



Weekly Newsletter: 12th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

There can only be one place to start this week ... the [nativities](#)! I have had the pleasure of watching many nativities over my career and I am not sure I remember three performances to rival the efforts of the Caterpillars, Leopards and Pandas this week.

I would like to start by saying a massive well done to all of the children involved as they were all amazing from the singing to the actions to learning all of their lines. I would also like to thank all of the staff who have been preparing the children for the shows. I know that there is a lot of working that goes on behind the scenes to ensure the performances come together so brilliantly (I actually think they are more nervous than the children!). Finally, I would like to thank the fantastic audiences who ensured that all three performances were sold out and came along to support the children.

As I said after the Noisy Nativity, one of my favourite parts of the nativity performances is looking at the massive, proud smiles on the audiences' faces. This is accompanied by watching them sing along with the songs, which they have no doubt heard on the walk to school, in the car and around the house!



I would also like to thank the children and families who came to the [Christingle](#) service last Sunday, especially the members of the Faith Council who supported Rev Faith with the readings and prayers. It was certainly the most well attended service which I have been to and made it even more special.

We have a relatively calm start to next week before Christmas really kicks off on Wednesday, which really is like a rehearsal for the big day (sadly without the presents!).

On [Wednesday](#), we would like the children to come into school wearing their finest [Christmas jumpers](#), glitter, sparkles and accessories (no uniform required). We will

**Christmas
JUMPER DAY**



be heading down to All Saints Church for our [Christmas Service](#) in the morning so please ensure that footwear choices are suitable for the walk. If you are able to support with walking the children down to church then please speak to your child's class teacher. Upon our return, we will be sitting down to enjoy [Christmas Dinner](#) together (which Sarah and Jo, in the kitchen, have already started the prep for!). On Thursday, our choir will be performing at the [Acton Good Neighbour Scheme Christmas Lunch](#) before we get to rock out at the end of term [RockSteady Concert](#). Finally, on Friday, we will have having our, now traditional, Carol Concert on the playground (weather permitting). Please come and join us from 2:30pm (school gate to open at 2:20pm) for a singalong before the FOAS Christmas Hamper Draw.

While there will be lots of excitement and fun next week, there will also be a huge amount of sadness as we say [goodbye to Sarah \(Dykes\) and Samo](#), who will both be leaving our staff team.

During Sarah's time at Acton, she has played such an important part in welcoming our youngest children into the school and making sure that they have the best start to their education. She also served on FOAS for nearly 12 years, many of those as Chair Person, raising £1000s for the school to use to pay for the 'shiny bits'. I would also hate to think how many plasters she has applied to grazed knees or the number of cold packs that she placed on head bumps during her time with us! Sarah will be greatly missed by the staff and children.

Samo has been instrumental in sporting success which we have had over the past few years with the PE lessons, clubs and activities that she has run. She has also been a great support to the children, who she has worked with, to ensure that they can make the best progress possible.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing them both well and thank them for everything that they have done for the children at Acton.

Tonight, we will be dancing the night away at the [FOAS Christmas Disco](#) (thank you to FOAS team for organising it all). According to my Spotify Wrapped, I need to update my knowledge of current music if I want to be able to join in with the dancing!

As always, I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
351	301	316	331

Willow House have earned the most House Points this term so have won a non-uniform day next Tuesday (16th December).

Autumn Term Dates

- FOAS Christmas Disco: Friday 12th December YR, 1 2, 3 5-6pm, Y4, 5, 6 6:15-7:15pm
- Carols on the Playground: Friday 19th December, 2:30pm
- Christmas Holidays: Saturday 20th December to Sunday 4th January

Spring Term Dates

- PD Day: Monday 5th January
- Children return to school: Tuesday 6th January
- Half-term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
- Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

All dates for the Spring and Summer Term can be found on the [calendar](#) on our school website.



Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Aiden	Annie	All of the Caterpillars
Leopards	Felix	Ava	All of the Leopards
Pandas	Abel	Esme	All of the Pandas
Llamas	Marley	Kira	Olivia
Orcas	Beau	Lilly	Arthur
Penguins	Poppy	Daisy R	Ellie
Wolves	Ivymay	Alfie	Sophia

Class News

Caterpillars

This week, Caterpillar class has been very Christmassy. We have been very busy making Christmas lists and writing letters to Father Christmas. The children have also enjoyed helping Miss Sparkes decorate our classroom door, ready for our whole school Christmas door competition. On Wednesday, the children performed their Nativity 'Noisy Nativity', which was amazing. We were so proud of the children, all singing and signing the songs so beautifully. Well done Caterpillars! In Phonics this week, we have continued to revise all the phonemes and tricky words learnt this half term. Our Maths focus this week has been shapes with 4 sides, focussing on squares and rectangles. The children have been naming and describing these shapes, as well as using different resources to make the shapes.

Leopards

It has been a super busy week for Leopard Class with all the performances that have taken place. The Leopard Leap had a fantastic time and would like to thank everyone that came to watch. Whilst the majority of our week has been taken up with dress rehearsals and performances, we have managed to squeeze in some learning too. In English, we learnt to spell the days of the week and, in Maths, we used all the skills we have learnt to add and subtract within 10. In Geography, we identified key features of our school and, in PE, we took part in

some team games. The last week of term continues to be jam packed full of exciting events and activities. On Wednesday, we will visit the church for our Christmas service and have Christmas dinner and, on Friday, we will take part in the end of term carol concert on the playground.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have sang, danced and boogied on down! A huge well done to all of our Pandas (and our friends in Leopard Class) for two fantastic performances of our Nativity. The show was filled with fun and the spirit of Christmas. Since starting rehearsals, the children have grown in confidence and should be so proud of all that they did. Thank you to all of you who came to watch- we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. Also this week, we finished our Oliver Jeffers stories in English; subtracted two-digit numbers in Maths using dienes blocks to support our understanding; enjoyed some Christmas yoga in P.E.; and thought all about our school rules in PSHE with Mrs Fisher. In RE this week, we continued to learn about advent and the Christmas story. We learnt a bit more about the advent candles which Mr Gray lights in assembly each week. We then used our new knowledge to make our own craft version of the advent crown, making candles of hope, peace, love and joy. In amongst all of this, we also really enjoyed making Christmas pictures for Cook Sarah to decorate the hatch for Christmas dinner next week, and decorating our classroom door, ready for judging by the School Council. Next week brings jumpers, dinner, Church and carols- lots of festive fun!

Llamas

The excitement for Christmas has certainly brought about a buzz in Llama class this week but we've still managed to do some fantastic learning! In English, we finished reading 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' and got into character to consider how Mufaro, Nyasha and Manyara would be feeling at the end of the story. We then focused on using conjunctions to join our clauses together in preparation for our hot write next week. In Maths, we consolidated our column methods and completed our hot task to show off our new skills - we did amazingly! We also finished our Geography topic all about Africa on Wednesday by comparing our lives with that of a child living in Africa. We read about a girl named Bakang and considered the similarities and differences between her life and ours. In PSHE, we discussed bullying (including online bullying) and the prejudices that some groups of people may face. We used the story of Zeb to help us understand the emotions involved in a bullying scenario. Of course, the festive highlight of the week was watching the KS1 nativity, which we really enjoyed. Well done for all your hard work this week, Llamas - one more week to go!

Orcas

It has been another lovely - and rather festive- week in Orca Class. We had a truly epic penultimate lesson in PE, all about the Battle of Britain. The class had to create a sequence in unison of either fighter or bomber planes, which was very dramatic! In English this week, we finished creating our own versions of the beginning of Chapter 9 of 'How To Train Your Dragon'. These were fantastic and everyone made a really good attempt at writing speech and using lots of description. We have now started our new topic: non-chronological reports. On Wednesday, We created a leaflet about why people should live in Acton, and then, on Thursday, we looked at the features of reports. During this unit, we will be exploring a book called 'Cool Architecture', looking at all sorts of different buildings from around the world. In Maths, we have dedicated some time to learning how to times three numbers together. This involves several steps, so it's been quite tricky! We finished our History topic this week with two rather fantastic lessons. First, we learnt about hillforts and various tribes around Britain, then wrote excellent diary entries describing a day in the life of a Celt. Following on from this, we combined all of our knowledge to write songs together in pairs, which were performed to the class. Some involved actions, some involved backing tracks - and all were amazing! (Another proud teacher moment). Finally, with Mrs Fisher on Friday, the class got to decorate their papier-mâché helmets. Well done, as always, Orcas. One week to go!

