Fulfen Newsletter

Leading the way to a brighter future

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Issue: 59
November 2026

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Foreword

We're full steam ahead after the half-term break! We're really looking forward to welcoming parents into school for parents' evenings next week, giving us the opportunity to share all the wonderful things your children have been learning and achieving.

At the start of this month's newsletter, you'll find an important letter about school uniform. It's important that we continue to maintain the high standards we expect across school and don't allow these to slip.

We've all seen the recent news coverage around screen time and, as a digital school, we take our responsibility to use technology safely and sensibly very seriously. The world is constantly changing, and the digital landscape that children (and adults!) have to navigate is evolving even faster. In this issue, you'll find lots of information about how we approach this at Fulfen, alongside some helpful advice and guidance to support your child's online safety at home.



Do enjoy our newsletter – as well as the important messages above, you'll find lots of useful information for the coming term.

Stars of the week!

Rosie Wright, Acer Pettitt, Reuben Morley, Myla Wray, Artemie Olienic, Hudson Taylor, Alfie McDaid, Henry Jones, Magnus Webb, Nancy Brindley, Eliza Leggett, Coby Green, Priyala Edmunds, Class 1B, Leo Jagielski, Marcus Lund, Harry Pate, Class 1RK, Astrid Critchley, Finley Gittings, Ayra Birch, Tommy Blackmoore, Amelia Morris, Flo Worrall, Georgia Cockayne, Lexi Everiss, Ethan North, Oscar Norton, Albert Roadnight,

Albert Dalloway, Chizaram Nduka, Dante Ekee, Rosie Hackitt, Oliver MacGregor-Ivers, Ruby Clift, Freddie Blackmoore, Freddie Phillips, Oliver Bradbury, Amelia Davies-Kerr, River Street, Taylor Douglas, Bonnie Witts, Joel Copper, Evie Gibson-Collins, Ayvie Butterworth, Emily Watton, Amaiah Seedhouse, Immy Fairclough, Kayla Fiddler, Harry Startin, Daisy Walters, Harvey Harrington, Theo Hatfield, Ella Eaton, Eleanor Jackson, Jett Roberts, Hunter Smith,

Paige Ranger, Holly Scandrett, Emily Heming, Freyja Critchley, Jaxon Munday, Nancy Upton, Pippa Madeley, Paige Dixon, Teddie Williams, Esmae Gorman, Oliver Jackson, Matthew Jenkins, Charlie Adams-Clark, Charles Robinson, Isabelle Kendrick, Logan Faulkner, Vinnie Williams, Hettie Goldsmith, Esmae Gorman, Lily Vale, Dylan Chadwick, Lottie Lightfoot, Belle Taylor, Grace Wright, Evie-Lou Poxon, Noah Doherty, Myah Williams, Sophia Smith-Hickman, Lottie Lightfoot, Nathan Simpson



Attendance Heroes – Autumn 1 Winners











Don't forget – ALL classes with an overall 97% attendance at the end of the year will get a whole class treat!

Important Reminder

A Letter From Miss Sturch

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Fulfen, we are proud of our school uniform and the sense of belonging it promotes. We ask all parents and carers to support us in maintaining the high standards set out in our Uniform & Appearance Policy, which is available on our school website.

We have recently noticed an increase in children wearing large or colourful earrings and would therefore like to remind families of the following expectations.

Jewellery and earrings:

- Jewellery should not be worn or brought into school.
- For children with pierced ears, one pair of discreet studs is permitted. Large, dangly or colourful earrings are not appropriate for school.
- All earrings must be removed for PE lessons for health and safety reasons. If your child cannot remove their earrings independently, they must not wear earrings on their PE days. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are unsure which days these are.
- No other body piercings are permitted.

Please ensure that your child is able to remove their earrings independently before wearing them to school on non-PE days. Staff cannot be responsible for removing earrings for children.

School uniform

Our school uniform should be worn smartly and consistently. This includes:

- White polo shirt or white shirt.
- Dark blue jumper or cardigan with the school logo.
- Charcoal/grey trousers or skirt, with the permitted summer alternatives in warmer weather.
- Grey/white socks and sensible black school shoes. Trainers should only be worn for PE days and clubs.

