



Headteacher and Deputy's Christmas Message: A Season of Thanks and Celebration



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy and festive term, we are writing to extend our deepest thanks for your continued support and commitment to our wonderful school. The collaboration between home and school is the very bedrock of our community, and we are truly grateful.

This term has been packed with activities that showcase the energy and talent of our pupils and staff - too many to mention them all but please look through all of our blogs on the website.



Celebrating Our Festive Highlights

- **Christingle Service Success:** Our recent **Christingle service** was a truly moving and special occasion. It was heartening to see so many families join us, sharing in the light and meaning of this tradition. Thank you for helping the children prepare and for your generous donations. A huge thanks to Class 4 for leading this so brilliantly.

- **A Trip to the Panto!** The whole school thoroughly enjoyed our annual trip to see the **Cinderella pantomime**. The cheers, laughter, and enthusiastic participation from the children were fantastic to witness! It was a brilliant way to celebrate their hard work. Thank you to our PTA for helping to fund this lovely event.
 - **The Nativity Stars:** A huge round of applause must go to **Class 1 and Class 2** for their **brilliant Nativity performance**. The children were simply superb—clear voices, confident performances, and incredible costumes brought the Christmas story to life for us all. They truly are an amazing bunch of children.
 - **Christmas Dinner Cheer:** Our school **Christmas Dinner** this year went really well, and it was a joyful occasion enjoyed by the children and staff alike. A big thank you to Claire and the kitchen team for all their hard work in preparing such a delicious feast!
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☀️ Recognising Our Dedicated Staff and Community

The success of these events, and indeed, the success of this entire term, is down to the sheer dedication and commitment of our school team.

- We want to express our thanks for the **hard work of all the staff**—our teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, kitchen and site manager—who go above and beyond every single day to provide the best possible education and environment for your children.
- *In staffing news, our amazing Mrs Aminu will be leaving us in January. We wish her all the best and thank her for her amazing impact on our school. She will be really missed. I am excited to announce that Miss Georgia Child will be returning after Christmas to take on our after school care club. Miss Child worked with us last year and is excited to return to The Howard. Please join me in welcoming her back in January.*
- We must also acknowledge the invaluable support of our **PTA**. Their tireless fundraising and organisation have enriched the school experience for every child. We say this often but with budgets so tight in education all of the enrichment resources come from valuable fundraising by our parents - we could not run our school without it.
- Finally, to the **wider community**, thank you. Your involvement, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply offering encouragement, makes our school a truly special place. We love being part of Elford!





We are very close to accepting nursery aged children (3 years) at The Howard. We had hoped to be ready for the first week after Christmas but are still waiting on final Department of Education approval. If parents would like to fill in application forms in advance of a confirmed start date they are now available on our website <https://howard.staffs.sch.uk/children/class-1/nursery>

We hope you enjoy a relaxing and well-deserved break with your family over the Christmas period. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The children return to school on **Monday 5th January.**

With warmest wishes,

Mr Wynn and Mrs Fallows