



Dear Parents/Carers

Fundraising

We raised £472.25 from the Christmas Fayre; this will go towards future resources/experiences for the children and the next Y5/6 residential trip. We also raised £89 for Save the Children from our Christmas Jumper Day and we were able to donate £5 to the Children's Society from the Christingle collection at the church. Thank you all so much!

Christmas Dinner

The children enjoyed their Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. It is a rare occasion when the whole school sits and eats together. Thank you to our Caterer's AiP and to the whole staffing team for giving up their time to serve the children.



Christingle

Thank you to those Parents/Carers that walked with Classes 2-4 to the local Church on Wednesday. The children were very excited to walk up there, some for the first time; we hope to make this an annual event for everyone at Christmas time. Once again a BIG THANK YOU to Tesco, Cinderford, (Adam's Mum) for the donation of oranges to make this activity possible.



Carol Service – Friday 20th January

Thank you to those who were able to attend our annual Carol Service today. The children very much enjoyed singing the songs they have been practicing for you.



Goodbyes and welcomes!

Wishing a huge thank you and goodbye to Miss Howells from Pre-school. Miss Morgan will be joining the team from January in the interim whilst we recruit. Also, wishing a very happy retirement to Mr Holder and a welcome to Miss Caton who will be joining us in January.

Swimming, Prostars Club and Cookery Club in January

Letters were sent last week to inform Class 4 that they will be starting swimming lessons on **Tuesday 7th January**. Prostars Club will be starting again, the first session being on **Friday 10th January**. Also Cooking Club will start on **Tuesday 14th January**, the next 6 children were selected from the waiting list and have been given letters.



Diary Dates



Autumn Term 2024

2nd September-20th December

Half Term

28th October-1st November

Spring term 2025

6th January-11th April

Half Term

17th-21st February

Summer Term 2025

28th April-21st July

Half Term

26th May - 30th May

INSET days:

6th January, 11th April and 21st July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation activities)

January

6th Inset Training Day

7th Children start Term 3

10th Reading Café – all welcome!

15th Attendance Drop-in Session – 9:00am-10:00am

22nd Rags 2 Riches Collection

23rd YR & Y6 NHS Health Screening

February

3rd Children's Mental Health Week

4th Children's Mental Health Workshops with Young Minds Matter

5th Mental Health Federation afternoon for Y5/6

7th In the Net – Y4 - Letter to follow

13th FoSM Valentine's Disco

14th FoSM Non-school Uniform TBC
End of Term 3

Attendance Drop-in Session – Wednesday 15th January

There will be an Attendance Drop in Session on Wednesday 15th January for any parent/carer who would like to have a chat with Mrs Fawkes with regards to their child's attendance. Mrs Fawkes is our Executive Deputy Head Teacher/ Attendance Lead and will be available between 9-10am. We hope to see you there.

Rags 2 Riches – Wednesday 22nd January

Our next collection of clothes is in 5 weeks-time on 22nd January. If you are having a new year clear out, please check the Rags to Riches website for suitable items to donate. Bags to be left in the playground (weather depending) on the morning, between 7:45am and 9:30am. Thank you!

Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Thursday 23rd January

All children in Reception and Year 6 year groups have received a letter giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening. Please contact Miss Agg if you have not seen this letter.

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

Pre-School – this week has been Christmas-tastic! We have been doing lots of singing and dancing, enjoying festive music. On Wednesday we wore our Christmas jumpers and enjoyed a Christmas lunch in the hall with the whole school. We also made Christingles with Class 1 where the children did really well to follow the instructions (and eat the sweets before the end of the day!) Thursday was party day and we joined Class 1 and 2 for pass the parcel, musical bumps and lots of dancing. We have also done lots of festive crafts, played with some new Paw Patrol toys we got gifted by Mrs Warren and enjoyed our last week altogether before the festive break.

Class 1 – Christmas week in Class 1 has been wild. We have had lots of fun, decorating biscuits, making calendars and lots of other lovely Christmas activities. The children have loved their Christmas partying and the whole school Christmas dinner. For phonics we have been learning Tricky Witch 'oo' sound and our HFW's are 'look, now, down'. In maths we have finished our unit on patterns with the children identifying and making AB & ABC patterns. Sadly, this is Miss Byrnes last week with the children, but we have all made sure to have lots of fun together and the children have enjoyed getting to know Miss Stones.

Class 2 – we've had another very busy week in Class 2! The children have been continuing their maths work and have done very well to continue with their hard work and can-do attitudes. We have been very festive and glittery (sorry Mr Holder!); making cards, calendars and other wonderful Christmas activities. We really enjoyed our Christmas parties and the carol concert.

Class 3 have had a fantastic week. They made calendars, cards and star decorations at the beginning of the week. They have continued to amaze me at swimming with how brilliantly they have all come along this term and we had some fun splash time during the final session. The children finished their DT weaving unit and created amazing woven tree



Star of the Week Certificates



(these are awarded in the Celebration Assembly each Tuesday afternoon)

Pre-school

All of Pre-School - for being bright shining stars for the two nativity performances and for being so good on our Christmas trip.

