



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

Newsletter Term 2 Number 4 Friday 28th November 2025

Values of the term: Belief, Trust, Respect

'Show justice and kindness to each other.'

- Zechariah 7:9

Dear all,

This week has been Pupil Parliament Week, and our older classes have explored how Members of Parliament help shape decisions that impact our communities and country. In our Monday worship, we watched a film about what MPs do and reflected on the ways young people can make their voices

heard. As a Rights Respecting School, this learning is especially important to us - listening to children's ideas and helping them understand how to take action when they see an injustice around them is at the heart of helping children understand their rights. Dahlia and Laura shared some particularly inspiring ideas and took the initiative to write thoughtful letters to our local MP, Charlie Maynard, outlining the issues they care most about. We're incredibly proud of their commitment to making a positive impact - now we'll be eagerly waiting to see if we receive a response!



This week in classes -

Acorns - have continued to learn our nativity songs this week. We now know all the words and actions to each song and are excited to be going to the village hall to try everything that we have learnt so far on the big stage. Big Acorns have also been writing their weekend news, whilst Little Acorns have been exploring their name writing. We have also wowed the adults during our sticky learning quiz where the children were able to remember lots of learning from over the last term.

Beech class have had a busy week. We have started a new book in writing, Beegu. We read the story, discussed our favourite parts and then wrote letters as Beegu to explain what it was like on planet earth. In maths, we have been finishing off our place value unit, we have been comparing and ordering numbers to 100. The children enjoy hockey in PE on Thursday and thinking about different seasons in science. We have also started our DT project and designed our bauble planet.

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Sycamore - This week in Sycamore Class, the children have been using dialogue inspired by their own versions of The Explorer in English, while in Maths they explored the 2-, 4- and 8-times tables and the relationships between them. In Science, we carried out an exciting fair test to investigate which type of chocolate melts the quickest, and in History we continued learning about the Maya civilisation. In D.T., the children practised different pop-up card techniques ahead of creating their own Maya-themed pop-up cards.

Oak – have been busy working on their non-fiction writing projects. The children have been researching Stonehenge and have been putting all their findings into their portfolio books. Our Year 6s have been learning to convert between metric and imperial units. Meanwhile, our Year 5 learners have been tackling word problems using the grid method and long multiplication. Oak Class explored the concept of 'survival of the fittest' through an exciting investigation on the bottom field. The students were engaged in outdoor learning, observing how living things adapt and survive in different environments. As part of our Celebrating Differences theme, the class took part in a thoughtful discussion about bullying. The students worked together to identify practical solutions to a bullying scenario, helping to reinforce the importance of empathy, respect, and kindness within our school community. In Geography, Oak Class explored the different stages of a river's journey, from its source to the mouth. The students learned about the various features of rivers, including tributaries, meanders, and deltas.



Cross Country

Last week, our Year 5-6 girls who went through to the final competed at Tilsbury Park. They did amazingly well – their combined score put them 1 point behind 1st place! They are now through to the county finals on the 18th March – an incredible achievement! A huge thanks to Mrs Houston for taking them and to Pete Button for supporting.

Next week –

Elfridges – Monday Sycamore, Tuesday Oak, Wednesday Beech, Thursday Acorns

Tuesday – Sycamore trip to Abingdon science labs

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Christmas activities

Rehearsals are well under way for our Nativity and for the Christmas service. Here are the key activities that we will be doing with all the children:

FOBS Elfridge's – each class will have a morning slot to buy gifts for parents (week 1st – 5th December)

Acorn's Nativity dress rehearsal – all children in school will be watching this on Tuesday the 9th, parents invited to watch on **Wednesday 10th – Please note change of date due to intermittent electricity supply issues in the Village Hall on the original date – apologies for any inconvenience. Messages have gone out on Parent Pay and to Class What's App groups.**

Xmas jumper day – Friday 12th

Playhouse Panto – whole school trip on Tuesday 16th

Christmas Church Service at 6pm on Wednesday 17th for Year 1 -Year 6 (Acorns optional)

Christmas lunch – school hall (normal sittings with a festive twist!) – Thursday 18th

Santa visiting (shhh!) on Friday 19th in the morning.

Further details about each activity will follow, so please keep an eye out for Parent Pay messages. While this is an exciting time of year, we strive to approach the festive season in a calm and organised manner, as many children can find the changes to regular routines unsettling. If you feel your child may benefit from extra support or preparation during this busy period, please reach out to their class teacher to discuss how we can best support them. We will of course communicate any changes to schedules as early as possible.



A message from Reverend Talisker -

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Pet Service and Remembrance of Animals in War – Sunday 30th November, 10:30am, Buckland Church

All pets are welcome! During this special service, we'll be reflecting on how animals have worked alongside people and supported us in times of war and suffering.

Purple poppies, which are used to remember animals affected by war, will feature in the service - and we'll also be selling handmade purple poppies to raise funds for the Blue Cross, originally founded during the First World War to help animals injured in conflict. Please bring your pets along - and do make sure they don't eat each other!

Purple poppies will be available for a donation, from Monday 10th November at the school gate in the mornings and from the school office.

Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	134	103	99
Termly total	376	333	311

Bronze badges have been awarded to: Grace H, Maggie, Lola, Indigo and Freddie

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Amelia and Wilder

Beech – Joshua and Emily

Sycamore – Anna and Heather

Oak – Jacob and Ava

**Have a lovely weekend -
Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**