



# Mayfield School News

*Autumn 2 2025 Issue*



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# Message from the Head



Dear Families,

As we reach the end of this half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy, vibrant and rewarding period for our whole school community. The weeks since the start of the second half of the Autumn term have been full of energy, creativity and togetherness, and I am immensely proud of our students and staff.

One of the most poignant moments this half term was our Remembrance commemorations. Students from both our primary and secondary phases came together in assemblies to reflect, remember and honour those who have served in the First World War and in conflicts since. The respect shown by our students was deeply moving, particularly during the laying of wreaths, the powerful reading of In Flanders Fields by two of our Year 10 students, and the whole-school two-minute silence at 11:00am. It was a powerful reminder of the values that unite us as a community.

Across the school, ambition has been evident in many forms. Our Primary phase has taken its first exciting steps on the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey, transforming playtimes into rich opportunities for creativity, collaboration and inclusive play. It has been wonderful to see children of all ages playing together imaginatively and enthusiastically.

In the secondary phase, students have embraced a range of challenges and opportunities. Year 9 students were excited to learn about the reintroduction of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Mayfield, with our first cohort beginning their journey towards the Silver Award. Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have shown real determination and maturity throughout their GCSE mock examinations, approaching this important milestone with focus and resilience.

We have also celebrated academic success beyond our school gates. The Wilkie letters of application were of an exceptionally high standard, and we are delighted that nine students have been shortlisted for interviews with Portsmouth Grammar School. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects their dedication and ambition.

This half term has also highlighted the strength of our wider community. On more than one occasion, we welcomed the air ambulance to our field to support emergencies locally. Each time, our students responded calmly and respectfully, demonstrating maturity and care for others that made us incredibly proud.

Performance and creativity have been a defining feature of recent weeks. From the Mayfield Performance Showcase to our spectacular production of The Wizard of Oz, students have truly shone. The confidence, skill and teamwork on display were remarkable, and the overwhelmingly positive



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feedback from families and visiting schools speaks volumes about the impact of these experiences. I would like to thank all staff involved, particularly those who gave countless hours to bring such a magical production to life.

Our younger students have also delighted audiences, from the joyful Year R performance of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel to the festive carols and songs heard throughout the school. Christmas Jumper Day brought colour and cheer across all phases, and it was a pleasure to welcome Father Christmas for a special visit, spreading festive magic for our youngest children.

We were also proud to welcome prospective families to our Year R information evening, sharing our vision and values and showcasing our warm, inclusive learning environments. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to welcoming new families into our community.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Whether attending performances, encouraging revision, joining community events or simply reinforcing our shared values at home, your partnership makes a real difference.

As we move into the holiday break, I hope you enjoy a restful and joyful time with family and friends. I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.

**Mr A Howard**  
Headteacher







# Secondary News



# House News

This half-term has been an exceptional demonstration of our school community's generosity, creativity, and competitive spirit. Students and staff came together to support meaningful causes, celebrate seasonal traditions, and represent the school with distinction in citywide sport.

## ***Cake Sale Raises Funds for Children in Need***

Our Cake Sale in support of Children in Need was a success. Students, and staff contributed an impressive range of homemade treats. Thanks to the collective effort, we raised a remarkable sum for a charity that continues to make a difference in young people's lives across the country.

## ***Festive Fun Through Assemblies and Decoration Activities***

Throughout this week we have participated in a series of interactive, themed assemblies designed to kick off the festive season. These sessions combined celebration, and community spirit, with fun games.

Alongside the assemblies, during tutor we made decorations to go on our house trees. Their creativity has brought a bright and festive atmosphere to the school as we move into the final weeks of term.

## ***Outstanding Results in Portsmouth Netball Tournaments***

Our netball teams have demonstrated both exceptional skill and commendable sportsmanship in the recent Portsmouth-wide competitions. The Year 7 and 8 girls delivered a strong and determined performance, earning a well-deserved 4th place in their tournament. Their teamwork and commitment were evident throughout, and we are proud of how impressively

they represented the school.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 and 10 girls achieved outstanding success, securing 1st place and claiming the tournament title. Their decisive play, disciplined strategy, and competitive focus stood out at every stage of the event. Congratulations to the team on a fantastic accomplishment.

## ***A Half-Term to Remember!***

From charitable giving to festive celebration and sporting triumph, this has been a half-term characterised by teamwork, generosity, and pride. We hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in January.

