



# ADDINGTON NEWSLETTER



December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe we are at the end of the Christmas term already! The last few weeks have flown by in a whirlwind of activities, culminating in many festive experiences that have been absent in the last couple of years. You will see from the many varied photographs in this newsletter, just how delighted the pupils – and the staff – have been to resume normal Christmas activities.

The highlight for many were the visiting reindeer, who set up stall in the school for a day and a half, and were stroked and touched by pupils who are usually very anxious around animals – thank you to the Addington Association who paid towards this event, it is so worthwhile.

For some of our pupils and families, we know Christmas can be a challenging time when usual routines are changed and social activities are more frequent. The staff are very supportive of these and understand the need to keep consistency in the classroom. It however, was lovely to see Early Years pupils attend our Christmas assembly for the first time – even if it was only a few minutes for some! These few minutes are a major achievement that will hopefully increase over time.

The Carol Concert on Monday evening finally went ahead after a 3 year hiatus and it was wonderful to see the hall full once again and listen to the Woodley Concert Band as well as our pupil Addington Band. My thanks again to the Addington Association who organised the evening.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming pupils back on **Wednesday 4 January.**

Yours faithfully

Sara Attra



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas holidays are finally here. We understand that everyone is busy making their Christmas plans and also understand that it won't always go to plan. Be kind to yourself, don't add any unnecessary pressure and try to enjoy some "you" time.

On 7<sup>th</sup> November we co-hosted a coffee morning with the Early Years leads Yvonne Wilson and Katie Kennett to welcome the parents of Bluebell Class children who will be joining the Addington Early Years family in January.

We were fortunate to receive a donation of 30 pantomime tickets for a relaxed performance at the Hexagon from the charity INSAAN. These tickets were allocated on a first come first served basis and we hope that those families enjoy the pantomime.

We are hoping to host some coffee morning social events next term so keep a look out for information about those. It can be tiring and difficult at times managing all the extras that come with caring for someone with SEND. Social coffee mornings are a chance for you to meet other parents and carers going through a shared experience and to help grow a circle of support.

Christmas can be a hard time for families especially with the added pressure of the rising cost of living. Our [family support webpage](#) has some helpful information around Cost of Living Support and what is available locally.

If we can help with any kind of form filling, such as Blue Badge forms, DLA/PIP forms, bus pass applications, etc., please send us an email or give us a call.

Save the date : Meditation with Bindu Bodanapu who is an Energy Healer, stress management and Spiritual Transformation coach, will be holding sessions in the new year but in the meantime if you wish to take advantage of free meditation classes for women on Thursday night at 9pm, the next session is held on 22nd Dec. Please find the zoom link if anyone is interested to join.

Bindu Bodanapu is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Weekly Guided meditation session for Women

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5130338288?pwd=J6nbQ55M9RqB6LMgRkCe3lL2sno14o.1>

Meeting ID: 513 033 8288      Passcode: Light

Toni and I are taking a much needed rest this holiday. However, if your child is displaying seriously challenging behaviours and someone is at risk, you must contact the police. They will discuss with you the best course of action.

For Social Care Emergencies and Community Mental Health Crisis Team call 01344 351999

We hope you have a wonderful time over the festive period and look forward to seeing you on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Take care and best wishes,

**Ellie and Toni**

**Family Support Workers**

[fsw@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:fsw@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

## Parent Contact Information

Our communications with parents are mainly via emails, our school mobile app, texts and our school website [www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

In order to do this, we need to be kept up to date with your latest email address and mobile numbers. If you have not been receiving emails from us, please let us know.

If you need to update us please email: [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

# Our Senior Leadership Team



Sara Attra  
Head teacher



Lynda Wood  
Deputy Head



David Maycock  
Deputy Head



Eirfron  
Watkinson  
Assistant Head  
teacher



Emer Moore  
Assistant Head  
teacher



Sue Tod  
School  
Business  
Manager

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## School Mobile App

Our School Mobile App can be downloaded from the links below.

