as he beckoned to the snowman with a huge smile on his face. However, the snowman looked confused. Then the snowman’s expression completely changed from puzzled to happy. The snowman knelt down as if he was a dragon being defeated by a knight in shining armour as he stuck his hands in the cold, icy fridge.

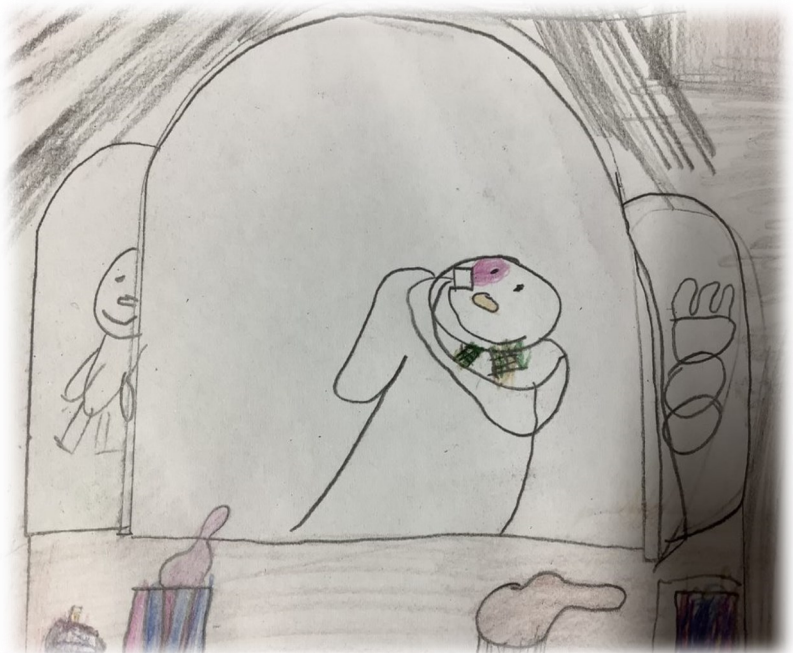


After a while, the snowman and James crept into James' mum and dad's room. The snowman was just about to jump onto the bed when James whispered, "Come over here." They went over to James' mum's dresser and the snowman found some false teeth! He also found some blusher and put some on his cheeks. Then he found a tie and put it around his neck. Then all the blusher made the snowman want to sneeze.



The snowman found a chair where a pair of James' dad's braces and a hat sat, "What are these? Can I try them on?"

