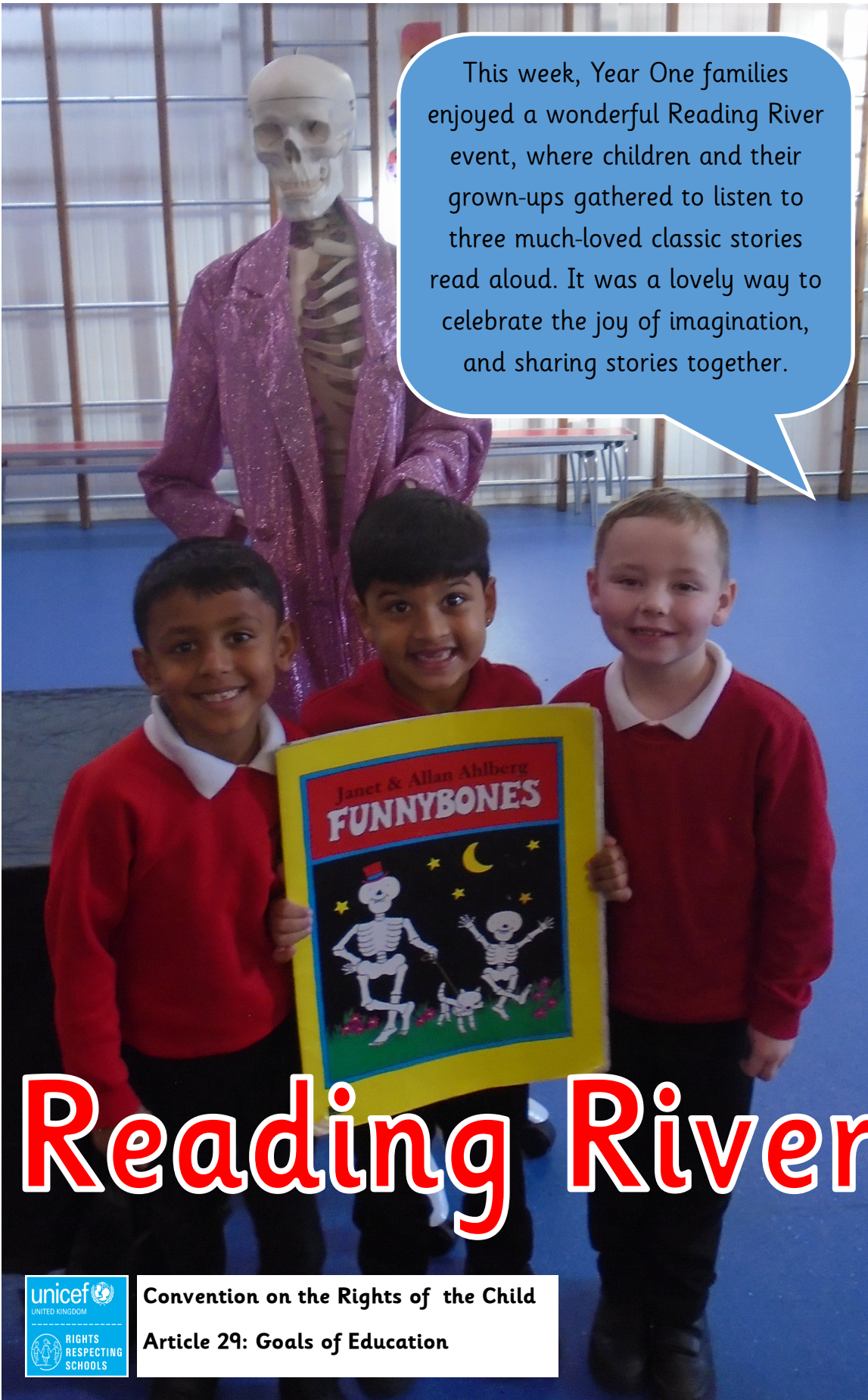




Reading River



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education



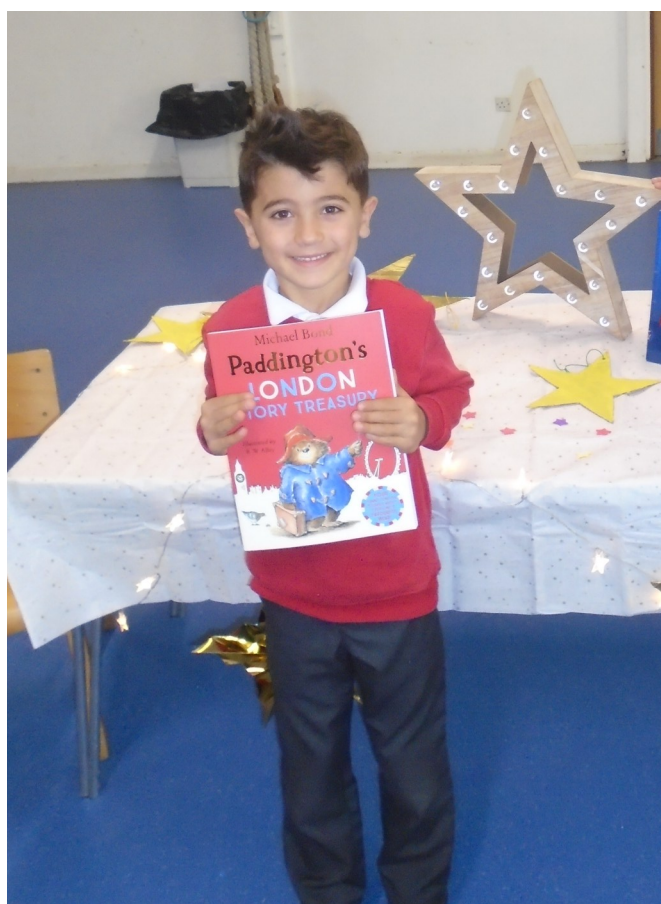


Everyone joined in the fun as they heard “Funnybones” by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, “Whatever Next!” by Jill Murphy, and “How to Catch a Star” by Oliver Jeffers, read by Mrs Prager, Miss Ellershaw, Mrs Lee and Miss Glenny.

There was also a lovely opportunity for families to browse the children’s Reading River home learning, celebrating the effort and creativity they had put into their work. To finish the event, everyone took part in an exciting raffle to win a copy of Paddington in London, a story that links perfectly with the children’s topic, “Bright Lights, Big City.” Congratulations to our two lucky winners, Veda and Vlad, who were thrilled to take home their new books.



Reading River





Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education



Year 5 impressed us all this week with a lively and informative assembly all about the Tudor dynasty. The children brought history to life through drama, facts, and confident speaking, showcasing their hard work and enthusiasm for the topic. A special highlight was Sadie's beautiful solo performance of *Greensleeves* on the flute, which added a wonderful Tudor atmosphere to the morning. Well done to all of Year 5 for a fantastic performance.



The Tudors