## House Team





# Events



## Language and the Joy of Christmas: A Global Celebration

Christmas isn't just a holiday- it is a universal language of joy, kindness and togetherness. But what happens when you mix this festive spirit with the colourful work of languages and students? You get a celebration that's as vibrant as a Christmas tree decked in ornaments from every corner of Mayfield School! Every language has its own way of saying "Merry Christmas" from "Feliz Navidad" in Spanish to "Joyeux Noel" in French, Nadolig llawen in Welsh and Nollaig Chridheil in Scottish Gael- they are cultural hugs for our Mayfield Students learning new languages, the holiday season becomes a perfect opportunity to practice and connect. Students today are global citizens. They bring traditions from their homes and share them with peers, where someone from England explains the idea of the Advent Calendar to their friends and someone from Europe or South America will explain that they go to the beach or swimming pool for Christmas. MFL at Mayfield has been capturing the moment and we have been busy creating this collage for you.... Merry Christmas!







## Wizard of Oz Success!

Our Wizard of Oz performances were an amazing success and a real highlight of this half-term. From rehearsals to the final curtain call, the entire cast worked incredibly hard, truly embedding each of our school values into the effort, dedication and enthusiasm they brought to their performances. Every rehearsal showed ambition, inclusion and respect, and it was wonderful to see such confidence and creativity grow along the way.

We are unbelievably proud of every single one of you — your commitment and teamwork shone through and made the show such a success. From those on stage to those working behind the scenes, everyone played an important role, supporting one another and rising to the challenge. The smiles, energy and professionalism displayed in every performance were a credit to you all and something the whole school community can be proud of.



## A Festive Start to the School Day!

This week saw the return of one of our favourite festive traditions – the Secondary Christmas Breakfasts! Each House gathered in the sports hall to celebrate together, enjoying a delicious spread of bacon rolls, croissants and pastries. The morning was filled with festive cheer as students caught up with their housemates, put their knowledge to the test in a Christmas quiz, and even took part in a Secret Santa exchange with their tutor groups. A wonderful way to bring everyone together and kick off the festive season in true Christmas spirit!



## Book Buzz: The Gift of Reading

There was an exciting buzz of anticipation among our Year 7 students as they proudly received their free book as part of the Book Buzz programme. Smiles filled the room as every student was handed their carefully chosen title, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for new stories, characters, and adventures waiting to be discovered. Alongside their book, students were delighted to receive a colourful bookmark and a chocolate treat, kindly gifted by Team English, making the moment even more special. The joy and excitement were clear to see, with students eager to start reading and sharing their choices with friends. It was a wonderful celebration of reading, reminding everyone that books truly are gifts that can inspire, entertain, and open the door to endless imagination.



## Carols Around The Tree

Our recent Carols Around the Tree event was a joyful celebration that brought our school community together in the true spirit of the season. Parents and their children gathered at school to share an evening of festive cheer, singing beloved Christmas carols alongside our talented student choir. The music was beautifully accompanied by a lively brass band, whose rich sounds added to the magic of the occasion. Surrounded by smiles, song, and togetherness, the event created a memorable and heart-warming experience for all who attended.







### STEM Trip Visit to Williams Racing

A group of 10 KS3 girls recently took part in an inspiring STEM enrichment visit to Williams Racing, alongside 40 other students from across the city. The trip was led by Ms Hutchinson, whose work ensured the visit ran smoothly and successfully. The purpose of the trip was to promote participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through real-world engineering applications.

The visit began with a hands-on STEM engineering challenge, where pupils were tasked with designing and constructing a nose cone for a Formula 1 car with the aim of creating the most effective crumple zone. This activity encouraged students to think critically about impact absorption, materials, and structural design.

Poppy emerged as the overall winner from all participating schools for this challenge. A second STEM activity followed, in which Chloe took first place, representing the group with outstanding performance.

Following the practical activities, students enjoyed a guided tour of the Williams Racing Museum, where they explored historic Formula 1 cars, technological advancements, and the team's achievements within the sport. The visit concluded with an exciting Formula 1 simulator experience, allowing students to apply their understanding of racing dynamics in a virtual environment. Kiera achieved the fastest lap, with Willow securing second place, demonstrating excellent control, focus, and competitive drive.