[iTunes](#)

[Play Store](#)

Once you have downloaded the School Jotter app **you will need to select “Addington School” from within the app.**

The school mobile App is **FREE to download** and enables you to receive news updates and alerts on your phone or other mobile device. You can also view our newsletters and see photos of the students.

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# Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by  
Wokingham Promise Inclusion

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm  
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the current term -  
come along and try a session.

Contact Annah on 07551 159073 for more information.

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## School Dinners

This is to inform you that all school lunches must now be paid for online. The school will no longer be able to collect cash on a daily basis.

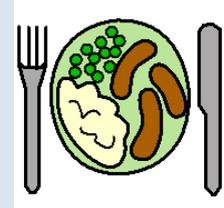
***If your child has school dinners, and there is a balance outstanding on your account, we would be grateful if you would kindly clear this balance as soon as possible.***

***If you have any query or difficulty with payment of this amount, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.***

You will need to register online if you have not done so before. **A letter with your personal log on details has been sent home with your child.** If you have previously logged on to the Tucasi system but have forgotten your password, please follow the instructions on the login screen.

As a reminder:

Primary lunch is £2.30  
Secondary lunch is £2.40



Please remember that money for school dinners should be paid **in advance**.  
If you have any problems, please contact Admin on [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk).

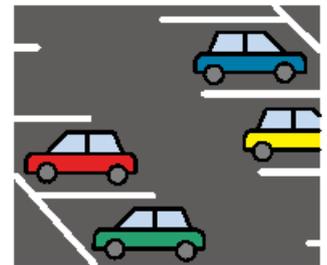
## CAR PARKING REMINDER

### Leisure Centre Car Park

This can be used by parents for dropping off and collecting children.

### School Car Park

To ensure the smooth and safe operation of the busy Addington car park we need all parents that drive their child to school, to park in the Bulmershe Leisure Centre car park and walk across the zebra crossing, during drop off/pick up times. However, we recognise that for a small minority of pupils this will not be possible. A limited number of parent passes, allowing access to our car park are distributed based on an individual's agreed needs; physical, emotional or behavioural.



We only have a small number of spaces for parents in our car park, so we will not always be able to give out passes to all parents that would like one.

Parents must only park in the allocated bays near the main entrance and not in the main body of the car park where staff park, unless specific arrangements have been made with a member of the leadership team. This is especially important in the morning as some staff start at 9 and sometimes cannot find a parking space.

Car park passes must be displayed clearly in the windscreen. The two disabled bays near the school are for priority wheelchair users and larger vehicles with tail lifts. Permitted drivers must use the one-way system marked out and only park in marked parent or disabled spaces.

All pedestrians must use the zebra crossings and the pavement when walking around the school car park or to and from the site. **DO NOT WALK** on the road as a short cut. This is very dangerous and could result in an accident.

Parents or carers must not park in the old entrance to Addington (near Bulmershe Leisure Centre) or on the double yellow lines near our old entrance, to drop off or pick up.



# Headteacher's Award Winners



*Congratulations to the following students:*

## **HEADTEACHER AWARD WINNERS – AUTUMN 2022**

### **Early Years**

George Young  
Ryan Waller  
Tim Catnach-Rumkee  
Zayn Hamza

### **Key Stage 2**

Alexia Velo  
Brian Matondo  
Harry Long  
Peyton Hipgrave

### **Key Stage 3**

Chloe Wilkins  
Daniel King  
Evie Cooper  
Laiba Saqib  
Teigan Ransby-Craigs

### **Key Stage 4**

Joshua Heys  
Matthew Nicholls

### **Key Stage 5**

Caroline Hepwood  
Tom Scott

### **Sensory & Complex Needs**

Malachi Bilankulu  
Rosie Sutton

### **Therapeutic Needs**

Gabby D'Isanto  
Isaac Sheikh  
Jenny Reilly



# SPORTS PAGE



## Berkshire School Games - Primary Boccia

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November we were invited, along with 13 mainstream schools to the Berkshire School Games Boccia competition for Primary schools. It took place at Bohunt School near Arborfield.

We played 5 matches, winning 3 and drawing 2. All the participants received medals and certificates, which they were very happy about.

This was one of the few sporting events to which parents are able to come and watch their children, which is so valuable. The children and the parents had an enjoyable time.



## Berkshire School Games - Primary Kurling

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we were invited, along with 15 mainstream primary schools throughout Berkshire, to the Berkshire School Games New Age Kurling competition at Bohunt School near Arborfield.

We played 5 matches, losing our first three but as our team began to get the pace of the surface, they brilliantly won their last two. All the participants received medals and certificates, which they were very happy about.

This was one of the few sporting events to which parents are able to come and watch their children, which is so valuable. Well done to the team and their parents who had such a fun time.



## Lunchtime Dance Club with Danielle

Danielle joined our PE teaching team at the beginning of the school year. One of her specialisms is dance. She has put together a dance troupe to take part in the Woodley Schools Sports Week Dance Festival in May. Each Wednesday lunchtime they are learning new skills and preparing a routine for the festival.



## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2022-2023



In our Bronze DofE lessons this half-term, we have been learning how to use a camping stove to make hot drinks and a meal, in preparation for the expeditions in June and July next year. The weather has been rather inclement so we have been practising under cover. We made hot chocolate drinks and a 'one-pot pasta'. We also went on our first training walks, learning map reading and route finding skills as well as improving our fitness.



Dates for Bronze expeditions:  
Practice Expedition  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Qualifying Expedition  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023



## Football Tournament at Reading Football Club



**COMMUNITY TRUST**  
Care • Develop • Educate

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December our green team continued their run of winning medals at the Reading Football Club SEN Schools football tournament at their outdoor training pitch at the SCL Stadium. They won all their matches and finished first, winning a trophy and medals. Our Amber team gave a great account of themselves, particularly considering there were 3 KS3 pupils making their debuts at the tournament.



## Addington School Gingerbread Inter- house Competition Dec 2022



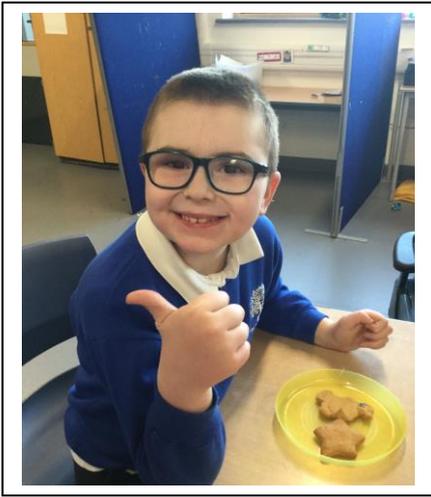
We hosted our fourth annual Gingerbread Inter-house competition recently. It was lovely to see all the finished biscuits and all the different designs and amazing Gingerbread houses. Everyone enjoyed the baking, decorating and eating.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Place – **Blue Sharks (110pts)**
- 2nd Place – **Red Eagles (85 pts)**
- 3rd Place – **Green Crocodiles (60 pts)**
- 4th Place – **Yellow Tigers (35 pts)**

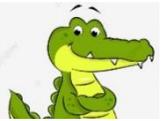
A huge thank you goes to **Amanda** for all her **hard work** in making this a success yet again, and to all the heads of key stages, staff and students.



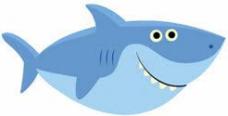


## House captains 2021-2022

Following interviews, the following students have been appointed House Captains for 2021-2022:



**Green Crocodiles:** Alyan Kayani, Joseph Kenneh



**Blue Sharks:** Levi Barnes, Ethan Roberts



**Red Eagles:** Danny Shilton, Summer-Jasmine Tingley



**Yellow Tigers:** Presley Shearer, Rowan Nyamaradzo



# London Irish Rugby Festival



On Saturday 3rd December, London Irish Rugby Club gave our pupils an opportunity to take part in an inclusion festival at Gunnersbury Leisure Centre in Brentford. We were able to take part in 5 different activities: walking football, goalball, rugby netball, boccia and Kurling along with 5 other schools/clubs. All the students received t-shirts and a medal.

