Sydenham Primary School

# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

**Newsletter 8**
**Friday 13th November 2026**

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# Sydenham Super Stars!

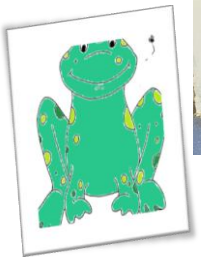
## These children have been showing all of our learning characteristics ~ well done!



### Be co-operative!

*Jerome the lion helps you to:*

- Listen to others.
- Say when you don't understand.
- Be kind when you disagree.
- Explain things to help others.
- Be tolerant.



### Keep improving!

*Kermit the frog helps you to:*

- Review your work.
- Identify your best bits.
- Try to be better than last time.
- Don't compare yourself to others, only yourself.
- Take small steps.



### Never give up!

*Ellie the elephant helps you to:*

- Work hard.
- Practise lots.
- Keep going.
- Try new strategies.
- Ask for help.
- Start again.
- Take a brain break.




## Shine like the stars that you are!






### Concentrate!

*Concentrate the eagle helps you to:*

- Manage distractions.
- Get lost in the task.
- Do one thing at a time.
- Break things down.
- Plan and think it through.
- Draw diagrams.
- Jot notes down.



### Use your imagination!

*Dreamy the unicorn helps you to:*

- Be creative.
- Let your imagination go.
- Think up new ideas and questions.



### Be curious!

*Fluffy the cat helps you to:*

- Ask questions.
- Notice things.
- Look for patterns and connections.
- Think of possible reasons.
- Research.
- Ask, "what if..."

### Have a go!

*Pinky the pig helps you to:*

- Have a growth mind-set.
- Don't worry if it goes wrong.
- Learn from mistakes.
- Be excited to try new things.



### Enjoy learning!

*Dilly the dolphin helps you to:*

- Feel proud of your achievements.
- Feel your neurons connecting and your brain growing.
- Use what you have learnt in real life.



MUSIC MARK SUPPORTING CONNECTING INFLUENCING

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS unicef UNITED KINGDOM GOLD – RIGHTS RESPECTING

360safe ONLINE SAFETY MARK ACCREDITED SAFER ONLINE

School of SANCTUARY AWARD Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

RE Quality Mark GOLD

Quality Mark for History Silver Award 2022

PSQM Primary Science Quality Mark PSQM GILT

Eco-Schools

I'M A MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDER

PLAY INCLUDED

Gold LOtC Mark

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Artsmark Alliance Platinum Award

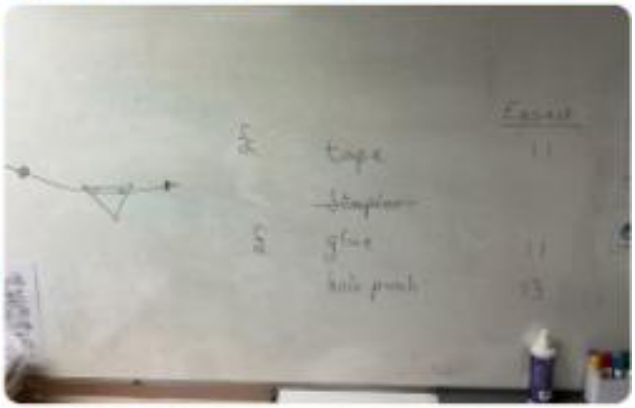
RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Young Interpreter Scheme

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# Year 1 Learning








This week in DT, Year 1 explored four different ways of joining cellophane to string: stapling, gluing, taping, and threading through holes. Linking to the National Curriculum, the children developed their practical skills by testing different joining techniques and evaluating how well they worked. They discovered that stapling was unsuccessful, while the other three methods worked well. The children then compared the techniques, considering how easy they were to use and the cost of additional materials. After voting, they agreed that threading through holes was the best option because it was the easiest and required no extra joining materials. The children used their findings to make an informed design decision and will apply their chosen technique when making their bunting next week!

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# Year 1 Learning

## Dinosaurs



Hungry herbivores,
Bumpy backs,
Triceratops turning,
And a terrible T-Rex!





Colourful carnivores.
Fierce faces,
Spinosaurus stomping,
And a spiky Stegosaurus!



Children in Year 1 have been working in groups to write descriptive phrases that in 'alliteration'. Alliteration is when two or more words close together begin with the same sound. For example, *"six slippery snakes"* or *"big brown bears"*.

