

DECEMBER

19.12.25

WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Newsletter

What an action-packed few weeks we have had! It has been wonderful to see, hear and feel the fun that has been had over this Advent period. The children have been amazing: great company and beautifully behaved, despite this being a very exciting time! The children's thoughtfulness and kindness have astounded me recently, with many helping to set up for the productions and events such as Christmas dinner without even being asked. We are so blessed to have such wonderful children who make each day at Whitegate such a pleasure.

From our very first Whitegate Winter Wonderland, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner, and performances, to our traditional carol service today, the month has been full of the joy of Christmas.

Today, we finish for our Christmas break and return to school on Wednesday 7th January.

News from Acorns

Earlier this month it was fantastic to see our day visits get back up and running. Acorns were the first to venture out on their visit to Wheelock Hall Farm. The children had a wonderful time exploring the outdoors and seeing the different farm animals. They also loved being adventurous in the soft play centre. We couldn't believe how brave some of our smallest children were, when whizzing down the enormous slides! Most importantly they did a super job of choosing our school Christmas tree. Many thanks to those parents who made donations this year towards buying the tree.

Mrs Corcoran and Miss Daniels



News from Elder

Elder class have been thoroughly enjoying their nature-based sessions with Helen from the Canals and Rivers Trust. Over the first two sessions, they created sound maps of the field, went on scavenger hunts and settled down for stories about the vital role canals and rivers have played in our local community over hundreds of years. The final session in January will see the children complete a project to help the local community. Elder can't wait to get started!

Mr Thomas



Sporting News

It has been wonderful to be back supporting our children as they proudly represent our school at a wide range of school sports events. It has been fantastic to see pupils competing in Inspire, Aspire and Celebrate competitions, while consistently demonstrating the positive values we aim to develop through PE and school sport at Whitegate C of E Primary School.

Across these events, our children have shown teamwork, respect, resilience, determination and sportsmanship, as well as confidence and perseverance. The Inspire, Aspire and Celebrate competitions have allowed pupils of all abilities to succeed while continuing to develop their fundamental movement skills in an environment which suits their experience and ability.



The Boccia and New Age Curling event was particularly rewarding, with smiles on faces throughout the day. We were also extremely proud to receive an award recognising the excellent behaviour and attitude of our children. Our Celebrate basketball team was magnificent and it was one of the most rewarding school sports events I have attended, clearly reflecting the strong sporting culture that has been built over the past few years.

Looking ahead we have an exciting programme of events coming up, including basketball, gymnastics, netball, orienteering, cricket, athletics, football and cross country - to name just a few. As always, we are proud of every child who represents the school as we continue to work towards achieving another School Games Gold Award.

Mr Fowles



Christmas Light Switch-On

A huge thank you to our Head Boy, Oliver, and our Head Girl, Esme, who, along with Lilianne and Amelia represented our school at the village light switch-on earlier in the month. All four children read a thoughtful, and at times, humorous poem about this festive time. The children then completed the magical switch-on through the pulling of a special Christmas cracker! The occasion was made very special with traditional carols, a performance from Decibels and mulled wine and mince pies!



Christmas Dinner Day

A huge thank you to Miss Byrne and her team for a wonderful Christmas dinner. The food was delicious! Many children commented on how great it looked and tasted, as the staff team served them in their places. There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall that cumulated with the oldest children in the school joining in with the Christmas music, singing a rendition of 'Last Christmas' by Wham!



News from Oak

On Thursday 11th December, every child in Oak Class made their own Advent wreath. Mrs Heathcote visited the class with bags of moss, evergreens and pine cones, ready for a busy and creative day.

Over the course of the day, each pupil began with a simple metal frame, carefully piling and binding moss onto it before adding their chosen decorations of holly, ivy and other evergreens. As they worked, the children learned about the symbolism of the Advent wreath. Its circular shape reminds us of God's endless mercy and His eternity, while the evergreens represent the gift of eternal life. Holly is often included to remind us of the crown of thorns that Jesus would one day wear.



Designed as table wreaths, the children also learned about the four coloured candles that adorn an Advent wreath: hope, peace, joy and love, as well as the white Christmas candle that sits in the centre representing Jesus as light of the world.

