



FRIDAY FLYER



Friday 20th December 2024

Headteacher Update

Performances and parties have taken centre stage throughout this week and our wonderful children have dazzled us all with their courage, talent, and energy. Whether singing, dancing, or delivering their lines, they made it all look effortless, captivating packed audiences throughout the week.

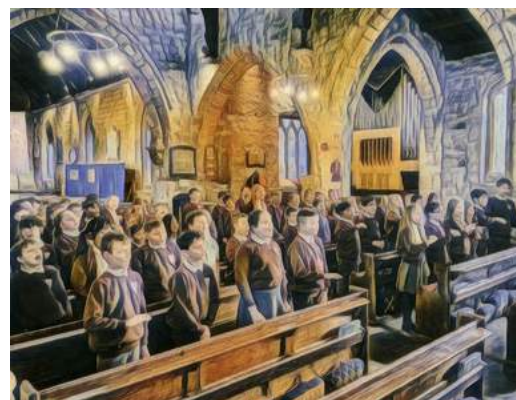
Our Early Years performance brought all of the magic of the nativity story with some show-stopping songs. The audience were stunned by the confidence and professionalism of our youngest school cast in this performance to remember.

In Key Stage 1, we saw the Christmas story from the perspective of the stable animals who had to complete a quick tidy up and just managed to get the arrangements in order just in time for a special arrival in the production of Higgledy Piggledy.



In Lower Key Stage 2, we were treated to a fantastic performance of Baubles. This heartwarming show captured the joy of Christmas as it spread through a school, with plenty of help from the traditional nativity characters along the way.

We also made space for quieter, more reflective moments as Upper Key Stage 2 performed a very mature Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Parish. Finally, we came together for a special Christmas collective worship on Friday morning. These gatherings reminded us of the true heart of Christmas: showing love and care for one another. Throughout the term, our children have done just that—through big acts like charity fundraisers and in the small, daily gestures of kindness that make our school such a special place.



A huge congratulations to all our children and staff for bringing the Christmas magic to life with all of these wonderful performances! We would also like to offer our thanks to everyone who came along to cheer them on - it meant the world to our children to have a proud audience celebrating their hard work. The festive spirit didn't stop at the stage, though! Every year group enjoyed their Christmas parties, complete with plenty of games, tasty treats and some truly spectacular dance moves—putting the North East firmly on the map for cheesy song choreography!

We've been proud to celebrate the children's many talents in music, drama, dance, and sport, alongside their determination and achievements in the classroom. After such a fantastic term, both children and staff have certainly earned a well-deserved rest

On behalf of everyone at Richard Coates Primary School, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for a bright start to the New Year!

James Watson - Headteacher





ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Congratulations to all our classes that achieved green status this week! A special mention goes to Ash class, where every child was present for the whole of last week, earning them an impressive 100%. Well done! We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 6th January, as we focus on keeping up these excellent records.

Weekly Overview		Acorns (Nursery)	95.21
Oak (Reception)	96.00	Birch (Year 1)	91.30
Willow (Year 1)	94.79	Ash (Year 2)	100
Beech (Year 2)	96.74	Rowan (Year 3)	95.14
Chestnut (Year 3)	97.22	Maple (Year 4)	95.19
Alder (Year 4)	93.50	Cedar (Year 5)	98.50
Pine (Year 5)	94.23	Juniper (Year 6)	92.92
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

Christmas Tech Safety Tips

NSPCC

Many children will receive tech gifts like games consoles, tablets, or smart toys this Christmas. While these can be fun and educational, it is important to keep children safe online.

Games Consoles

- Check age ratings and ensure games are suitable.
- Set up parental controls and monitor who your child talks to online.
- Discuss online safety and encourage your child to tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable.



Mobiles/Tablets

- Explore apps and games together to understand how your child is using them.
- Set parental controls and talk about recognising and reporting harmful content or behaviour.

For more advice, [visit the NSPCC website](#). Let's make Christmas tech safe and enjoyable!

Parent Support for Sensory Processing

The Sensory OT website provides helpful resources and guidance for parents and carers supporting children with sensory needs. Visit the site for tips, activities and information to help children thrive. To understand more about how to support your child with sensory processing, [follow this link](#).



The NHS have also produced [this informative video](#) to provide advice to parents to support eating and mealtimes for children who find this to be challenging due to sensory need.



YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

What a fabulous show for our Early Years Nativity this week. Nursery and Reception have worked extremely hard over the past few weeks, learning the songs, actions and their lines. We are so proud of how well they did and we're sure you are too!

Nursery also enjoyed their Christmas party this week, having lots of fun dancing, singing, playing party games and eating some party food! Well done, Nursery!



Reception

We were so incredibly proud of our Reception superstars when they performed The Big Little Nativity for their families on Wednesday. They all worked so hard learning their lines, practicing their big speaking voices and all of the songs too. You all truly let your light shine!

Oak Class also enjoyed their Christmas party! We played party games, showed off our groovy moves and enjoyed some party food too.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

What an amazing final week of school Year 1 has had! We loved taking part in the Christmas play and performing it for our grown-ups –it was such a special moment.



We also got creative, making beautiful cards and calendars to celebrate the season. To top it all off, our Christmas party was filled with laughter and fun! Have a lovely Christmas, everyone!

Year 2

We are so proud of what an amazing first term the children have had in Year 2!

This week we have enjoyed taking part in our Christmas play 'A Higgledy Piggledy Nativity' and we had a great time at our Christmas party. We have enjoyed many Christmas crafts this week and showed our artistic skills making our Christmas cards and calendars.

In English we have used amazing adjectives to write our acrostic Christmas poems! We are very proud of all of Year 2 and we hope you have a wonderful holidays.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

What an amazing first term in Year 3! You have all worked so hard this term and we are so proud of the incredible work you have produced.

This week we have had our Christmas play, Christmas party, made cards and calendars and lots more festive fun.

Well done Year 3. We hope you have the most amazing Christmas and we can't wait to see you next year.



Year 4

Year 4 had a superb trip to the Great North Museum last week as part of their science curriculum. We had the chance to do a workshop with one of the museum's curators where we discussed classification and explored some of the museum's collection. All of the children had a great day exploring the museum.

This week we also had the chance to cook some biscuits with Mr. Million. We learnt about the recipes and techniques needed as well as learning about the importance of food hygiene.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

Year 5 and 6 led a superb Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday afternoon..

It was wonderful to see so many of our families at this annual service. Everyone agreed that the singing, dancing and reflections were very polished and enabled us all to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Well done to everyone and thank you so much to Mrs Wigham for ensuring we were word and pitch-perfect on the day.

Year 5 have all worked incredibly hard this term and it has flown by. We have been impressed by their work ethic, their kindness and how they live out our school motto, 'Let Your Light Shine' every day in school.

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and we hope you enjoy the festive holiday. See you all in 2025!



Year 6

Another festive week rolls by with the excitement building, and the Christmas spirit singing out in Year 6! Our carol service on Wednesday was a smash hit, with all the audience declaring it was one of the best they've ever been to. Mrs Wigham has coached some truly talented singers!

Aside from this it's been cards, calendars, sewing and some Christmas coordinates...we've even woven a festive theme into our English lessons this week as we've been writing letters to persuade Mr Main to eat sprouts at Christmas: not an easy feat! We were delighted when we saw him taste one of the tiny green terrors on camera, and after reading 30 extremely convincing letters he announced the most persuasive writer to be Josie, who won her very own bag of sprouts (the chocolate kind!). A very happy Christmas to all our Year 6 families; enjoy the well earned rest and time together over the next two weeks.





HAPPY

Birthday

It isn't just the festive season that will be celebrated over the coming fortnight. All of these children will also be celebrating their birthday during the Christmas holidays too.