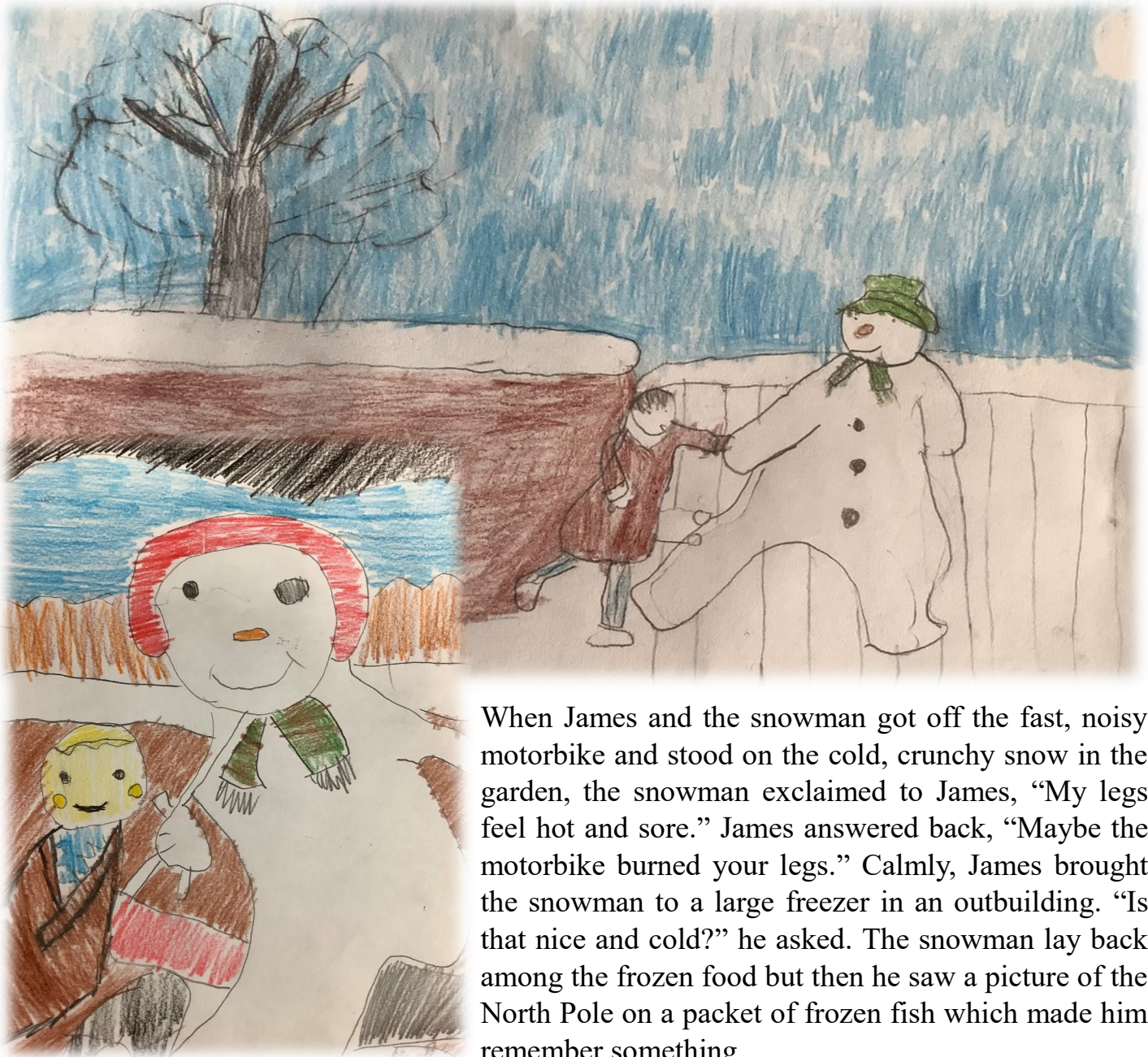
"Yes, if you want to," replied James. So the Snowman carefully put on the hat on his head, then he tried on the braces. However, instead of putting them on his arms, he put them on his head. James helped the snowman dress correctly and then put a tie around the snowman's neck. He looked silly. "You look like my dad now!" laughed James. The snowman and James couldn't stop laughing.



With all the commotion, they nearly woke James' parents up. "Sssh!" whispered James as he pulled the snowman out of his parents' room and into his own room. In his own room the snowman found a small box. He opened it up and a toy Spanish dancer popped up and danced. The snowman smiled and danced along with it. Mid-dance, the snowman tripped over a roller-skate. Then colourful balloons fell on the two of them.



After exploring the entire house, they decided to go back outside. "Come on!" shouted the snowman as he sat ready to zoom off into the distance on a motorbike. James jumped on the back and they sped off. They went left, right, forwards, backwards and even diagonal. "This is such fun!" squealed James. The headlights shone into the distance and they could see some bunnies sitting in a field ahead.



When James and the snowman got off the fast, noisy motorbike and stood on the cold, crunchy snow in the garden, the snowman exclaimed to James, "My legs feel hot and sore." James answered back, "Maybe the motorbike burned your legs." Calmly, James brought the snowman to a large freezer in an outbuilding. "Is that nice and cold?" he asked. The snowman lay back among the frozen food but then he saw a picture of the North Pole on a packet of frozen fish which made him remember something.

The snowman took the boy's hand and said "Let's go flying!"