PTA News

What a successful year our PTA have had since the newly formed committee was established in January this year! In the last 12 months they have organised:

3 Discos	Christmas Winter Wonderland	Refreshments at the productions	Curry and Quiz Night
Whitegate Fest	Summer Raffle	4 Frozen Fridays	
Afternoon Tea at Sports Day			

What a great list of events! I almost feel that I could re-write the 12 Days of Christmas using this list! These events, along with funding from the Asda Cash Pot and donations from Easy Fundraising, have raised an amazing £5,073! I am sure that you would all agree that the Whitegate Winter Wonderland was a huge success; this event alone raised £1,524. With the parents who are hoping to match-find this, we could add at least another £2,000 to the pot! I would like to extend my thanks to our PTA Chair, Jo Conchie-Power who works so hard behind the scenes planning and organising the events. A huge thanks also to the committee who make Jo's dreams a reality, plus the many volunteers who set-up, clear away and run stalls and activities. Thank you to you, our parents and carers, for supporting everything that they do with your time and generosity.

The next event takes place on the 30th January - our second Whitegate sleepover! More details to come in the new year, but for now ... save the date!

E-Safety

With the Christmas holiday almost upon us, many children will be spending more time online. Whilst this time can often be spent productively, it also poses a potential risk. The attached contains a link (<https://safetynet.skippeducational.org/parent-guides/>) to a website that goes into more detail for each area of potential harm. We encourage all parents and carers to take the time to make use of this resource to ensure your children have safe and happy experiences online over Christmas and in the future. As always, if you ever have any concerns, or would like some advice about keeping your child safe online, please contact me through the office.

Mr Thomas

Toast

If you wish to purchase toast for the next half-term, this has now been set up on ParentMail and costs £7 for the half-term. Please ensure that you have actioned this before 9am on Wednesday 7th January. This half-term, there were quite a few parents who had forgotten to do this and this significantly added to staff workload. For this reason, we will not be accepting any late orders in January. There is always plenty of free fruit to eat at breaktime if your child is hungry. Many thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

Productions

Last week, KS1 children took to the stage to re-tell the story of the very first Christmas: the birth of God's son, Jesus. Through superb singing, dancing and acting, the audience was taken back to the humble stable where Jesus, the light of the world, was born.

KS2 this week, transformed our hall into a bustling market, royal palace and the Cave of Wonders as they brought Aladdin's adventures to life with enthusiasm, humour and impressive stage presence, supported by amazing singing and incredible dance routines.

Both productions showcase what is so important to us here at Whitegate: confidence-building, creativity and community spirit. The children didn't just perform, they supported one another, celebrated each other's successes and showed just how much they can achieve when they work together.

A huge thank you to all staff who made these performances possible; also, to parents and carers for your support, but the biggest thanks must go to the children ... who are super stars in every sense!



Read All About It!

Please find attached this term's reading newsletter with some wonderful winter reading recommendations for your children.

PE

The PE timetable, for after the break, will be sent out separately. Please note that as the Y4s are swimming next term, some PE slots are based on year groups rather than classes.

A Reflection on Trust

This half term, we have been focusing on the Christian value of trust. The events that happened just over 2,000 years ago demonstrate many examples of people who trusted in God: the shepherds, guided by an angel who announced the birth of Jesus, a sign of great joy for all people. Their response was immediate and enthusiastic as they went to Bethlehem to see the baby and spread the good news of his birth. Similarly, the Wise Men who followed a star, despite all uncertainties, encourages us to believe that God will guide us through life's path. And for Mary, throughout her life, she showed unshakable belief in God's will, even in the face of uncertainty and fear. When the angel delivered the news that she would give birth to God's son, she trusted in him. This Christmas, even if the future is uncertain, may you know that God has a plan for your life; this is for you to flourish in all that you do. I pray that you would trust in God for He brings peace and comfort to all.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29v11)

Have a wonderful Christmas full of joy and peace.

Every blessing,

Caroline Mackenzie



Key Dates

Please note that many key dates have been added to the school calendar, on the school website, for the rest of this academic year.

Wednesday 7th January	8:45am	Return to School
Thursday 8th January	pm	Elder's visit to The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Friday 9th January	pm	Hawthorn and Oak's ice skating visit
Friday 9th January	pm	Elder's final Canals and Rivers Trust workshop on the field
Tuesday 13th January	am	Athlete visit from Lioness and Olympian
Tuesday 13th January	pm	Swimming starts for Y4 children
Tuesday 20th January	Pm	Quicksticks Hockey event for children in Y5/6 (invitation only)
W/B 26th January	All week	Mid-year Assessment Week
Tuesday 27th January	pm	Netball event for children in Y5/6 (invitation only)
Friday 30th January	All night!	School Sleepover for children in Y2 upwards