All items of uniform should be clearly labelled.

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

PE kit

Children should wear their PE kit to school on PE days. This should be suitable for physical activity and include appropriate footwear. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit and is ready to take part safely in all PE lessons.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all children follow our uniform policy. Where the policy is not followed, parents may be contacted to resolve the issue.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain our high expectations and keep all children safe.

Yours Sincerely,

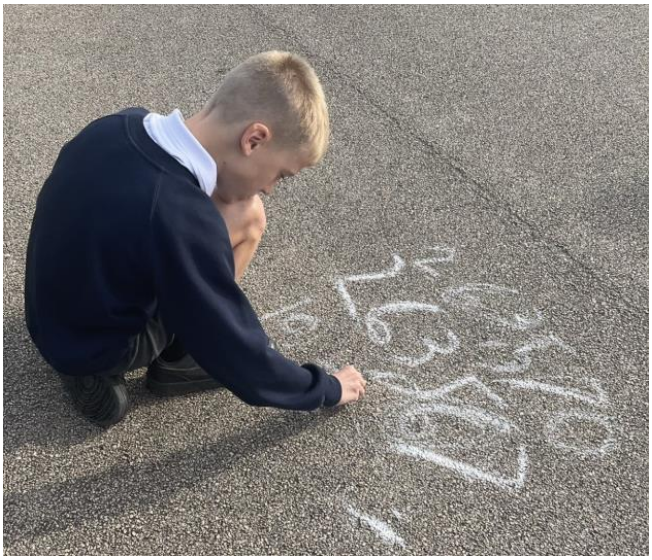
M Sturch

Celebrations - what we've been up to

Year 6 – Rounding Like Pros!

Year 6 have been working hard in maths to master rounding numbers. They can now confidently round to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000! Before half term, they took our learning outside and headed to the playground to put our rounding skills to the test. Great work, Year 6!







MacMillan Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Whether you donated cakes and biscuits, made a donation or simply enjoyed a treat (or two!), your support helped us raise an amazing **£599.12** for this wonderful cause. Thank you!



Animal Man Visit in Year 1

Year 1 had an exciting visit from the Animal Man! We met Laura, who brought along some wonderful animals to help us learn all about different animal groups. We explored reptiles, birds and mammals, discovering where they live and how we can help to look after our planet and the creatures that share it.

The highlight of the visit was getting the opportunity to stroke or even hold some of the animals! We met Kellogg the snake, Marvis the tenrec, Eric the owl and Ester the honey bear. All of the children listened beautifully, showed great curiosity and were a shining example of our LEAD value throughout the visit.

We were so proud of how respectfully and sensibly everyone behaved. We had a fantastic time learning about these amazing animals and getting up close to our new furry, feathered and scaly friends!





Y4 Visit to Tamworth Castle

Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Tamworth Castle, bringing their history curriculum to life! The children dressed up in Anglo-Saxon clothing and stepped into the shoes of Saxon soldiers. They also had the chance to become archaeologists and history detectives, exploring the past and discovering more about Anglo-Saxon life. A brilliant day of hands-on history learning!







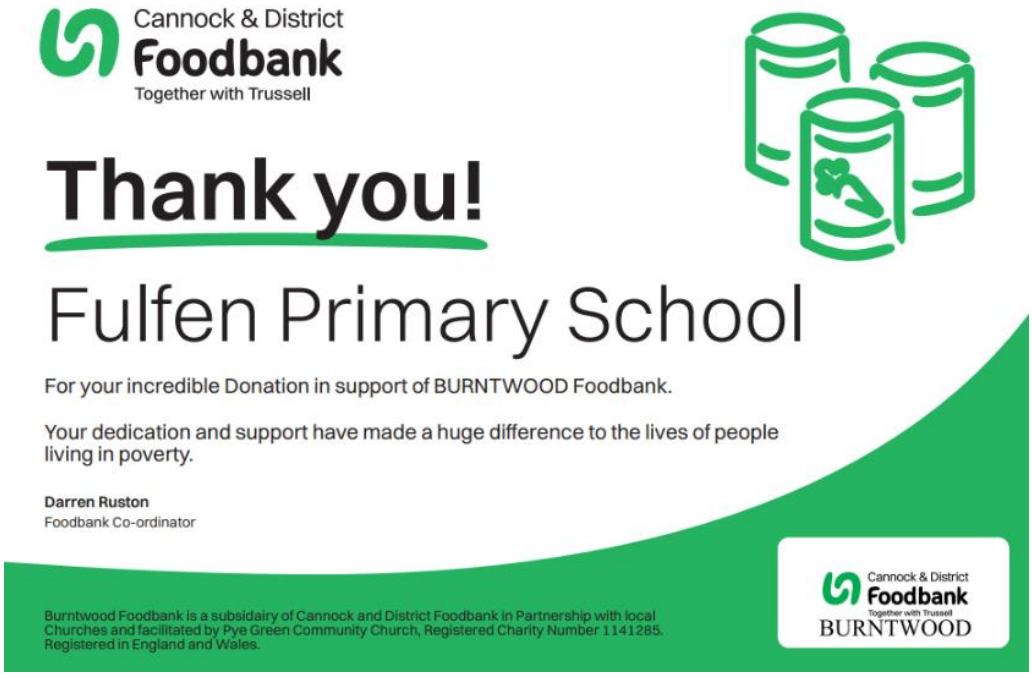
Artober Competition Winner!

Chloe was our 'Artober' competition winner with her spooktacular Halloween illustrations – creating one brilliantly imagined spooky sketch for every day in October!

Chloe is an exceptional young artist whose talent is matched by her imagination, commitment and artistic ambition. She approaches her work with real vision and care, and her illustrations are so wonderfully creative that you could easily imagine them bringing a children's storybook to life. Huge thanks to Mrs Ashcroft for putting on the competition!



Thank You!



A huge "thank you" to everyone who donated to our Harvest appeal before Half Term.

The Foodbank were very grateful for all the contributions!

Fulfen Club – Spooky Half Term Fun!

Fulfen Holiday Club was filled with lots of spooky, spectacular activities, fun and games all round! The children had a fantastic time throughout the week, enjoying a range of baking and crafting activities.

A little reminder that we run Holiday Club throughout the year, with our next session taking place during **February half-term**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back!



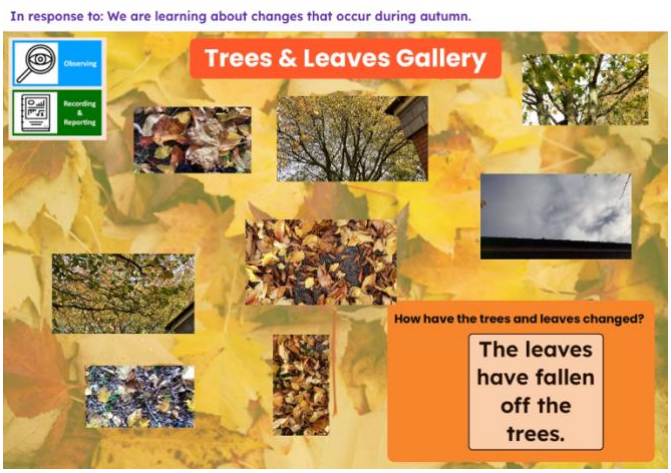


Autumn Through a Year 1 Lens

Year 1 have been busy exploring the school grounds, looking for signs of autumn. Armed with their iPads, the children captured photographs of the beautiful seasonal changes around them, from colourful leaves to nature's little details.

They loved getting outdoors, looking closely and using their photography skills to capture autumn in all its glory!





Fulfen: A Digital School, with Children at the Heart

In September's Newsletter, we included an article about how we use technology at Fulfen; however, over recent weeks, there has been considerable media discussion about children's use of technology in schools, particularly around screen time, eyesight and speech and language development. As a school, we welcome these conversations. *They provide a valuable opportunity to explain not only **how** we use technology at Fulfen, but more importantly, **why**.*

Technology is never used simply because it is available or because we are a digital school. Instead, our teachers make professional decisions about whether using an iPad in a lesson will genuinely improve learning.