The trip was a highly successful enrichment experience, providing students with valuable exposure to careers in engineering, motorsport, and applied science. It also served as a powerful opportunity to highlight female participation and achievement in STEM, with multiple students earning top placements across the day's challenges.



# Careers Events



## Get ready for the future you want.

Career education at Mayfield is a vital component of modern schooling, designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom. It equips learners with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to make informed decisions about their future careers.

This is the reason why career education bridges the gap between academic learning and real - world applications by exposing students to various career pathways: for example, our Year 11 where they have had multiple career meetings, applied to college and they have had their college interview. It is pleasing to share that most of them successfully secured a place in their favourite college or apprenticeship provider.

We have presented work experience for June 2026 to Year 10s and why they should find their work placement now as the deadline is Friday 19th December. They have already started their 1:1 career education where they have been thinking about their next steps after Mayfield.

Finally, we concentrated on our Year 7s where we organised a trip to the University of Portsmouth for some of them to see where it was and what it can offer them in the future.

This academic year, we have amazing trips planned for all our year groups from talking to employers 1:1, going to Oxford and Cambridge university and exploring local colleges. It is going to be an exciting and exhilarating year for career education so if you would like to get involved in our curriculum or have any questions about college, university trips or outreach programmes, please contact Mrs Munoz, room 149 ([emunoz.mayfield@salterns.org](mailto:emunoz.mayfield@salterns.org))

**Mrs Munoz**







# Primary News





# Message from the Head of Primary



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term and the festive break approaches, we would like to take this moment to thank all our families for their unwavering support throughout the term. It is with mixed emotions that we share a few staffing changes into the new year. We are sad to have said goodbye to Mrs Collings, who is taking up a new role as an LSA in a local school. Mrs Davies will also be embarking on an exciting new challenge as an ELSA in a city school, and Mrs Booth will be leaving at the end of this half term to begin a role as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work, dedication and contribution to our school community, and we wish each of them the very best of love and luck as they step into their new adventures. Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Gray, Mrs Turnbull and Mrs Carmichael to our support team next term. We look forward to seeing them in the New Year and warmly welcome them as part of our Mayfield team.

Our Christmas shows this year were truly special—tear-jerking, energetic and wonderfully exhausting. The children performed beautifully and with such enthusiasm, and we are grateful to all families who found time in their busy schedules to attend and support.

Congratulations to Year R, who were crowned the winners of our Christmas Door Competition, with Seals class taking a close second place and Octopus class celebrating a triumphant third. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Phillimore, our Student Services Manager, who encouraged the excitement, provoked the friendly (!) competition and judged the final entries. Key Stage 2 are already thinking ahead and planning their approach to be able to emerge victorious in next year's challenge!

The Polar Express Movie Night enjoyed by our Key Stage 1 children added a touch of magic to the festivities,



especially seeing some of our previous primary pupils from Admiral Lord Nelson School join some of our Mayfield Students to help with popcorn and hot chocolate deliveries to the children. Our Christmas Jumper Day also proved popular with both staff and children, and it was a pleasure to be on gravy duty during our Christmas lunch!

This half term, Primary SLT and two members of our teaching staff joined the Rivers C of E Trust to participate in Teacher Research Groups, helping us continue the development of our Mayfield Teaching & Learning Toolkit. Alongside this work, pupils across the school have enjoyed a busy schedule of trips and experiences. Year 5 joined other schools across the city to watch our Secondary students' impressive production of The Wizard of Oz, which left many of our pupils feeling inspired for their own future performances. Year 4 enjoyed an informative visit to the Sustainability Centre, while Year 3 took part in an exciting animal care workshop delivered by Zoolab. Meanwhile, Year R visited St Nicholas and had the pleasure of meeting Rev'd Samantha Duddles as part of their Nativity celebrations.

Our OPAL play programme continues to thrive, with children regularly sharing how much they enjoy the freedom to choose their play activities and how valued they feel knowing that no one judges the way they choose to spend their playtime. We are very grateful for the donations we have received so far, which have made a significant difference. If families are sorting through items at home to make space for new Christmas presents, we would be delighted to receive any further contributions!

Wishing you a very merry Christmas from myself, Miss Ainsworth, Mrs Higgins and the entire Primary team. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year for more fun, learning and excitement throughout the term ahead.

**Miss R Osborne**  
Head of Primary





# Events



## Whoops A Daisy Angel!

Year R delighted families and staff this week with a wonderful performance of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel in the beautiful setting of St Nicholas Church. From the moment the children took their places, it was clear just how much effort had gone into preparing for the show. The children should be incredibly proud.

