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December 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our December newsletter. So much has happened throughout school since the beginning of the year and we are excited to share this with you all.

As we come to the end of the term, the staff and governors at Windhill Primary would like to wish you all a 'Very Merry Christmas' - we hope that you all enjoy the break and make lots of special memories with your loved one. We have an exciting 2026 coming up, and look forward to seeing you all in January!

Take Care,

Ms Howard

Learning is fun!

Early Years: Pre-school, Nursery and Reception

In Early Years this first half of this term we have been focusing on settling into our new classes. Our topic has been 'All About Me' and during this we have looked at getting to know each other and our community. Children in Pre-School have been learning about their emotions and how we look when we are happy and sad. They are learning to play with one another and are starting to make their own friends. In Nursery, children have been getting to know each other by bringing in their 'All About Me' bags that contained items from home including things such as family photos. Children took it in turns to share their bags and then the other children had the chance to ask questions about them. In Reception children brought in their 'All About Me' bags and they have also been learning about their

community and where they live on a map. They have looked at Mexborough and the different places there are to visit. All children in Early Years are enjoying our books of the week. The children are now using their knowledge of the books and taking it into different areas of provision which is great to see!

In Early Years in the second half of this term we have learnt lots about different countries and how they celebrate. During our topic 'Celebrations' Nursery and Reception made Diya lamps to celebrate Diwali and had a Chinese food tasting session when learning about the Chinese New Year. The children in Nursery and Reception also took part in a Diwali dance workshop where they retold the story of Rama and Sita through dance.

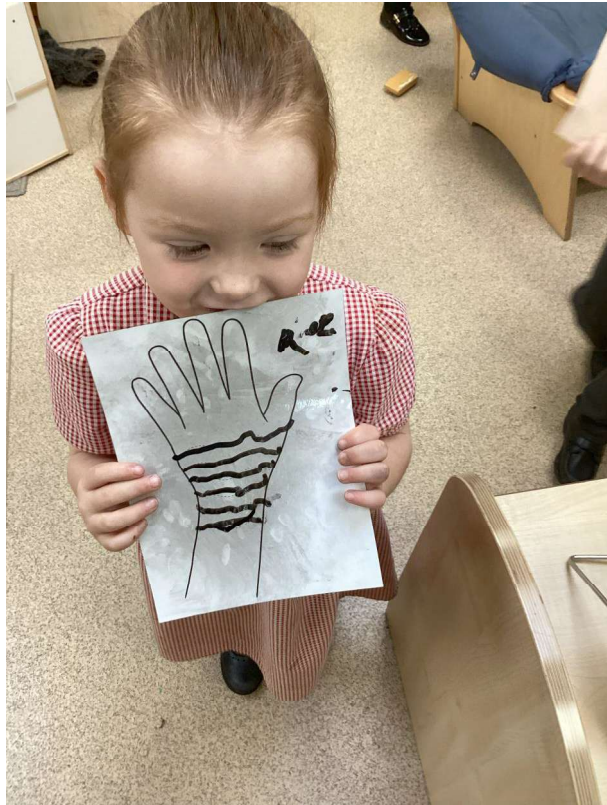
Children in Pre-School have been really busy completing lots of lovely Christmas activities. They have been learning all about winter and have enjoyed learning all about Arctic animals. They have had a lot of sensory trays where they have had the chance to explore ice and freezing and melting.

In Nursery and Reception, the children worked very hard learning their lines and songs for their nativity. The children were amazing and were so brave performing in front of their grownups in the hall. After the high of the nativity the children carefully wrote their letters to Santa and walked to the post box to send them to the North Pole.

Across all of Early Years all the children have settled in lovely, we are very proud of all the learning they have done and we cannot wait to introduce our new topics in the new year.