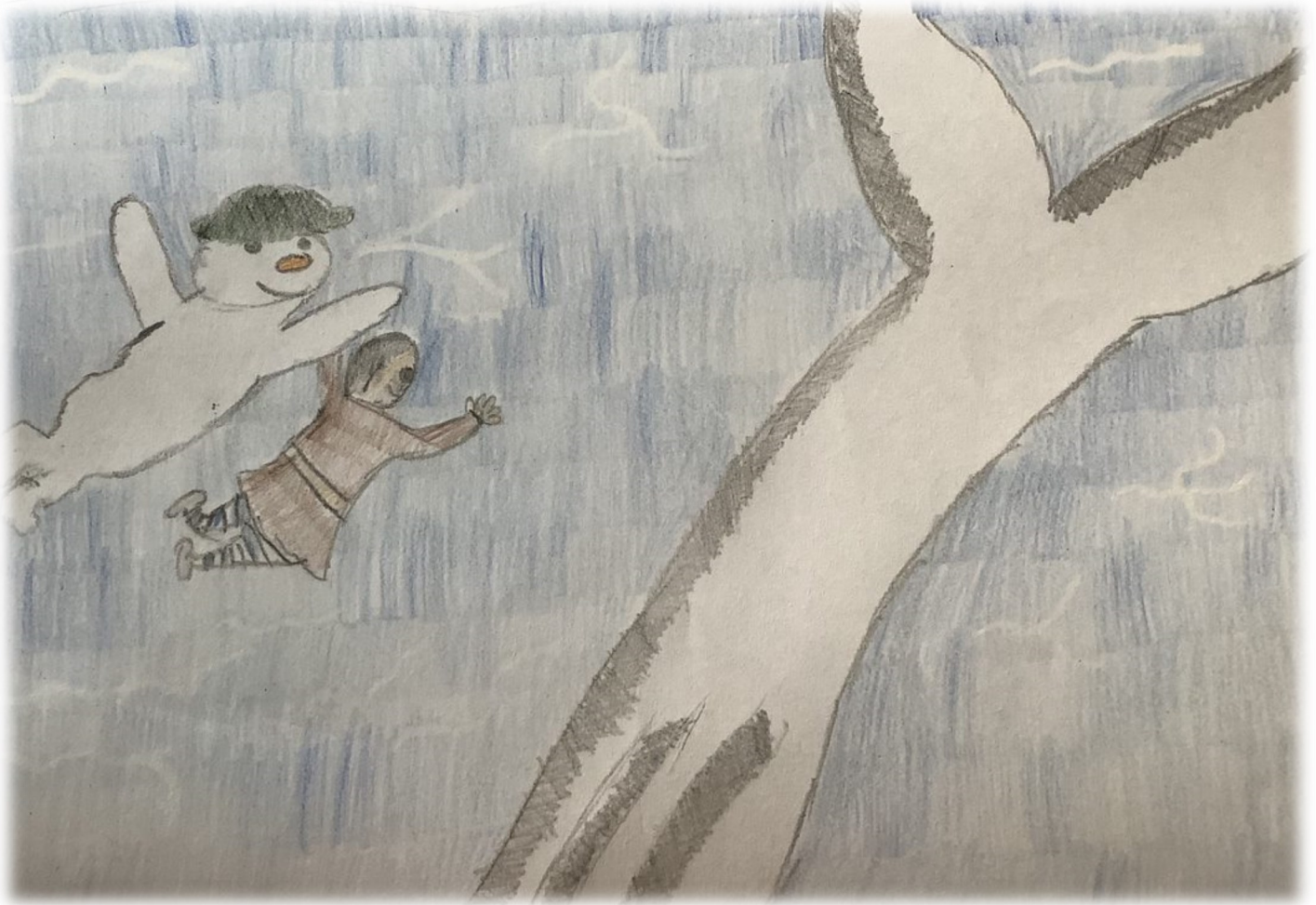
"What does that mean?" asked James.

"You'll see," answered the snowman.

They started to run on the beautiful, glistening, white snow. Suddenly, they started to fly. "Don't be scared!" reassured the snowman as they *whooshed* high into the night's sky. James looked down and saw another snowman who looked back up at them. "Hello down there!" hollered James and he and the snowman whizzed past.



James and the lovely snowman gracefully flew across the calm, wavy ocean. Suddenly, an outstanding, magnificent whale floated by and squirted clear water out of its circular blowhole. Then the whale quickly plunged back into the sea. Immediately, the icy snowman told all of the other snowmen, "This is my new friend, James." Then they flew across a large pier.



While the snowman and James were flying, they saw a mysterious place in the middle of nowhere. When they landed, the snowman guided James into a hidden forest. "Where are we going?" asked James.

The snowman placed his finger over his mouth if to say, "You'll see!"

In the clearing of the forest, James and Snowman saw lots of other snowmen and to James' delight, Santa! They were all drinking beer, playing music and having lots of fun. James and the snowman couldn't wait to join in. The snowman introduced James to the other snowmen. The other snowmen said, "Welcome James!" They were invited to dance at the frosty violin party.