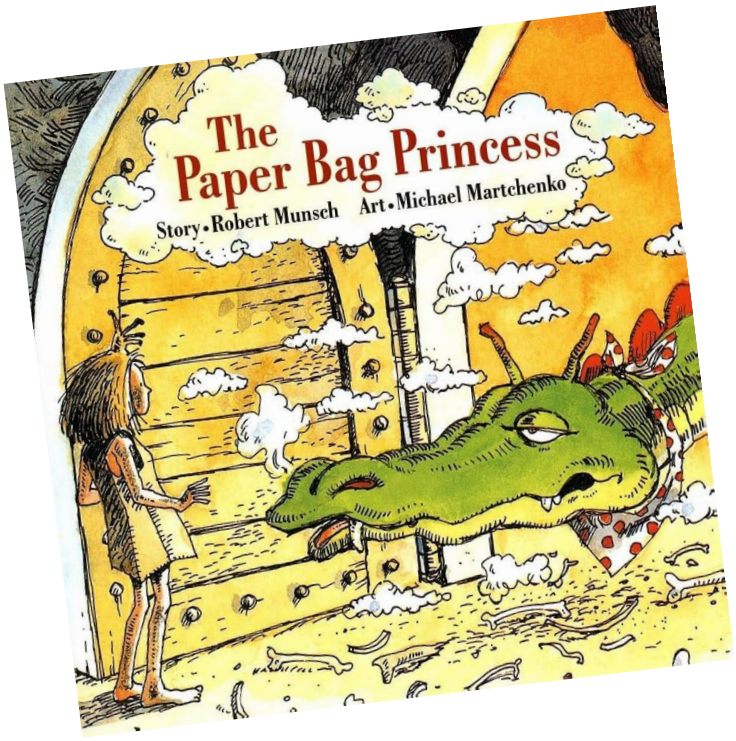
Learning about alliteration helps children develop their listening skills, recognise sounds in words and have fun playing with language. It is an important part of developing early phonological awareness, which supports children as they learn to read and write.

The children were really pleased with how their finished poem sounds.



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# Year 2 Learning



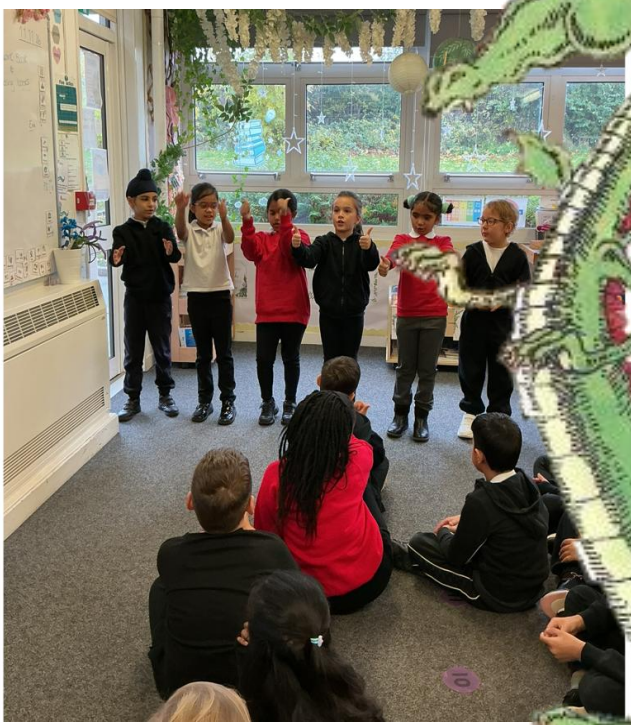


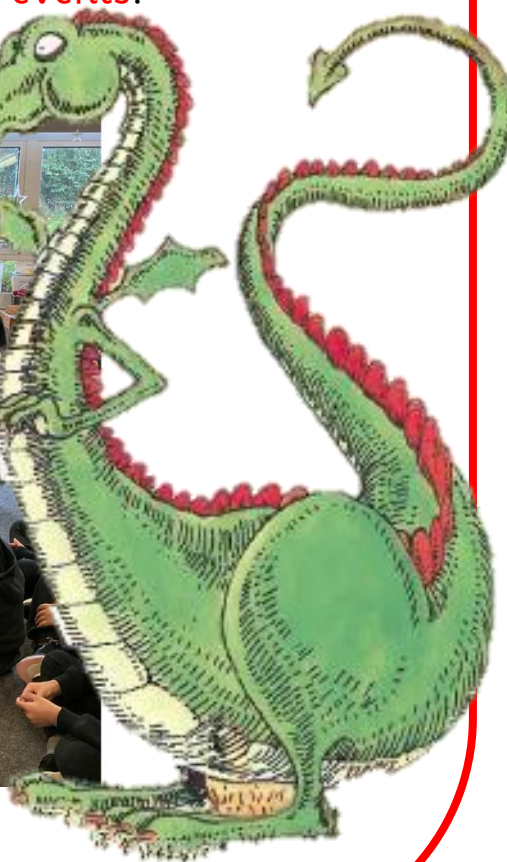



Year 2 have been working hard in their English lessons, following Pie Corbett's *Talk for Writing* approach. As part of the imitation stage, the children have been learning to retell their model text using actions to help them remember key vocabulary, story structure and the sequence of events.









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# Year 2 Learning






The children began by learning and practising the model text together as a whole class, using actions to bring the story to life. They then worked collaboratively in small groups to rehearse their retelling, supporting and encouraging one another to remember the words and actions. Once they felt confident, each group performed their retelling to the rest of the class, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, expression and speaking skills. The children also showed excellent listening skills and respect while watching their peers perform.

This learning links closely to the Year 2 National Curriculum for English, particularly spoken language, as children develop their ability to speak clearly and confidently, listen and respond to others, and participate in discussions and performances.

Through these activities, Year 2 have developed their confidence, communication, memory, sequencing and teamwork skills. Learning the model text orally also helps children become familiar with vocabulary and sentence structures, providing a strong foundation for their future independent writing.