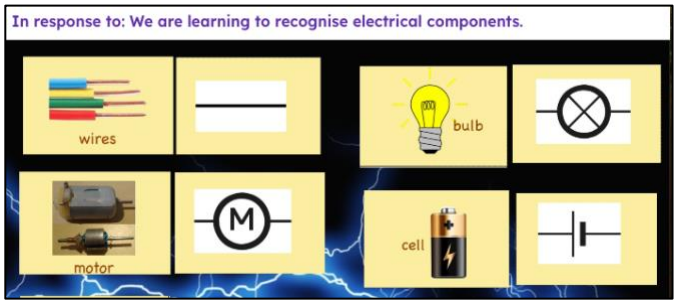
Sometimes the best approach is discussion around a table, practical resources, handwriting in books or reading a printed text. At other times, technology can deepen understanding, provide immediate feedback or enable children to demonstrate their learning in ways that would otherwise not be possible. The learning always comes first.

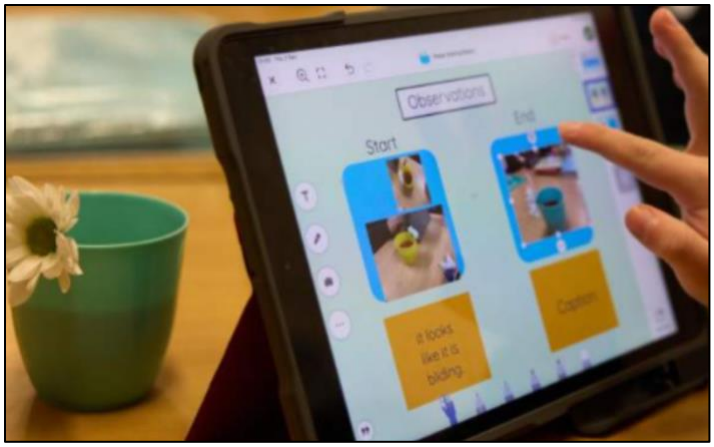
Pedagogy First

Our guiding principle has always been pedagogy first, technology second.

Research from organisations such as the Education Endowment Foundation consistently shows that technology has the greatest impact when it enhances excellent teaching rather than replacing it. This is exactly the approach we have embedded at Fulfen.

Rather than spending long periods passively looking at screens, our pupils use technology purposefully. iPads can make tasks more efficient or learning more effective.

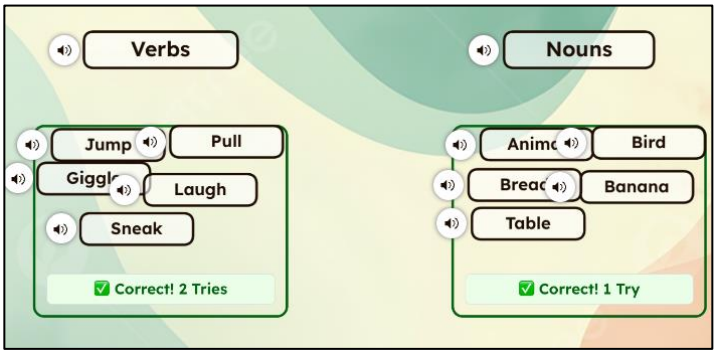




Children might create an animation to explain a scientific concept, produce a video demonstrating their understanding, photograph and annotate practical work, or complete a short assessment that provide teachers or pupils with immediate feedback.

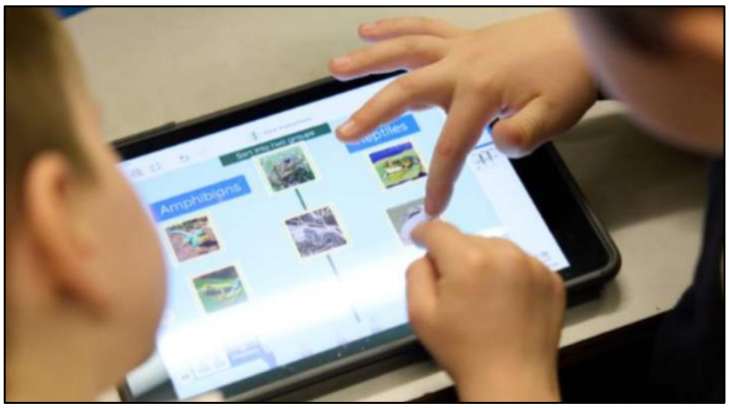
Continued…

Activities are typically brief, focused and carefully planned to enhance learning before children return to discussion, practical activities or written work.



