

## Christmas Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this festive half-term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful experiences and achievements across our school community.



### Highlights of the Term

- **Nativity Performance & Carol Concert**

Our pupils shone brightly in the Nativity and filled the hall with festive cheer during the Carol Concert. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported these special events.

- **Christmas Meal**

A big thank you to our kitchen team for a delicious Christmas lunch enjoyed by all!

- **Exciting Trips & Events**

- Visit to **Arley Arboretum**
- **Pantomime**
- **Cinema Night** – a cozy evening of fun for our children.



### Community Spirit

- **Poppy Appeal** – Together we raised **£85.99** for this important cause.
- **Shoobox Appeal** – Your generosity helped bring joy to many families.
- **PTA Christmas Raffle** – Over **£500 raised!** Thank you for donating prizes and supporting our school.

### Celebrating Attendance

Our **12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge** was a huge success! Well done to all classes for their fantastic effort.



### Learning Beyond the Classroom

- **Bikeability** – Congratulations to our pupils who completed their training and are now confident, safe cyclists.
- **Showtime Starz** has been a great hit with the children – spaces are available for the spring.

### Reminders

- Please ensure **all uniform is clearly named** to help us return lost items quickly.
- Keep up with the reading over the holidays.



Thank you for your continued support in making this term so memorable. Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

*Louise Low*

Headteacher



# Attendance Matters

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.

Attendance for the month of December was 92.4%. This is significantly below our target which needs improvement and we want to ensure that this continues as we move into the colder months!

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that your child/ren attend school and are punctual for the start of the school day. Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.

We do know that from time-to-time children are really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by 9am. If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school or not, please see the visual across:

What are we doing to reward good attendance?

We want to celebrate 100% attendance and good class attendance. As part of this, we are rewarding each class with a certificate for meeting our 96% or above target. We will display each class's weekly attendance on a display for the children to see every day.

**UK Health Security Agency** **NHS**

## Should I keep my child off school?

**Yes**

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

**No**  
but make sure you let your school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

**SCAN ME**

**Advice and guidance**  
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minifec>

# Class News

## Happy Hares

This term in Happy Hares we have been learning about celebrations and special times that are important to different people. The children have learned that Christians celebrate Christmas to remember the birth of Jesus. We explored parts of the Nativity story, including Mary and Joseph travelling on a donkey and Jesus being born in a stable. We also talked about festivals that the children celebrate at home, such as Christmas and Diwali. The children learned that people celebrate festivals with food, presents, singing, and time with family and friends. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and wish you a Happy new year.



This term in Owls we have been working hard to learn our set 1 sounds and using this in our drawing club to write simple sentences and sounds. In art we explored painting using Jackson Pollock as our inspiration, we have splatter painted, colour mixed and used our paintbrush in many ways.

Nocturnal animals



Jackson Pollock painting



Christmas Story - freeze frames



Drawing club

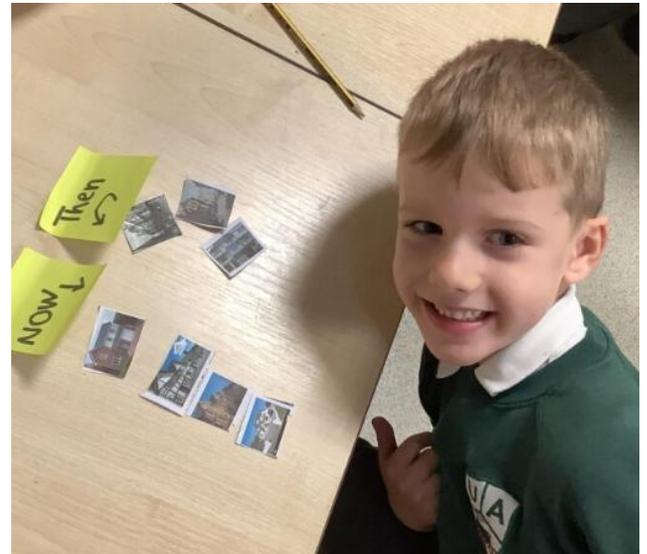
## Robins

This term, Robins have been doing lots of lovely learning!

In writing, we have been writing stories based on different tales, a poem, and a recount about the **Great Fire of London**. They have been practising using adjectives to describe, and conjunctions to join our sentences together. They have loved writing different stories!

In Geography, the children have been learning all about the UK, learning about the countries of the UK, their capital cities and the sea's surrounding them. We have also been identifying physical and human features, which the children have become experts at spotting!

In History, the children have loved learning all about the Great Fire of London. We have looked at how they fire starter, why it spread and how they managed to put it out. They have really enjoyed recreating London in 1666 and even been using their predicting skills to predict and talk about what different items may have been used for.



In Art, the children have been working hard on their painting and drawing skills, learning about how different pressures on the page create different effects, and how to mix different colours. They love being creative and have really enjoyed art this term!



