



Friday 13th December 2024

Nativity 2024

The children, although tired at the end of a long term, put on two marvellous performances of “Shine, Star, Shine”. It was a beautiful reminder of the true meaning behind Christmas. They sang wonderfully and everyone who had a speaking part, really made sure they gave it their all to the hall packed full of audience members.



Look out for a photo in the Henley Standard next week

Christmas Carol sing-along

On Thursday the 19th of December the school will be going to St Leonard’s Church to sing some traditional Carols. We are sorry but we won’t be able to fit the whole school into the church with parents as well, so we must decline any requests to attend on this occasion. However, at 2.50 that day, we would love to welcome you onto the playground to sing those carols with us and enjoy the good cheer that singing together brings.

FOWPS Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Fair last Friday. It was extremely well attended and new ideas, such as the snow machine, were very exciting. Everyone was in fine voice for the carols as excitement for the raffle was building! If you have won a raffle prize (check your email) and not yet collected it, please ensure you do before the end of term – contact the school office. A huge thank you to everyone on FOWPS who worked so hard to make this event a special evening for us all.

Sport events

There were 2 events this week, to round off the term. On Tuesday a team of runners attended the **South Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships** at Rotherfield Greys. Year 3 and 4 runners ran 1 ½k and year 5 and 6 ran 2k. The conditions were perfect, cold and dry with only a bit of mud. The children did their utmost, showing excellent sportsmanship. We weren’t placed as teams this year but Martha, in year 5, finished in 4th place in the year 5 /6 girls’ race.

2 teams of year 5 & 6 boys played in a **Football** tournament on Thursday. Both teams lost their first match but after that, they progressed so well with the boys really pulling out all the stops and playing so well as a team. Our B team came second in their competition winning 3 out of 4 of their matches! Well done boys! The A team were third in their category winning 2 and losing 2! The competition was high. We are very proud of you all. Olympic medals were awarded to Christopher, Blake, Stanley and Charlie.

Coffee Morning – Wednesday 18th December

A reminder that all are welcome to our Coffee Morning on Wednesday after drop off.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 18th December

A reminder that our Christmas Lunch will be next Wednesday 18th December. This is a really lovely event in our year and one we all enjoy coming together to celebrate. If your child would like lunch, please order via the ParentMail item, Christmas Lunch Menu - Wednesday 18th December 2024. If you pay for your child's school lunches, please only pay the £3.50 for the Christmas Lunch into this account. The order window will close at the end of Tuesday 17th December 2024 so please place any orders by then. Please note that the packed lunch, jacket potato and hot tomato pasta options will not be available on this day. If your child doesn't want the Christmas Lunch, they will need to bring in a packed lunch from home.

Christmas Jumper Day

The children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers instead of school jumpers/cardigans on Wednesday 18th if they would like to. Donations will be appreciated for Save the Children, however they are not obligatory.

Cake Sale Thursday 19th December

The final cake sale of the calendar year will be held by Beech and Maple Class next week, all donations (nut free please) are welcome. Cakes will be sold at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

1pm on Friday 20th December

A reminder that the school day finishes at 1pm on Friday 20th December.

ParentMail – plea for integrity

This week we needed a team of 32 children for a fixture for which we had received 32 eager volunteers for the event. Some parents didn't respond and some didn't fill out anything because their child had changed their mind. This left the team very short, at very late notice, with no opportunity to fill the gaps. We needed 8 children per year group and as a result of non-responses or late decisions to not take part, the team was not full and therefore at an immediate disadvantage.

Please fill out forms for sports fixtures (and any other events/requests) even if you decide your child cannot go. When there has been no response we wait to see if you perhaps are going to fill the form in nearer the event. We send out forms with a Yes and No possibility and when parents don't fill these in, we are either chasing or waiting for a response from you. If your child cannot go, another child could be invited instead but we need time to inform their parents.

By not responding to the request at an early stage, or by leaving it late for a response that appears to depend on how children feel on the day, not only teaches our children that volunteering is not a commitment, it also creates a great deal of work for the school and, more importantly, it lets the other children down. Prompt responses would be appreciated.

Clubs

Please note that all After School Clubs have now finished for this term. Morning Clubs - Breakfast Club, Chill Club, Netball and Dodgeball will run next week (please note there is no Dance Club on Friday but breakfast and chill club will be available).

Clubs starting in January will be sent out in ParentMail in due course.

From last week's newsletter:

PE Kits

We have noticed that a lot of children are taking PE kits home mid-week. Please can they be returned the next day, if they need to go home before the end of the week? We often want to add in more exercise for the children but find no PE kit or trainers in school. Please make sure that it is always available for your child during the school day.

