


Dear Parents

What wonderful afternoon and evening performances of our carol service this week. We have had so much fun rehearsing and are so glad you could all make it to celebrate Christmas with us. Thanks to the PTFA for their refreshments stall and all the work that went in to creating the hampers and collecting prizes for the raffle. I know many people were pleased with their winnings. The tea towels are also amazing – a real treasure to keep – I have mine up in my office!

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. I hope you all have a wonderful time relaxing with your lovely children. Take this time to really enjoy each other's company – they don't stay little for long. 

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance this term stands at 93.7% across the school. Kingfishers class has the highest attendance at 95.7%. For individuals, above 95% is considered acceptable attendance, below 95% raises some concerns and below 90% is regarded as "persistent absence" which is the category that authorities such as Ofsted and the attendance improvement team are interested in. I have to have regular meetings with the attendance improvement team and am expected to discuss any attendance below 90% which is one of the reasons that we highlight these figures to you as parents. Persistent Absence (below 90%) means that a child is missing a day every fortnight. Over an academic year this would add up to 4 weeks of missed learning.

#### **PE KITS**

Please check PE kits over the holidays as some children have found that their trainers are getting tight or they have misplaced their t-shirts etc. A reminder that children need shorts AND joggers so that indoor and outdoor PE can be comfortable. Joggers are too warm for indoor PE and shorts are not always suitable for outdoor PE during the winter months. A spare pair of socks is also essential. Please ensure that complete PE kits are returned on the first day back in January: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

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### **CLASS NEWS**

#### **PIPITS CLASS**

Pipit class enjoyed going on their annual 'Lantern Walk' around the cricket field. It was a perfect evening. The children witnessed 'dusk', sang their lantern song and enjoyed chasing their friends. The children also opened our carol concert beautifully, entering the dark church with their bright lanterns bringing a sense of wonder.

The children have been growing ever more excited about Christmas and they have been interested in learning the Nativity story. They were thrilled to receive a letter from Santa Claus and they have loved the class gifts of games, a road puzzle and sensory snow, thank you PTFA! There have been lots of glitter decorations and card making this week. The children have really worked on developing their fine motor skills, becoming more confident with scissors. It was also great to get sticky decorating ginger snowmen with icing and sprinkles. The children were proud of their creations.

It has been a wonderful term and all the children have learnt so much. We are so proud of how hard they have worked and played. We hope you all have a joyful holiday.

## KINGFISHER CLASS

Kingfisher class have been busy, learning about explorers in History, sewing pouches in Design Technology, learning about shapes in Maths, writing questions for Santa in English and producing pictograms in Computing.



No wonder the children are all ready for their Christmas break! We wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a happy new year!

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## JACKDAWS CLASS

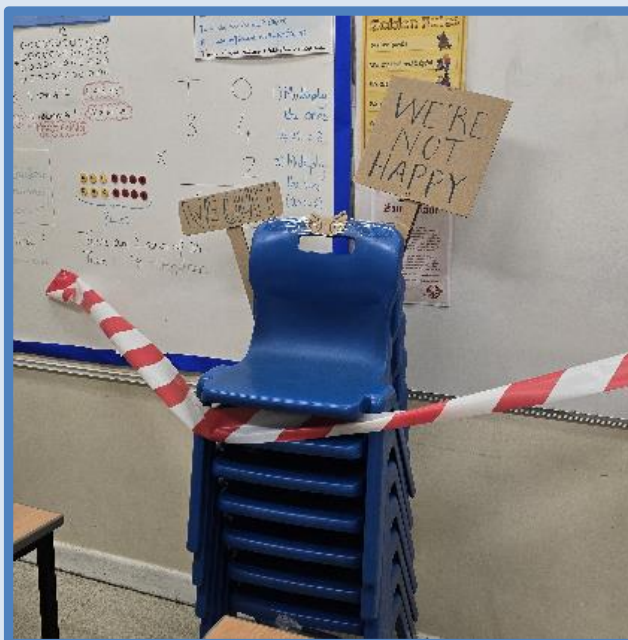
Jackdaws have had a very busy December, and have been working hard on our learning right up to the end.

On Monday this week, we were surprised to come into the classroom to discover that the chairs had quit! They were obviously inspired by all our great learning on our previous English text, *The Day The Crayons Quit*! Thankfully, we had been focusing on formal letter writing, and so the children wrote some brilliant apology letters, and the chairs ended their strike! We had great fun trying to work without them though - some children stood, others sat on the tables, and some lay on the floor under the tables! It gave the class just the burst of energy we needed for the final week! We have really enjoyed looking at the Christmassy Classic: *The Jolly Christmas Postman*!



We also made a brilliant start on our DT - making book sleeves from felt, using appliqué to attach designs to the front and back. All children have really done themselves proud with this and showed lots of perseverance, even when things got tough. We aren't quite finished, so we will continue these in the first week back.

Another example of our fantastic learning this term has come from our PSHE with Mrs Wilson, and our enterprise project. Jackdaws worked incredibly hard over the second half of this term to create a selection of crafts (gonks, pinecone bird feeders, reindeer food, and hot chocolate cones) and the promotional posters to advertise the sale. The whole class were all so keen, and their brilliant attitude to this really paid off! Jackdaws raised over **£150!!** Some of this will go to pay our loan to "the bank" (thanks, Mrs Wilson!!), we will reinvest some of it for another enterprise project in the coming terms, and the rest will be spent as decided by the class. A big thank you to everyone who supported our enterprise, and bought something from our craft sale.



Outdoor learning has, as always, been a hit with the children, and they have persevered with the cold, wet and windy weather conditions to further our learning. It is always great to take our learning to new environments, and the outdoor classroom always appeals! We look forward to going back again in the Summer term.

After Christmas, the times tables we will be focusing on are the 4s, 8s and 3s. The 8s often feel tricky, as the numbers get bigger much quicker, so extra practise in the meantime at home will help build confidence.