



Christmas Newsletter 2025



HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly outstanding few months for our school community. I am immensely proud of everything our students have achieved and delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

First and foremost, our students have worked incredibly hard this term. Everyone has engaged enthusiastically, demonstrating resilience, curiosity and independence. It has been wonderful to see so many personal successes, both big and small, as students have developed new skills, built confidence and taken pride in their achievements.

One of the most significant milestones has been the successful opening of our second site. This has been a challenging and exciting development, allowing us to better meet the needs of our learners. The transition has gone well, thanks to careful planning and the dedication of staff, and it has already had a very positive impact on students.

We have been delighted to see the benefits of our newly developed outdoor and sensory areas. These spaces provide invaluable opportunities for students to regulate, explore, socialise and engage in learning in ways that suit their individual needs.

This term has been packed with exciting trips and visits, giving students meaningful opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. Whether exploring the local community or experiencing new environments, these outings have supported social development, communication skills and confidence, while creating lasting memories.

Alongside this, our school calendar has been full of wonderful events. From the winter fair to a range of charity events, these occasions have brought our community together. A special thank you goes to our newly formed PTFA, whose enthusiasm, hard work and commitment have been instrumental in the success of many of these events.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and compassion of our staff team. Their tireless efforts, professionalism and genuine care for our students makes huge differences every day. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to you, our parents and carers, for your ongoing support, trust and partnership. Working together is key to our students' success, and we truly value your involvement.

I wish you and your families a restful and joyful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful term in 2026.

Warmest regards,

James Horspool.

Head Teacher.



What's been happening?

Class 4.7

Class 4.7 have had a fabulous start to the academic year. The class have engaged in lots of amazing learning, such as cooking, making cheese pies, Angel Delight cheesecake and designing their own chocolate bars. In Maths, they looked at addition and subtraction, adding money values and working out change. In P.E, they are currently working on mastering the game of rounders. They have been on visits in the community, weekly shopping at Aldi Supermarket and visiting the Hive College in Birmingham as part of their encounters with further educational colleges. They have also had the amazing opportunity to visit Malthouse Activity Centre in Tipton to participate in adventurous activities such as rock climbing and archery. The students have also enjoyed their swimming sessions at Tipton Leisure Centre and have made great progress.



Class 5.8

Class 5.8 had a fantastic trip to West Midlands Safari Park, observing the animals and exploring the sensory magic of Christmas within Santa's grotto!



Travel Training from Connor Road

The classes at Connor Road have been travel training this term. This has involved researching bus timetables and planning their route to West Bromwich. We are working towards making trips to promote independence.



Class 5.6

Class 5.6 have been working hard on using money to make transactions this term in the school tuck shop and out in the wider community. They have been litter picking to help keep the environment clean and tidy. After all their hard work, they enjoyed a day at WMSP Winter Wonderland!



SANTA
Safari

Class 3.6

Class 3.6 have enjoyed their Sensory Story in English this half-term, which was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The students enjoyed using the props, watching staff act parts out and then experiencing a real life experience visiting a chocolate factory! They also had a great wellbeing afternoon working alongside each-other during hook-a-duck!



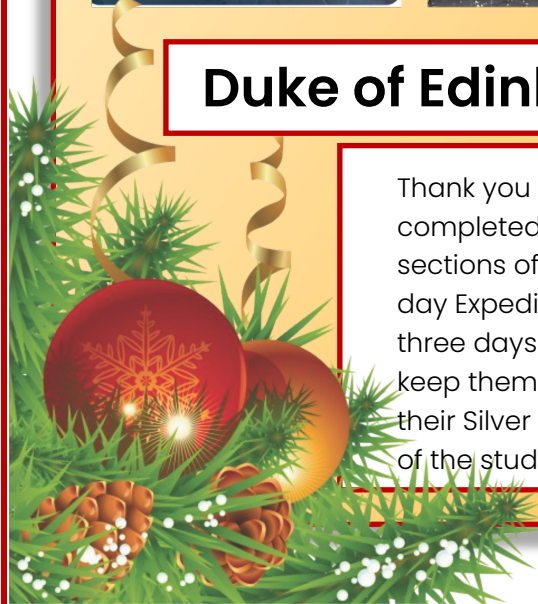
Class 3.5

Class 3.5 also enjoyed an amazing day at West Midlands Safari Park. They loved seeing all the animals, particularly the penguins, which were one of their favourite stops! They also had a magical visit with Santa, who welcomed them with a big smile and gave each child a special gift, it was a lovely moment full of excitement and joy. All the children were very kind and supportive of each other throughout the whole trip and the teachers were incredibly proud of them!



Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Assembly

Thank you to everyone for celebrating the hard work of students who completed the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. They completed sections of Voluntary, Physical, Skills, a practice expedition and a three day Expedition. A big thank you to all staff who supported this element; three days and two nights assisting the students all day and night to keep them safe in an unfamiliar environment. 18 students achieved their Silver Award between 2024-2025 and we are hoping the majority of the students will go on to their Gold level Award.



Christmas Craft Morning

On Friday 5th December, we held our annual craft morning with Sandwell College. It was a great success and the whole school from both sites, joined together to celebrated; making crafts, singing and enjoying each other's company.



Christmas Jumper Day



The students loved donning their most festive jumpers in aid of Save the Children. As a school, we have raised ... thank you for all your contributions!

