



FRIDAY FLYER



Thursday 12th December 2024

No two days are ever the same at Richard Coates CE Primary School and this festive season has been no exception! On Tuesday, we were graced at the school gates by the arrival of a parade of monarchs as Year 2 enjoyed their Kings, Queens and Castles Day. It was wonderful to see their regal outfits and hear about the knowledge that they have gained in this fascinating topic.



We had barely waved goodbye to the royals when, on Wednesday, the sound of jingle bells signaled the arrival of a very special guest. The children were thrilled as Santa Claus himself made time in his busy schedule to visit each classroom. He brought gifts to be enjoyed throughout the year, including favorite board games for indoor breaks, new class books, special lighting and cushions for our book areas, and even a mini football table! Can you spot our visitor hidden amongst our Year 6 cohort?



The excitement didn't end there. Later that day, the PTFA Christmas Fair brought our school community together for an evening of festive fun.



The ever-popular colour-themed hampers and tombola were big hits, with many families heading home with goodies to enjoy over the festive period. Thank you to our wonderful PTFA team for making this such a memorable event!



This week has also seen Year 4 taking a trip to the Great North Museum to complement their science topic on animal classification and food chains. Both Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 attended special Christmas services at St. Mary's Church, which helped us all reflect on the deeper meaning of the celebrations to come.

Our Friday Flyer comes a day early this week, as school will be closed on Friday 13th December for a teacher training day. We'll be back on Monday for the final week of term, ready to crank up the festivities with our Key Stage Christmas Performances. A reminder that entry to performances will be via the community room doors, and up to two guests per child can be registered using the booking form in your SchoolComms emails.

We hope all our children enjoy a slightly longer weekend, and we can't wait to see everyone on Monday for the festive finale!

James Watson – Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

A special well done to Year 3 this week! Both classes were inseparable at the top of the attendance table, coming incredibly close to a perfect 100%. This outstanding effort reflects the dedication across the entire year group. With just one week left in the autumn term—packed with performances and parties—we're aiming to keep up this excellent record right to the final day!

Weekly Overview		Acorns (Nursery)	
Oak (Reception)	95.20	Birch (Year 1)	91.74
Willow (Year 1)	98.75	Ash (Year 2)	97.89
Beech (Year 2)	96.09	Rowan (Year 3)	98.89
Chestnut (Year 3)	98.89	Maple (Year 4)	96.15
Alder (Year 4)	94.40	Cedar (Year 5)	96.80
Pine (Year 5)	90.77	Juniper (Year 6)	94.00
Attendance Guide			
98% - 100%		Excellent level of attendance	
95% - 97.9%		Good level of attendance	
92% - 94.9%		Caution (below national)	
90% - 91.9%		Cause for concern	
89.9% or below		Persistent Absence- Serious concern	

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Updates of the Week

Online Safety Tips for Children - New Devices

With many children receiving new devices this Christmas, it's the perfect time to revisit some key advice for staying safe online. The National Online Safety Wake Up Wednesday poster offers top tips to help children use their new devices responsibly and securely.

From creating strong passwords to recognising safe websites, these simple guidelines are essential for a fun and safe online experience. Make sure to check out the poster [found on our school website](#), and talk about these tips with your children - staying informed keeps everyone protected!



Beacon House- Winter Resource Pack

Christmas can be a magical time, but it's also a season that can bring extra stress for both children and adults. If you or your family are finding this time of year challenging, Beacon House, specialists in therapeutic and trauma support, offer a Winter Resource Pack filled with helpful tools. This includes audio support, insightful articles, and engaging activities designed to support wellbeing during the festive period.

For more information and to access their resources, [visit this link](#). Remember, it's always okay to ask for help. ❤️





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

We have been loving all things Christmas in Nursery! We have talked about how we will celebrate Christmas at home, and how this might be different to how others celebrate Christmas. We loved our visit from Santa and were very grateful for the class Christmas present and reindeer dust he gave us!