Class 1

Oak, Rosie & Benjamin: for using a talk tin for the first time to write a sentence independently.

Star readers: **Benjamin, Oak & Joseph**

Class 2

Zakiyah and Aakelah - always being an amazing part of Steam Mills. We will miss you!

Poppy - having a wonderful, positive attitude towards learning.

Class 3

Emmie - for being a kind learning partner.

Jax - for being more willing to participate in class discussions.

Class 4

Ruby – for a positive, can-do attitude. Keep it up!

Isabelle – for listening to feedback and striving to improve.



decorations using their new skills. We have also enjoyed singing carols and drinking hot chocolate whilst listening to A Diary of a Christmas Elf. I hope the children have wonderful Christmas break with their families and look forward to seeing them in the New Year!

Class 4 - have had a great week. They have worked hard to complete their non-chronological reports about WWII and they finished their art. The prints with watercolours were really effective and lots of them were really proud of their pieces. In Science, they were exploring mechanisms and got to build catapults and used them to catapult baubles - it was very tricky but they persevered and had lots of fun. We were very proud of them on Wednesday; they were brilliant with the younger children at the Christingle Church event and embodied our RR and SHINE ethos. They have really enjoyed all of the festivities this week and have worked so hard this term! Enjoy the rest Class 4 and we will see you in the New Year!

Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!



WINTER SPORTS CAMP ACTIVITIES

- ★ Christmas Bingo
- ★ Winter Scavenger Hunt
- ★ Christmas Cards
- ★ Calendar making
- ★ Snowman Dodgeball
- ★ Obstacle courses
- ★ The Elf Express
- ★ Football Dartboard
- ★ Elf on the Shelf
- ★ Grinch Stole Christmas



DATES:
23/12/24
02/01/25
03/01/25

HAF:
9AM-3PM

Winter Holiday Club

HAF spaces available
HAF spaces are fully funded spaces for families who receive benefit related free school meals. To book please follow the below links

HAF venues

DENE MAGNA, MITCHELDEAN -
[HTTPS://FORESTOFDEANDISTRICT.COORDINATE.CLOUD/PROJECT/62454](https://forestofdeandistrict.coordinate.cloud/project/62454)

PICKLENASH, NEWENT -
[HTTPS://FORESTOFDEANDISTRICT.COORDINATE.CLOUD/PROJECT/62458](https://forestofdeandistrict.coordinate.cloud/project/62458)

PRIMROSE HILL, LYDNEY -
[HTTPS://FORESTOFDEANDISTRICT.COORDINATE.CLOUD/PROJECT/62456](https://forestofdeandistrict.coordinate.cloud/project/62456)



ACTIVE GAMES AND CRAFT

Join us for some active games and crafts where we'll be running a very relaxed timetable; you could play some active games, get stuck into craft, or do a bit of both! Light refreshments will be available.

Friday 3rd January
1.00pm - 3.00pm

School years 3 - 6

Soudley Village Hall, Lower Road, Soudley, GL14 2TS

➤ Head to the website for more information and to book now.

For more information contact
lucy.marshall@sportily.org.uk
sportily.org.uk



CYGNET AUTISM PARENTING SUPPORT

Are you a parent or carer of children and young people, aged 3-18 yrs old, that have been diagnosed with autism, are on the pathway to an autism diagnosis or are suspected of having autism?

Over seven weekly sessions, we will cover:

- Discovering autism
- Parent and carer experiences
- Thinking and Sensory differences
- Social Interaction & Communication
- Understanding and supporting behaviour
- Analysing behaviour

We have two course starting dates to choose from:

Wednesday, 8 January 2025 at 9.30 am - 12 pm

Thursday, 30 January 2025 at 9.30 am - 12 pm

To book your place, please email Beki Gillingham

beki.gillingham@barnardos.org.uk



BARNARDOS PROGRAMMES

Everyone benefits from group programmes!

Support at your fingertips

- ✓ Regular Programmes to Refer to
- ✓ Quick and Easy Sign Up
- ✓ Surrounded by families with shared experiences.
- ✓ Support through different situations
- ✓ Better outcomes for you and your family

A Variety of Courses to Choose From:

- Incredible Years
- Solihull
- Five To Thrive
- Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit
- Programmes for parents of children with additional needs
- ACES Recovery Toolkit
- You & Me, Mum

Confidentiality Disclaimer:

In order to register, the form will necessitate your full name, child's name, contact number, and email address. We prioritise data protection, ensuring that your details are solely utilised for course registration purposes. Should you wish to have your information removed, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

For more information please email:
beki.gillingham@barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 2038750 and SC037809

As always, please do let us know if you have any questions or queries. We do also encourage parents/carers to let us know if they have any suggestions of events or activities that you would like to see in school.

Our Safeguarding, Behaviour, Complaints and other policies are available on our school website