After the festival we were all given tickets to watch London Irish play Newcastle Falcons in the Rugby Premiership at Brentford Community Stadium, which was a short walk away through Gunnersbury Park. Our pupils formed a guard of honour for the teams at the start of the match. Thank you so much to London Irish for a wonderful day and a chance for our pupils to see top class rugby up close.



## **Addington P.E department achieves School Games Gold Status**

We were very happy to be awarded Gold School Games Mark accreditation for 2021/2022 for the fourth time in a row for YR 3-11 engagement (it wasn't awarded for 2020 / 2021 because of Covid). It is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of sport across their school and in the community.

The following schools in Berkshire were successful in achieving School Games Mark in 2021-2022. Huge congratulations to them all! Well done!

### **Platinum**

Nine Mile Ride  
Radstock  
Shinfield St Mary Junior

### **Gold**

**Addington**  
Hawkedon  
Hillside

### **Silver**

Hawthorns  
Robert Piggott Junior  
St Paul's

### **Bronze**

Hatch Ride

# Young Sports Leader Award 2022-2023



Some of our top sporting students from KS4 and KS5 are working towards a Young Sports Leader award on a Monday afternoon. Each of the students are participating in or have already passed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Young Sports Leader Award is an introduction to leadership giving the students' knowledge of how to organise and lead small games and activities in school, community and sports clubs. The students will develop leadership skills such as organisation, communication and teamwork, as well as helping to build confidence and self-esteem as they take on the responsibility of leading their peers and younger children in sports activities.



## Outdoor Learning - Spring Bulb Planting

KS2 have been spending their outdoor learning lessons finding out how to plant bulbs in the sensory garden area ready for a colourful display in spring.



## Outdoor Learning - Camp Mowhawk



KS3 have been enjoying the good weather on their visits to Camp Mohawk. They have taken part in Halloween activities and the Christmas 'Elf on the Shelf Hunt'; practising their teamwork and observation skills.



## Early Years

### Daisy Class

'Around the World and Christmas' - This term has been full of smiles, laughter, glitter and Christmas fun! Daisy class went around the world with our sensory story, 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, what can you hear?' We roared like lions whilst exploring yellow fabrics and sand, then we touched peacock feathers, the national bird of India, whilst listening to Indian nursery rhymes. We touched chilly ice packs and were sprayed with water as we thought about where polar bears and walrus live. In our music sessions and Make Sense theatre, we tried different instruments, listening to more stories, sang and danced. In our Christmas story, Dear Santa, we thought about big and small presents, quiet and noisy presents and explored different messy textures. Then, we spent our time using different materials, techniques and loads of glitter to make some special presents for our families. We hope you love them!

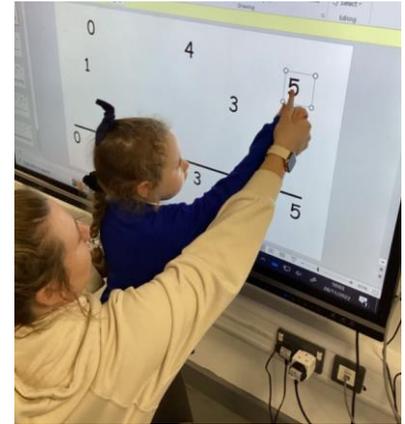


## Primrose Class

This autumn term in Primrose class our topic has been 'Around the World' and 'Christmas'. We have really enjoyed reading different books such as 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, what do you hear?' and learning more about the different animals. We have also been working really hard on our communication and have spent lots of time focussing on PECS and communication boards to become more confident with requesting. In Maths we have started learning about weighing and understanding words such as 'heavy', 'light', 'more' and 'less'. We have also continued our number learning about have been practising ordering numbers to 5, 10 and 20.



We have also experienced an 'Around the World' taster day with lots of different foods from different countries! We all enjoyed the opportunity to try different foods and exploring the different textures available.



We have had an exciting visit from the reindeer, made some gingerbread each for the Inter-house gingerbread competition and started experiencing Make Sense Theatre!