We have also thought hard about things that we might see at Christmas, such as a Christmas tree with baubles, an elf, snow and snowmen, or even Santa's sleigh! We drew some amazing pictures of all of the things we see at Christmas.

Reception

What a festive week we have had in Reception. We've made Christmas cards and calendars but also thought about the meaning of Christmas. We listened to traditional Christmas carols, considered the meaning behind giving at Christmas and thought about how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

We were so surprised to receive a visit from the big man himself too! Santa told us we were all on the good list and even gave us an early class Christmas present!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

.....

This week, Year 1 experienced a magical surprise when Santa himself appeared in our classroom! The children were thrilled to see him and delighted to hear that they were all officially on the good list. Santa took the time to share a heartwarming Christmas story, filling the room with festive cheer and wonder.

As a special treat, he gifted each child a small bag of magical reindeer food to sprinkle in the garden on Christmas Eve—a perfect way to ensure Santa's reindeer are well-fed on their busy night!



Year 2

.....

What a wonderful week we have had in Year Two. This week we have had the opportunity to celebrate the end of our topic "Kings, Queens and Castles".

As part of the celebrations, we all dressed up in our royal outfits and loved taking part in lots of creative activities. We designed coats of arms; made royal flags and did some wonderful medieval dancing. We loved finishing the celebrations with a delicious banquet. Well done to everyone for making the day so special!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

This week, Year 3 had the privilege of attending a special Christmas worship at the church. Reverend Paul gave us a warm welcome, guiding the children through a wonderful time of festive songs, prayers and the timeless story of Christmas. It was a meaningful experience, and we were incredibly proud of the children for their remarkable respect and participation throughout the service.

Adding even more excitement to the week, we were lucky to receive a surprise visit from Santa! His unexpected appearance brought excitement for everyone. Well done, Year 3, for embracing the holiday spirit so well!



Year 4

Year 4 visited church this week for worship with Reverend Paul. We enjoyed singing 'Away in a Manger' and listening to The Christmas Story. The children were incredibly well behaved and it was a pleasure to take them on this trip. We have also continued rehearsals for our Christmas performance next week.

Some of our Year 4 pupils were involved in an orienteering event this week. All of the pupils demonstrated excellent team work and enthusiasm and finished in third place! Well done!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

Cedar class have been investigating friction in science this week. They enjoyed carrying out a comparative and fair test to discover which surface creates the greatest amount of friction with the sole of a shoe. Year 5 have worked incredibly hard on their writing skills this week. They have studied what makes a fantastic non-chronological report and independently produced their own reports about animals that migrate. Super writing everyone.

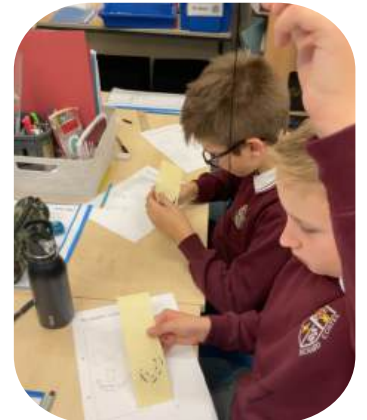
It was also wonderful to receive a visit from Santa! Year 5 were overjoyed that they were able to meet this very special visitor and, as everyone was on the 'nice' list, we were lucky enough to be given some lovely class gifts! A very special memory.



Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have been learning about different sewing stitches, in the context of Victorian samplers. We've been inspired by some of the work we've looked at to create some bookmarks, which we started work on today, using running stitch, cross stitch and back stitch.

It was also lovely to get a visit from Santa who was very complimentary about our class! He brought us some special gifts to share, which will make our indoor breaks much more fun: we were very grateful to receive them.





HAPPY Birthday

A special Happy Birthday to all of the
following children that will be celebrating
their birthdays in the run up to
Christmas.



Happy Birthday to:

Santiago (Year 1)

Harry (Year 1)

Oliver (Year 1)

Alfie (Year 2)

Julen (Year 2)

Eddie (Year 5)





OTHER NEWS

This week...