The performance was full of charm, confidence and heart. The children delivered their lines clearly and with real expression, bringing each moment of the story to life. Every scene was acted out with impressive energy and enthusiasm, and it was lovely to see how well they worked together on stage, supporting one another throughout.

The singing was a real highlight. The church filled with their bright, joyful voices as they sang each song. A few brave pupils stepped forward for solo moments, which were met with smiles and plenty of pride from the audience.

From the costumes and props to the storytelling and music, the production captured the magic of the festive season perfectly. It was a memorable moment and a wonderful celebration of the children's hard work, creativity, and growing confidence.

A huge well done to our fabulous Year R performers and thank you to everyone who helped make the performance such a success.





## Christmas Dinner

This half-term, our primary students enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch celebration. They were treated to a delicious Christmas dinner prepared by our dedicated catering staff, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children ate together with their peers, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere, while festive music played in the background to add to the seasonal cheer. It was a lovely opportunity for students to celebrate the season, share a special meal, and enjoy time together as a school community.

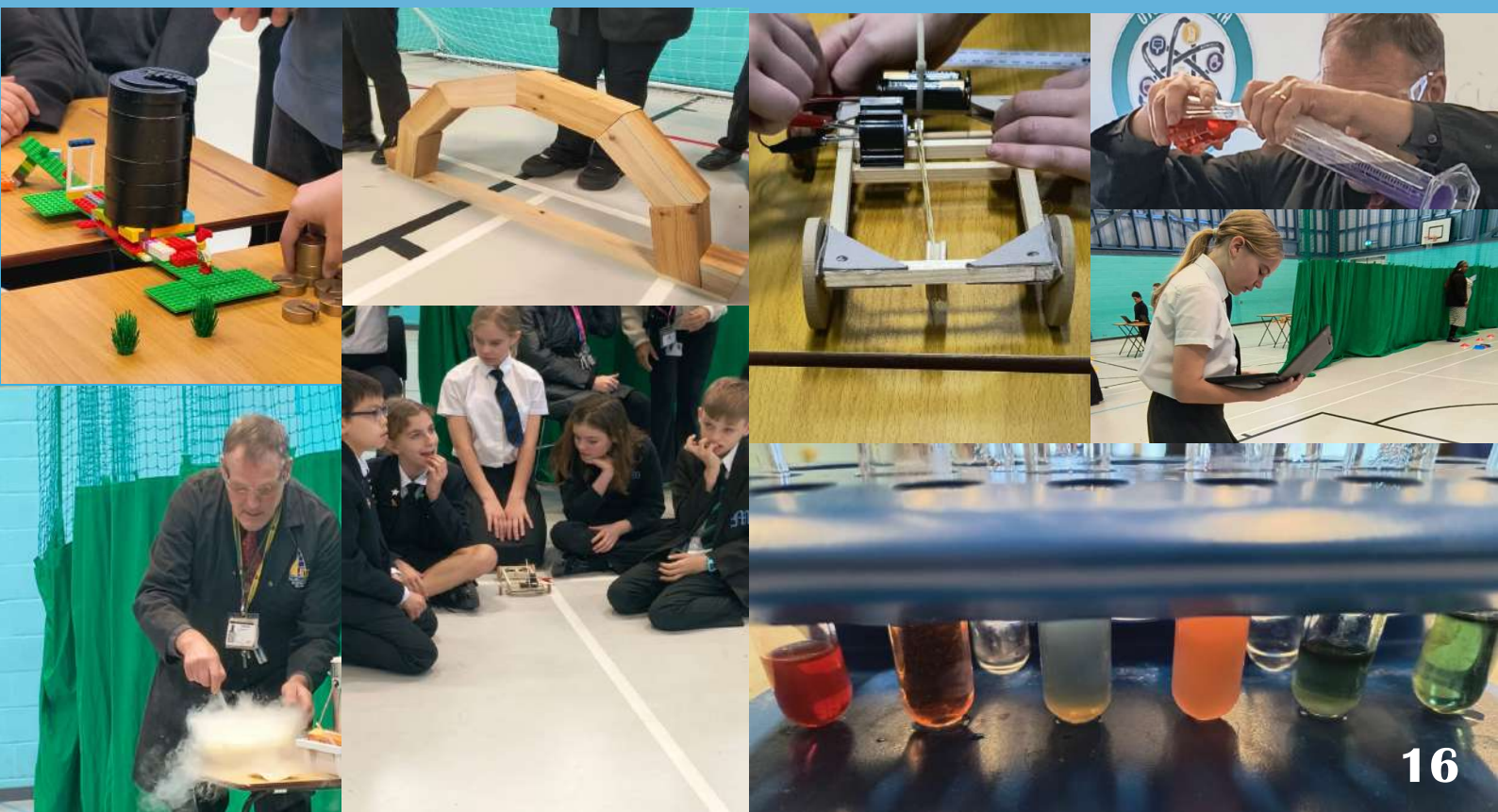
## STEM Adventures at UTC Portsmouth

On Thursday 20th November, some of our Year 6 children joined others from Portsmouth schools at UTC Portsmouth to take part in a range of awe and wonder, inspiring science and technology workshops.

By Lottie (Pacific Class)

We began our workshops by using a small, round robot called a Sphero, controlled by a laptop. The staff and student helpers were very helpful. Then we walked to a different room, where we took part in a Lego bridge-building competition against two other schools. The winner was the team whose bridge held the most weight. After that, we built larger bridges using blocks of wood and tested whether they could hold our body weight. Soon after, we were led to a chemistry room where we learned about different acids, bases, alkalis and their pH levels. After around 15–20 minutes, we walked over to the biology room and looked at different materials under a microscope. Then we were taken back to the hall, where we had our lunch and some free time. After lunch, we visited the 3D-printing room and tried out some of the creations they had made. Then we went back to the hall, where we watched the leader make vanilla ice-cream using cream, milk and liquid nitrogen. We even got to try some, and it was very tasty.