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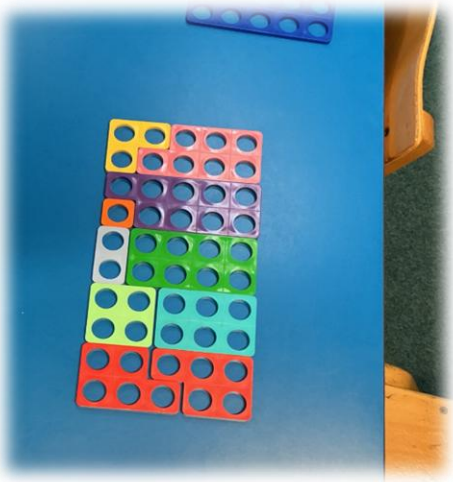
# Year 2 Learning



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# Year 3 Learning









This week in Maths, Year 3 have been exploring complements to 100, using their knowledge of number bonds to spot patterns and solve problems. We used a range of manipulatives, including base ten equipment and place value counters, to help us visualise numbers and understand how different pairs combine to make 100. The children demonstrated excellent reasoning skills as they used known facts, such as number bonds to 10 and 20, to find new number bonds to 100. They worked collaboratively to identify patterns, explain their thinking, and develop confidence in using efficient mental strategies. We are proud of the determination and resilience shown as the children challenged themselves to apply their learning in different ways.

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# Year 4 Learning





This week in History, Year 4 travelled back to 793 AD to explore one of the most significant events in Viking history. This was the first recorded Viking raid on Lindisfarne, a monastery off the northeast coast of England.

The children investigated the events surrounding the attack, focusing on the different perspectives of the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon monks. They considered how the same historical event could be experienced and understood very differently depending on who was involved, exploring the possible motivations, thoughts and feelings of both sides.

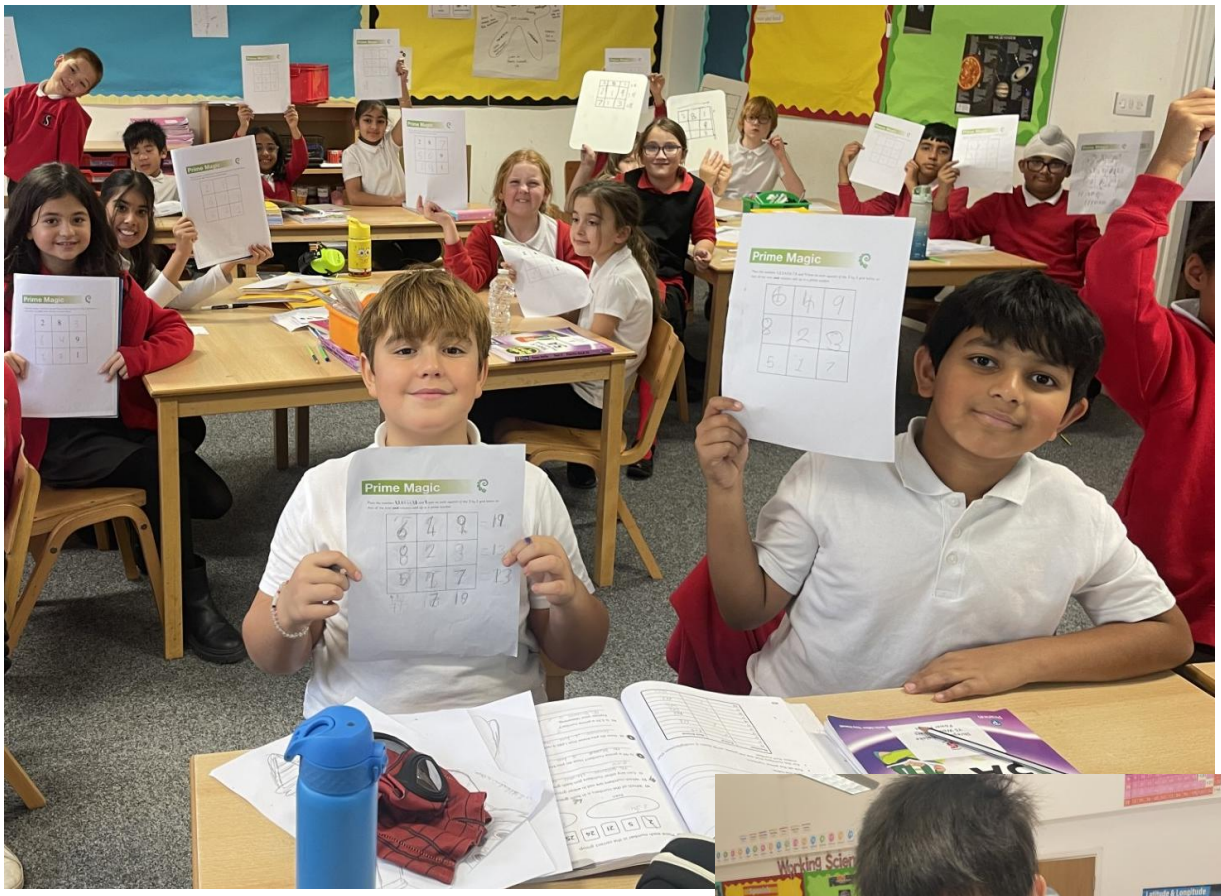
To bring their learning to life, pupils took part in drama and role-play activities, stepping into the shoes of both the Viking raiders and the monks of Lindisfarne. Through facial expressions, body language and dialogue, they explored emotions such as fear, confusion, excitement and determination, developing a deeper understanding of how people may have experienced the attack.