We are also mindful of concerns surrounding children's health and wellbeing. Research suggests that prolonged, uninterrupted screen use, combined with reduced time outdoors, can contribute to eye strain and increasing rates of short-sightedness. Our approach reflects this understanding.

Devices are used in short, purposeful bursts rather than continuously throughout the day. iPads are never used during breaktimes or lunchtimes, ensuring children enjoy regular outdoor play, physical activity and valuable face-to-face interaction.



Concerns about speech and language development are often linked to children spending long periods passively using devices without meaningful interaction. At Fulfen, technology is never a substitute for high-quality teaching or conversation. Whether discussing ideas with a partner, explaining their thinking to the class or recording themselves speaking, children use technology to help develop communication, collaboration and creativity rather than replace them.



Creators, Not Consumers

Pupils use technology to create, explain, collaborate and solve problems – not simply watch/consume content

Continued…



Our youngest children in our Early Years setting continue to learn through play, exploration, books, storytelling, practical experiences and rich conversations with adults.

Technology is introduced gradually and sparingly, always with adult guidance and never at the expense of these vital early learning experiences.

Balanced by Design

Handwriting, books, practical resources, outdoor play and face-to-face discussion remain at the heart of every school day.

Being a digital school also means preparing children for the world beyond the classroom. Alongside our carefully considered use of technology, we teach a comprehensive online safety curriculum, including age-appropriate AI literacy. Our aim is to help children become thoughtful, critical, responsible and safe digital citizens.

Like every aspect of our curriculum, our approach evolves in response to educational research and national guidance. We regularly review emerging evidence to ensure our practice supports children's learning, wellbeing and development.

Technology is an important part of modern life and will play an even greater role in our children's futures. Our role is not to maximise screen time or avoid technology altogether, but to teach children how to use it wisely, safely and purposefully.

At Fulfen, technology is simply one of many tools that help us achieve our ultimate goal: providing the very best education for every child.

Useful Information & what's coming up

Reception Families - Health and Wellbeing Support

The Families' Health and Wellbeing (0–19) Service offers support and advice to parents and carers on a range of health and development topics. Their School Nursing team has shared a helpful e-leaflet introducing the service and providing useful information for families with children in Reception.

Please follow the link to find out more: Families' Health and Wellbeing e-leaflet.

The leaflet also includes a link to a confidential contact form. Any information submitted goes directly to the service and is not shared with school.

For further support, families can also contact the service via:

CaFSPA (the Hub): 0808 178 0611 (freephone)

ChatHealth: 07520 615 722 (standard text message rates apply)

Christmas Cards – Date Extension!



The last order date for Christmas cards designed by your child has now been **extended until Monday 9th November**.

Please ensure you order before then to get your cards in time for Christmas!

Poppy Appeal – Please Support



We're proud to be supporting the Poppy Appeal this week. Poppy merchandise will be on sale from the school office during breaktimes, and our School Ambassadors will be bringing paper poppies around to classes during the afternoons.

A big thank you to Mr Rollason, one of our parent governors, who has already been out in uniform earlier this week, helping to raise money for this important cause.

Don't forget that children who wear uniforms to cubs/browning/guides or scouts can come into school in their uniforms on Wednesday 11th November.

Useful Information & what's coming up

Online Safety Focus – Working Together

At Fulfen, online safety is an important part of our curriculum and everyday school culture. We teach dedicated Online Safety lessons through Computing and PSHE, while also taking opportunities to discuss it whenever relevant situations arise.