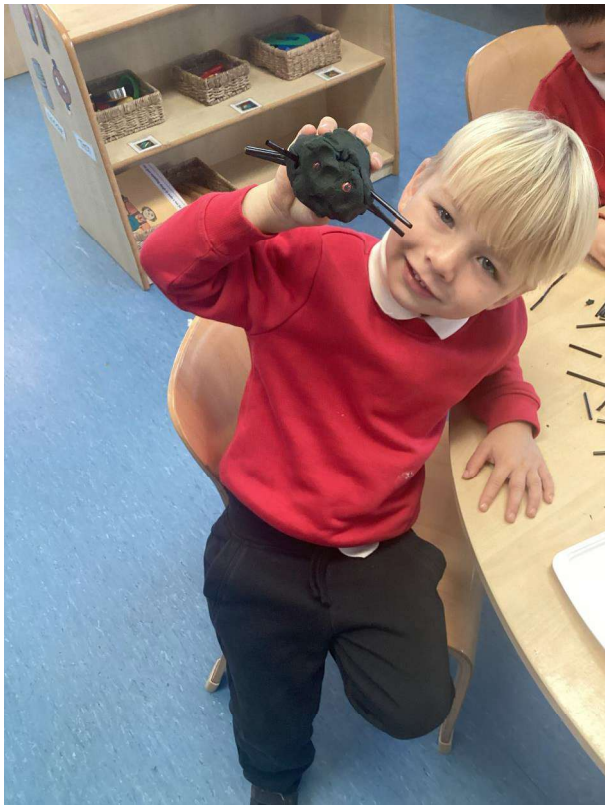












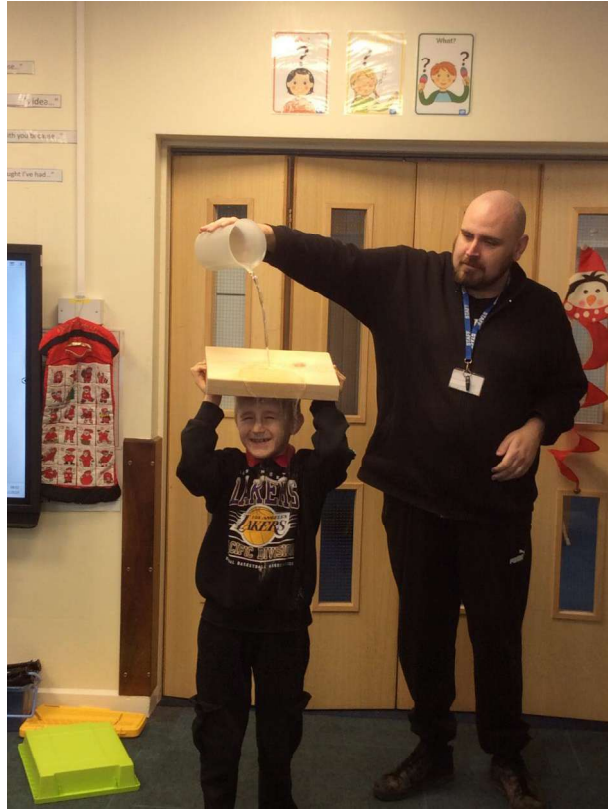






Key Stage One: Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One have enjoyed a fantastic start to the year. We have taken part in a number of exciting days, including our Outdoor Learning Day, where we explored our topic of “Into the Woods” in more detail through a range of activities, before ending around the campfire to enjoy some smores. Our year also began by looking at a range of fairy tales and even writing our own, after some fun drama and character work. Of course, all that drama was laying the groundwork for what promises to be the greatest Nativity ever! At the time of writing, pupils are already doing wonderful acting and speaking loudly. The songs are coming along nicely too and I can’t wait for you all to enjoy the fruits of our pupils’ labour when you come to see our Nativity. Our recent writing about owls also came to life when we received a visit from several of the birds we had been studying. In Science, pupils have been studying plants before half-term, where we successfully grew cress. In the build-up to Christmas, we have been looking at properties of materials, culminating in children designing their own winter coat that is warm, dry, and flexible enough for movement.









Lower Key Stage Two: Years 3 and 4

Lower Key Stage Two have had a very busy and exciting autumn term! In our topic lessons, we have been learning all about the rainforests, finding out key geographical terms, revisiting our knowledge of continents and oceans, finding out about different climates, exploring the different layers and the animals that live there. We also enjoyed a fantastic visit from Captivating Creatures, where the children met a variety of rainforest animals up close and learned more about their habitats. The children also produced some wonderful pieces of home learning by creating an animal of their choice, we were very impressed with the creativity and great effort shown.

In English, the children loved reading *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell and were instantly hooked when we simulated a plane crash, which inspired them to write excellent diary entries in the role of the main character. Linked to our rainforest topic, the children also wrote short stories based on the video clip *The Catch*, using role play to deepen their understanding and learning a new writing technique of 'show, don't tell' to improve their work.

Alongside all of this, the children worked especially hard on the KS2 concert, *A Windhill Strictly Christmas*, where they showed off their dancing skills and dedication while learning songs and routines. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this term. A huge well done to all children!















Upper Key Stage Two: Years 5 and 6

We are delighted to share that our students have made a fantastic start to the academic year! The Year 5 children have settled into their new phase of learning with enthusiasm and eagerness, demonstrating a keen interest in their studies. Meanwhile, our Year 6 students are working diligently as they prepare for their SATs.

