

Dear Parents and Carers

What an exciting end to the term! It was wonderful to see the children in their colourful jumpers and their fantastic decorated classroom doors. We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Thursday. Please see below for some photos of this month's festive activities!

A big thank you to Mrs Addison for organising all the Christmas music performances; a big well done to the children who sang brilliantly, and thank you to all the families who were able to join us.

Wishing you all a restful break - we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January
Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January 2026
Training day

Tuesday 6th January 2026
Children return to school

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council completed their pupil survey into good mental health and wellbeing and have analysed the results. It was good to find out that more than 80% of pupils, from Y2 upwards, had some knowledge of how to look after their own wellbeing. Pupils had a range of strategies they used including: talking to an adult, seeking out some activity they enjoyed, a break from screens and eating healthily.

Christmas Decoration Competition

There were some very creative entries for this year's Christmas Decoration Competition; you may have seen them displayed on our tree in the foyer. Congratulations to our Reception/KS1 winners Lily, Isaiah and Victor, and to our KS2 winners Anaaya, Jacob and Noelle on their outstanding designs!



Lots of jolly jumpers brightening up the school yesterday!



School has been looking extra festive with many of the classroom and communal doors being decorated with imaginative designs.



Online Safety Advice for Parents

A link to Parent Safe is now available on our school website - <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

It is a really useful website for parents to gain advice on all things e-safety. A brief introduction to the website: "It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when they are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? Don't despair though...scroll through this page for help or click a button to go straight to a particular topics."

Curriculum News

Reception

We have enjoyed practising our winter songs over the last few weeks ready for our music performance which was fantastic. The children have been trying very hard to learn lots of new songs! We have also enjoyed learning all about winter and the changes we might see as the season changes. Our theme book has been 'One Snowy Night' by Nick Butterworth. Why not explore more of Nick Butterworth's 'Percy the Park Keeper' series at home?

Year 1 and 2

December has come with even more learning and exciting things in Year 1. In Science, we discovered new materials and tested their suitability for different objects. We wrote an information leaflet about all the materials we have been exploring and went on a local walk to observe materials that are used to build the world around us.

Using our History theme knowledge about toys, we wrote and practiced a speech to ask Miss Merritt and our teachers for a new toy for our wet play.

We enjoyed learning about sustainability and ways to help look after our planet. We litter picked in the school and recycled the rubbish into the relevant bins. We made art from old newspapers and read 'Somebody Crunched Colin' by Sarah Roberts. Finally, we have been reading a lot and sharing more new books with each other! We have been reading 'Cops and Robbers' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and many others.

This month has been full of exciting learning experiences for Year 2! As part of Enhancement Week, the children explored the importance of caring for our environment by taking part in activities about reducing litter and keeping our school community clean. We also enjoyed a thoughtful visit to the local church, where children learned about how Christians celebrate Christmas. Throughout the month, children have been preparing for their Christmas music performance, practising songs with great enthusiasm. We have reached the end of 'The Hodgeheg' by Dick King-Smith and were excited to discuss Max's clever solution and the story's happy conclusion.

Year 3 and 4

In Year 3, we have been busy completing our History theme all about the Stone Age. We have learnt about how civilisations developed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Year 3 particularly enjoyed the day where we pretended to be hunter gatherers outside and completed wonderful cave paintings!

In Story Time we have nearly completed our class novel 'The Legend of Podkin One Ear' by Kieran Larwood. Please ask us all about it at home. It has been a great adventure story.

This month, Year 4 have been enjoying their class novels. Ducks have been reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, a story full of adventure as four children find themselves stranded in the Amazon rainforest. Geese and Swans have been reading 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman, following Lila on her exciting quest to become a firework-maker. The children have loved getting to know the characters and exploring the worlds of both stories.

We have also enjoyed debating whether the Romans were invaders or conquerors. We had real archaeologists visit us and handled Iron Age and Roman artefacts. We also had a wonderful trip to Kettle's Yard art gallery, exploring the house and exhibits and learning some print making techniques.

Year 5 and 6

In Year 5, we have been continuing to read 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce in our reading for meaning sessions. We are absolutely loving it and it brings us to fits of laughter every lesson. As well as this, we have been reading 'Bright New World' by Cindy Forde to link to our sustainability enhancement week. We have learnt all about the water cycle and all the things we can do to protect our incredible planet.

We ended our History theme with an exciting Viking Day. We explored all of our Viking knowledge and even re-enacted a battle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. It was such a memorable day. We are looking forward to all of our new, exciting topics in the new year!

This month, Year 6 have been reading our new class novel, 'The Train to Impossible Places' by P.G. Bell. The story has prompted steady discussion, and pupils have been developing their comprehension skills as we move through the chapters.

During Sustainability Week, we have spent time learning about sustainable futures and considering practical ways to reduce our environmental impact. The children engaged thoughtfully and created speeches about the positives of installing solar panels in our local community.

We also learnt "Last Christmas" for our Christmas performance, which the children thoroughly enjoyed performing.

School Absences and Medical Appointments

These should be reported by phone on the morning of each day of absence.

Please be advised that the school will contact parents/carers if absences are not reported.

Medical/dental appointments should be made outside of school times.

However, if this is not possible, proof of the appointment will be required to authorise your child's absence.

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