

Happy Sydenham



Christmas

A Cracking Christmas Lunch



On Monday, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings including stuffing, cranberry sauce and, of course, sprouts!



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 24: Health



Thank you to everyone in the kitchen, especially our lovely chef, Claire.

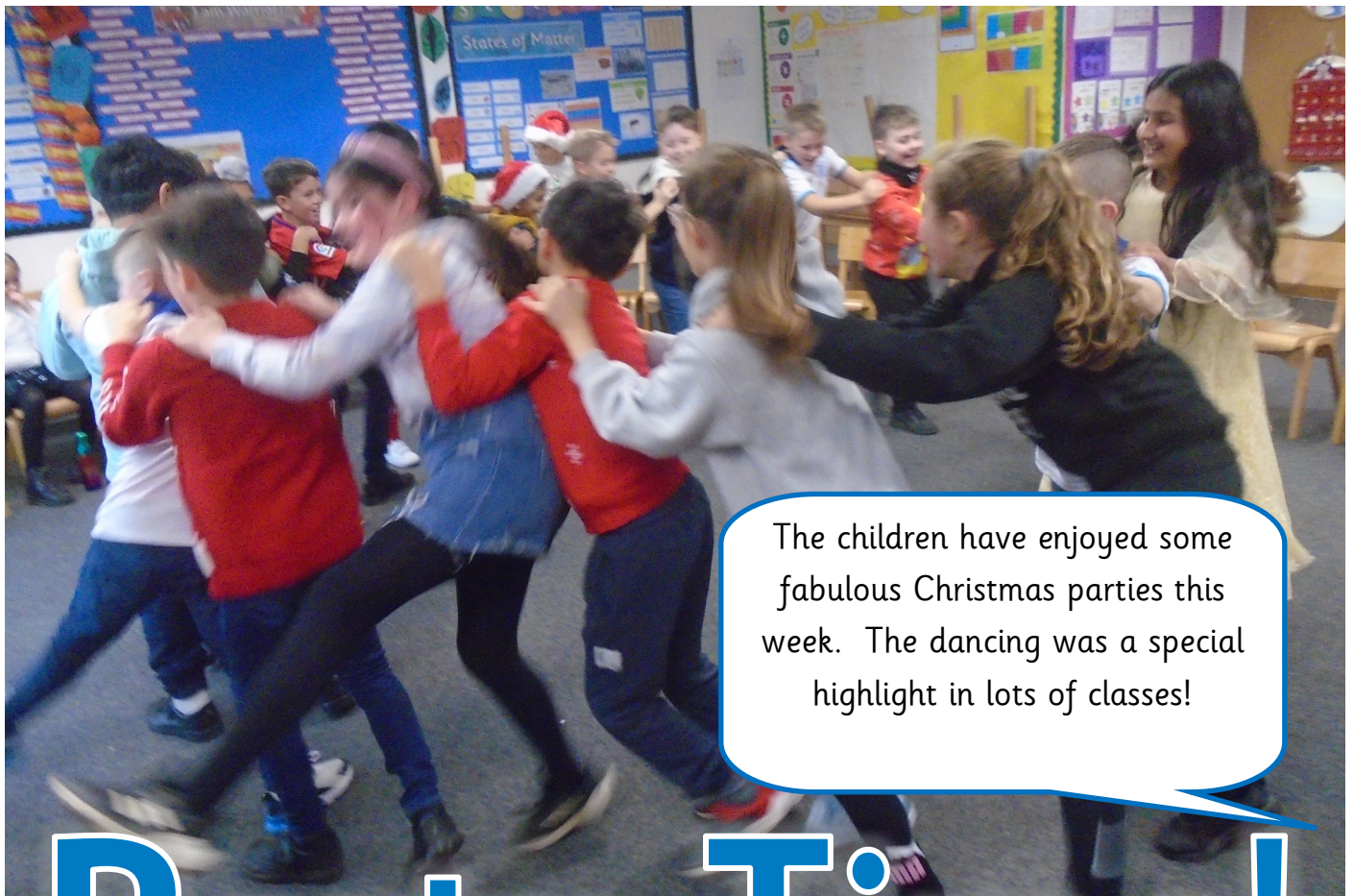


We're also very grateful to all our wonderful midday supervisors who worked extra hard to get everyone's dinners served on time.



