



The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 8th December 2023



Dear Parents / Carers

Well the excitement for Christmas is really ramping up here. The Christmas Fayre on Saturday was wonderful.

It was great to see so many of you there and I hope you all enjoyed your visit. Thank you to the many helpers: from those who helped set up and clean up to our stall holders and the face painters. You were all brilliant. A big and special thank you goes out to Father Christmas for paying us a visit. The children loved seeing you.

So...the tinsel is out, the Christmas jumpers have been worn, crackers have been pulled and there are lots of children and staff on the nice list. I am not sure how we will be able to contain it all next week and make it through to next Friday without bursting– and that's just the staff, let alone the children!

Today, the school was treated to the Reception dress rehearsal of their Christmas performance.

Parents you are in for a real treat next week. Bring a tissue!

On Wednesday evening the choir sang at **Winter Wander** on Bridge Road. They were absolutely magical and Mrs Webb and I are so proud of their performance. There is such joy that comes from singing – especially at Christmas. We were disappointed to learn that the reindeer were unable to join the festivities at the last minute – maybe next year?

This week our **Reception** children have been creating Christmas inventions, baking cookies and looking forward to seeing what the cheeky elf is up to each morning and writing letters to him. They have also been identifying repeated patterns, spotting errors in patterns, creating their own patterns and generally going pattern crazy! 😊

Year 1 have been celebrating their differences in PSHE, they have also been looking at different nativities from all around the world. In English they have been reading about a wonderful adventure that a young boy and his grandad have and their fantastic discovery in a cave. They initially made some great predictions and then described what it was that they actually found. I was particularly impressed with Henry's writing (Maple class) who wrote lots of detail about the discovery.

More fantastic writing was done in **Year 2** this week. The level of descriptive detail and use of paragraphs to show how the story moved along from one location to the next have been particularly impressive. They have also been evaluating their DT project as well as visiting St Lawrence this week to watch the Year 4 Christmas show.

All in all, a very busy and productive week.

Next week children will be sent home with **book corner books** for over the Christmas period. They will not take home their Little Wandle phonic matched books (Big Cat Collins Book). If you have any of our new phonic books at home still please make sure they are returned to school this coming week so we can get all the new books ready for groups next term. Thank you.

A quick reminder to all that next week we have our **Christmas performances** by each year group on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a charity collection at the end of each performance if you have a few pennies to spare. On Thursday, we have our **Christmas party** day. Thank you for all your sign up contributions. The children can wear their party clothes to school all day. However, please ensure that their clothing is appropriate for the weather as well as the clothing allowing them to still run around at playtimes and lunchtimes. If the children have been really good then they might just get a very **special visitor** that day as well.

Have a lovely weekend.

See you Monday.

Mrs Cary

Value Awards

Our values are: **Courage, Determination, Respect** and **Kindness**.

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Rose	Maple	Isabel	Beech	Molly
Elm	Innes	Rowan	Nancy	Oak	Benji M
Holly	Rafe	Willow	Etta	Sycamore	Orla
Pine			Lulu		

The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination.



Parents of 2-year olds



From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for **15 hours of childcare** for their two-year-old. Parents have until **31 March 2024** to apply for a **code**, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the **Childcare Choices** website, where you can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Artist of the Week: Christmas

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7dpvC4Yia45ByrDdzkHvZM?si=0e2d07ff01f44f1e>



Five Christmas Song Facts for You!

- 1) The first song to be played in space was 'Jingle Bells'.
- 2) 'Silent Night' inspired a temporary truce during world War 1 between British and German troops.
- 3) 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tree' was recorded by Brenda Lee when she was only 13 years old.
- 4) Bing Crosby's White Christmas is the highest selling single of all time.
- 5) Wham! Released 'Last Christmas' the same year that Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' was released so they decided to donate all its proceeds to the same Ethiopian Appeal.

Coffee Morning



Wednesday 10th January @ 9am

Please join us for a hot drink and a chat together with other parents and our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe.

