



Friday 20th December 2024

Merry Christmas from everybody at Woodcote Primary School



What a busy final week of term! On Monday we were treated to some great songs, from 5 bands who are working with i-rock, in a very loud and entertaining assembly. Tuesday was Panto Day, Wednesday was Christmas Lunch, Thursday was Carols in Church followed by Carols on the playground and Friday is always a special last day before Christmas.

Staffing news

Sadly, Mrs O'Neill will not be returning to us after the Christmas break. She has decided to move to a school nearer to her childcare options. We will miss her. She has worked at the school for 6 years and contributed much to the children of Woodcote. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventure. The good news is that Mrs Harbord will now be staying in year 3! We welcome her to the team, longer term and look forward to the time ahead.

We also send our best wishes to Mrs Butler who is recovering from a surgical procedure. Mrs Butler will not be in school for the next 3 months but will keep in touch. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Carols in Church and on the playground

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the playground for Carols on Thursday. It is always a lovely way to welcome the Christmas period together. You all sang with fine voice! Thank you also to Reverend Benskin for inviting us to church in the afternoon for our own special carol service – it was a very full church!

Christmas Jumper Day

The children all looked spectacular and we raised £24 for Save the Children. Thank you to those who contributed.

Cake Sale

Thank you for your support with yesterday's cake sale, an amazing £64.60 was raised which goes directly to the Classes to spend. Look out for more cake sales coming in 2025!

Pantomime

We had a fabulous time on Tuesday afternoon! Oh yes we did! I was told by some, that parents could hear the children laughing and shouting with the performers, all the way from the other side of the green! For some children, this was their first experience of the British tradition of Pantomime. We would like to thank FOWPS, who paid for this and to all parents who have contributed to FOWPS events. It was a super treat!



Milestones assembly

The team from Milestone Education, who visited us earlier in the year with some big machinery, to teach us about health and safety, joined us in assembly today. They came to announce the winners of the road sign competition.



We are delighted to share the winning designs with you. The colouring competition was won by Ezreil and the design your own road sign KS2 competition was won by Will. There were 4 runners up in each category that have won a smaller road sign of their own and each has been awarded a book token! Well done everyone!

The 2 winning signs have been created on metal and will be fixed out on the road outside of our school asking everyone to be careful in the roads.

Coffee Morning

Thank you to those of you who came to our Coffee Morning earlier this week, it was lovely to see you all and we hope you enjoyed it.

Christmas Lunch

A lot of food, a lot of laughter and a lot of singing! We had a wonderful time.



Busy Bee Clubs

We are delighted to be offering a variety of clubs once again. This coming term we see the return of debating club. This is a great fun way to learn how to put an argument across in a respectful way – last year the children held a public debate with the whole school and voted to change the school uniform (or was it abolish it completely, perhaps?!)

We also have some favourites such as Dodgeball, Dance, Lego and Cooking. On Tuesday morning, alongside Chill Club, there is also the possibility of Laser Tag. This is great fun and always popular – so book early!

The Clubs will be set up in Parentmail in time for our return to School on Monday 6th January so please look out for them.

Breakfast Club and Chill Club

Breakfast Club continues to run each day from 7:15am and includes breakfast. At 8:00am the children can choose to join one of the sports clubs if they are running, or chill club so please don't book onto these if your child is booked into Breakfast Club. Please note we have changed the cut off for bookings to 2 days before which will give you more flexibility to make bookings.

Chill Club runs from 8:00am each morning. For next term, this has been set up in the same way as Breakfast Club as a daily club so please book your child/ren in for the days you require. As with Breakfast Club, the cut off will be 2 days before.

Please book these clubs in Parentmail.

Globe Fit Holiday Club

A reminder that Globe Fit will be running their Christmas Extravaganza holiday club in the second week of the holidays.

From last weeks newsletter:

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.

