

School Newsletter

16 December 2022



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy end of term it has been! There has been so many events and activities going on and we hope that the children have enjoyed the build up to the Christmas holidays. We are so incredibly thankful to our amazing staffing team who help to make such wonderful experiences for the children and make the school so festive whilst also continuing to support their education.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Friends of Firside Christmas Market. It was wonderful to open our doors once again for this important fundraising event and we hope that those who came had a brilliant time. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the volunteers for FOF (both adults and children) who work tirelessly to make these events happen. They give up their own time to organise and run the events and we are so grateful to them. A huge thankyou to the School Councillors (and their parents) who came and helped on the games. They were a great hit!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Norse catering team for a successful Christmas dinner this year. Over the two days, over 260 children and staff enjoyed their festive meal and FOF very kindly bought festive glasses for all of the children and staff to wear. Thank you to our Midday Supervising Assistant (MSA) team who worked so hard to make the event so enjoyable.

At this time of year, we would also like to thank all of the staff in the Central Services team at the Wensum Trust. Without their work in the background, we would not be able to function as a school. We get support from them in a range of ways, including: HR, finance, media, legal services and estates but to name a few. All of the staff and children wish them a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

We also enjoyed welcoming parents into school this week for our annual Christmas performances. Last year, we were only able to hold these outside so it was lovely to have everyone back in the hall to enjoy the children's work. We hope they helped you to get into the festive spirit.

After Christmas, we will be having a slight staffing reshuffle. Mr Acaster will sadly be leaving us at the end of the term and Miss Ribbands will be moving to Year 6 to take over the teaching of 6C. We would like to thank Mr Acaster for his work teaching in Year 6 this term. Miss Campbell will return to teaching in Year 4, taking over the teaching in 4R. Miss Cleaver, who has been teaching in 5M, is sadly leaving this term and we welcome Miss London who will be returning to join the Year 5 team to teach 5M until Mr Mather returns. In January, Mr O'Malley and Mrs Parker will be jointly taking over the Head of Year 6 role.

We have made two additional appointments to our Teaching Assistant team for after Christmas. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Carpenter who will be working between Firside and Kinsale each week. We also welcome Mrs Hartell who will be joining the Year 6 team.

All that is left to say is that we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday 4 January.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Robinson, Mr Keer and Mrs Seagrave

Dates for Your Diary

Wed 4 Jan	First day of term
Fri 10 Feb	Last of term
Mon 20 Feb	First day of term

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES



Buckingham Christmas School Sugar Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated a bag of sugar for our collection for shelters this Christmas. At the final count, we collected over 200 bags, which will be used to feed homeless and vulnerable people in shelters this Christmas.

Christmas performances

Thank you to everyone who came to watch the performances this week. It was wonderful to see the hall filled for each performance and the children were so excited to perform for everyone. We were incredibly proud of all the children and would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff who made the performances happen. These performances take a lot of hard work behind the scenes and we are very grateful for all of their efforts.

Attendance

Attendance for this term is 94.2% which is slightly below the government target of 96%. Something we also monitor is persistent absence. This is when pupils have missed more than 10% of their expected attendance at school. The government target for persistent absence is 5% and ours is currently 16.5%. Pupils who have missed 10% of this term have already missed 7 teaching days so over a year they would be on course to miss 21 school days which equates to **over 4 weeks of school**. If you are having difficulties with your child's attendance or would like to discuss it, please contact Mr Keer who is the school's attendance lead.

Friend in Deed visit

Yesterday, six of our School Council members accompanied Mrs Seagrave to Broadlands Lodge Care Home through our links with the charity Friend in Deed. This is the first time we have visited a care home with them since the pandemic so it was wonderful to return to a face-to-face visit. The children sang some of their Christmas performance songs and got to watch a singing elf perform with the residents. This is hopefully the first of many visits as we are hoping to take more children later on in the school year.

Friend in Deed are always looking for new 'Little visitors' and there are various events going on in care homes over the Christmas holidays if you are interested in supporting them. You can search for them on Facebook or Instagram to find out more information about the work that they do.

Nut-free and fish-free lunches

A reminder to all families that we aim to be a nut free school. This is due to severe allergies of some children in our school. Please help us to keep them safe by refraining from including nut products in your child's lunchbox. This includes whole nuts, nuts in cereal bars, peanut butter and Nutella. We have noticed a few chocolate bars coming in to school which contain nuts (for example, Kinder Bueno bars). Please ensure that these are not in lunchboxes.



There should also be **no fish** in packed lunches, this is due to severe allergies of children in our school. This includes, but is not limited to: tuna, salmon, fish paste, fish pate, fish sticks and prawns. We do not serve fish as a hot dinner or jacket potato filling option.



We ask that all parents follow this guidance, as food allergies can be very serious.

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST