



VERWOOD C E FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term

Thursday 14th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy end to the term we have had! The children loved the festive bedtime story event on Tuesday and it was lovely to host so many families in the hall for a relaxed and informal gathering while the children were enjoying stories. Thank you to Mr Dear for organising the event and to the staff and volunteers who made sure the event was possible .

I am sorry that we were unable to hold our Christingle service in the church this morning. This decision was made at 7.30am based on the weather forecast of heavy rain. I appreciate that many family members were disappointed that we could not share this event with you . The service went ahead for the children in the school hall with Reverend Deborah and all children have had the opportunity to make and bring home a Christingle today. Thank you for your understanding with this difficult decision.

This afternoon Father Christmas visited school and gave each child a gift. Thank you to Friends of Verwood for this exciting end to the festive period.

I would like to share with you some staffing changes from January. Today we say goodbye and an enormous thank you to Louise Rackley, teaching assistant in Oak Base and Jackie Aller, lunchtime supervisor. Both members of staff have been part of the Verwood team for many years and we wish them well in the future. We cannot forget Chris Holloway who has monitored the gate during all weathers, come rain or shine. Thank you for your dedication and always welcoming staff, visitors and parents/carers with a friendly smile to our school campus.

In the new year we will be welcoming Kirsty Davis to Oak base and Kelly Ealing to the lunchtime team. In addition this holiday Miss Earley will be getting married. We wish her and her husband - to - be a wonderful celebration and look forward to her returning in January as Mrs Read.

I hope that you all enjoy the festive season with friends and family and we look forward to welcoming children back to school and nursery on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 as Tuesday 2nd January is a Staff training day.

Best wishes,

Katharine Anstey
Executive Headteacher

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day . Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session.

This week's attendance

Oak Base	94.31%
Sycamore Base	95.32%
Beech Base	95.63%
Willow Base	94.21%
Ash Base	94.63%

Reading Raffle

Congratulations to our Reading Raffle Winners which were drawn in Worship:

Joshua H-J - Willow Base

Willow T - Oak Base

Fantastic Reading, Fantastic Learning, Well Done to all Children.

"Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world."

Malala Yousafzai

Events at St. Michael's Church

Please click [here](#) to take you through to the upcoming events being held at St. Michael's Church

Head Lice

We have had cases of head Lice. Please can we ask you to check your child's hair and treat accordingly. Please click [here](#) for some further information on how to detect and treat Head Lice.

BRS Football & Multisports

A reminder that bookings open tonight at 6pm for BRS Football & BRS Multisports for Spring 1, payments will be issued early next term after the Event results have been collated.



12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday