

Newsletter Term 2 Number 6 Friday 12th December 2025

Values of the term: Belief, Trust, Respect

‘Joy grows when we share it.’

Dear all,



What a week! On Wednesday, we had a truly fantastic Nativity performance from our youngest children, what a joy it was to watch them bring the true meaning of Christmas to life. They performed with such confidence, enthusiasm and joy, filling the hall with festive spirit and smiles all around. Every child shone on stage, showing not only their growing talents but also their understanding of kindness, sharing and togetherness. We are incredibly proud of them all - what a fantastic start to Christmas! A huge thank you to the Acorns team involved – they have done an incredible job!

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

This week in classes -

Acorns - This week Acorns have performed our Nativity to the whole school and our families. The children did an absolutely amazing job of singing the songs, saying their lines and working together to tell the Christmas story. Acorn staff are so very proud of each and every one of them. We have also enjoyed sharing Christmas stories and making Christmas crafts together.

Beech – Beech class have had another busy week. In maths we have been continuing learning about shape. We have moved on to naming 3D shapes and counting their faces and edges. In English, we have planned and retold the story of Beegu. The children thought carefully about sentence structure and ensured they used capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We have been using wet felting in DT to make planet baubles. The children also enjoyed watching Acorn's nativity. This afternoon, we have practised our Christmas service which we can't wait to share with you.

Sycamore - This week in Sycamore, the children have been busy finishing their own stories about an explorer in English and are now beginning a new unit on instructional writing inspired by *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. In maths, we've transitioned from multiplication to exploring area, and in history the class have enjoyed learning about Maya writing and their fascinating calendar systems. The children have also been working hard in music as they continue practising for their Christmas service, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout.

Oak - Oak Class have been busy producing fantastic descriptive paragraphs, using similes, metaphors and personification to bring an eerie image - linked to *Skellig's* garage - to life. In Maths, our Year 6 pupils have been applying their multiplication and division facts to tackle scaling and proportion challenges, while Year 5 have been working hard to solve a range of multiplication and division word problems. During Guided Reading, we have continued exploring *Skellig* and have also been sharpening our inference skills by analysing a variety of Christmas-themed texts. In Geography, the children have been considering how humans use rivers, stating both the positive and negative impacts. This week in PE, Oak Class developed their tactical awareness in small-sided hockey games and continued choreographing their own dance routine.

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Mini Speaks competition

– On Tuesday evening, pupils from across the Cambrian Learning Trust came together at Larkmead School in Abingdon for the Trust annual public speaking competition - Mini Speaks. We are delighted to announce that Orest, in Year 5, won the competition with his speech titled ‘Is it a good idea to move from a fully religious Christmas to one where all can join in?’ We are all incredibly proud of Orest’s achievement –

Orest always applies himself to everything he does, works incredibly hard and was a thoroughly worthy winner. You can find more information here:

<https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/25691207.oxfordshire-learning-trust-celebrates-year-5-public-speakers/>

New website - We’re excited to announce the launch of our new website! This is a true refresh of our online presence, and we’re incredibly proud of how it looks and feels. Designed with a cleaner, more modern style and improved functionality, the new site reflects who we are and what we do. We hope you enjoy exploring it as much as we enjoyed creating it, and we look forward to sharing more with you through our updated platform.

Welcome to

Buckland Church of England Primary School

We are very proud to be an outstanding school. Buckland has a long tradition of high academic achievement, exceptional levels of pastoral care and an imaginative programme of enrichment activities. "Spirituality, social responsibility and a very strong code of ethics permeates the school" and we offer "very effective teaching with a relentless focus on making sure each pupil is developed, nurtured and challenged." (Ofsted 2016). Please make time to come and visit – our ethos is tangible. And our children really do enjoy life in all its fullness.

[More About Our School](#) →



FOBS - A huge thank you to Charlotte Baxter for her amazing wreath-making workshop last Friday, as part of 'Buckland Prepares for Christmas'.

Following the event, I received the following email from Sam Johnson: 'I just wanted to report back on the Christmas Wreath making evening last night - it was absolutely incredible! I can't even begin to imagine how much time and effort went in to arranging it. The hall looked beautiful and was all decorated with fairy lights, the food was all handmade and DELICIOUS, there was mulled wine, and a brilliant demonstration from Charlotte who looked like she'd been working on this for days - from foraging people's gardens to baking at all hours - she's an absolute star. All after the festive Christmas evening last Friday, and on Eldridge's week too! We are so, SO lucky to have such a great team pulling events like this together for our school, all out of their own time at the busiest time of year as well.'

I couldn't agree more – we are incredibly fortunate as a school to have such a wonderful FOBS team, who generously give so much of their own time to fundraising and supporting all our children. The difference FOBS make is invaluable, helping us to provide a wide range of enriching opportunities for every child at Buckland.

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Safeguarding

With Christmas approaching, many children may be spending more time online or receiving new devices. Recent research highlights why online safety is so important: almost one million under-5s are already using social media, and one in four 8–9-year-olds who game online report interacting with people they don't know. To help children enjoy technology safely, parents are encouraged to research devices before buying, set them up in advance with parental controls, agree clear rules through a family agreement, and keep talking openly with children about their online experiences. Regular conversations help children know what to do if they see something worrying and who they can turn to for support. Please see attached further information about Apps, setting boundaries and setting up new devices.



Remembrance Poppies

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poppy in support of the Royal British Legion appeal. Together, we raised £34.22 towards this important cause.

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Next week –

Tuesday 16th - Playhouse Panto - whole school trip, children to arrive at school by 8.30am.

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Church Service at **6.30pm** for Year 1 -Year 6 (Acorns optional) - parent pay message has gone out with information.

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 | 144 | 109 | 141 |
| Termly total | 625 | 527 | 550 |

Bronze badges have been awarded to: Sophia P, Emmy B, Daisy J, Alexander, Duke, Georgie, Alex M

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – All Acorns for being AMAZING in their Nativity! Well done Acorns, we are so proud of you.

Beech – Sebby and Billie

Sycamore – Darcey C and Tudor

Oak – Tom and Orest

Have a lovely weekend -

Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.