Lastly, we were instructed to make a car out of wood, batteries and a motor. We managed to build it successfully, but unfortunately it didn't work. Great trip! I loved it.





# Primary News

# Year R

Wow, what a fantastic half-term it has been!

The children have immersed themselves into learning about a variety of celebrations, and it's been a joy to watch their curiosity grow.

We began with Bonfire Night, exploring videos and sounds of fireworks before creating our own colourful firework artwork. From there, we moved on to Remembrance Day, where the children demonstrated our school value of respect by making poppies, joining a special assembly and taking part in the two-minute silence.

Next came birthdays, and we had great fun celebrating our class mascot Rainbow's birthday. The children enjoyed preparing a party for him in our role play area and sharing how they celebrate their own special days.

As December approached, we explored Christmas and the Nativity story. The children's joy and excitement have been wonderful to see. They have produced beautiful artwork, taken part in rich role-play, and worked so hard to bring our Nativity performance to life. Every child shone on stage-we couldn't be prouder.

We are so pleased with the progress the children are making in their phonics and reading and we want to thank you for all your support at home.

Wishing you a lovely Christmas filled with happy moments and time together as a family.

## The Year R Team





# Year 1

What an exciting half-term we've had! The children have started to settle into the Year 1 routines and have thrown themselves into every challenge with big smiles and fantastic effort. We've packed in plenty of learning and loads of fun along the way!

In Maths, we kicked things off by exploring comparisons and part-whole relationships. We've been busy measuring length, height, mass, volume and capacity, and we're becoming super confident with our number bonds to 4 and 5. We are really enjoying using our practical equipment to show these!

Drawing Club has continued to spark our imaginations. We've explored lots of brilliant books and used them to inspire our own drawings and sentences. The excitement hit a new level when Santa sent us a letter last week! We learnt all about how letters are set out, wrote our own replies, and are very excited to send them off.

Our phonics sessions have been buzzing with energy—everyone has been absolute superstars. We've tackled lots of alternative sounds as we continue “growing the code”. We'll keep sending home any new sounds each week so you can keep up with what your child is learning and help them with ‘growing their code’.