It has been a very busy half term but we have all had great fun! Happy Christmas everyone and see you in the New Year!



## Daffodil Class

This half term our topic has been 'Around the World' and 'Christmas'! We have been focusing on two books which were 'Let's Celebrate' and 'Little Owl and the Star'. As a class, we have been exploring different foods around the world during cooking and looking at places far and wide that our special to us. We have been working hard on our colourful semantic work, where we chose our favourite celebrations to write about. More recently, we have been enjoying creating different Christmas crafts, making gingerbread and visiting the Reindeer that came to school!



Daffodil Class have been fortunate enough to go to Forest School every Wednesday morning where we have been working on our road safety, exploration of different environments and learning about the natural world. We have also had fun with Make Sense Theatre to explore drama and storytelling, our favourite part is the bubble machine! Fortnightly, we have the opportunity to use the hydrotherapy pool where we have been working on building our confidence, blowing bubbles in the water and developing our co-ordination between our upper and lower body by kicking our legs.



## Lily Class

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Lily Class!

We have had another exciting half-term learning through play-based activities focusing on our theme of 'Around the World' and more recently 'Christmas'. We have been learning about different foods in cooking sessions – Pizzas and Thanksgiving were our favourites. We've enjoyed looking at the photos and books that parents sent in representing important places to their family around the world.



We have had Make Sense Theatre coming in every other week this half-term and we have loved getting involved in their storytelling and singing. In our swimming lessons we have all worked very hard to develop our skills and earn our swimming certificates.

We were so excited to welcome parents into school for 'Stay and Play' and it was lovely to see so many of you enjoying our Christmas crafts and Christmas yoga with your children. We welcomed some reindeer to the playground to start our Christmas theme and we have all improved our fine motor cutting



skills making lots of paper chains for our class Christmas tree.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in January.



## Tulip Class

This term Tulip class have enjoyed cooking sessions reflecting our 'around the world' and 'Christmas' theme, cooking a wide variety of foods such as spring rolls, rice crispy pumpkins and mini Father Christmas'. We have loved the weekly Make Sense Theatre sessions, exploring storytelling, sensory play and parachute games and continue to really engage well with our yoga sessions.

We have been exploring different mark making tools and fine motor activities each week and showing more independence accessing these activities. We have really enjoyed dough disco this term and everyone is doing really well following set instructions to the music, showing great focus. All students have been accessing pre-sensory circuits each week and showing more confidence to explore and participate in activities and use communication systems to request more motivating experiences they like which is wonderful to see. In food play we have been exploring around the world foods. The last couple of weeks, we have been getting into the Christmas spirit and have begun celebrating in lots of festivities. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing the reindeers, decorating gingerbread men, making Christmas arts and crafts as well as attending our Christmas assemblies.



## Sunflower Class



This term we have loved exploring our topic of Around the World and Christmas, through different sensory trays of animal habitats from around the world and having the opportunity to explore different foods from different countries. We especially enjoyed tasting Yorkshire puddings! We've enjoyed lots of fun and festive activities such as going to see the reindeer, painting baubles, making Christmas cards and the pupils very first Christmas dinner at Addington. The inter-house gingerbread competition was also a highlight of this term



and the pupils had a go at rolling out the dough before using the cutter to make their gingerbread shapes. The gingerbread men came out very well! We enjoyed decorating them during our Stay and Play session which was very exciting. We loved having parents in for our Stay and Play session; it was lovely to see everyone and to finish with some lovely Christmas carols with Martin.

The pupils have continued to make great progress with their communication skills using PECS and communication boards to let us know their wants and needs. We are so proud of them! We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



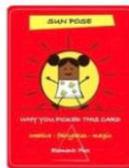
## Yoga in Early Years with Rainbow Claire

This term we have enjoyed learning more breathing techniques to help us **calm**, **focus** and let our bodies experience **REST**, great timing as we move into the season of Winter. Primrose and Lily class are enjoying their yoga space in the Sensory Theatre and what a **JOY** it was to have the parents join in with our Christmas Yoga Flow last week in our Stay and Play session. Thank you to all those who came and what great **Father Christmas yoga poses** we made and excellent **Ho Ho Ho** breathing too.