Class Updates

<p>Oak</p>	<p>Oh my goodness what an action-packed last week of term we have had in Oak class! The children were enthralled by a visit from a travelling pantomime on Tuesday and loved watching the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. They tucked into their Christmas dinners on Wednesday and enjoyed making and icing Christmas cakes. The classroom has been full of glitter and decoration making and we have managed to practice our phonics and maths skills too. We are so proud of each and every one of the children for settling into school life so well, for making great progress with everything they do and for always sharing their smiles and being kind to one another. Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and messages of thanks. We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone in January!</p>
<p>Hornbeam</p>	<p>We have had a very festive final week in Hornbeam this week, with much of our learning centred around the celebrations this time of year brings. In English we have been writing letters to Father Christmas asking him to bring us our own dream animal. We have focussed on capital letters, full stops and using and, to join two ideas together in the same sentence. In Maths we have concluded our shape topic by making our very own Christmas cards but using only 2D shapes on the design, there were plenty of circles to make snowmen, triangles to make trees and squares to make presents!!! In RE instead of focussing on Christmas as we have in the previous two weeks we looked at the Jewish festival of Hannukah which is also celebrated in December, the children learnt about the Menorah, potato latke's and the game of dreidel which is a great game to play with chocolate coins this time of year. Finally, the children have enjoyed afternoons of fun and extra-curricular activities, the pantomime was a great hit, as was Christmas lunch and the children sung beautifully in church for our carol concert. From all of us here in Hornbeam we wish you a very merry Christmas!</p>
<p>Beech</p>	<p>Beech class posted their Christmas letters to Father Christmas this week. We hope he gets them in time for Christmas. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting using column method. On Tuesday, we enjoyed watching the panto - Jack and the Beanstalk! We are very lucky this was paid for by FOWPS. We all got into the Christmas spirit on Wednesday and had a great time during our Christmas lunch. We have continued with our number bond and times table practice this week and used them to do festive colouring by numbers. We have also used our printing in our art sessions to create some wrapping paper. The Beech Class adults would like to wish you all a restful Christmas period.</p>
<p>Ash</p>	<p>A busy last week of term in Ash class: we've been writing an elf character description, using the elves we created in D.T. as our inspiration. In maths, we have looked at using inverse operations to check our addition and subtraction calculations to finish our current unit, and some Christmas themed maths. And of course, we enjoyed Christmas lunch together, singing carols and lots of other Christmas activities. Thank you very much for the cards, gifts and baked goodies that we have been given. We hope you all enjoy time together over the holidays and look forward to seeing the children again in 2025!</p>

Rowan	In Rowan we have finished the term off with some singing of carols, a panto and a Christmas lunch. All the children have worked hard over the term, and are now eagerly looking forward to a break, not to mention a visit from Santa. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in January.
Maple	Well it's been a great final week before the Christmas break in Year 5. In English we jumped over to look at some of the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah, starting with his classic 'Talking Turkeys.' We're quite excited about the idea of writing some of our own performance poetry later in the year. Science this week saw us exploring some of the many planets in our solar system (including Pluto, despite the fact it is no longer considered a planet). We have also had the chance this week to take part in a number of fantastic opportunities including watching some of your amazing children in the iRock concert, having a pantomime come to school, enjoying Christmas lunch together and singing some carols together with you all. Finally I'd like to send out a heartfelt thanks from all of us in Maple class for all the gifts, cards and kind words. They are not required, but are greatly appreciated! We hope you have a great Christmas break and we'll see you in January!
Willow	Merry Christmas! This week has been full of excitement and Christmas delights. First, we had the fabulous panto, then the wonderful church service and carols as well as a fantastic Christmas lunch altogether in the hall. In between all of this we completed our script writing and film making. Whilst piecing our movies together, we realised there were quite a few bloopers which we think we'll save for the end of Year 6 assembly! From the Willow class team, we wish you a happy and restful Christmas and restful New Year.

Important dates

W/c 30 th December 2024	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
Friday 24 th January	Young Voices Trip (Years 5 and 6)
Mon 17/02 – Fri 21/02	February half term holiday

Community News:

The 2nd Goring & Streatley Scout Group (BBS & BGS) are currently recruiting for their Beaver Colony. Both girls and boys age 6-8 are welcome. We meet in Tuesday evenings 5-6pm at The Morrell Rooms in Streatley. Please contact David Cooksley (Skip) at davidcooksley44@gmail.com for more details.