I was saddened to both see and hear of parents still not being respectful of our neighbours this week. I appreciate that parking can be tricky on the roads outside the school but please be respectful of our neighbours. Please do not park in their private car parks, or park across their driveway which means they then cannot get out themselves.



Respect is one of core values and we ask this of our parents as well as our children.



When coming to school, please consider alternative methods: walking, scooting, cycling, car sharing or even leaving home a few minutes earlier so that you can park further up the street and then walk down to the school entrance in plenty of time for the start of the school day.

Dates for the Diary

Christmas Performances

Monday 11th December

Year 1 @ 9:30am

Year 2 @ 2pm

Tuesday 12th December

Reception @ 9:30am

Year 1 @ 2pm

Wednesday 13th December

Year 2 @ 9:30am

Reception @ 2pm



Tuesday 12th December

St Paul's Messy Church Christingle



Thursday 14th December

Christmas Party Lunch

Year group teachers will be in touch



Thursday 14th December

Special visitor



Thursday 14th December

Reception Christmas Storytelling Experience

The Littlest Christmas Elf



Friday 15th December

School finishes at 1:45pm



Wednesday 3rd January

Children return to school



Tuesday 9th January

Reception: Fossil Workshop



Wednesday 10th January

Parent Coffee Morning

with our Family Support Worker

Teresa Doe



Orchard Reading Recommendations

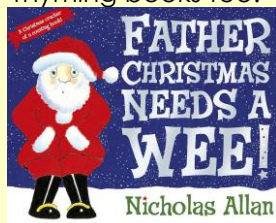


You can click on the book covers to link you to Amazon to read more about each book.

Year 1

Charlotte in Willow class recommends a fun Christmas book called

Father Christmas Needs a Wee by Nicholas Allan. Charlotte says, "I think it is a good book because it is a rhyming book. It's about Santa delivering presents to all the houses and he always drinks at each house. He ends up needing the toilet! I really like rhyming books and I think other children might like rhyming books too."



Reception

Our recommendation in Ash class comes from Lyra this week. Lyra recommends

I Really Want the Cake by Lucia Gaggiotti and Simon Philip

"I like the book because she is cheeky and steals the cake. Then she makes a cake and I like baking cakes with a little bit of help from my mummy. I think other children will like it because it's got cake in it," says Lyra. Yum!



Staff

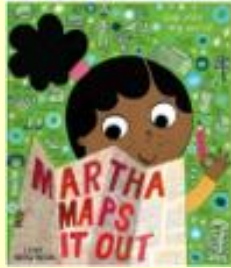
Mrs Shaw recommends:

Martha Maps It Out by Leigh Hodgkinson

This book is a lovely exploration of the world around us through the eyes of a curious little girl who takes the reader on a journey from the centre of the universe to the centre of her thoughts.

It is a perfect book for young children with inquisitive minds.

Every page has detailed illustrations that encourage the reader to find out more about the places in Martha's world. The maps invite the reader to explore more about Martha and her life and Martha's experiences are very relatable for young children.



A great book for young readers.

Year 2

Mila in Beech class loves the books of **Roald Dahl**.

One of her particular favourites is

George's Marvellous Medicine

Mila says, "I would recommend the story of George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl because it's funny and exciting and it makes you want to read it more.

Just gulp it down and have no fear.

"How do you like it, Granny dear?"

Will she go pop? Will she explode?

Will she go flying down the road?

Will she go poof in a puff of smoke?

Start fizzing like a can of Coke?

Who knows? Not I. Let's wait and see.

(I'm glad it's neither you nor me.)

Oh Grandma, if you only knew

What I have got in store for you!



Find out just what is in store for Granny.



We are looking forward to seeing you next week at our
Christmas Performances.

We will be **collecting for a children's charity** after each performance. The charity will be chosen by the school council. If you can, please bring some spare change to make a difference this Christmas.