



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

Newsletter Term 2 Number 5 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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

**'Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it everyday.'**

**Henri Nouwen**

Dear Parents,

As we approach the festive season, we have taken a moment in our Monday worship to share a little about the meaning of Advent, a special time of anticipation and preparation.

Advent, which means 'coming' or 'arrival,' is a time of reflection and joy as we prepare for Christmas. It spans the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day, and each week carries themes of hope, love, joy, and peace. This special time gives us a chance to reflect on the values of kindness, gratitude and giving that make this season so meaningful and that are intrinsic to our school vision of loving others as we would like to be loved – just as the good Samaritan did.

In school, we are marking Advent in ways that encourage thoughtfulness, community and celebration. You might hear your child talking about lighting candles, thinking about acts of kindness and generally enjoying some creative activities tied to the season.

**This week -**

**Acorns** have visited the village hall this week as part of our nativity preparations. We have enjoyed standing on the big stage, singing our songs, joining in with our actions and learning our words. We have also been learning about the importance of road safety as we travel through the village, remembering to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, LIVE! All the Acorns have also enjoyed making snowmen out of playdough and visiting Elfridges this week.

**Beech** class delivered a fantastic assembly for parents today! The children spoke confidently and with pride about their learning, they sang well, and demonstrated how brave they are - leading an assembly can be quite daunting, but they showed such determination and joy. A big thank you to Mrs Gorham, Mrs Elliott, and the Beech team for making this possible.



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**Sycamore** have continued their work on multiplication and division in Maths, Year 4s have worked hard on their 11x tables and Year 3s have been working with their 4x tables. In English we have moved on from our non-chronological report writing to writing instructions on 'How to train your dragon' - the children have been busy creating their own dragons. In PE we have continued our good work in dance looking at individual dances within our routines and in football we learnt about shooting, discussing what part of the foot to use when going for power.

**Oak** - have been planning their own newspaper reports based on Ernest Shackleton's expedition on Endurance, analysing the use of language during Guided Reading, planning a storyboard using different filming techniques in Computing, explaining the difference (with scenarios) between direct bullying and indirect bullying in Circle Time and carrying out a materials investigation in Science. In Maths, our Y6 children have been working with metric and imperial measures while our Y5 children have been using long multiplication to solve a range of questions.

**Nativity** – Acorns have their Nativity dress rehearsal on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December and their performance for parents on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are asked to drop their Acorn children off **at the side entrance to the Village Hall at 8.45 on both Thursday and Friday morning**. On Friday, FOBS will be serving teas and coffees outside, before the performance starts at 9.15am. Please make sure your child has a coat, however they do not need their book bags on these days please. Thank you for your support with this.

**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.

### **Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome our new Admin Assistant, Ms Amy Ager, who will be starting with us on Monday. Amy will be in the office daily from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please join me in giving her a warm welcome to Buckland School!



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## **FOBS**

A big thank you to the festive elves of FOBS for helping all the children select and wrap 'secret' gifts for their families this week, the children have enjoyed it so much.

## **Tuesday evening Football**

After many years of managing and coaching our fabulous Tuesday evening Football Club, Roger Podbery will be stepping away from running the club at the end of this term, meaning his last session will be on Tuesday 10th December next week. We are incredibly grateful to all the hours of voluntary time, energy and positivity that Roger has given to our school, he will be greatly missed!

We are however able to continue providing Football club on Tuesdays, although it will look a little different as it will now be run externally by Adam Bradley, who currently runs a session for our youngest children on a Monday. This will be for children in years 4-6. I'm sure you'll join us in thanking Roger, and wishing him well when you see him.

## **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!

Oral health newsletter – Please see attached from the Community Health Dental Services <https://oralhealthnewsletter-cds.my.canva.site/children-newsletter-december>

## **Safeguarding**

**Keeping your children safe online** – please see attached information from Thames Valley Police, who are running free webinars for parents and carers, on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, where they will be sharing hints and tips on how to help keep your family safe online.

## **Wellbeing**

At the beginning of every afternoon, each class starts with a calm activity. This helps the children re-regulate themselves after a busy lunchtime away from the classroom and prepares them for the afternoon activities taking place. It is so nice to walk around school



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and see all the different activities in place for the children. If you would like to recreate some of these calm time moments at home, the website link below will take you to our wellbeing page on the school website, which is full of information for you to access. <https://www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/wellbeing/>

This week's wellbeing message is from Lily in Y5:  
"Smile and the world will smile back to you."

### Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	86	99	95
<b>Running total</b>	277	169	303

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Duke and Thomas

Beech – Chloe and Emmy

Sycamore – Albie D and Darcey

Oak – Evie and Dahlia

Bronze badges have been awarded to:

Horse: Thea, Noah R, Daisy, Emmy and Iris

Ox: Tom, Sophia, Matilda B, Dahlia, Poppy, Scarlett, Florence, Joshua, Willow, Adalaide, Noah

Dragon: Duke, James T, Jacob, Grace

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend,

**Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**