Penguins

It has been a week of evaluations, reviews and recaps in the Penguin Huddle (with a touch of Christmas too!). In Maths, we have been recapping the short methods for multiplication and division (aka Bus Stop method) to make sure they are well ingrained in our brains before the

festive break. In our PE lessons, we had our last session with Coach J (thank you for our great rugby sessions this term) and finished writing our Personal Exercise Plans during our indoor sessions. Once they had been written, we tried each others programmes out and evaluated their effectiveness – it is safe to say that we were a little tired at the end of the session! In Computing, we finished and played our interactive games on Purple Mash (and carried out another review). With Mrs. Fisher, we finished our Eco Bike DT project and got into the Christmas spirit with some mindful colouring. On Tuesday, we had a great time watching the KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal, which linked really nicely to our RE unit on the Gospel and the sharing of good news. Well done for a great week, Penguins.

Wolves

This week, our main English task was to write three diary entries: 1) the day before the war was announced, 2) the day of the war being announced and finally, 3) the day after. It was really important that the tone of our diaries changed depending on which day we were writing about to allow our reader to fully understand our emotions. It was great to be able to put all we have learnt about World War 2 into a final piece of writing, using both knowledge from our History lessons and our English text, Letters from the Lighthouse. In Science, we plunged ourselves into darkness to carry out our experiment to test what happens to the brightness of a bulb when more and more bulbs are added. We quickly concluded that the more bulbs that were added, the dimmer the bulbs became. In Computing, we continued working on our Purple Mash advent calendars. We had a great time sharing some rather cheesy, and at times, cheeky, jokes! With Mrs Fielder this week, we investigated area and perimeter in Maths; performed matching sequences in Gymnastics; in French, we listened, wrote, read and spoke for our end of unit assessment; and in Music, we prepared for next week's Carol concert. Finally, with Mrs Fisher, we had a fantastic time making our long-awaited wobble bots in DT.



[@actonprimary](https://www.instagram.com/actonprimary)

Support and Advice

School's Early Help Webpage

A range of websites and sources of advice on Emotional Wellbeing, Health, Sleep and Parenting Support can be found [here](#).

Free, Virtual NHS Parent/Carer Workshops

Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust are running free virtual workshops (Zoom) designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60-75 minutes long.

Visit <http://www.nsft.uk/workshops> for more details



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Parent Workshops

Free virtual workshops:

- Anxiety
- Big Feelings
- Self-harm
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Tourette's symptoms (TICS)

Access here: <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops>





To book onto a workshop visit [nsft.uk/workshops](https://www.nsft.uk/workshops) or scan the QR code

There are also a number of NHS podcasts and webinars available on YouTube, these can be accessed anytime via <https://www.youtube.com/@NSFT>

Sudbury & District Citizens Advice

is here to help.

We give free, up-to-date advice to everyone. You don't need to be a British Citizen. If you need help with benefits, work, money worries, rising energy costs, housing or anything else please get in touch.



Click the image or visit <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/>



BRIDGE THE GAP

BRIDGE FAMILY HUB
AUTUMN TERM
TUESDAYS
10.30-12.30

9 SEPTEMBER
23 SEPTEMBER
7 OCTOBER
21 OCTOBER
4 NOVEMBER
18 NOVEMBER
2 DECEMBER
16 DECEMBER

Do you have a child who struggles with school attendance?
"Bridge the gap" is a drop-in support space for children and their families who struggle to attend school, for whatever reason.

JOIN with other parents and carers
ENJOY activities for your child including sensory circuits, creative space, lego station, games and separate sensory space.
CONNECT to gain the support and advice you need to overcome the barriers to accessing school regularly

Bridge Community Church,
68 Queens Rd, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3EW

BRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Please contact Emma Malcolm to book a space or make a referral
emma@bridgecommunitychurch.co.uk
07501 406608