The Tudor dynasty began after the Wars of the Roses, a series of civil conflicts between the rival houses of Lancaster and York, each fighting for control of the English throne. The struggle ended in 1485 when Henry Tudor, a Lancastrian, defeated King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry became King Henry VII and strengthened his claim by marrying Elizabeth of York, uniting the two houses. This marriage brought stability to England and marked the beginning of the Tudor era, which lasted until 1603 and included famous monarchs such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.



On Thursday, Year Two children worked in small groups to play a board game linked to their *Magnificent Monarchs* topic. Each child took turns rolling a dice and moving the correct number of spaces. Landing on an orb meant picking up an **orb card** and following its instructions, and the same applied to the **castle spaces**, which required a **castle card**. If a player landed on a **crown**, they were allowed to move forward one extra space, but landing on an **axe** meant moving back one space. All of the card instructions were carefully linked to classroom learning about monarchs, making the game both fun and educational.





Year Three pupils are learning the importance of road safety by exploring how to stay alert and make sensible choices near traffic. As part of their lessons, they discussed why it's essential to stop, look, and listen before crossing, and they practised identifying the safest places to cross a road. They learnt that pedestrian crossings—such as zebra crossings, pelican crossings, and school crossings—are the best places to cross because drivers are more aware of pedestrians there, and traffic is usually controlled. By understanding these rules early, pupils gain confidence and develop lifelong habits that help keep them safe whenever they are out and about.