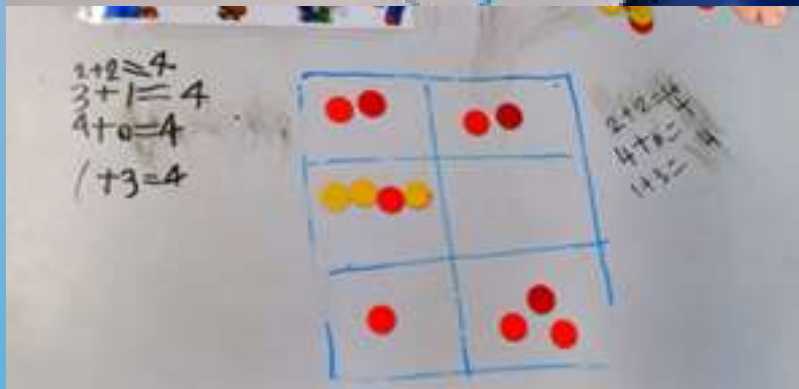
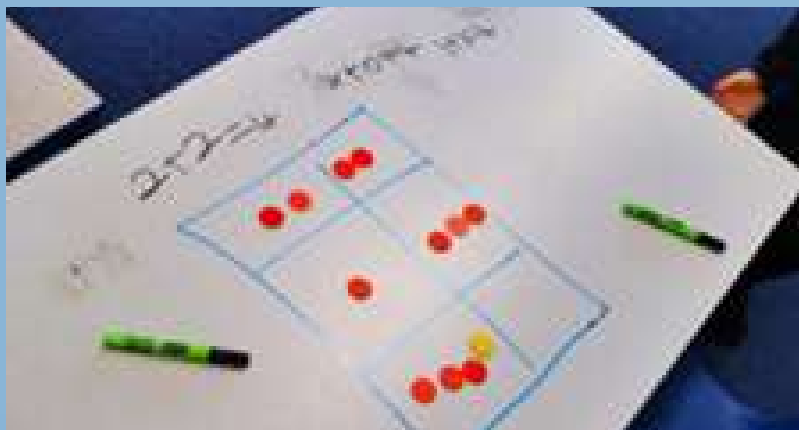
A big well done to all the children reading five times a week! They've collected heaps of stars and are eagerly looking forward to their special prize.

Science has been a real adventure this half-term. We've learnt all about different animal groups—mammals, reptiles, fish, birds and amphibians—and even met two real reptiles: Mr Tumble the tortoise and Mimi the terrapin! We're now full-fledged animal experts who can even sort animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Our wider curriculum has been just as exciting. In history, we've been learning about our local community and how it has changed over time, especially the shops around us and how different they used to be. We wrapped up the term with a fantastic DT project, where we planned, designed, cut out, glued and decorated our very own felt gingerbread tree decorations. We can't wait for you to see them!

Thank you so much for all your support this half-term. We hope you enjoy watching the nativity and have a wonderful, fun-filled break. See you in the new year!

## The Year 1 Team





# Primary News

# Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful half term we have had in Year 2! The children have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of everything they have achieved. Here is a glimpse of the fantastic learning we've been enjoying together.

This half term, we explored stories from other cultures and we were inspired by African traditions. The children used this as a springboard to write their very own stories, filled with imagination, expression, and some fabulous new vocabulary. We also stepped into the festive spirit by creating exciting Christmas poems and atmospheric setting descriptions. The children loved experimenting with powerful words and phrases, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as writers.

In Maths, we have been busy developing our skills in addition and subtraction. The children have learnt to add and subtract two two-digit numbers using a range of methods, helping them understand the process in different ways. We have also been practicing finding 10 more and 10 less, which has strengthened their place value knowledge beautifully. Everyone has shown great perseverance and progress!

Our D&T project this half term has been a real highlight. The children worked really hard on designing and making their own animal hand puppets, using skills such as threading, gluing, and careful sticking. They showed fantastic creativity and perseverance throughout the process, and each puppet had its own wonderful personality. We hope you enjoyed seeing the finished creations as much as the children enjoyed making them!

In science, we have been learning all about how to keep ourselves healthy through a balanced diet and regular exercise. The children especially enjoyed investigating how our bodies change when we are active. We tested our heart rates before and after exercise and discussed why our hearts beat faster when we move. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and curious about how their bodies work!

In geography, we explored the fascinating Yanomami tribe who live deep in the Amazon rainforest. The children were captivated as they learnt how the Yanomami survive in such a unique environment—finding food, building shelter, and living closely with nature. They asked brilliant questions and showed

great curiosity about life in different parts of the world.

