



Small school, big hearts.  
Wise, Responsible and Kind  
like the Good Samaritan.

Newsletter Term 2 Number 6 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

*Values of the term: Unity, Courage, Peace*

**'We clap hands and welcome the peace of Christmas. We beckon this good season to wait a while with us' – Maya Angelou**

Dear Parents,

As we enter the final week of term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful and busy time in school.

This past week, we were treated to a lovely nativity performance that showcased the joy, effort, and enthusiasm of our children. It was wonderful to see their hard work come to life and to share this traditional festive celebration with Acorn's parents and carers. A huge thank you to the Acorn's team who have worked so hard to make it all happen and thank you to FOBS for serving teas and coffees which kept everyone going on a rather chilly morning!

Of course, after such an eventful term, we are beginning to see some quite tired faces among both children and staff! Please rest assured that we are keeping a close eye on everyone and providing a little extra care and attention to those children who need it most as we approach the well-deserved holiday break. We look forward to finishing the final week together on a high note and wish you a restful, happy lead-up to the holiday season.

This week in classes –

**Acorns** - have performed their Nativity 'Whoops- A-Daisy Angel' to the whole school and parents this week. We are so immensely proud of them and think that they were all superstars! We have also been making Christmas cards and sharing lots of Christmas stories.

**Beech** – have been writing a thank you letter to those who came to watch their class assembly. In DT, they have been tasting sandwich fillings, choosing their own and then making their own sandwiches with their fillings of choice! We have enjoyed learning more about The Great Fire of London and who was to blame for it spreading so far.

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**Sycamore** - This week in Sycamore we have been learning about Stop-Animation - the children have been making their own animations in class - adding music, text and opening credits. Additionally, we have been continuing our hard work on multiplication and division in Maths. For PE we have continued to learn about shooting in Football and are very close to our final performances in Dance. Lastly, in English we have written up our instructions on how to train a dragon ready for our portfolios next week!

**Oak** class have been writing their newspaper reports on Ernest Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica into their portfolio books, creating watercolour landscapes of the Brecon Beacons in Art, answering the RE big question for this term, "What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?" and engaging with our 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assembly in Circle Time. In Maths, the Y5's have been solving division questions (with and without remainders) whilst the Y6's have been using their knowledge and understanding of fractions to solve ratio and proportion questions.

**Next week** We're off to the Pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty at the Playhouse on Tuesday – please drop children at school at 8.25 with a coat, a water bottle and a substantial snack. Christmas lunches here at school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and a special visit from Santa (shhhh!) on Friday morning. School finishes at 1.15pm Friday.

**Christmas service** Please bring your children to St Mary's Church in Buckland at 5:45 pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, for a special evening of beautiful singing and readings to celebrate Christmas. While this is a family event, we kindly ask that you be mindful of babies and toddlers during the readings to ensure everyone can hear and enjoy the service, experiencing both the joy and peace of the occasion. Acorns are welcome to sit with their parents, but if they are tired, they do not need to attend. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Forest School – urgent help needed!**

We are still looking for a volunteer to help with Forest School on Thursdays – Mrs Lefebvre is in the final stages of preparing for the sessions, and everything is nearly ready. However, to ensure these sessions can take place, we need a parent helper to join us. If you have some spare time on Thursdays and are willing to assist, please let Mrs Lefebvre know. Your support would be greatly appreciated - thank you in advance for your help!

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### **Safeguarding**

With the prevalence of smartphones and online gaming, children and young people often spend their time over the Christmas holidays digitally connected to both friends and strangers. These devices are often top of lists for young people and can provide fun for not only them but also the whole family. The catch is, of course, that anything with access to online platforms bring risks of cyberbullying, scams, and seeing content not appropriate for children. A parent or caregiver plays a key role in children stay safe online. Any games or gadgets should be checked for safety and appropriate content, while communications and hours spent on them should be monitored. You will find some useful guides attached about gaming as well as one about managing the Christmas Sensory overload.

### **Achievements**

House	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Ox</b>	<b>Dragon</b>
Weekly total	186	163	202
<b>Running total</b>	463	262	505

This week's certificates have been awarded to:  
Acorns – All of Acorns for an amazing Nativity!  
Beech – George and Tabitha  
Sycamore – Charlie Y and Heather  
Oak – Barnaby and Henry

Bronze badges have been awarded to:

Horse: Cora, Bertie O, Orest, Finley, Albie D, Indigo, Maggie, Tabitha, Austin, Arabella, Wilder, Alavander  
Ox: Eleanor, Lacey, Barnaby, Elodie, Heather, Emily H, Denver, Penelope  
Dragon: Axel LF, Camilo, Annabelle, Sebastian, Noah B, Georgie, Daisy M

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend,

**Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**