Y3 Road Safety



Fire Safety



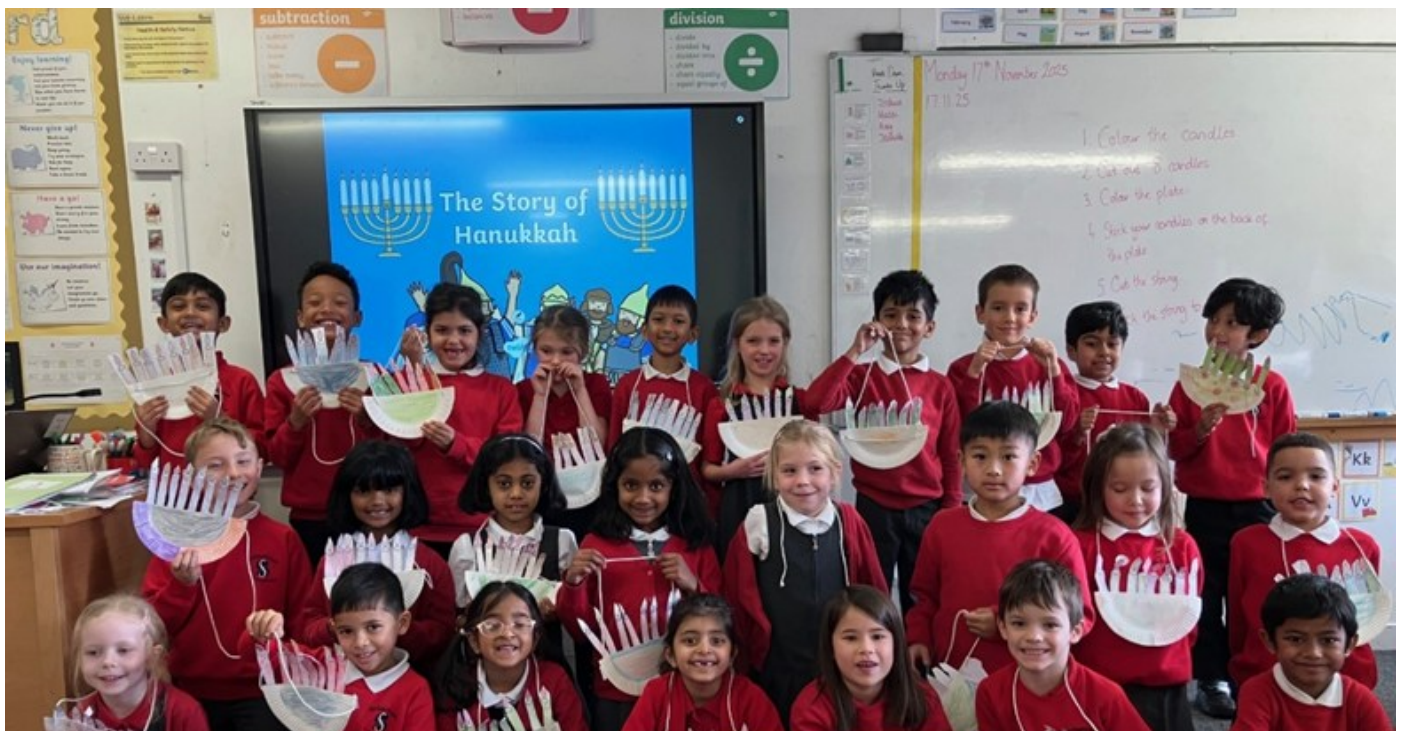
Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3: Best Interests of the Child

Year 5 recently took part in an engaging and informative fire safety session led by the local fire service. The talk began with a helpful recap of the fire safety knowledge pupils had learned in earlier years, before moving on to important discussions about how everyday actions—such as charging electrical devices—can create hazards and increase the risk of fire. Firefighters demonstrated how quickly a fire can spread in a bedroom, reinforcing the importance of staying alert and prepared. They also reminded pupils to ensure smoke alarms at home are working properly. The children learned what to do in the event of a fire and discussed the serious dangers and consequences of making hoax emergency calls. The session was both eye-opening and educational, helping pupils understand how to keep themselves and others safe.

Fire Safety—Top Tips

- **Check your smoke alarms** regularly to make sure they are working.
- **Keep electrical devices unplugged** when they're not in use, and avoid charging them overnight.
- **Never play with matches, lighters, or candles**—they are not toys.
- **Keep escape routes clear** at home so everyone can get out quickly if needed.
- **Make a family escape plan** and practise it so everyone knows what to do in an emergency.



Hannukah

Here are Year Two Wrens class with the menorah they made in their RE lesson this week. The children have been learning about Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, and exploring why it is such an important celebration. They discovered the story behind Hanukkah — how over 2,000 years ago, the Jewish people reclaimed their holy temple in Jerusalem after it had been taken over by the Greek ruler Antiochus. When they went to relight the temple's menorah, they found only a tiny amount of oil left, enough for just one day. But miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, giving them time to prepare more. To remember this miracle, Jewish families light a menorah for eight nights each year. The Wrens enjoyed making their own menorahs and learning how each candle represents one night of the celebration.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion

Christmas Performances



You are warmly invited to attend your child's Christmas performance in the main school hall:

YR Nativity—Wednesday 17th December at 9.30am.

Y1 Nativity— Thursday 4th December at 9.30am.

Y2 carol concert—Monday 8th December at 9.30am.

Y3 carol concert—Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am.

Y4 carol concert—Tuesday 9th December at 2.15pm.

Y5 Carol concert—Wednesday 10th December at 9.30am

Y6 carol concert—Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm



Y3/4 Theatre Trip

When Princess Aurora pricks her finger on an enchanted spinning wheel she's cursed to fall asleep for 100 years, unless she's kissed by her one true love. Enter the dashing Prince (and his two rather calamitous sidekicks) who embark on a brave adventure to save the Princess from her terrible fate. But with the wicked Fairy Carabosse determined to ruin their plans, will our trusty trio be triumphant or is the Princess doomed to a century of snoozing? You'll have to come along to find out!

Sleeping Beauty will be full to the brim with all of the wonderful elements that make a trip to the Belgrade such a well-loved Christmas tradition for thousands of families every year.

On Wednesday 26th November Years 3/4 will be visiting The Belgrade Theatre to watch a performance of "Sleeping Beauty." The cost of the trip is £20.67—please make payment via your ParentPay account. For more information, see the letter sent to you or speak to a member of our office staff.

The ROALD DAHL'S BFG Y5/6 Theatre Trip

ADAPTED BY TOM WELLS

One extraordinary night, a young orphan named Sophie is snatched by a giant and taken far away to Giant Country. There she learns that human-eating giants are guzzling 'norphans' the world over. But she soon discovers that her new friend, the BFG, is different – he's a dream-catching, snozzcumber-munching gentle soul who refuses to eat humans.

While other giants terrorise the world, the BFG ignites Sophie's imagination, and they devise a daring plan to save children everywhere. In the end, the smallest human bean and the gentlest giant prove that a dream can change the world.

Gather your chidders to see Roald Dahl's unforgettable story come to life this winter. Tom Wells' magical new adaptation is directed by RSC Co-Artistic Director Daniel Evans.

On Thursday 15th January 2026, Years 5/6 will be visiting The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford to watch a performance of "The BFG." The cost of the trip is £18.00—please make payment via your ParentPay account.



YR/1/2 Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 3rd December, Years R/1/2 will be visiting Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of "The Tiger Who Came to Tea." The cost of the trip is £16.67—please make payment via your ParentPay account. For more information, see the letter sent to you or speak to a member of our office staff.

Direct from the West End, the Olivier Award nominated smash hit show, The Tiger Who Came to Tea returns.

The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big, stripy tiger!

Join the tea-guzzling tiger in this delightful family show; packed with oodles of magic, sing-a-long songs and clumsy chaos. Don't miss this stunning stage adaptation of the classic tale of teatime mayhem... expect to be surprised!

A musical play adapted and directed by David Wood, based on the book by Judith Kerr.

The Tiger Who Came to Tea



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture

If you would like to book a Christmas Dinner for your child on 16 December please visit your parent pay account - Payment Item - Christmas Dinner Booking 16 December.

Booking must be made by 9.00 am on 1 December 2025. If you have not booked by this date, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch on 16 December. **We cannot accept late bookings.**

This payment item is purely for us to confirm numbers to our kitchen and payment is not required at this stage.

Payment will be due on 16 December in your child's dinner money account.

Please read the below carefully regarding payment.

Children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 - your child receives a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme and no payment is due but we politely request you still book your meal here.

Children in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 - payment of £2.88 should be made to your parent pay account by 16 December 2025 - payment item Dinner Money. However, If your child is in registered for a free school meal no payment is due but we politely request you still book your meal here.

A festive menu card for Christmas Lunch 2025. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and a small Christmas tree in the bottom right corner. The title 'Christmas Lunch 2025' is written in a large, blue, cursive font at the top. Below the title, the menu items are listed in a brown, serif font, enclosed in a rounded rectangular border. The first option is 'Roast Turkey Cocktail Sausage, Stuffing Ball with Gravy (G.SU)'. Below it is 'or'. The second option is '(vg) Roast Quorn Fillet, Veggie Sausage, Stuffing Ball with Gravy (G)'. Below that is 'Served with Crispy Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas, and Sliced Carrots'. Then comes '(vg,h) Iced Christmas Cookie (G)', followed by 'or', and finally '(v,h) Festive Cupcake(G.E)'. In the bottom left corner, there is an 'Allergen Key' with the following: 'V - Vegetarian', 'VG - Vegan', 'G - Gluten', 'E - Egg', 'SU - Sulphites', and 'H - Nuts/Seeds'.

Christmas Lunch 2025

Roast Turkey
Cocktail Sausage, Stuffing Ball with Gravy
(G.SU)

or

(vg) Roast Quorn Fillet, Veggie Sausage,
Stuffing Ball with Gravy (G)

Served with Crispy Roast Potatoes,
Garden Peas, and Sliced Carrots

(vg,h) Iced Christmas Cookie (G)

or

(v,h) Festive Cupcake(G.E)

Allergen Key
V - Vegetarian
VG - Vegan
G - Gluten
E - Egg
SU - Sulphites
H - Nuts/Seeds

SYDENHAM PRIMARY PTA
PRESENTS THE RETURN
OF OUR:

Present Wrap Room

11th, 12th & 15th of December



During school hours your child will be
taken to choose their grown up a
surprise gift which they will wrap and
decorate!



£3 per gift - max 2 gifts per child

Available on Parent Pay from Monday

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are able to help with
either a morning or afternoon
slot

9:00-12:30 or 1:00-3:20

please let us know

sydenhampta@welearn365.com

CHRISTMAS JUMPER COLLECTION

**Do you have any outgrown or unwanted
Seasonal or Christmas jumpers?**

**Drop them at the collection box in the school office!
Children's & Adults sizes are welcomed.**



**We will hold a jumper sale before the holidays, all
proceeds go to the PTA to help fund new resources
for school.**

Grab a bargain & help reduce clothing waste !

Tuesday 2nd December, outside school office

Please donate clean, re-sellable items



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Winter Wellness

It is important to focus on our wellness during the colder months. Winter is a time where our bodies may start to crave the same warmth and comfort we had during the summer months. We might associate winter with the winter blues, but we need to try and create some space for self-care and slow down to nourish our physical and mental health! Sometimes we might feel the winter blues because of the lack of sun and vitamin D we are getting. This is why our mental wellbeing should be a big focus during these months, and we should find creative ways to stay on track, keep up motivation, and look after ourselves.

Our Top Tips For Winter Wellness:

1. Wrap up warm and lay down with a blanket and a hot drink.
2. Do some fun activities outside in the natural sunlight such as going for walks or seeing friends (you might need to wrap up warm for this!) Even on cold days, fresh air and natural light boosts our mood.
3. Stay active – try indoor exercises to help get your body moving during the colder months. You could keep your energy up by dancing, swimming, or practising yoga. You could also find an exercise video online for you to do at home!
4. You might even want to go to your local café and read a book in the daytime or have a warm relaxing bath when you're home after a cold day.
5. Keep up your routines- getting up in the morning is harder in winter when it's cold and dark. Shorter days also make it tempting to sleep more, but consistent sleep helps your mind feel balanced.
6. Eat well and stay hydrated — good nutrition fuels your brain and body.
7. Talk about how you're feeling — sharing your thoughts can help if you're feeling low or stressed.

Remember to always make time for yourself at the end of a long day!

Scan the QR code for more ideas
about how to keep well in Winter:



In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the Children and Young People's Mental Health Crisis support available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for



Monday **22nd** and
Tuesday **23rd December**

Active Kids

at Christmas!

Fun & flexible
holiday childcare
for ages 5-11



At **Aylesford School** and
Thomas Jolyffe Primary

COURSE TIMES 9.30am to 3.30pm

Early Drop off and Late Pick up available +£3.50 each

£20
per day

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

To book now visit onsidecoaching.co.uk

HAF



Active Kids

This Christmas!

Holiday Activities
& Food Programme



Aylesford School
Thomas Jolyffe Primary
Bishop's Tachbrook Primary

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

COURSE TIMES 9.30am to 3.30pm

100% FREE

for eligible families

**Sports & Activities, Team Games, Nutritious Meals,
New Friendships, Confidence Building and more!**

Limited spaces available, don't miss out...

BOOK NOW AT haf.onsidelive.co.uk

St Mary's Church

LEAMINGTON SPA

Encountering God Rooted in Christ Transforming Lives



For unto us

a child is born!



Sunday 14th Dec at 6.30pm

St. Mary's Carol Service

Carols by Candlelight & Mince Pies

Wednesday 24th December at 4pm

Christingle Service

Thursday 25th December at 10.30am

Christmas Day All-Age Service

with Holy Communion

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

Encountering God Rooted in Christ Transforming Lives

For unto us
a child is born!



Christingle Service

Wednesday 24th December
at 4pm

Diary Dates

Monday 24th—Thursday 27th November	Scholastic Book Fair.
Monday 24th November	Whole school assembly led by St Mary's church
Wednesday 26th November	Y3/4 trip to The Belgrade Theatre to watch "Sleeping Beauty."
Thursday 27th November	Winter hoops hung in the main hall.
Thursday 27th November	Y4 Speed Stacking Competition.
Friday 28th November	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Monday 1st December	School closed for In-Service Training (INSET.)
Wednesday 3rd December	Reception, Year One and Year Two trip to Warwick Arts Centre to watch "The Tiger Who Came to Tea."
Thursday 4th December	Y6 visit to St Mary's church.
Tuesday 9th December at 2.15pm	Y4 Carol Concert. Parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 4th December at 9.30am.	Y1 Nativity —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 8th December at 9.30am	Y2 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am	Y3 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.

Diary Dates

Diary Dates

Wednesday 10th December at 9.30am	Y5 Carol Concert — parents and carers of children in
Wednesday 10th December	Y4 Viking Day 1.
Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm	Y6 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 11th December	Y4 Viking Day 2.
Monday 15th December	Rocksteady concert at 2.15pm.
Monday 15th December	Y2 visit to Warwick Castle.
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 17th December	YR Nativity (new date.) Parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 17th December	MUFTI—wear a Christmas jumper or festive outfit and donate £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay.
Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January, school closed for Christmas holiday.	
Pupils return to school on Monday 5th January	

Parking

Please do **not** drive into the school car park to drop off your child in the morning as this is a health and safety risk. Please try walking, scooting or cycling. If you have to drive, please park away from the school gates and avoid blocking pavements, dropped kerbs or residential driveways.

Thank you.



Sydenham Superstars



YR and Key Stage One

Enjoy the weekend.
Best wishes from Miss
Glenny



Key Stage Two