After the party, Santa led James into the brown, old stable where he saw Santa's very shiny red sleigh. The reindeer had beautiful light brown antlers which were nearly as high as the ceiling. "Ho Ho Ho!" sang Santa as he presented James with a present. "Now open your marvellous gift."

It was a blue scarf with shiny, white patterns, identical to the one the snowman had on.

"This is brilliant!" shouted James, "Thank you so much!"



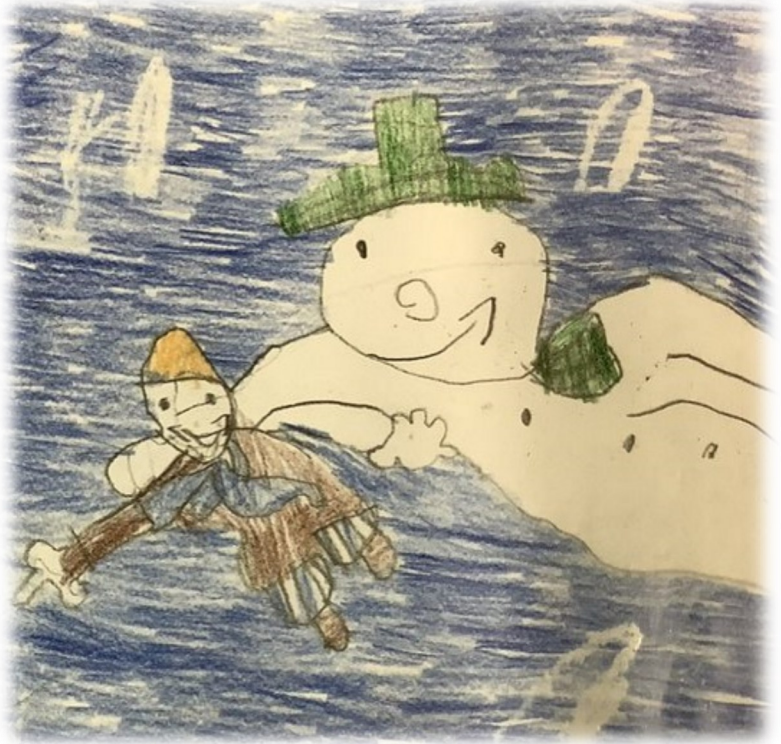
“Oh no, James, look the dawn is breaking. We need to go,” said the snowman in a nervous voice.

“Oh, but I don’t want to leave, snowman,” said James grumpily. Even though he didn’t want to leave, he gave Santa a huge warm hug and said goodbye. Then they started to fly home. They went over clear blue seas and ice cold sheets covering the glistening lakes. On the journey they saw billions of pine trees covered in snow.

“This is amazing, I wish this didn’t have to end!”

“Yes it is,” agreed the snowman. When they landed, James and the snowman gave each other a huge hug. “Goodbye James,” the snowman said, “It has been really good fun!” James shook the snowman’s hand.

“I can’t wait to see you again tomorrow,” shouted James as he ran back in the house. The snowman waved him goodbye.



Nervously, James looked outside his window to see if the snowman was still there before he got into bed. “Phew, he’s still there,” he said gladly. His nerves went away as he climbed into the bed. He lay back in his bed, with his heart racing. He was worried for the snowman, all alone. He fell asleep quite quickly but he tossed and turned throughout the night.