Class Updates

Oak	<p>We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas play. The children were so excited to see their families there and we were so pleased with how enthusiastically they all joined in! This week in phonics we have been learning the sound 'oo' and recapping the digraphs we learned last week, ch, sh, th, qu and ng. The children will explain to you what a digraph is! In maths we have been busy recognising our numbers up to 5 and playing some number games. We can't believe that the children have nearly completed their first term of big school- they have all made so much progress. Have a lovely weekend.</p>
Hornbeam	<p>The end of a crazy week in Year 1. Thank you to all family/friends that attended the Christmas show. We have been working very hard on the show with rehearsals almost every day for the past two weeks and I am sure you all felt as proud as we did with their performances. In addition to this, the children have been writing letters to Father Christmas - but these are not just any old letters! These letters have been inspired by the book 'Where Bjorn Belongs' where Arthur writes to Father Christmas asking for a new toy, polar bear but in facts receives a real one! We have been writing in role as Arthur describing the qualities we would like to see in our polar bear. In maths, we have transitioned away from 3D shapes and instead our focus has been on recognising and naming a variety of 2D shapes.</p>
Beech	<p>Beech class have been planning and writing their letter to Father Christmas this week. We plan to post them next week just in time for Christmas. Ask us about a contractions game we created this week, which we played with our partner. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting 10 from a number. We have also been learning our 5x table. We finished our unit about money and will play some more maths games next week. During our art learning we studied William Morris and used his ideas for our printing. In PSHE, we reflected on the school value of kindness. We wrote compliments for other children in the class, and they are displayed in hearts in Beech window. The children have taken home kindness diaries to record any kind deeds they have done this week. The children can bring these back in and share them with the class when they are done.</p>
Ash	<p>A busy week in Ash class with hockey and gymnastics in PE and some cross-country runners competing for Year 3 and 4. In Maths, we have been looking at column addition and subtraction and for a Christmas DT project, we have been making elves with pivots and levers. We loved watching the KS1 nativity performance and to end the week, we are looking at French Christmas and have been learning a French Christmas song 'Quand Le Pere Noel'. We do have a large pile of 'lost' property in the classroom, so if you are missing any items, it would be great to reunite them their owners before Christmas.</p>
Rowan	<p>It has been a busy penultimate week in Rowan! There has been lots to fit in as we race towards the end of term. We have enjoyed our science learning about sound. We investigated pitch and volume using different musical instruments. We made pan flutes out of straws to investigate the how the different pitches are made. We were also lucky enough to investigate whether the size of wine glass, thickness of glass or amount of water in them made a difference to whether you could make them sing or not. Thanks to Mrs Scott for bravely allowing us to use some of her glasses. We all really enjoyed watching the Nativity play earlier in the week, a jolly good show! In RE, we have enjoyed making Christingles with Mrs Thorne. We learnt that the</p>

	orange represents the world, the candle represents the light of God and the cocktail sticks and sweets represent North, South, East and West and the seasons. Have a lovely weekend everyone.
Maple	<p>Well, term is slowly starting to wind down, but you can guarantee it will remain as busy as ever in Year 5! First, I'd like to send a huge thank you out to all the children that took part in our ukulele performance at the Christmas Fair last week. Your children made us so proud and we think they did an incredible job! We're looking forward to performing again as we continue to learn more and improve across the rest of this year.</p> <p>This week, we've been hard at work completing a few reading, writing and maths assessments. Your children worked hard and have shown us some incredible progress since the start of the year. In maths we've hopped back into division, this time looking at the short method and seeing if we can identify why it works (it's not magic, just maths). English has seen us looking at some areas of grammar, including plurals and apostrophes. We made good use of these skills, completing a piece of writing about a donkey! In PSHE this week we had a look at social media, learning about the age they expect people to be to take part and why that age is important, while in Science we explored all the evidence we can use to prove planet Earth is a sphere! We wrapped up our week with a performance of the school's nativity (so cute!) and a chance to drop into Year 6 to see their Greek museum. It's definitely got us inspired for next year!</p>
Willow	<p>Wow! What a fabulous afternoon spent enjoying our Greek museum and sharing all our learning with the rest of the school. A huge thank you to all the parents who were able to attend. To those who had other commitments, there will be photos on the class page of the school website for you to see how much fun everyone had. We have been working on Fractions in Maths this week - lots of talk about sharing and relating these to everyday life. Ask your child about adding and subtracting fractions with the same and different denominators. If you were unable to provide a tub for your child's cooking session and therefore borrowed one, can you please return these asap so other members of the school can use them. A reminder that the pupils Secret Santa gifts are due by Wednesday 18th please. Next week we will be filming our scripts or coding our animations.</p>

Wine glass investigations in Year 4



Christingles



Important dates

Wednesday 18 th December	Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:45am, all welcome
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas lunch – please see ParentMail for more information
Thursday 19 th December	Year 2 & 5 After school cake sale
Thursday 19 th December	Carols on the playground at 2:50pm, all welcome
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term – 1pm finish
W/c 30/12	Globefit Holiday Club running in School Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri – Open to every child
Monday 6 th January 2025	First day of the Spring term
Wednesday 15 th January	Closing date for Reception 2025 School Place Applications