Children in Need

In support of Children in Need, staff and students wore their pyjamas or something yellow and took part in a range of activities through the day. Thank you again for all the generous donations made towards the charity. As a school, we raised a massive £311.16!



Winter Fayre

Thank you to everyone that contributed and attended the Winter Fayre. It was a fabulous morning and brilliant to see so many families coming to support. Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket and a congratulations to all the winners. We have raised a fantastic £1800 for the PTFA which will be put towards enrichment opportunities for the children in school.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Updates

Helpful Information for the Festive Period

November and December are full of celebrations including Hanukkah, Christmas, Guru Nanak's birthday and of course, we have just enjoyed Diwali.

These are important times for us to relax, enjoy ourselves and have some family time.

Here are a few hints and tips to ensure your child feels as safe and secure as possible. You know your child best so consider which feels most relevant for you:

- If you have guests to come and stay, try to ensure that your child has as much familiarity as possible. Where you can, keep them in their usual routine and in their own bed.
- If you are going to stay with family or friends, provide your child with a visual timetable ahead of time. Where possible, try to show them pictures of where they'll be sleeping and who will be there. Take familiar (and unwashed – so they smell of home!) cuddly toys and bedding.
- Consider the dangers of lit candles – if possible, keep them out of reach of your child or use battery operated candles.
- Remember to check your festive lights before you put them up – faulty Christmas tree lights and similar contribute to far too many house fires.
- Avoid button batteries at all costs – they are incredibly toxic when consumed and have killed or seriously injured several children.
- If you drink alcohol, ensure you keep it out of reach of your child. During the festive period, there may be novelty bottles or flavour combinations that look very exciting to your child. While they may not have ever tried to consume your drinks before, it's best not to take the risk.
- Remember that Christmas is still completely magical without Father Christmas! You can make the choices that work best for your family and if the thought of an unfamiliar man coming into the family home to drop off gifts is scary or unsettling for your child, simply change the way it works for you.



Festive Activities



Touchbase Pears in Selly Oak may be a bit far for some of our families. However, if you're able to travel – they have some fantastic free activities for people with disabilities. On the website page below, they also have a range of online activities designed specially for people with additional needs.

You can find out more about them below and book activities: <https://www.sense.org.uk/our-services/arts-sports-for-disabled-people/>

Cinema:

Most large cinema chains these days offer autism-friendly screenings of films. Sometimes called 'sensory-friendly', adjustments are made to make the experience more inclusive and enjoyable for people with additional needs.

Adjustments include:

- Lights left on low
- Sound turned down
- No adverts or trailers
- Staff trained in autism understanding
- Disabled access
- Chill out zone, where available
- Move around and choose where you sit
- Make noise and movements
- Use equipment and devices
- Bring your own food and drink

Sometimes free entry for carers (!)

Other events:

<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/>

Check out Autism West Midlands events page as they have tons of activities and support groups for families of children with autism.

Safeguarding Workshops

Half Term	Date	Subject
Spring 1	22nd January 2026	Online safety as children first start to communicating with friends online
Spring 2	25th March 2026	Attendance and routine tips
Summer 1	20th May 2026	Talking to your child about Sex, Relationships and Body Changes
Summer 2	23rd June 2026	Safety over the Summer

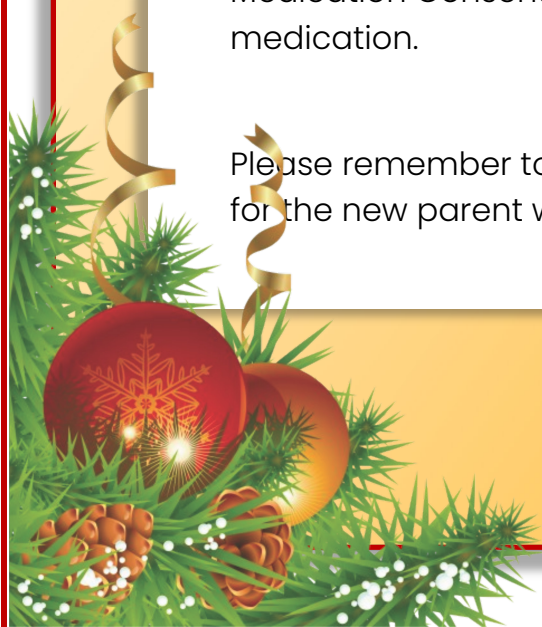
Parent/Carer Reminders

Just a kind reminder for all parents/carers :

Please remember to inform the school should any of your key contact information change including; telephone number, email address, home address or next of kin

If your child has any new medication or any change to their medication, please update us with the required changes. A Medication Consent Form will need to be completed for any new medication.

Please remember to check the Class Dojo and the school website for the new parent workshop dates in the new year!



Safety Notice

A reminder to all, when queuing for transport, please follow the designated route: proceed up to the temple, follow the road to the left and continue around the building to exit. **U-turns are not permitted.** Please also respect the 10mph speed limit on the temple grounds. Both the temple and the school are monitoring traffic.



Term Dates

Last day – Friday 19th December 2025

**Christmas Holiday – Monday 22nd December 2025 –
Friday 2nd January 2026**

Inset Day – Monday 5th January 2026

Students Return – Tuesday 6th January 2026

Last Day – 13th February 2026

Half term – Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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