## Swifts

We've had a busy and exciting half term in Swifts, filled with creativity, teamwork, and lots of hard work. The children have embraced new challenges with enthusiasm and shown fantastic collaboration in their learning. Here's a snapshot of some of the highlights from the past half term:

In Geography this term, we've been exploring the amazing world of mountains. The children learned how mountains are formed, the difference between mountains and hills and compared some of the local hills around us to some more famous mountain ranges.

In History, we've travelled back in time to study the Ancient Greeks. The children have loved learning about Greek myths, exploring the lives of Spartan and Athenian children, and finding out how the Greeks have influenced modern life. From democracy to the Olympics, they were fascinated to see how many ideas began thousands of years ago.

In Music, we've been diving into the energetic world of rock and roll! The children learned about its origins, listened to iconic artists, and explored how rhythm, beat and style all contribute to this exciting genre. They especially enjoyed trying out some rock and roll-inspired rhythms of their own.

In Art, we have been designing and creating pottery inspired by the work of Bernard Leach. The children studied his distinctive style and techniques before designing and crafting their own clay pieces. They showed wonderful creativity and focus—every piece is unique and thoughtfully made!

In PE, we have been learning the fast-paced game of handball. The children practised passing, shooting and defending, and worked brilliantly in teams. Their enthusiasm and sportsmanship have been fantastic to see each lesson.

Thank you for your continued support this term. It has been a wonderful time of learning and discovery, and the Swifts have been an absolute joy to teach. Have a wonderful break!



## Falcons

What a fantastic half term - packed with exciting learning experiences and opportunities for growth. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to:

Our Falcons kicked off the term with **Bikeability**, building confidence on two wheels and learning essential road safety skills. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and progress!



## Geography

This term, we've been exploring biomes around the world, discovering the unique flora and fauna that thrive in different environments. We also studied vegetation belts, worked with OS maps of our local area, and examined contour maps of the Malvern Hills. The children mastered six-figure grid references and applied their knowledge by writing a non-chronological report about the temperate forest biome.

## History

We were thrilled to welcome Discover History for an immersive workshop on King John. The children explored:

- Everyday life in different social classes during King John's reign.
- Whether King John's reputation matches his legend.
- Life in a medieval court and the importance of rules.
- King John's relationship with the Church.

We delved into the Magna Carta, learning how it was written and sealed. The children even had the chance to write with a quill and authentic ink! We discussed its motives, provisions, and significance—both in the past and today. Did it spark rebellion? Did it make people angry? These were just some of the fascinating questions we explored.



## Swimming

Year 5 have been working hard to develop their swimming skills this term. Their confidence and technique have really improved—well done to all!

## Reading Challenge

A huge congratulations to all the Falcons who completed this term's Reading Challenge — they celebrated with a well-deserved hot chocolate!



## Arley Arboretum

We had a wonderful time exploring Arley Arboretum this week. The children enjoyed a wet yet wonderful walk through the beautiful grounds before taking on the festive Christmas Trail. As we discovered each point along the route, everyone joined in singing *The 12 Days of Christmas*, which filled the arboretum with brilliant voices and lots of smiles. We then split into two teams to tackle the maze—an exciting race to the centre! The winning team proudly shouted: “Merry Christmas!” as they reached the middle first. To finish, we spent time in the park, which was a definite highlight and full of laughter.



## Spirituality

We have been incredibly impressed with the whole school's engagement in this term's spirituality tasks — from the spirituality gardens and senses bottles to the gratitude trees and many more thoughtful activities. We look forward to continuing this meaningful work in the new year.



## Sports

This half term has seen us enter the Year 3 and 4 Teambuilding Festival for the first time, whereby the children went round 8 activities using their problem-solving skills to complete various courses and objectives.

On 5th December we had our Key Stage 2 Cross Country races, that had been postponed from November. We have won the Girls event twice in the last 3 years, so we were hoping that the inclusion of a boys' team would improve our standings in the boys/girls overall event. The Year 5 and Year 6 races were competed using children from yrs 3 and 4 to complement our older children.

When the results came through we had achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> (out of 10) in the Girls YR 6 and 4<sup>th</sup> (out of 11) in the boys YR6 section. Our combined scores rated us as 2<sup>nd</sup> (out of 11) in the boys/girls combined YR 6 section. Yet again another marvellous achievement.

A week later was our annual Santa Dash attended by children from the whole school, where they took part in several games as part of the Healthy Elfie Festival. Santa was lucky enough to be able to count on lots of Elves and the odd Grinch to help him make it such a fun event.

**May I convey my thanks to all the children, parents, and staff for making the last 6 years at this school such a wonderful, heartwarming experience and I wish you all the very best in the future.**

Many Thanks  
Mr D

## Raffle

Thank you so much for your generous donations for the raffle.



## Goodbye

We said goodbye to Mrs Hope and Mr Derrer today. Mr Derrer, as you are already aware is retiring and Mrs Hope has decided to focus on her other job now. We wish them all the best for the future.

## Dates for next year

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – Return to school

**Forest School** – Owls/Robins and Happy Hares – Fridays

Falcons and Swifts – Thursdays

**Swimming** – Year Two and Reception – starts Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January



**ONE COMMUNITY, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER, SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