Some real highlights of the half term have been watching and supporting the children in their KS1 performance of Baaarmy Bethlehem. Every child was amazing—learning lines, singing confidently, and showing wonderful commitment and acting skills. We are incredibly proud of them all. We hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we did! A lovely festive highlight this term was our cosy Polar Express evening. The children were so excited to come in wearing their Christmas pyjamas, ready to snuggle up with hot chocolate and popcorn while we watched the film together. It was a magical, heart-warming experience that we all thoroughly enjoyed! We also took part in a Christmas Door Competition, which the children absolutely loved. They worked together with great enthusiasm to make our classroom door look extra special and festive. Their creativity, teamwork, and excitement made the whole activity a real joy!

We'd like to say a huge well done to all the children for their enthusiasm, hard work, and positive attitude this term. Thank you for your continued support at home—it makes such a difference.

We hope you enjoy spending some special time together with family over the break and we look forward to another brilliant term ahead.

Warm wishes,

**The Year 2 Team**





# Year 3

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 3 and are extremely proud of the children's enthusiasm and hard work across the curriculum.

We began with an engaging SCARF (PSHE) workshop, where the children met Harold the Giraffe and learned about how the brain works and ways to keep their brains and bodies healthy.

In Science, we finished our learning about rocks by creating our own fossils using plaster. Although it was a tense wait, we were delighted with the results! We then launched our new science topic with a visit from Zoolab, where the children met and touched a variety of animals, including a giant African snail, a tree frog and a snake. We have since been learning about healthy diets, as well as the skeleton and muscles.

Thank you for your wonderful support with homework. We were amazed by the range of skeleton projects, including models, PowerPoints and word searches.

In English, the children wrote impressive complaint letters and enjoyed writing Stone Age historical narratives, linking well with our topic work. We have also enjoyed working with a music specialist teacher, learning new songs, and in Computing the children have been programming branching databases.

We have rounded off the term with lots of festive celebrations, including our Christmas dinner, Christmas performances, and plenty of glitter and crafts. A huge thank you to Ivy and Poppy's mum for leading a hockey workshop — the children thoroughly enjoyed it and impressed us all with their skills.

The Year 3 team wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

## The Year 3 Team





It has been another busy and exciting half term in Year 4, and we are delighted to share some of the wonderful learning experiences the children have taken part in.

In Writing, the children have been planning and writing their own adventure stories. A key focus has been on creating a spooky atmosphere, using strong and descriptive vocabulary to engage the reader. We have been very impressed with their imaginative ideas and growing confidence as writers.

In Reading, we have been enjoying *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. The children have been developing their comprehension skills by exploring characters, themes, and making thoughtful inferences about the text.

In Maths, Year 4 have been working hard on learning their times tables and applying this knowledge to solve a range of mathematical problems. Regular practice has helped to build both speed and confidence.

During PE, the children have been learning to play hockey. They have developed their teamwork, coordination, and ball-control skills while enjoying friendly games and activities.

In Geography, we have been learning all about rivers. The children explored how rivers meander through the land, form confluences, and what happens when fresh water meets salt water at the sea.

In Science, our focus has been on matter. The children have investigated the three states of matter and learned how they behave and change under different conditions.

In RE, we learned the story of Hanukkah and explored why the symbol of light is so important in Judaism. The children showed great curiosity and respect while learning about this festival.

We were also lucky enough to go on a fantastic school trip to the Sustainability Centre, where the children experienced a “day in the life” of an

Anglo-Saxon. They created pottery, wove a wall, explored artefacts used by Anglo-Saxons, and enjoyed traditional games — including the very popular Whack the Rat! It was a memorable and hands-on learning experience for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very proud of all the hard work Year 4 have put in this half term and look forward to more exciting learning ahead.

## The Year 4 team



# Year 5

Autumn 2 has been another busy and rewarding half term for Year 5, and we are incredibly proud of the effort, enthusiasm and progress the children have shown.

In maths, we learnt short and long multiplication and division, and began applying these skills confidently to more complex problems. The children have worked hard to explain their thinking clearly and to choose efficient strategies when solving calculations and word problems.

In English, the children produced some fantastic writing. They planned and wrote a balanced argument, carefully considering different viewpoints and using persuasive language to support their ideas. They also wrote an engaging narrative set in another culture, showing creativity, empathy and a growing awareness of how setting and culture influence storytelling.

Our history learning remained focused on Ancient Greece, where the children explored key aspects of Greek life, beliefs and achievements. They have shown great curiosity and made thoughtful links between the past and the modern world.

This half term also saw the completion of our swimming lessons, and it has been wonderful to see how much confidence and skill the children have developed in the water.

