



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

Newsletter Term 2 Number 5 Friday 5th December 2025

Values of the term: Belief, Trust, Respect

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.
- Romans 15:13**

Dear all,

In our Monday worship, we marked the beginning of Advent by focusing on the meaning of the first candle: Hope. Together, we reflected on how hope encourages us to look forward with optimism, even when things feel challenging. We talked about the small ways we can bring hope to others - through kindness, patience, and supporting our friends - and how nurturing hope within ourselves helps our whole school community grow stronger. It was a thoughtful start to the Advent season and a reminder of the positive difference we can make each day.



Live stream from Antarctica



Our Beech, Sycamore and Oak children had an exciting opportunity today as they took part in a special livestream assembly broadcast 600 miles away from the South Pole. Robert Swan OBE, shared his stories from the ice, spoke about the importance of protecting our planet's frozen continent, and encouraged young people everywhere to become champions for Antarctica. Robert Swan is the first person in history to walk both the North and South Poles and is well known for his Antarctica advocacy and adventures. If you would like to watch this with your child, please find the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3Fw7OAt2Ss>

This week in classes -

Acorns - have been continuing to focus on our nativity this week. We have been rehearsing the actions, songs and words on the big stage at the village hall and have been working together ready to share with our families next week. Whilst walking to the village hall each day, we have been developing our road safety skills-remembering to STOP, Look, Listen,

Live! We have also been enjoying learning about advent and talking about changes in the seasons as we look for signs of winter.

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Beech - Beech class have had a very busy week. The children have been learning about shape in maths. They have been identifying 2D shapes and counting their sides and vertices. In writing, the children have been writing postcards from Beegu. The children enjoyed Elfridges and picking the gifts for you. We had a visit from Mrs Lines on Thursday, who did Godly play. The focus of Godly play was the nativity story. On Friday morning, we enjoyed being part of history. We were part of an assembly that was live from Antarctica. After the assembly, we thought about what we could do to prevent Antarctica (and the rest of the world) from climate change.

Oak – The children have been using rich descriptive language to portray the eerie garage setting and the mysterious character of Skellig himself. Alongside reading and analysing the text, they have also been enjoying a range of classic stories. In Maths, the Year 6s have been applying their times-table knowledge to tackle ratio problems, while the Year 5s have been building confidence with short division—both with and without remainders—as they work with numbers in the hundreds and thousands. Our Science lessons saw the children creating detailed fact files about how their chosen animals adapt to their environments, demonstrating both curiosity and strong research skills. In Computing, the class continued to develop their own websites, refining layouts and improving content. Meanwhile in Geography, the children deepened their understanding of river processes, exploring key terms such as erosion, deposition, and the formation of oxbow lakes.

Art club news –



This week in Art and Craft Club we've been embracing the winter chill by journeying into the Arctic. We explored *Barbara Rae's Arctic Sketchbook* and discovered the beautiful sketches she created of the dramatic landscapes and wildlife during her three expeditions through the North West Passage. We then studied four of her finished artworks made back in the studio, using them as inspiration to create our own expressive Arctic scenes.

To help us choose our colours, we looked at photographs of the Northern Lights, noticing the extraordinary shapes and glowing hues. The children then used oil pastels and watercolours to make their own Arctic animal artworks, learning three specialist watercolour techniques along the way: using white oil pastel as a resist, creating dreamy

washes with 'wet on wet', and sprinkling salt to add icy texture and patterns reminiscent of snow, frost and the aurora borealis. The final pieces were absolutely stunning!

You can find out more about Barbara Rae's work and Arctic journeys here: <http://www.barbararae.com/>

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FOBS

An absolutely massive THANK YOU to Claire Connolly, Janie, and everyone who helped with - or attended - the Buckland Prepares for Christmas event last Friday night.

The atmosphere was truly wonderful, and the evening was made exceptional by Claire's expertise, attention to detail, and generosity in donating her time and her fabulous food. Her sumptuous cookery - with the pink quail's eggs and spicy Mexican dishes particular highlights - provided top-tier festive culinary guidance delivered, as always, with wit, warmth and elegance.

Our brilliant stallholders, and The Lamb Tavern also created a glorious array of treats, helping us kick off the shopping season in real style.

The children at Buckland made cards to thank Claire and Janie, and we'll update you with the funds raised from our Christmas FOBS events next week!

Thank you again for your support.

The (festive) FOBS team

Attendance

As we approach the end of term, we would like to remind families of the importance of good attendance. Every school day matters and being in class consistently helps children stay confident, connected and fully involved in their learning. Regular attendance supports strong progress, positive friendships and good routines that set children up for success. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child be in school each day and ready to make the most of every opportunity.

Road Safety - Driving on Summerside

We would like to remind parents and carers about the importance of keeping our children safe at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not drive down Summerside.** Although we may feel a sense of safety in our small village, the school gate opens directly onto the road, and there is regular traffic from residents and deliveries. This creates a genuine risk, especially for our younger children. We also ask that you keep a very close

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eye on your child and, if they are little, make sure to hold their hand when walking near the school entrance to ensure they stay close and safe. This matter is becoming increasingly urgent, and we kindly but firmly urge all families to cooperate by parking elsewhere and walking the short distance. Your support makes a real difference in keeping our children and community safe.

Next week –

Tuesday 9th - Acorn's Nativity dress rehearsal – all children in school will be watching.

Wednesday 10th – Acorn's Nativity 9.15am

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.

Friday 12th - Xmas jumper day

Last week of term -

Tuesday 16th - Playhouse Panto - whole school trip.

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

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

Friday 19th - Santa visiting (shhh!) End of term 1.15pm

Achievements

| House | Horse | Ox | Dragon |
|---------------------|-------|-----|--------|
| Weekly total | 109 | 97 | 98 |
| Termly total | 485 | 417 | 409 |

Bronze badges have been awarded to: Orest, Harriet, Darcey, Marni, Isaac, Josh, Anna and Darcey O

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – High and Isabella

Beech – Annabelle and William O

Sycamore – Darcey C and Ira

Oak – Emily and Charlie

Have a lovely weekend -

Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.