PTA Wrap Room

Many thanks to the PTA for running our Christmas Wrap Room. Lots of children visited and chose a special present for a loved one which they carefully wrapped. We hope you're one of the lucky ones!



The children have enjoyed some fabulous Christmas parties this week. The dancing was a special highlight in lots of classes!

Party Time!



Drama Club Presents:



This morning, Drama Club presented a very special Nativity, written and directed by Holly and Lily-Anne in Y6 Swans. The cast have been rehearsing with their directors for several weeks and have worked hard to learn dance routines, songs and lines. The show was completely the work of the children, with minimal input from adults, and it was wonderful to see such a brilliant final performance. A special well done to our directors and to Isaac who swapped roles at the last minute, Alfie who stepped in to save the day as a King and the narrators who had to learn extra lines very quickly! What a fantastic team effort! There are more photographs on the following pages.

The Nativity

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 12: Respect for the views of the child



The Directors




The Angels



The Kings





Mrs Keys took our fantastic choir community singing today at The Sycamores care home and then ASDA. The children's singing brought festive cheer to the many people who listened. What a lovely act of kindness.

Community Singing



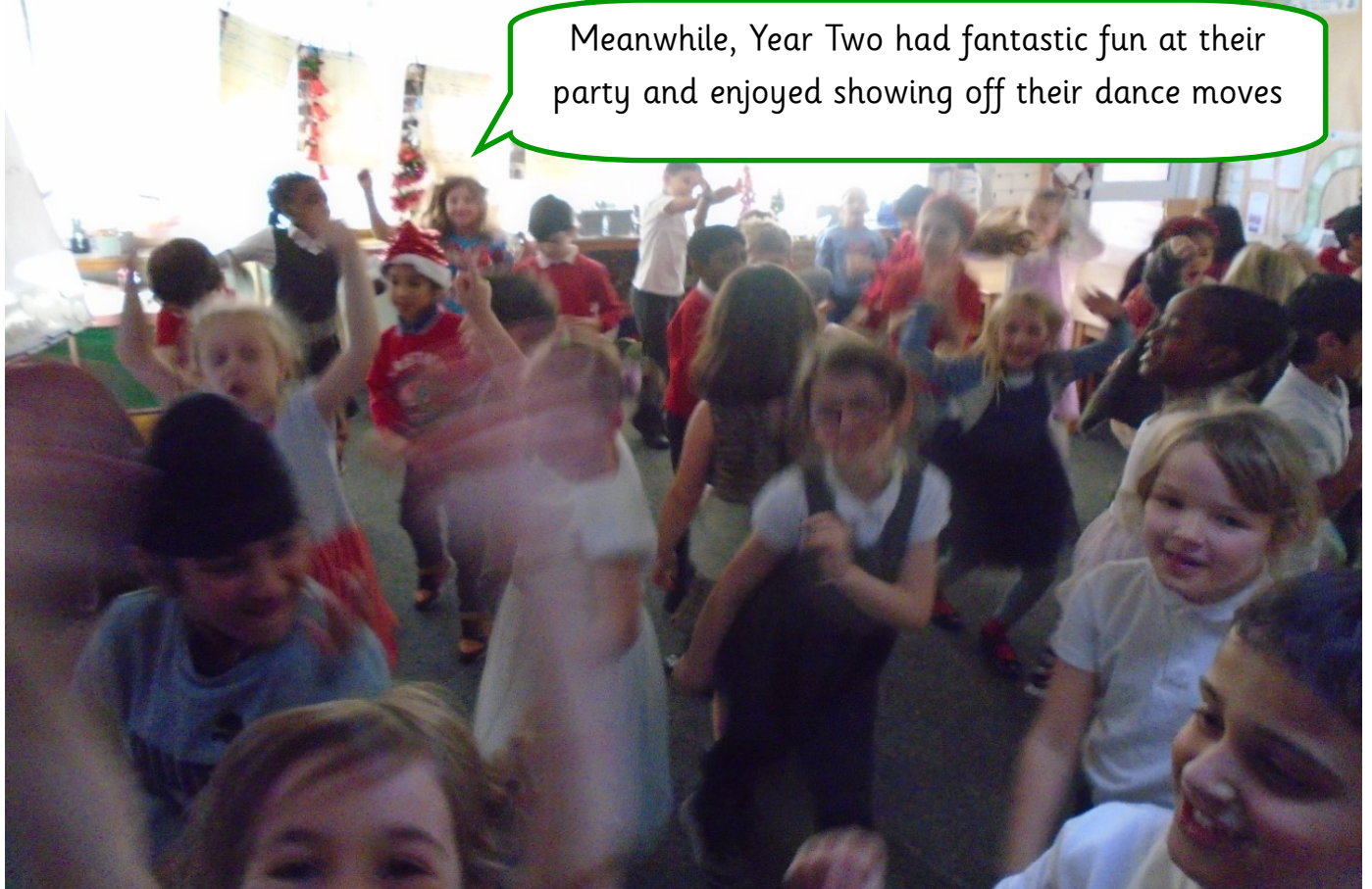
Sydenham has been Christmas crazy this week!
Year 4 Starlings created a festive desk to
decorate their classroom.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:
Article 15: Freedom of Association