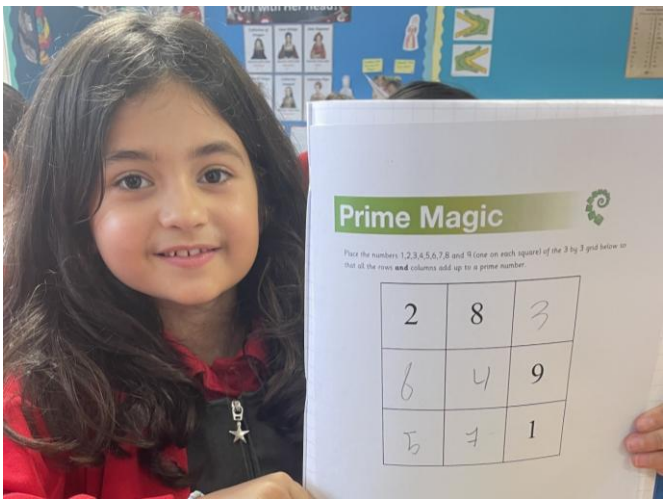
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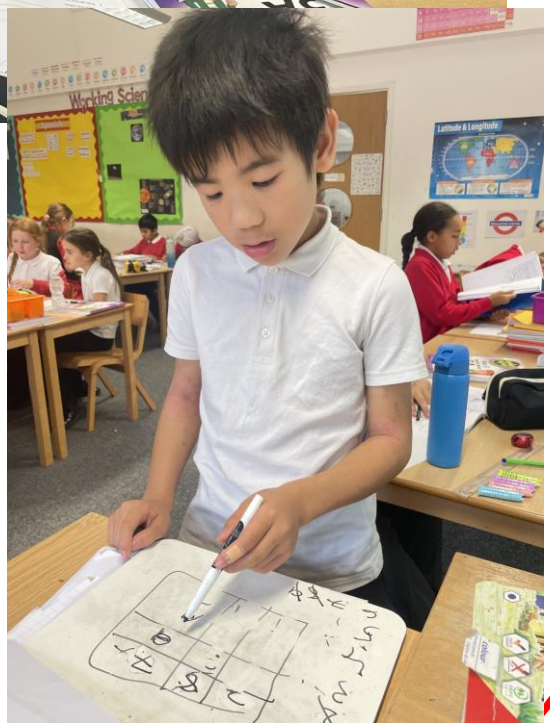
# Year 5 Learning

The Prime Magic challenge from NRICH asks you to place the numbers 1-9 into a 3x3 grid so every row and every column adds up to a prime number. We used trial and error on whiteboards first, then wrote our final answers down on the sheet.

We also found that it is impossible to make the two main diagonals add up to prime numbers alongside the rows and columns.



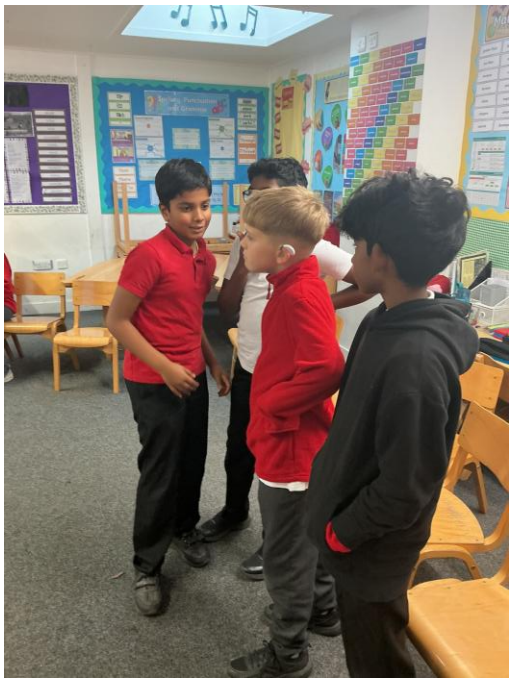



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# Year 6 Learning



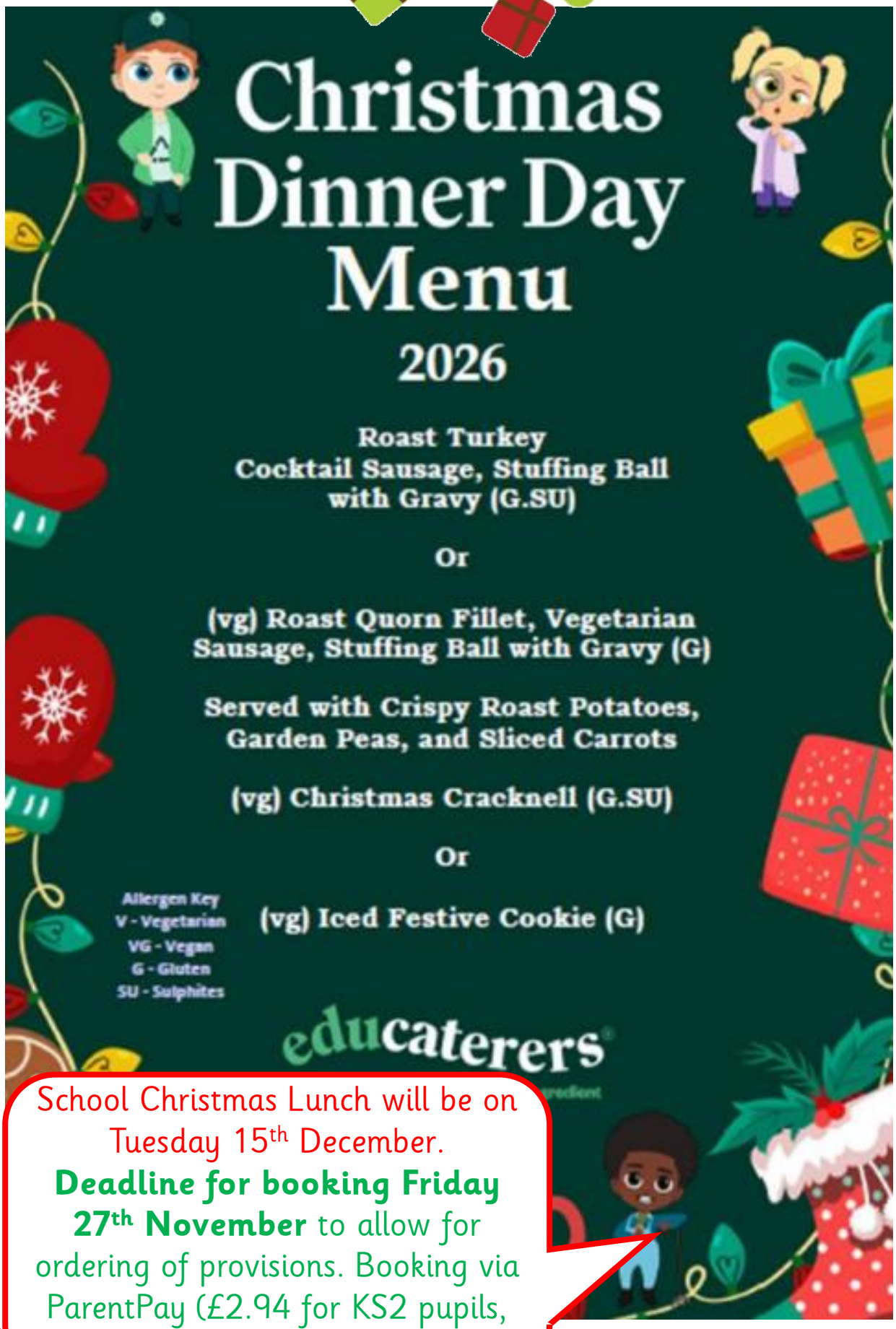




This week in PSHE, year 6 have started their new unit all about celebrating difference. They considered what 'being normal' means and explored different perceptions of this term. Pupils discussed and played games collaboratively and learned about protected characteristics and times in history where people have been treated with prejudice or discriminated against. Many were shocked by how recently slavery still existed in the UK or how young people around the world still face challenges. At the end of the lesson, we all reflected on how we can empathise with others and how perceptions of 'normal' can change.

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School Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 15th December.

**Deadline for booking Friday 27th November** to allow for ordering of provisions. Booking via ParentPay (£2.94 for KS2 pupils, unless eligible for FSM)

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# Beauty and the Beast
# KS2 Theatre Trip



Things are looking bleak for beautiful Belle! Kidnapped by a frightening beast, she is locked away in a terrifying castle with little hope of escape.

But unbeknownst to her, the beast is actually a handsome prince under the curse of an evil enchantress. Only by changing his selfish ways and finding true love can he ever hope to break the spell.

Will the Beast change his ways in time? And will Belle ever get back home? There's only one way to find out!

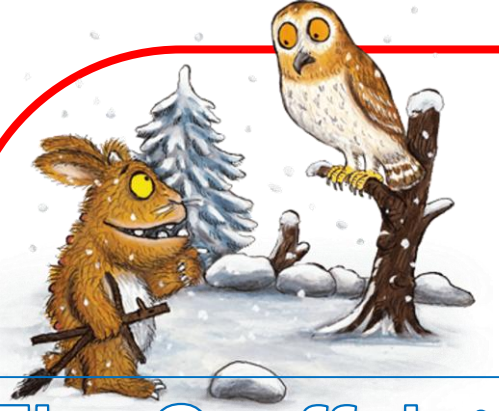
Written by and starring Coventry's favourite dame, Iain Lauchlan, **Beauty and the Beast** will feature the breathtaking sets, crazy costumes and seasonal silliness that make a trip to the Belgrade such an unmissable treat.