Year 5 Pupil Making Waves at Swimming Gala

This weekend, Joshua, Year 5, represented Newcastle Swim Team at a gala and achieved some amazing results! He swam fantastic personal bests (PBs) and brought home medals in the 100m Individual Medley, 50m Backstroke, and 100m Breaststroke. What an incredible achievement- well done, Joshua!



Teaching Post Vacancy- Pele Trust

We are looking to appoint a dedicated teacher who excels at building strong professional relationships and nurturing the potential of every child. This unique role offers the opportunity to work across two fantastic Pele Trust schools: Richard Coates CE Primary School and Belsay Primary School.



Closing date for applications is Monday 16th December 2024 at 12pm. For more information and to apply, please refer to the [application pack](#).

Cheerleading Event

A huge well done to some of our talented pupils: Holly W and Holly C (Year 6), Charlotte and Olivia (Year 4), and Ella (Year 2), who recently competed in Blackpool at a national cheerleading competition! They were also joined by Gracie, a former Coates pupil now in Year 7 at Ponteland High.

The cheerleading squad, which is only a year old, made everyone proud with their incredible performances. The youth team secured 6th place, and the minis team placed 9th, both achieving the remarkable feat of 'hitting zero'—a flawless performance with no mistakes!



With teams from across the country taking part, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done to the girls and their supportive families—what an inspiration!

Dancing Star of the Stage

A huge congratulations to Lottie Jones from Nursery, who took part in her mummy's dance show with LJ Dance & Performing Arts on Sunday 8th December.

Lottie performed in not one, but two shows and shone like a true superstar, beaming with joy on stage! Keep dancing and dazzling your audiences, Lottie!





OTHER NEWS

This week...

Charity Christmas Lights Fundraiser

We would like to give a big shoutout to Grace for her amazing efforts with her Christmas lights this year! Her street lights up each Christmas to raise funds for a number of charities. This year, donations are being raised for Genie Wish, People's Kitchen, and Children's Heart Unit Fund.

Grace's display is the biggest yet, with an incredible 22,000 lights on show and her Dad has been helping neighbours put up their displays too.

Grace's family invites everyone from school to visit the street at Lepidina Close, which is becoming known for its outstanding light show. Why not enjoy the festive magic, and support these wonderful charities with a family visit? Thank you, Grace, for brightening our community this Christmas!



500 Word Competition Update

Following on from our 500 words writing competition, we are delighted to hear that some of our budding authors' entries have now made it through the next stage in the national competition.



Both Jacob (Year 3) and Joshua (Year 5) have made it past the first stage of screening, with tens of thousands of entries being cut down to a shortlist of 5000. We wish them both the very best of luck at the next stage in the process

Swimming Achievement- Moving On Up!

A big congratulations to Theo (Year 1), who recently achieved an incredible milestone in his swimming journey by moving up to Stage 4! This exciting progress happened in recent weeks, and Theo has been working hard to develop his skills and confidence in the pool ever since.

We are so proud of his dedication and determination—it's wonderful to see him reaching new heights and feeling so proud of himself too!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024/2025

Please note that newly added dates **are highlighted in yellow**.

Date	Event
Friday 13th December	Teacher Training Day- School closed to children
Monday 16th December	Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Christmas Performance -9.15am. Please book tickets via the email Google Form.
Tuesday 17th December	Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 and Y4) Christmas Performance- 2pm. Please book tickets via the email Google Form.
Wednesday 18th December	Early Years Christmas Performance -9.15am Please book tickets via the email Google Form. Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church- 1.45pm. Parents invited- ticket booking is not required.
Wednesday 18th December	KS1 Christmas Parties
Thursday 19th December	EYFS and KS2 Christmas Parties
Monday 6th January	Children return to school after Christmas holidays
Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May	Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs week
Wednesday 21st- Friday 23rd May	Year 5 Robinwood Residential Visit
Monday 23rd June- Friday 27th June	Year 6 France Residential Visit

Spring Calendar Dates Coming Soon