A real highlight of the term was taking part in the KS2 Christmas performance. Year 5 performed brilliantly, showing confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm. It was a joy to see their hard work pay off and to share such a festive celebration together.

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this term and should be very proud of everything they have achieved. We would like to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, joyful New Year, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year.

Here is Year 5s Thank you!

**The Year 5 Team**



It is hard to believe that we are a whole term into the school year and have reached the Christmas break! Our Year 6 children have continued to impress us with their learning in the second half of the term, with their positive attitudes and behaviours to learning. The children have particularly enjoyed the many links between the subjects that we have covered this half-term.

In reading, we have read 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman, following the story of 13-year-old Cameron, given only months to live with his only hope of survival and fitness in the form of receiving a pig's heart, in a groundbreaking transplantation. We followed the themes of family, friendship, betrayal, dilemma, ethics and survival as we empathised with Cameron and explored the choices that he had to make. We have finished the term reading 'How to Live Forever' by Colin Thompson, a shorter text about Peter, who lives in a library, which comes to life at night as he tries to find a book that will help him to live forever. We really enjoyed the more light-hearted imagination of this story to finish off the term with.

In writing, we started the half term writing stories with a moral dilemma. We focussed on writing in the first person, placing ourselves right in the story. We linked our stories back to our learning of the Greeks in Year 5, recalling specific vocabulary to write our own versions of King Midas' Gold..... Be careful what you wish for and remember what really matters.... We then wrote World War II poems, drawing back upon our learning from the beginning of the school year. We used rhyming patterns, assonance, personification and metaphors to produce some brilliant writing, now on display in our Year 6 corridor. We have finished the term by writing newspaper reports, using the skills of; past progressive tense, colloquial language, modal verbs, and presentational features. We linked our writing to our reading of Pig Heart Boy, reporting on Cameron's heart transplant.

In maths, we spent a lot of time learning about numbers up eight-digits, place value and calculations of numbers up to eight-digits.

We have focussed on using the most efficient methods of calculating, based on our knowledge of numbers and the number system. We finished the term with learning about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties and measuring angles.

In Science we have been learning about the human body. We have been learning about the function of the heart, carrying out investigative work into measuring our heart rates, before and after exercise, the effects of exercise and a healthy balanced diet, and how to measure our heart rates. We also learnt about the composition of our blood and made some 'blood' to include red and white blood cells, plasma and platelets.

In Geography, we have been learning about the make-up of our planet below ground level. We have focussed on the tectonic plates across the world and have linked these to the world's continents, also learning about the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



In Art, we used mixed media to recreate works by David Hockney, Paul Rego and John Singer-Sargent. The calming scenes from our art linked in nicely with our appraisals of the Fingal's Cave theme music, making up our Music lessons for this term. In PSHE, we have emphasised celebrating difference and the inclusive ethos of school. We have really enjoyed the OPAL provision at lunchtimes to really put our inclusive values into practice. In RE, we have been learning about Incarnation; the concept of embodiment. In PE, we have enjoyed making the most of our field to develop our football skills, alongside tactics and strategies within playing dodgeball in the hall. In French, with Madame Humphries, we have been learning all about our family members and how to describe them.

We have also enjoyed getting into the festive mood by decorating our classroom doors. This really did show the competitive streaks of children and adults alike! The children in Atlantic and Southern Classes have put on amazing assemblies this term. Thank you if you came along to see either of them. And, we have seen some excellent home learning this term too, demonstrating the strength in support from home – thank you! Our 'working' heart models look amazing and are a real talking point in our corridor. As always, thank you for your continued support! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will see you in 2026!

## The Year 6 Team





# School Calendar

First day back after Christmas Holidays: Tuesday 6th January 2026

February Half-Term: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

First day back after February Half-Term: Monday 23rd February 2026

## JANUARY

<b>5th January</b>	INSET Day
<b>14th January</b>	Salterns Academy Trust Annual General Meeting
<b>15th January</b>	Year 10 Parents Evening
<b>19th January</b>	INSET Day
<b>27th January</b>	Dance Live Rehearsal Main Hall
<b>28th January</b>	Secondary Dance Live Performance

## FEBRUARY

<b>4th February</b>	Melinda Salisbury Author Visit
<b>10th February</b>	PD Day 2
<b>12th February</b>	Year 8 Parents Evening



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