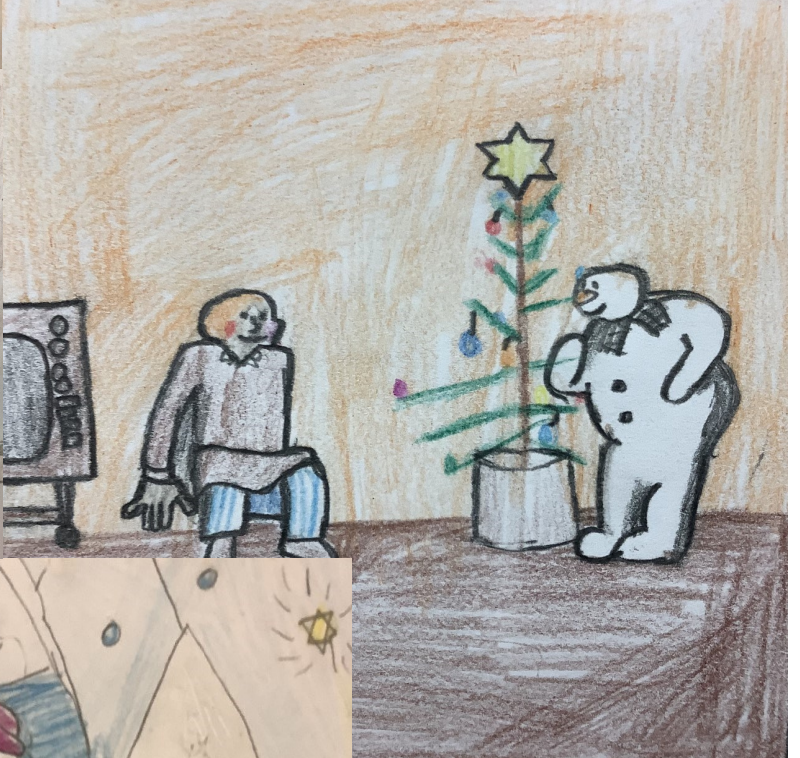
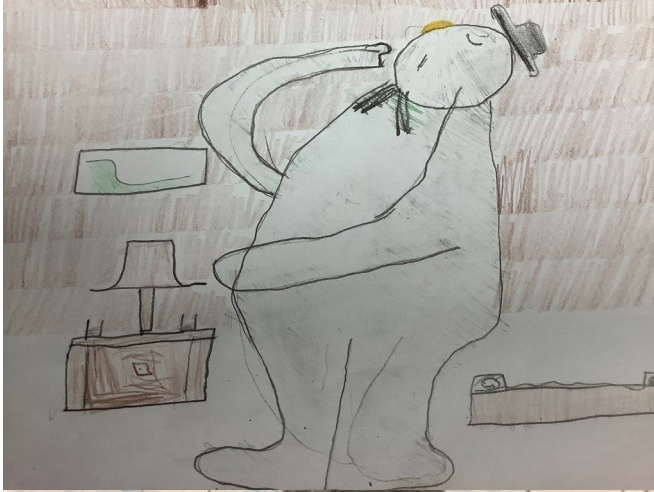
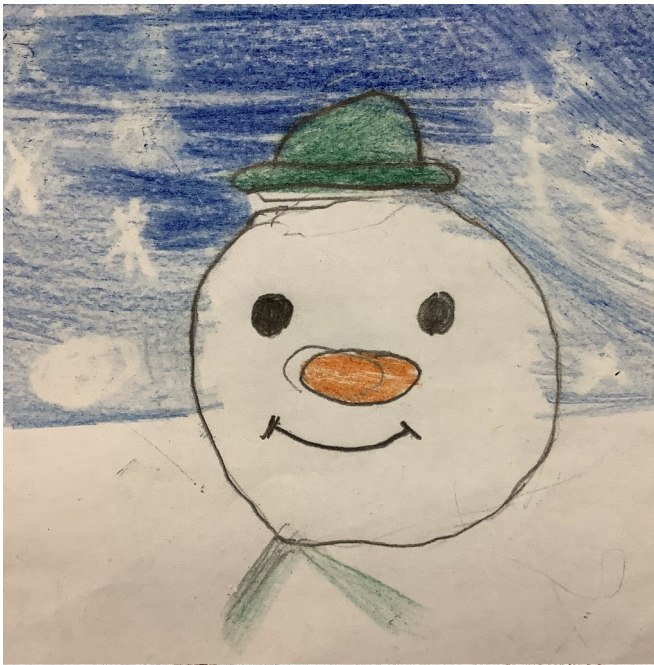
The next morning, he woke up and tried to remember what he had been worried about. Then it came back into his head. He remembered about the snowman and the wonderful events of the magical night before. He jumped out of bed, grabbed his dressing gown and ran downstairs. “Where are you going, you haven’t eaten your breakfast yet!” shouted mum as James sped past his parents at the breakfast table. “I want to see my snowman!” mumbled James



The morning sun was bright and he had to hold his hand over his eyes because of the glare. When he took it away, a horrible sight met his eyes: In front of him lay a pile of white, fluffy snow, a hat and a scarf where the snowman once stood. The snowman had melted away. His heart sank and an overwhelming feeling of sadness came upon him. But then he felt something in his pocket, so he pulled it out. It was the scarf that Santa had given him.

Had it all been a dream?





Text and Illustrations by
all of the Children in
Years 3 & 4

at

Mill Lane School

December 2020