This term, our topic focus has been The Tudors, and we kicked off our learning with an exciting trip to Sheffield Manor Lodge. The children had a wonderful time discovering the history of Mary Queen of Scots and exploring what life was like during the Tudor period. They even had the chance to dress in Tudor clothing, which sparked their imaginations and brought history to life! During our visit, students participated in a fascinating session about Tudor medicines and remedies, learning how people battled illnesses in those times. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of the subject but also made learning memorable.

Our exploration of The Tudors has led us to delve into the life of Henry VIII and his six wives. The children have produced some fantastic writing pieces as they reflect on this significant historical figure.

In literacy, we have celebrated the works of William Shakespeare, particularly through a workshop on Macbeth. The children acted out scenes from the play, which significantly deepened their understanding of the text and its themes. This interactive experience has made Shakespeare more accessible and enjoyable for our students.

In addition to the workshop, our Key Stage 2 learners have enjoyed completing a spooky writing task inspired by the short film, Alma. Their use of descriptive language was truly impressive!











Christmas Fun!



We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Nativities and concerts this year. We are so proud of how well all the children performed - the singing, acting and dancing was amazing! Thank you for all your positive feedback and support when attending these performances.

At the beginning of December, Adam from Hope is Here joined us for our first Christmas assembly. He taught us all about the importance of advent, and even gave every class 2 chocolate advent calendars and a book for everyone. We would also like to thank Adam and the church for gifting every year group a game to play during our Party Days.

Our School Choir has also been busy throughout December. Last week, they led the community Christmas Carol concert at Hope is Here church next door to school. It was a very festive evening. They have also visited the Bhatia Centre where they sang for the Smile group, and enjoyed eating Christmas treats. This week, our School Council members have also joined the Smile group to take part in Christmas craft activities alongside the adults that attend the group.

We had a busy day on Tuesday when we all enjoyed our Christmas dinner as well as our party day. Lots of crackers were pulled, turkey eaten and games enjoyed.

Yesterday most of Key Stages One and Two went to watch 'Snow White' at Rotherham Civic Theatre. The children's behaviour was impeccable both at the theatre and on the buses. We all had a great time with lots of laughing and singing. Leo from Year 6 and Olivia in Year 5 even went onto the stage to help Muddles with a song.

Finally, as a treat for all the amazing learning that has taken place this term as well as the children's great behaviour, a very special visitor is coming to Windhill Primary today. I'm sure the children will be excited to tell you all about this later today! 🎅

















School Updates

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who was able to take part in the 'Parent/ Carer' survey this term. We were delighted that 100% of you who responded would recommend the school to other parents, and that 100% either 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' that their children is happy and safe in school. However, if you do have any concerns or questions at any point throughout the year, please come and speak to a member of staff.

As a school, we continually strive to be the best we can. This term we have worked closely with Local Authority Officers and an external consultant to undertake reviews on different aspects of school practise - this time focusing on provision for our SEND pupils, writing provision across the Early Years and Key Stage One, as well as personal development opportunities for all our pupils. We are delighted that all these areas have been highlighted as strengths of the school, and we have been asked to share our good practise with other schools across Doncaster.

You will be aware that school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 9th January 2026. This is because all staff are being trained to deliver a different phonics programme. We are confident that this will further strengthen the teaching of reading. Because of the changes, children in Reception and Year 1 will take part in phonics lessons which will start at 9am every day, whilst other year groups will now have their focused daily reading session at this time too. **It is essential that all children are in school by 9am so they do not miss this**

important learning. Children who miss these sessions, always find it more difficult to catch up with their class mates and will be at a disadvantage.

If you are struggling to bring your child to school everyday and on time (8.45am), please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Grayson or Ms Howard as we are keen to support with this.

Attendance



Well done to Oscar who won the November Attendance Prize draw - a December Box filled with Christmas treats including Christmas pjs, an advent calendar, hot chocolate and a Christmas mug. We will be drawing the Christmas Hamper Attendance draw later today.

Everyone who has been to school every day since 1st December and arrived on time will be included in the draw - good luck everyone!

There will be more Attendance Prize Draws taking place next half term - make sure your child is in school everyday to be in with a chance of winning!



Diary Dates

These are key dates for the next term. Please subscribe to the school website calendar as this will link with your own calendar and ensure you don't miss any dates that might be added throughout the year. ([click link](#))

Monday 5th January	All pupils return to school
Friday 9th January	Inset Day - school closed
21st & 22nd January	Parent/ Carer Reading Workshops
W/c 26th January	Year 6 Bikeability training
Friday 13th February (3.15pm)	Half Term starts
Monday 23rd Feb (8.45am)	School reopens
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
W/c 23rd March	Enterprise week
25th & 26th March	Open Evening
Friday 27th March (3.15pm)	School closes for Easter Break

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!