



# Autumn Weekly Bulletin 13

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13: 31-32

Dear Families,

It has been another busy week and lots of our children have been talking excitedly about decorating their homes, putting up the tree and updating the class on the antics of their naughty elf! Please do keep an eye on the diary dates section of this bulletin as there are several invitations to join us at events before the end of term.

With Christmas fast approaching, different families will be anticipating the impact of this time of year in varying ways. At its heart, all activities we undertake in school and all the adventures you engage with at home as a family, are aimed to enhance enjoyment at this time of year. That said, the busy nature of events, increased noise levels and potentially overwhelming sensory experiences can also lead to additional challenges for families to manage. I therefore thought it might be useful to share some suggestions about how to navigate the festive period.

To manage the Christmas build-up with young children, **maintaining routines, planning ahead, and preparing your child for changes** can really help.

A selection of Top Tips you might find useful to consider:

- **Keep routines:** Stick to regular mealtimes and bedtimes as much as possible to provide a sense of security amidst the festive chaos.
- **Plan for the day:** Some children respond well to a visual timetable for Christmas Day to outline the schedule, which helps your child know what to expect.
- **Incorporate calming time:** Schedule in quiet, down time each day to help children recharge and manage their excitement, especially when it's becoming overwhelming.
- **Introduce changes gradually:** Decorate the house over a few days instead of all at once to avoid sensory overload. Let them gradually adjust to new surroundings.
- **Use visual aids:** Create a "Now and Next" board or similar visual schedule to show your child what's happening and when. This helps them process the busy period and can prevent anxiety.
- **Give warning:** Give your child plenty of notice for changes, such as a trip to see Santa or a family visit, so they can prepare in advance.
- **Moderate excitement:** Try to avoid building children up to a fever pitch of excitement.
- **Set expectations:** Talk about behaviour expectations for events like parties in advance. You can also role-play gift-opening to practice saying, "thank you".
- **Focus on meaning:** Talk about what matters most, like spending time with family, and avoid the pressure to buy every new item. You can manage expectations by explaining that Father Christmas has limited space or by setting a gift budget.
- **Get them involved:** Let them participate in manageable tasks, like hanging a single decoration or choosing ornaments. Making decorations or Christmas cards can also help them feel more in control of the changes.
- **Assign tasks:** Help children manage a busy Christmas Eve by letting them help with festive tasks, such as setting the table or preparing snacks.

In amongst all of the above, please do try to remember your own well-being:

- **Don't aim for perfection:** A "perfect" Christmas is often unattainable. Focus on creating meaningful moments rather than striving for a flawless experience.
- **Plan ahead:** Spread out tasks like gift shopping and meal planning to ease financial and time pressures.
- **Set boundaries:** Learn to say no to commitments that add unnecessary stress and don't be afraid to create a "quiet space" for your child if a large gathering becomes overwhelming.

Finally, we will be having an upcoming staffing change in the new year. Miss Baird is nearing the end of her pregnancy and her last day in school is likely to be Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. She will then begin her maternity leave and we will look forward to meeting Miss Baird's new baby at some point in the new year! Whilst Miss Baird is on her maternity leave, Mrs Hird will be joining the staff team and will be working primarily in Wrens Class with Mrs Johnson. We hope Mrs Hird is able to visit the school at some point over the next few weeks to introduce herself.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Griffiths

### Best Seat in the House

The Best Seat in the House is awarded to pupils who have gone above and beyond to earn Track It Lights points throughout the week.



### Attendance

Reception: 96.6%

Year 1: 98.5%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 99.4%

Year 4: 97.7%

Year 5: 92.7%

Year 6: 93.6%

Whole School Attendance: 96.5%

Notification of a child's absence must be reported to the school office on each day of absence.

A phone call or email must be received by the school office prior to 09:00 giving the reason for absence.

Attendance monitoring takes place regularly in school and a termly inspection is carried out by Dorset Council. If your child's absence drops below 90%, you will receive a letter expressing concern.



### Diary Dates

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Chartwells Christmas Lunch Day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December- Kingfisher and Wren Nativity Performance – 10am and 2pm.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Skylark Class Christmas Café – 14:15 – 15:00

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December- Owl Class to lead the Christmas Service at The Church of the Holy Rood – 14:15 (Parents/Carers welcome)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Pre-School Christmas Song Performance – 14:15 – 15:00

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Last day of term – 13:15 finish time

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Christmas Break**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Return to school

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Wren Class Trip

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term**