Have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to:

Arthur (Nursery)	Amber (Year 2)	Ruben (Year 4)
Archie (Reception)	Hannah (Year 2)	Benjamin (Year 5)
Blake (Year 1)	Noah (Year 2)	Sam (Year 5)
Jessie (Year 1)	Jaxon (Year 3)	Cameron (Year 6)
Mila (Year 1)	Layla (Year 4)	Ryan (Year 6)
Willow (Year 1)	Leo (Year 4)	





OTHER NEWS

Oh Yes They Did! RCPS Children Shine in Festive Pantomime

We are lucky to have such a talented group of performers at Richard Coates, including a number of pupil that have been balancing their days in school with a series of evening pantomime performance dates,

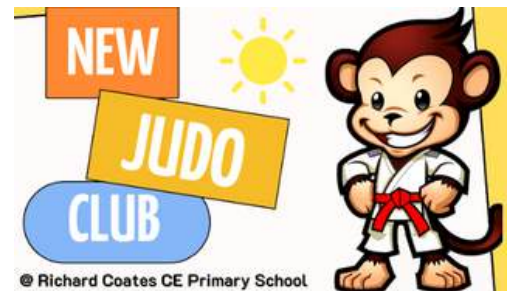
Well done to Harper, Harriet, Effie, Marie, Katie and Lucy as well as all other pupils who performed at the People's Theatre in a highly rated performance of Alice in Wonderland. It is clear that we have some stars of the stage in the making!



New Judo Club Arrives at RCPS!

We are delighted to introduce Patrick Tucker's judo club to our expanding list of extra-curricular opportunities in the spring term.

Patrick's classes are always incredibly popular and we are fortunate to be able to secure his time at our school over the coming weeks to run six weekly sessions for children in Year 1-4. For more information and to register interest for your child, please see [the attached flyer](#) and email tucker.patrick@live.co.uk



Year 4 Pupil Earns Top Award at Beavers

A huge well done to Thomas, who has been awarded his Chief Scout Bronze Award at Beavers during his final session! This prestigious award is the highest a Beaver Scout can achieve and reflects all the hard work, activities, and challenges Thomas has completed.

Since joining, Thomas has grown in confidence with every badge earned. He now moves on to Cubs, where we're sure he'll continue to shine and work towards the Silver Scout Badge. Congratulations, Thomas



Dance show Performance Delights an Audience

A big congratulations to Emily and Ellen, who performed in their very first dance show this week!

They delighted everyone with two beautiful dances at the Royal Hampton Nursing Home. What a wonderful way to share your talent and bring joy to others- well done to you both!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024/2025

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

Date	Event
Monday 6th January	Children return to school after Christmas holidays
Friday 10th January	Year 4 Alder begin weekly swimming lessons
Monday 13th January	Year 6 SATs Parents' Meeting 4.30pm
Thursday 16th January	Lee Hill (HINT) Workshop for parents-Supporting Emotional Dysregulation in Children - 2pm
Wednesday 22nd January	Prospective Parent EYFS Stay and Play Open Event- 1.30pm-2.30pm
Friday 24th January	Newcastle University Arts Workshops for children selected as school art representatives
Monday 17th February	Let's Dance Festival at Heddon Primary School- Year 5 and 6 dance club
Tuesday 18th February	Dogs' Trust Assembly and Workshops (KS2)
Friday 21st February	Shakespeare Schools Festival in-school workshop with Director. (PM) Reception Visit to Centre for Life
Friday 21st February	School finishes for half term
Monday 24th February- Friday 28th February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 3rd March	School Closed for teacher training day Secondary school offers day
Tuesday 4th March	Children return to school
Tuesday 4th March -11th March	Book Fair
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day World Book Day Breakfast Event for Families
Wednesday 12th March	Shakespeare Schools Performance at Northern Stage Theatre (PM and evening)
Wednesday 19th March	Author Guy Bass in school (Years 4, 5 and 6)
Thursday 27th March	Year 1 visit to Northumberland College Zoo
Monday 7th April	Year 5 visit to Centre for Life (Planetarium)
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