



## 2024 Autumn Term 2 - Newsletter

*Dear Parents / Carers,*

*As we come to the end of the longest term of the year, it makes us all proud to reflect on what we have achieved so far.*

*The start of the half term saw us celebrating Diwali, followed by our House Leaders and Purple Parliament representing the school by paying their respects at the Ashby Remembrance services. Pudsey came to visit us for Children in Need and one of our Year 6 organised a fabulous fundraising event to support the children's air ambulance service. Year 5 started off our class assemblies for the year, which is always a highlight, watching the children perform so confidently and have so much fun. OPAL (outdoor play and learning) has continued to grow, listening to feedback from the children. There are many very happy faces at lunchtimes, with a variety of play opportunities to engage in.*

*We have also had our 'peer review', similar to a mini-Ofsted, undertaken by senior leaders from our Trust – Symphony Learning Trust. This year, they were also joined by senior leaders from a Trust in Harrogate and we were delighted with the extremely positive report that we received. They focused on Maths, Early Years, Pupil Premium, RE, DT and Safeguarding. Particular praise went to our subject leaders, whose knowledge of their curriculum areas impressed them all. All this before we even thought about Christmas!*

*Christmas is always a magical time in school, thanks to the EYFS and KS1 nativities and KS2 carol concerts. The children made everyone proud with their wonderful performances, with everyone playing their part brilliantly. Thanks must go to all the staff involved in producing such lovely events, which have been supported so well by our families. Decorations day yet again proved to be a day of creativity and happiness; it is always a pleasure to share this with families and welcome you in during the festive season.*

*It is no wonder that the children (and staff) are ready to stop for a few weeks!*

*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*Best wishes  
Chloe Dilks  
Headteacher*

### **Foundation Stage**

And just like that, we have come to the end of the Acorn's first full term in school! It has been a pleasure to witness their growing confidence as they engage with their peers and explore the wonderful world around them with increasing curiosity. Our theme this half term has been 'Helping Hands'. We have had numerous visitors who have helped us delve into the responsibilities of various roles in our community, including police officers, dentists, doctors, hearing teachers, and many more. As if that wasn't enough to keep us busy, we've also enjoyed Diwali day, decorations morning, a visit to church, performing our nativity and forest school sessions. We are so proud of how well the children have settled into school and we look forward to another busy term in the New Year. Wishing you all a lovely break ahead!



## Year 1

Year 1's had an absolutely fantastic time performing their Nativity for their grown-ups this year. The children were absolutely fabulous in their roles, bringing the Christmas story to life with enthusiasm, energy, and wonderful performances. It was heart-warming to see the children shining on stage, each one so proud of their part in the production. Our Decorations Morning was a wonderful success, filled with creativity, laughter, and festive cheer. It was fantastic to see so many families joining in to make beautiful Christmas decorations. It was wonderful to see such an array of festive crafts, from festive biscuits to sparkly snowflakes and we hope you enjoyed showing them off at home. The children also had an unforgettable time during their Winter Wonderland experience, with a huge thank you to the PTA. Have a wonderful break and see you in 2025. The Year 1 Team 😊.



## Year 2

Wrapping up shape in maths, children have explored properties of 2d and 3d shapes, counting faces, edges and vertices, sorting and grouping and creating patterns. In English, children drew on their last science topic of habitats to produce a non-chronological report, on a beast that they designed!

We thank you for your kind feedback on the nativity, the children loved hearing your thoughts and we too share in your pride of all of the children for their wonderful performance. We would also like to thank the PTFA for such a wonderful way of winding up nativity week; enjoying winter wonderland.



### Year 3

Year 3 have had another very busy term, culminating with your children shining wonderfully at our Christmas concert. We were thrilled this half term to have a very special visit from a parent who is an Environmental Specialist. We were guided through a fascinating investigation into soil, linked to our Science topic on rocks. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and we all learnt lots - even the adults!

In DT lessons, children were challenged to design a healthy egg-based snack. We investigated why eggs are healthy, where they come from and the different types of eggs available. They really enjoyed the process of designing and making their snacks... almost as much as they enjoyed eating them!  
We are sure they are ready for a well earned rest and hope you all have a fabulous Christmas!



### Year 4

It's been a very busy eight weeks in year four this half term across all of our subject areas. We saw some fabulous creations in our DT lessons with the children dicing, chopping, peeling and grating in order to conjure up their very own bubble and squeak. There were some surprised faces as they sampled their dishes alongside some very clean plates!! The children have also been immersed in their science topic on sound which has brilliantly intertwined with their music sessions. They've established an understanding of terms such as pitch and amplitude all whilst counting those crotchets, minims and semi-breves. With the term coming to an end and Christmas just around the corner, the whole of year 4 portrayed the Christmas story brilliantly in the Carol Concert and sang their hearts out. We were immensely proud and wish to pass on our thanks for your help with this and your continued support. Especially with the children's home time activities of times tables, spellings, reading and those clarinets and saxophones. We really couldn't do it without your help.  
Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🎄



### Year 5

What a marvellously busy and exciting half-term. Both classes performed brilliantly in their class assemblies, they should be so proud of themselves. In English we have been learning about classic gothic literature creating drama sketches as well as some atmospheric writing of our own.