How many more sleeps?

Meanwhile, Year Two had fantastic fun at their
party and enjoyed showing off their dance moves





Charity Fundraiser

On Thursday, Year Six carried out their charity fundraiser in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Lots of children tried to guess the number of marbles in the jar but there was only one winner—Abir in Y2 Swallows! Abir won a bumper box of Lego for his guess of 400 marbles (only four off the actual total of 404.) Two other children were also close but Abir's name was pulled out of the hat. Congratulations and well done to Mason for coming up with this idea.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:
Article 12: Respect for the views of the child



Sydenham Rocks!

On Monday, Sydenham rocked-out to the sound of our fantastic school bands. All the performers were children who take lessons with Rocksteady and it was great to see them on stage playing and singing so confidently. Well done!





UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education



On Tuesday, we were visited by Daniel Hartley, an assessor from The Historical Association. Mr Hartley came to see how we teach History and he was interested to learn how we deliver both the disciplinary and substantive elements of the subject.

The visit began with a tour of the school, led by our Learning Detectives. Mr Hartley then observed some History lessons, looked at books and talked to children about the subject. He was very impressed by the depth and breadth of the curriculum, the way we teach historical vocabulary and the opportunities for pupils to develop an understanding of concepts such as democracy, monarchy, continuity and change.

Mr Hartley will write a report about what he saw and, hopefully, we will win a quality mark for excellence in History teaching.

History Quality Mark

Curriculum: Spring 1 Topics

Reception



Starry Night

What happens when the light turns off? Explore the darkness and the light in this lovely project that teaches children about the differences between day and night and the importance of sleep.

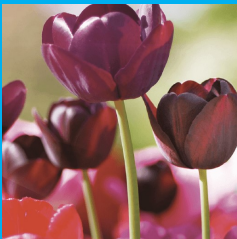
Year One



Splendid Skies

Imagine floating high above land and sea on a bed of clouds, silently sweeping by on a billowing breeze. Back down to earth, let's take a walk outdoors. But what should we wear? Wellington boots? A sun hat? Maybe a warm coat? How do we know what the weather will be like today? Read and write poems and postcards, and, if you don't like today's weather report, why not write your own? Make a weather station to find out more about the weather in your area. What weather do you prefer? Sunshine, snow, storms or showers? Get your wellies on and let's go.

Year Two



Scented Garden

Tiptoe through the tulips as your senses discover the blooming foliage and enchanting fragrances of flowers and herbs. Round and round the mulberry bush we go, planting bulbs and seeds, and then watch them grow beneath sunshine and showers. Explore the astounding world of the scented garden, but be careful, there are some wild and dangerous plants out there that do astonishing things. Don't touch them. Use the marvellous properties of plants, flowers and herbs to make an exceptional gift for somebody special. Everything is coming up roses. Why not grow your own?

Year Three



Mighty Metals

You're an engineer, a scientist, a maker of men (iron men, of course). Explore the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. Expand your mind as you test and trial, build and move. Which force is at play as you slide down a slide or swing on a swing? Can you explain why magnets repel and attract? Can you make a penny look shiny and new or build a steel band from pots and pans? Then, meet Hogarth the Iron Man's companion. The Iron Man wants a friend. Can you build him one? You must make him strong, sturdy and ready to rumble. If you were a metal, which one would you be? Gold, a shimmering, precious and costly mineral? Or steel, that strong and useful alloy? Maybe you're iron, malleable and easy to shape, but ready to rust. Maybe you're not a metal at all, but a force to be reckoned with.

Curriculum: New Topics

Year Four



Playlist

What's that noise? A bash? A crash? A shake, a rattle or a low, bass hum? Which do you prefer – an acoustic singer or a booming brass band? A solitary voice singing sweetly and quietly or a magnificent choir lifting the roof? Take out your ear plugs as you journey through the valley of sound and find out about instruments, the sounds they make and how they are produced. Discover how sounds are made and which sounds travel the furthest. Then, sing up and compose a class song for the local talent contest, Class Factor. Can you write a number one hit? Be sure to stand up straight, warm up your voice and sing your heart out. When your performance is done, sit back and listen to calming classical melodies, a soothing lullaby or your favourite boy band ballad. Can you hear me over there? Or do I need to TALK MORE LOUDLY?

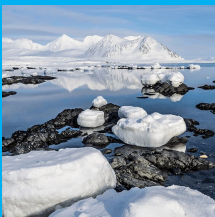
Year Five



Off With Her Head!

What sort of man would order the beheading of his wife? Was she really that bad? Travel back in time to the 1500s and meet the terrifying Tudors, a domineering dynasty that changed our history. Discover an opulent court where dancing and singing goes hand in hand with swift falls from favour, and even swifter falling of heads. Develop your painting skills in miniature, solve riddles and remember to protect your precious neck with a large white ruff, if you want to survive at Tudor court. Flex your detective muscles and become a criminal investigator. Will you find out the facts or will the evidence from the past bemuse you? How will you find the accused, innocent or guilty? It's your turn to take part in one of the most famous trials that the world has ever known.

Year Six



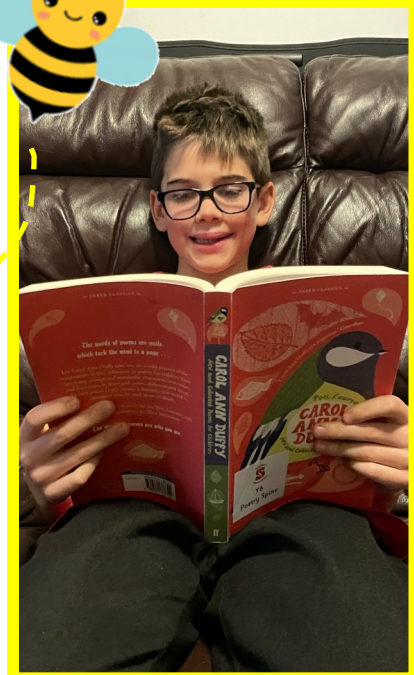
Frozen Planet

Button up your coat and put on your hat and scarf because we're off to the land of ice and snow. Find out about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles and explore the environmental factors that shape and influence them. Learn about famous explorers and find out more about classification keys.



More busy bee readers!

Some lovely photos of more children who have been enjoying reading at home with our special reading teddies and poetry bags in recent weeks. **Well done everyone!**



Mrs Napier has been particularly impressed with Thomas this week, who has been practicing his reading both at school and at home. Thomas is really growing in confidence, and it was lovely to hear him show off his skills on Wednesday!



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

Supporting Reading

Welcome to
Oxford Owl...
for Home



We have set up new class logins for every child on the Oxford Owl website so that they have access to the Oxford Owl ebook library online. Your child's class username and password will be emailed to you, and once logged in, your child will have access to hundreds of high quality fiction

and non-fiction books to read. By checking which book band level your child is currently reading at school (the books are labelled), you can choose the matching book band on the website for your child, so you will know that you are supporting your child to make progress in their reading at the level at which they are working.

Please note, if your child is a 'Rainbow Reader', it means that they have reached the end of the book band levels for their year group. They can therefore choose to read banded ebooks for either just before

or just after that bracket.

Please remember that every child is different, and some children will be further along the scheme than others.

Year group	Age	Book band level
Reception	4-5 years old	Lilac
		Pink
		Red
		Yellow
		Light blue
Year 1	5-6 years old	Green
		Orange
		Turquoise
Year 2	6-7 years old	Purple
		Gold
		White
		Lime
Year 3	7-8 years old	Brown
		Grey
Year 4	8-9 years old	Dark blue
Year 5	9-10 years old	Dark red
Year 6	10-11 years old	



The website is also the place where your child can access the 'Floppy's Phonics Extra Practice Zone' aimed at children in Reception - Year 2. This includes interactive books where the children are able to practise identify phonemes, segmenting and blending.



Book Club Projects

For the past two week, the Year 4 and Year 5 Book Club members have been helping to create some book-inspired Christmas decorations. As well as making our winter hoop for the hall, we have had fun recycling some old, dog-eared books into beautiful snowflakes which are now hanging proudly in the library.



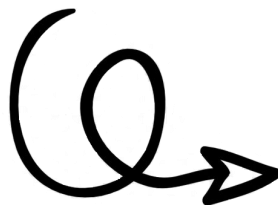
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education





Your child will be bringing home a reading challenge next week to complete over the Christmas holidays, so please look out for it!



Happy reading, everyone!
Miss Challand

CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

The Christmas holidays are a time for family, celebrations, and snuggling up with a good book! As well as relaxing and having fun, see how many of these reading activities you can tick off with your family!

READ BEFORE GOING TO BED	READ TO YOUR SISTERS OR PETS	READ WHILE DRINKING HOT CHOCOLATE	READ A BOOK ABOUT GIVING
WRITE A BOOK REVIEW ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK	READ A BOOK ABOUT KINDNESS	READ A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE NEVER READ BEFORE	READ A BOOK CURLED UP UNDER A BLANKET
READ A BOOK ABOUT OTHER IMPORTANT FESTIVALS	READ WITH YOUR SCARF AND HAT ON	VISIT THE LIBRARY AND CHOOSE SOME NEW BOOKS	READ A BOOK WITH "SNOW" IN THE TITLE
READ A NON-FICTION BOOK	READ A RECIPE THAT YOU COULD MAKE	READ A BOOK THAT HAS SANTA IN IT	READ A BOOK WITH YOUR FAMILY

We would love to see what you get up to! Every activity sheet that is returned by Friday 6th January will be swapped for a special reading certificate.

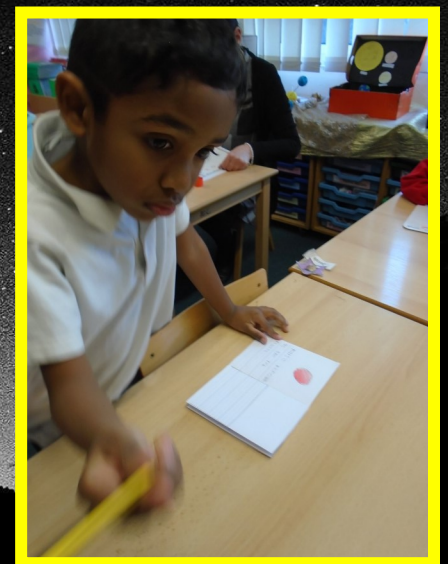
Ho Ho Ho you enjoy the challenge!
From Miss Challand



Name: _____ Class: _____

Celebrating Writing

Year 1 had fun concluding their Moon Zoom topic by publishing some wonderful space facts leaflets. The children wrote the leaflets for Bob (a character from a book the children have been reading), to sell on his souvenir stand. Don't they look amazing!





CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



Leamington Library is holding a special free Christmas crafts event for 4-11 year olds on Thursday 22nd December and Thursday 29th December from 2-3pm. Please bear in mind that you need to book your child on to this event, which you can do here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-crafts-leamington-library-tickets-472699124807?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1



Adventure is back in Sydenham

We're looking for cubs, beavers, scouts and a few volunteer helpers.

If you are 6 to 14 ½ years old and would like to join or re-join the Scout Group then please let us know.

As a volunteer, from being a positive role model, a teacher of not just knots, to just being there to help, your role as leader can be measured in smiles. And lasting memories. And life skills that won't be forgotten.



Interested?

Scan the QR code left or email

gsl.radfordsemele@leamingtonscouts.org.uk





ARTLAB

Christmas Art Camp

Join us at Milverton Primary School

19-20-21-22 Dec 10-4pm

Each day is a new crafting adventure filled with Christmas joy! Christmas carols will fill the room, while we decorate gingerbread, make wreaths, paint baubles and construct eco-art Christmas gifts.

Children 5-11 years

Book online now

www.artlabart.com



Accessing Support

MHST is still open during the Christmas holidays, so if you usually have sessions at school, you can choose to have these online or at your local family hub. You can also access support from the websites below:

Rise Crisis Team: for those under 17 who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Phone number - 08081 966798



Childline: get support over the phone, online or from other young people on their message boards.



Website - <https://www.childline.org.uk/kids/>



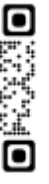
Phone number - 0800 1111



Top QR code takes you to the website.



Bottom QR code takes you to 1:1 chat.



Young Minds: find advice and information on their website or use their textline for support.



Website- www.youngminds.org.uk

Textline - Text YM to 852558

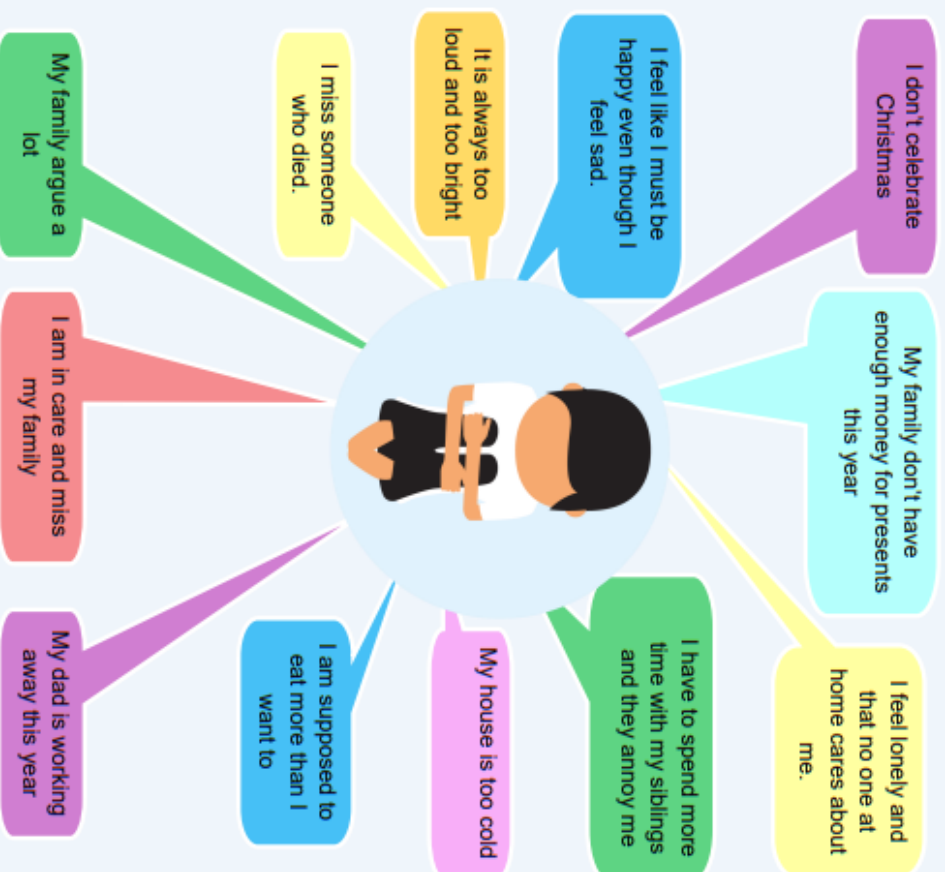


*Feeling worried or unhappy
this Christmas?*



Christmas can be a really exciting time where we get to spend time with our family and friends and celebrate. But what happens if we aren't looking forward to Christmas? This leaflet talks about why children might struggle at Christmas and gives some ideas of things that they can do that might help.

Why do some children find Christmas hard?



What could help me?

Use the NHS "5 Steps to wellbeing" to think about what you can do

Connect

- Spend time with the people you love

Keep learning

- Start a new hobby, learn a new joke or an interesting fact

Take Notice

- Stop for a moment and think about what you can see, touch, hear, taste and smell

Give

- This doesn't have to cost money. You could say something kind to someone, smile or offer to help them

Be active

- Go for a walk with your dog, start a new sport or dance around your kitchen



Talk to a trusted adult - If you are finding it hard to manage your feelings by yourself, talk to someone you trust.



Happy Holidays

We wish all of our lovely families a very merry Christmas and hope that the holiday brings you peace and relaxation. Children return to school on **Wednesday 4th January.**