



Friday 19th December

Carol Concert

What a wonderful evening we had on Monday! Our KS2 children performed a total of 17 Carols and traditional songs! Parents were in fine voice accompanying the children in the fun songs towards the end. Well done to all the soloists and small groups who sang to such a big audience. We are delighted that everyone enjoyed it (and are still finding bits of confetti today!)



Christmas Lunch

Always a highlight for the children. Served by the staff, they all ate a great Christmas lunch, had crackers to pull and sang Christmas Songs at the tops of their voices. You probably heard us from your homes!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and a peaceful start to 2026!



School Business Manager

Sadly Mrs Gillman leaves this week after 10 years. The children gave her a wonderful send off at the Christmas Lunch this week. We hope she keeps in touch with school. We would like to thank her for all her hard work.

We are delighted to announce that Jo Longden will be stepping up to take the Business Manager role and that Julia Butler will now be fulltime in the school office as Administrator. This is great news for the continuity of school operation over the coming few months of change.

A message from Mrs Hunt

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the gift I was given on Friday at the Christmas Fair. I was somewhat overwhelmed by both the moment and by the gift itself. Thank you so very much. The flowers look wonderful at home and I will certainly enjoy the bubbles with my family over Christmas. As you all know, I will now be here for January, although gradually stepping back to gently hand over the reins. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the start of 2026.

Gritters!

As you may know Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) operates a winter depot in Woodcote. It apparently has a salt storage barn with a capacity of 2,200 tonnes. This facility is used for storing road salt to grit the surrounding area's primary and secondary roads during winter weather. They have a new fleet of gritters stored at the site this winter. On Tuesday this week 4 children went to the depot to represent our school. Earlier this year we had an opportunity to name a gritter. We were absolutely delighted when 3 of our names were chosen. Look out for "Gritasaurus", "Ready Spready Go!", both named by Oak class and also "Elvis Spreadley", named by Maple class. Give them a wave if you see them out and about this winter.

You may wish to click on the link for more information regarding the very important job that the gritters do and even track them.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/famous-oxfordshire-figures-inspire-names-for-countys-fleet-of-gritters/>





Christmas card

We were delighted to receive a visit from PC Dix this morning. PC Dix presented Ada with a PC Ben book and certificate for her wonderful Christmas card that she drew for the Thames Valley Police Christmas card competition. Ada's was chosen by PC Dix and PCSO Sue Haines who cover the South and Vale area. Well done Ada.



New CAMHS Service from Oxfordshire County Council: Supportive Steps

Parents and carers of children waiting for mental health support can join four online workshops offering practical tips for managing anxiety, low mood and early signs of depression, plus chances to connect with others. Extra sessions include 1:1 clinician support, pre-assessment groups for young people and in-person workshops. For details, visit the Oxfordshire CAMHS website or call Single Point of Access on **01865 902 515**.

Does your child still need a flu vaccination?

Please see the attached flyer for booking information.

From Last weeks newsletter

Parental Contributions to support the school

Thank you very much to those families who have kindly donated to the school it is very much appreciated. You can still donate via ParentMail.

Class Updates

Acorns	<p>Happy Christmas! Have the most magical time. A huge thank you for all the gifts and thank-you cards — you are all very generous.</p> <p>This week, we enjoyed the best Christmas lunch. Every child joined in, eating well and using knives and forks. Santa’s visit was probably the highlight, with very excited children and parents. We also made mince pies — yummy! The children measured, poured and stirred the ingredients, then watched them change as they cooked, following our strict personal hygiene routines before and after.</p> <p>The children have learnt new songs to complement body percussion and to develop their awareness of sounds and rhythms. They practised counting actions, clapping, tapping and remembering sound patterns.</p> <p>Do try and find time to have a lazy PJ day at home before returning back to school, refreshed, relaxed and excited to learn.</p>
Oak	<p>Wow the children have completed their first full term at school and we are so proud of each and every one of them. This week we have been learning the letter ‘e’ and carrying on with our reading and writing. In maths we have been busy matching numerals to quantity. On Tuesday we sent home some activities to do over the holiday- if you could just spend 5 minutes a day practising their sounds and words it would be a huge help and will mean that they won't forget all the things they have learnt this term. We have had an exciting Christmassy week with Christmas dinner, cake and card making and a visit to the church to sing carols. We had exciting news that our class had won a competition to name some gritter trucks. The names we chose were Ready Spready Go and Grittasaurus. Rhys and Rupert got chosen at random to go to the depot to see the gritters that were named. They told us all about it. Aviana also won a school council competition for the best decorated fairy door. A huge thankyou from everyone in Oak class for all the kind gifts and messages. We have loved getting to know your children this term and working with you all. We hope you have a lovely Christmas break!</p>
Hornbeam	<p>We had an exciting start to this week where stickman had a letter from the ‘real life’ Santa. Then we have been writing a reply to Santa, to say thank you for saving us and returning us back to the family tree. In Maths we have been using shapes to recognise and create repeating patterns.</p> <p>We had great fun using the pictures sent in from home to create our own personal history timelines. It was amazing to hear the children talk so passionately about their history.</p> <p>On top of that we have had lots of Christmas fun, making cards, baking shortbread and designing snow globes.</p>
Beech	<p>Beech class wrote letters to Father Christmas this week. We worked hard to improve our writing, including lots of questions, conjunctions and even paragraphs. We posted our letters on our way to church to sing carols with the rest</p>