In maths, we have completed our multiplication and division unit, which got quite tricky when we applied our learning to fractions! Before we created some yummy treats in DT, we developed our skills in peeling, grating and zesting. Some incredible work in science when we investigating forces, as well as some super geography work this half-term. In computing, we were fortunate to have had a workshop in coding delivered by Mrs. Bray.  
Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



## **Year 6**

Year 6 have had a fantastic term learning all about where the coldest parts of the world are located and which living things live there in our Geography lessons. We also learnt about what climate change is and how it is being affected by different actions. In Design Technology, we have been looking at the different ways that materials are used to create pictures effectively to tell a story. These techniques included layering materials to create a 3D effect, using different stitches and attaching buttons to create the finer details.

In English, we have been reading the book *Wolf Brother* to create impressive pieces of writing based on the key events that happened involving the main characters. This then led to Year 6 creating a non-chronological report about wolves and then their own new evolved creature, which linked nicely to our Science topic about 'Evolution and Inheritance'. Maths this term has involved a lot of fractions, and the children have used visual representations to gain a deeper understanding of what happens in each type of calculation. In addition to this, we put our co-ordinates knowledge to the test with some very detailed images using the four quadrants. This required a lot of perseverance and accuracy.

To finish this busy term, we had a fabulous time at the Year 4 and 6 Christmas concert and for some families this will be their last Willesley concert. The children really made us proud and narrated the nativity story clearly and with enthusiasm. It is always so nice to see them enjoying the songs and performing the various actions together for the last time at primary school. For decorations morning, we were amazed at how many visitors we had in Treetops and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the creative tasks available. At times, it was hard to tell who was having the most fun: the children or the adults. 😊

Thank you everyone for your support and we hope you and your families have a lovely time over the Christmas break.



## Focus

### OPAL

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, we held an OPAL Build Day in school, to create varying structures to support our OPAL journey. We were blown away by the skillset and creativity of our wonderful volunteers, who not only gave up their Saturday, but also went above and beyond to produce safe and sturdy structures. We ended the day with several welly storage racks, a new water table, three sturdy shelters and a revamped water area. Thank you for your continued support.



### E-safety

Please see attached leaflet

## Curriculum Focus

### SEND

This term we have continued to build our relationships with external services including receiving advice and support from the Vision and Hearing Support Teams, Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service and the Autism Outreach Team. All staff completed 'Making Sense of Autism' training and are implementing best practice strategies to support individual students, as well as to support the wider class as a whole.

As part of our curriculum development, we continue to support individuals to fully access all learning by providing a large range of adaptations. Examples include access to technology, additional time to complete activities, alternative resources, overlearning or pre teaching of new concepts.

### Ashby Willesley PTFA

We have had a brilliant start to the new school year! Our Christmas Market was a great night out with 19 local vendors showcasing their wares. The PTFA would like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought tickets and joined us for the evening, as well as those who purchased raffle tickets. Your generosity raised a total of £557.66, which contributed to funding the Christmas pantomime for every child at Willesley School.

On Thursday 12th December and Friday 13th December, the PTFA turned the studio into an amazing Winter Wonderland. Each class joined us for a range of festive themed activities and games, including reindeer hot chocolate cones, baubles, a lucky dip (we've heard the socks were a hit this year!) as well as the chance to win a teddy bear, a Christmas tree of sweets and a festive bag of treats. Each child received a goodie bag of prizes to take home with them. We would like to thank all of our volunteers - without you this event would not have been possible.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Ashby Willesley PTFA

## **Governors**

Another busy half term for Willesley Primary School and the Governing Body, I was honoured to help serve the children their Christmas lunches on the 17th December 2024 it is such a fabulous treat to see all of the hard work that goes into making the school so great first hand!!

On behalf of the Governing body we want to say a huge thank you to both the staff, pupils, PTFA and parent and carer volunteers for another successful Christmas build up period, what with Harvest Festival, class assemblies, nativities, the Winter Wonderland, decorations day and carol shows this really is one of the busiest times of the year and they all deliver it with style!

We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year Period.

## **Key dates for Spring Term 1**

<b>January 2025</b>	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	School open
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	6ST Class Assembly
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 RSE and SATs meeting 5pm
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year Celebrations in school KS2
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year Celebrations in school KS1
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	6AW Class Assembly Parent Forum 2pm
<b>February</b>	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Warning Zone Leicester Y6 – more info to follow
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	Great Fire of London Day Y1- more info to follow SENCO parent meetings
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	4KW Class Assembly
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	4JE Class Assembly
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Half Term
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	School Open