Since September 2025, we have also had an AI Literacy Curriculum in place, helping children understand what artificial intelligence is, how it is used and why it is important to question the information it produces.

Keeping children safe online is a partnership between school and home. While our school devices are carefully filtered, monitored and controlled, personal devices at home may not have the same safeguards in place.

We've included some useful guides below to help parents navigate the ever-changing world of online safety and AI, and support children in staying safe, both in and out of school.

Guides to help parents:

- A detailed parent guide (updated by the National Grid for Learning in October 26) with plenty of links for support has been added to our Online Safety page of our website here. This guide is huge – but you can always revisit it at any time.

- This (much shorter) guide from Internet Matters can help you discuss AI with your child in an age appropriate way: Talking About AI

Oh Yes It Is! – Christmas Pantomime

We're looking forward to welcoming Pantomime Play to Fulfen on Monday 7th December for a special performance of *The Incredible Christmas Story*.
Children will enjoy a festive performance full of Christmas fun!



- **Years 1, 2 & 3:** 9.00am – 10.00am
- **Years 4, 5 & 6:** 10.15am – 11.15am

It's sure to be a magical start to the Christmas celebrations!

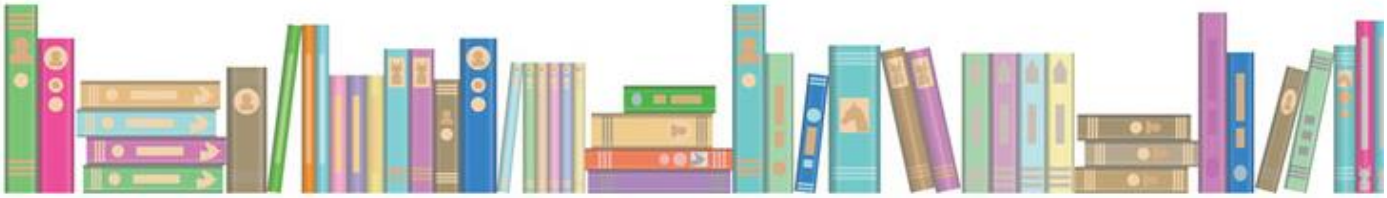
Useful Information & what's coming up

Help Us Grow Our Class Libraries!

Our teachers are busy talking to their classes about their favourite authors and the books they'd love to see in their classroom libraries. We'll soon be sharing a wish list for each class, giving parents the opportunity to support our Book Drive by choosing a book to purchase for their child's class.

High-quality books play such an important role in developing a love of reading, broadening children's vocabulary and opening up new worlds and ideas. Your support will help us build exciting, inspiring class libraries that children can enjoy for years to come.

Look out for further information and class wish lists on School Spider soon!



Anti-Bullying Week

Children will be focusing on Anti-bullying during their PSHE lessons this week – these will be based on the theme "Break the Silence".

We will be having our Odd Socks Day, to remind us all that it's ok to be different on **Monday 16th November**.



Children In Need

On Friday 20th November, children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in return for a cash donation to **Children in Need**. Spots are very welcome, but absolutely not essential! Every donation, big or small, will help support this wonderful cause.

Useful Information & what's coming up

Fulfen Club – Important Reminders

This half term

We have lots of exciting activities planned for the children this half-term!

- **Sports Club with Mr Parker:** Running throughout the week, Mr Parker will be delivering dodgeball and target games for both KS1 and KS2.
- **Cheer with Meg:** Continues every Tuesday throughout the academic year for KS1 and KS2.
- **Football Skills with Mark:** Takes place every Wednesday until the end of November. Mark will then return after the February half-term.

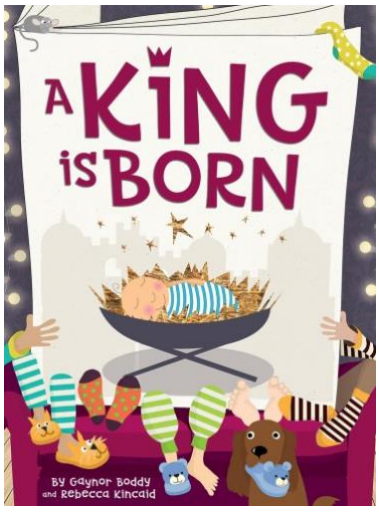
If your child would like to take part in one of the activities above, please contact Mrs Scott at **Fulfenclubfinance@fulfen.staffs.sch.uk**

- The final day of Fulfen club before Christmas break is Friday 18th December, Club will close at **4.30pm** prompt that day.