	<p>of the school. In maths, we added 3 1-digit numbers and considered how we add numbers more easily by spotting number bonds and doubles. We have also been practising our times tables. Look out for some times table work in book bags to do over the Christmas holidays. In science, we learnt about how to look after ourselves and stay hygienic. In PSHE, we gave each other compliments and wrote them in cups. These are displayed in the window of Beech class for you to enjoy. We reflected on the meaning of Christmas and wrote some kind deeds we would like to do during the holidays. We hope you all have a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.</p>
Ash	<p>In the final week of term, we have had a snowball fight in our maths lesson. Ask your child for more details! We have continued to celebrate French Christmas by learning a French Christmas song and we completed our healthy sandwich topic in DT by making and tasting our sandwiches. We wish you all a very happy Christmas break.</p>
Rowan	<p>What a week this has been. Firstly, many of the children returned to school on Monday evening and sang their hearts out at the carol concert. There were smiles and even giggles throughout the evening, and it was enjoyed by all. In class, we have been busy investigating circuits, using wires, cells and bulbs. Our observation and prediction skills were tested as we tried to work out how to complete circuits, and then work out why they didn't work. We also talked about the dangers of electricity. We finished on Wednesday with our Christmas lunch and a film. Thanks to you all for your Christmas wishes, and we hope you all have a wonderful, safe and peaceful break.</p>
Maple	<p>It's been a fantastic term here in Maple Class. English has seen us exploring the book 'The Lost Thing' then writing non-chronological reports linked to it. In Maths we've looked at multiples, factors and prime numbers before wrapping up the term by looking at analogue and digital time. In Science we've explored the human life-cycle but also got the chance to test out our 3D printed boat designs. We've wrapped up our work on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Topic and we're now the masters of at least four chords on the ukulele (we can even play a few Christmas songs now!). We even got the chance this week to bring back the Christmas Carol concert which (aside from technology doing it's best to thwart me) was a huge success! Thank you so much to those that came along! Next term we'll begin our new Topic, Human Planet, while diving into some mystery writing and focussing ourselves on multiplication and division. Finally, a huge thank you to those of you that have given us gifts, cards and kind words this Christmas. They are never necessary but always fully appreciated. Have a great break!</p>
Willow	<p>What a fabulous but very busy week we've had. From the amazing Carol Concert on Monday evening where we enjoyed all of the Christmas songs and felt very festive afterwards to the groovy Greek Museum on Tuesday where we enjoyed sharing all of the artefacts that we had made with the rest of the school. Thank you to all of the parents that supported this, we hope you enjoyed it as much as us. We've had some wonderful feedback from the other classes and look forward to sharing more work in the Spring term. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your support this term and we'll see you next year when Mr Minter will be joining us in Year 6.</p>

Lunchtime News

It has been an exciting week for us all in the run up to Christmas. The children have been full of energy despite the damp weather and enjoyed playing outside and chatting about their plans for the holidays. As we come to the end of another year we reflect on how lucky we are to be part of such a lovely school with such interesting, inquisitive & fun children. We wish every one of them a very happy Christmas. See you all in 2026!

Important dates

Monday 5 th January	First day of the Spring term - all children return to school
Thursday 15 th January	Deadline for September 2026 reception class applications
Friday 23 rd January 2026	Young Voices – Years 5 & 6
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Spring half term
Monday 2 nd March	National Offer Day for Secondary school places
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holiday – School closed
Thursday 16 th April	National offer day for reception class September 2026
Monday 4 th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	Summer Half Term
Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th June	Year 6 Residential to Liddington
Wednesday 1 st July	INSET day – School closed
Monday 20 th July	INSET day – School closed
Tuesday 21 st July	School summer holidays begin – school closed