**Year groups: 3/4/5/6**

**Date: Tuesday 1st December at the Belgrade Theatre.**

**Cost: £20.99—Please use ParentPay.**

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# The Gruffalo's Child
# EY & KS1
# Theatre Trip

*The Gruffalo said that no gruffalo should*

*Ever set foot in the deep dark wood...*

From the company that brought you "The Gruffalo" and "The Smeds and the Smoos," follow the Gruffalo's Child on her adventurous mission in Tall Stories' enchanting adaptation of the much-loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

One wild and windy night the Gruffalo's Child ignores her father's warnings about the Big Bad Mouse and tiptoes out into the deep dark wood. She follows snowy tracks and encounters mysterious creatures – but the Big Bad Mouse doesn't really exist... does he?

Let your imagination run wild with songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone aged 3 to 103.

Year groups: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Date: Wednesday 2nd December at Warwick Arts Centre

Cost: £18.37—please use ParentPay.

EYFS & KS ristmas Theatre Trip





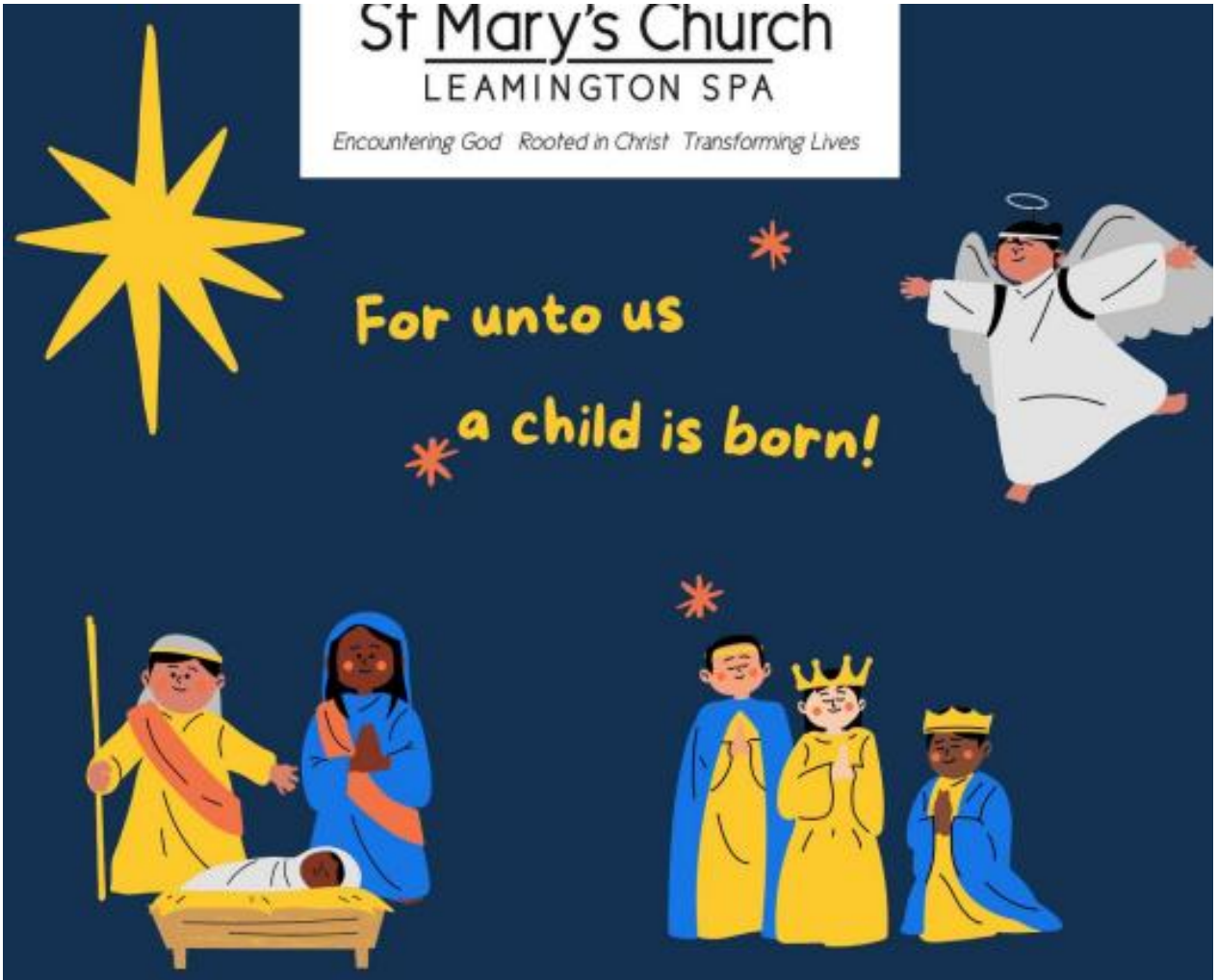
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# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

## St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

*Encountering God  Rooted in Christ  Transforming Lives*




Sunday 13th Dec at 6.30pm
St. Mary's Carol Service
Carols by Candlelight & Mince Pies

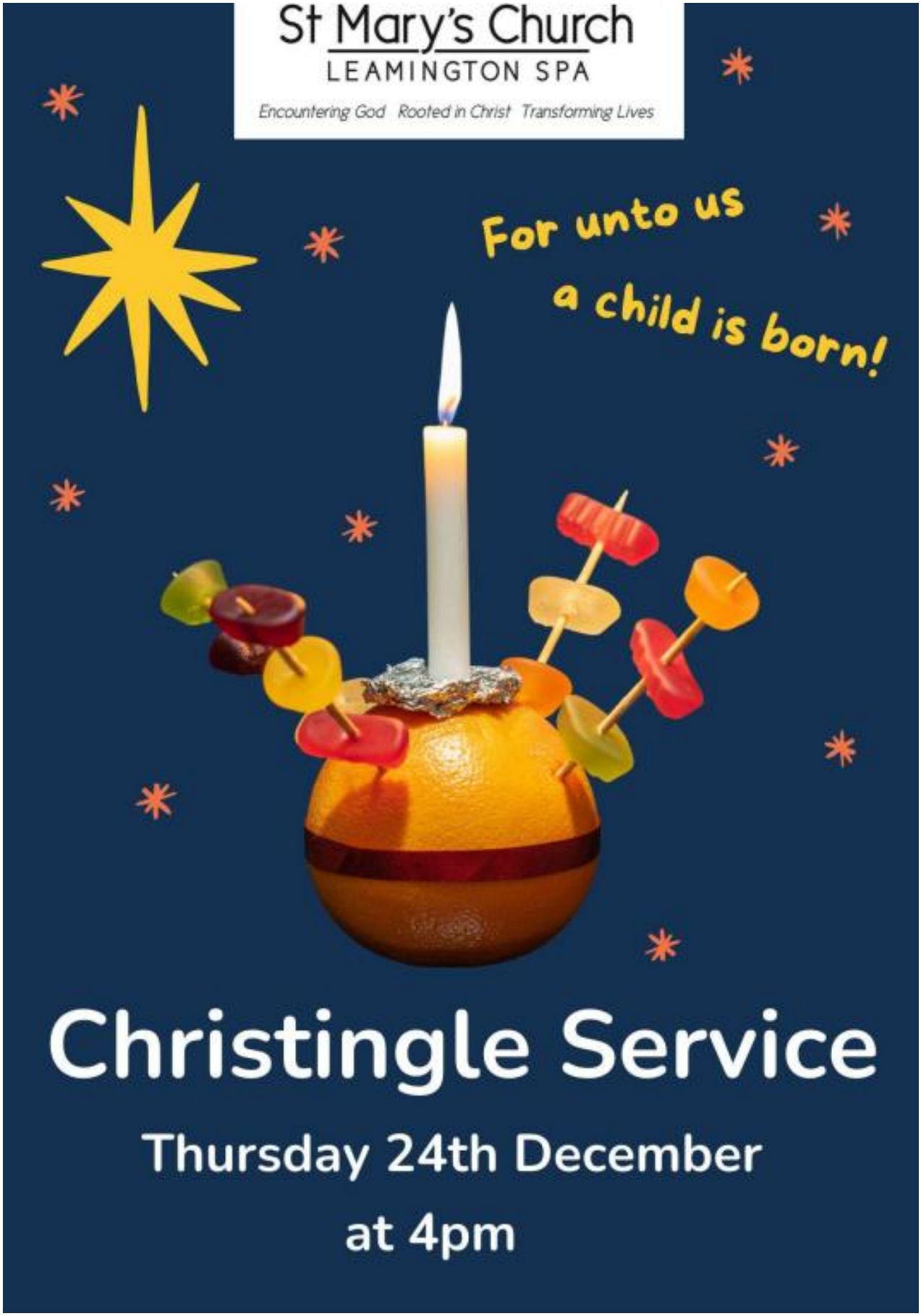
Thursday 24th December at 4pm
Christingle Service

Friday 25th December at 10.30am
Christmas Day All-Age Service
with Holy Communion

# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

*Encountering God  Rooted in Christ  Transforming Lives*



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BRUNSWICK HUB'S

# Christmas Appeal



This Christmas we are appealing for donations of the following:

## CHRISTMAS FOOD ITEMS

*We have used our 'Reverse Advent' as a wishist - see our website*

## FILLED MUGS & TOMBOLA PRIZES

## NEW TOYS & GIFTS

## PRELOVED TOYS, GAMES & BOOKS

We are accepting donations from various dates in November until Wednesday 9th December- For more info, see our website (brunswickhlc.org.uk) or our Facebook

BHLC

98-100 SHRUBLAND ST,
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 3BD

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# Diary Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **Thursday 12th November** | **Cake sale in aid of Myton Hospice** |
| Tuesday 17th November | **Y5 Kittiwakes class assembly at 9.05am**—parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Monday 23rd November | St Mary's Church leading whole school assembly. |
| Wednesday 25th November | Whole school assembly led by Life Community Church. |
| Friday 27th November | MUFTI (non-uniform) day—please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes. |
| Tuesday 1st December | Y3/4/5/6 visit to The Belgrade Theatre to watch a performance of "Beauty and the Beast." |
| Wednesday 2nd December | YR/1/2 visit to Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of "The Gruffalo's Child." |
| Thursday 3rd December | **Y1 Christmas performance at 9.30am**—parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Monday 7th December | **School closed for INSET (staff training.)** |
| Tuesday 8th December | **Y3 Christmas concert at 9.30am**— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Tuesday 8th December | **Y4 Christmas concert at 2.15pm**— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Tuesday 8th December | Y5 visit to Life Community Church, AM. |
| Wednesday 9th December | **Y5 Christmas concert at 9.30am**— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Friday 11th December | **Y6 Christmas concert at 2.15pm**— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Monday 14th December** | **Y2 Christmas concert at 9.30am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.** |
| Tuesday 15th December | Christmas lunch. |
| Wednesday 16th December | **Reception Nativity and refreshments at 9.30am** — parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend. |
| Friday 18th December | MUFTI— (non-uniform) day— come to school in a **Christmas jumper or festive outfit**. Please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes. |

**School closed for the Christmas holiday from Monday 21st December—Friday1st January.**

**School closed for INSET (staff training) on Monday 4th January.**

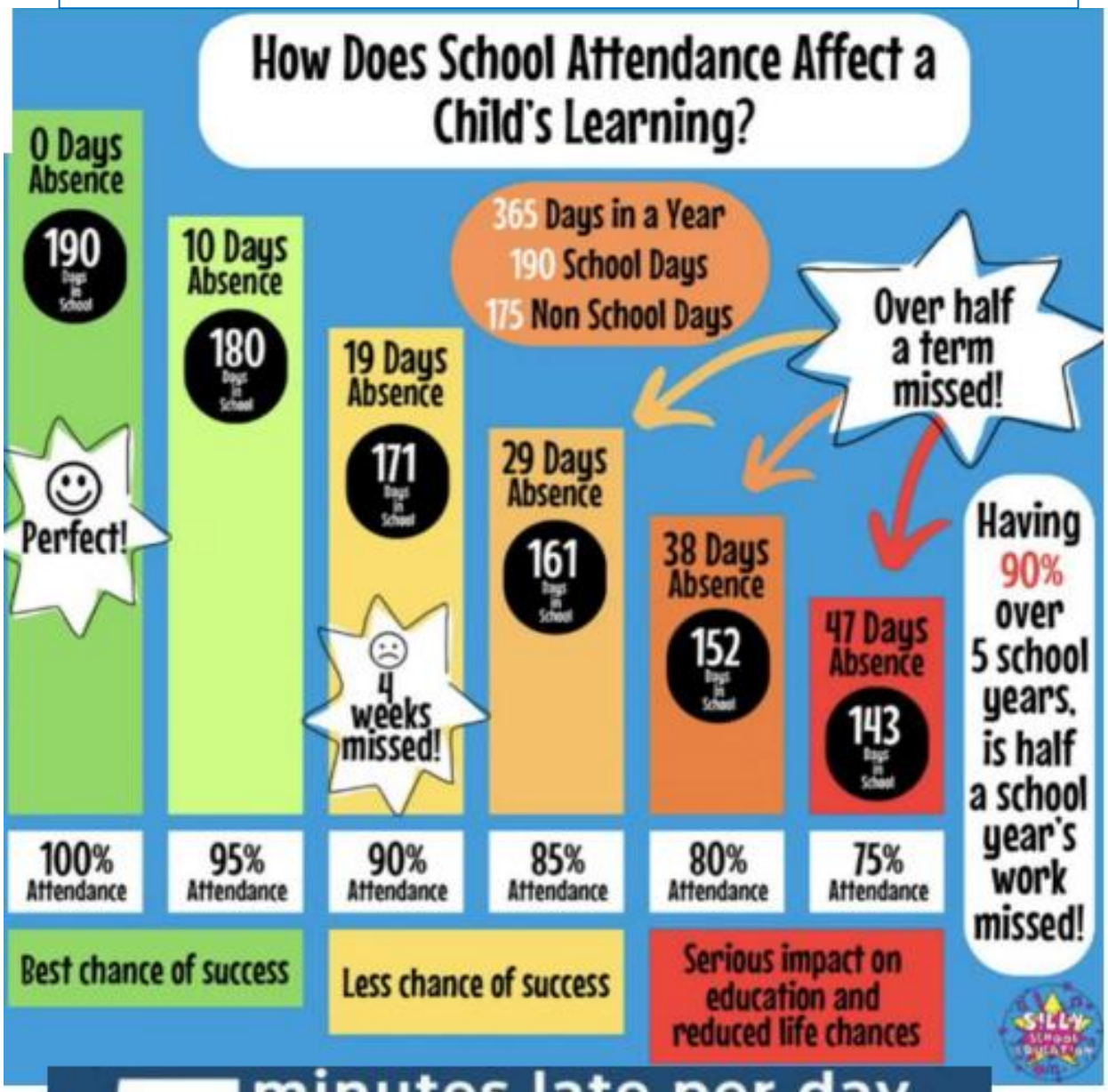
**Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2027.**

Please note that school will also be closed on Monday June 7th 2027 for INSET (staff training.)

Diary Dates

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# School Attendance







unicef RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of education Article 5, Parental Guidance Article 18, Parental responsibility