Collection Reminder

We kindly remind all parents and carers that our first session finishes at **4:30pm**. Please ensure children are collected on time as any late collections will incur a late collection fee. Thank you for your continued support!

Christmas is Coming!



Get ready for the show of the year! Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will be performing "A King is Born" for their Christmas Production.

We also have our PS Christmas Play & Stay, Reception songs in the Forest and KS2 Christmas songs for parents coming up! See our Dates for your Diary for all the times and dates.

Tickets will be available soon!

Has Your Child Had Their Eyes Tested?

NHS
University Hospitals of Derby and Burton
NHS Foundation Trust

Dear Parent/Guardian

Vision Screening/Eye Tests ARE NOT provided within schools in Staffordshire.

We strongly recommend that all children have regular eye tests at an Optician once a year.

NHS Eye tests for all children are free at any Opticians.

It is important that even children with apparently normal vision should be tested. As children can often compensate very well for some eye problems which need to be identified and treated early to avoid lifelong visual loss.

The Eye test checks that your child's vision is developing normally. It is performed at this age so that any reduced vision or difference in vision between each eye can be picked up before the visual system is fully developed and any treatment can be started.

You do not need to do anything, if your child:

Is **currently** under the care of an Eye Specialist (Ophthalmologist / Orthoptist / Optometrist) at a Hospital Eye Clinic.

Or

Is **currently** under the care of a local Optometrist (Optician) or had a recent sight test.

If none of the above applies, please arrange with your local Opticians for your child to have a free NHS Eye Test.

Yours sincerely,

Orthoptic Department

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton

See Our Choir in Action After the Lights!

Burntwood Rotary Presents

Christmas

Light Switch on and Christmas Market

Swan Island, Burntwood

Sunday 22nd November 3.30pm – 7.00pm

Live Music
Market Stalls
Food



Outside Bar
Appearance from
Santa
Festive Characters

Sponsored by

ecomposite

CROWN HIGHWAYS

FILON ON YOUR SIDE

STAG SCAFFOLDING

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Info@burntwoodrotary.co.uk

Useful Information & what's coming up

Dates for your diary



Tuesday 10th November – Parents Evening – 3:45-6pm

Wednesday 11th November – Parents Evening – 4:45-7:30pm

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day – Scouts/Brownies/Guides/Cubs are welcome to wear uniforms

Thursday 12th November – Y3 Stone Age Workshop

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day (start of anti-bullying week)

Thursday 19th November – Reception Open Morning for prospective parents (tickets only)

Friday 20th November – Y5 Trip

Friday 20th November – Children in Need

Sunday 22nd November – School Choir at Burntwood Lights Switch-On 5:15pm

Monday 30th November – SEND drop-in for parents 3:30pm

Tuesday 1st December – School Nurse Drop-in Session 9-10am

Thursday 3rd December – Reception Open Afternoon for prospective parents (tickets only)

Monday 7th December – Y4 & Y6 Christmas Songs for Parents 2:30pm

Tuesday 8th December – Y3 & Y5 Christmas Songs for Parents 2:30pm

Wednesday 9th December – School Disco (Y1/2 5pm; Y3/4 6:15; Y5/6 7:30)

Thursday 10th December – Pre-School Play & Stay 10:00am

Thursday 10th December – R2 – Songs in the Forest 2:45pm

Friday 11th December – R1 – Songs in the Forest 2:45pm

Friday 11th December – Feel Good Friday (no school uniform) & Rewards

Monday 14th December – Y1/2 Nativity 9:30am

Tuesday 15th December – Y1/2 Nativity 2:15pm

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Jumper Day

- Christmas Dinner Day
- Burntwood Rotary Santa Visit

Friday 18th December – Last Day of School – no school uniform