Christmas 🎄🍪 Yoga 🧘 Fun 🥳 At Addington

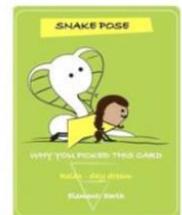
Gingerbread Man

= Sun Pose



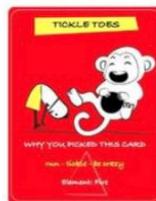
Chocolate Log

= Snake pose



Candy Cane

= Tickle Toes Pose



Christmas pudding

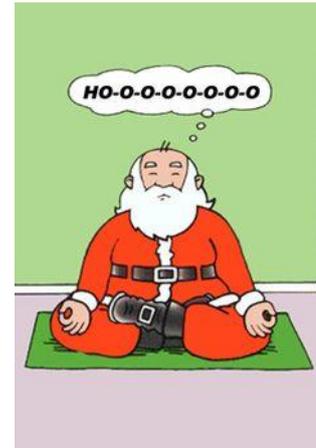
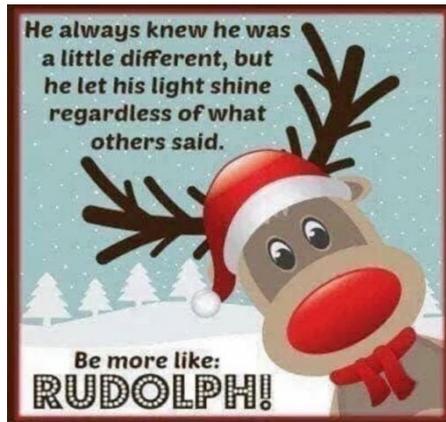
= Pig Pose



Chocolate Log

= Snake pose

Give the flow a go over the holidays to help energise us all over the festive period. We have all enjoyed the benefits of a **hand massage** and blankets during **step 6 Relaxation/ Meditation** of our yoga program we follow. A great thing to do with children before bed time.



Here are some of our **Yoga Highlights** across the term from children in **Daisy, Sunflower, Tulip, Primrose, Lily and Daffodil class**. Being a reindeer pose in yoga after meeting the real reindeers **Jet** and **Tornado** was lots of fun.



# Key Stage 2 Newsletter

## Oak Class

We have been learning about lots of exciting things as part of our topic "Starry Night" this half term with a particular focus on space! We have made our own paper mache planets and learned about our planet Earth and where we live. Oak class have been learning curling skills and dance moves in PE and completed maths investigations with temperature and measure in the sensory garden. We have been planting bulbs in Outdoor Learning and are looking forward to watching the flowers grow later next year. The children have all really enjoyed their swimming sessions and are gaining confidence quickly. We have been writing a lot in Oak class, with a focus on sounding words out phonetically and letter formation..... we are so proud of our writing! We have all mastered the art of making a sandwich and using a knife carefully to spread and cut. Some children were extremely adventurous and tried 3 different fillings at once! More recently we have been getting ready for Christmas and making lots of arts and crafts gifts to share with our families at home. We hope you like them!



## Pine Class

Pine class have had a fantastic term! Our topic this term was called 'Starry Night'; we focused on two key stories called 'The Night the Stars Went Out' and 'This is the Bear and the Scary Night'.

The children have enjoyed learning about space and pretending to visit the moon on our rocket ship. The children were able to make lists of key items they would take to the moon, mostly food! In Maths, we have focused on Capacity, Length and Weight; the children especially enjoyed measuring capacity with hot chocolate! In Maths, we have also been discussing the temperature, learning new vocabulary such as 'freezing' and what we need to keep warm.

Within our RE curriculum, Key Stage 2 took part in a Diwali Carousel, learning all about the festival of lights and enjoying a Diwali cuisine.

This term we also celebrated Children in Need and took part in some Pudsey activities, all dressed up in our favourite Pudsey outfits.

We were also very lucky to have another trip to Taplow! This was an exceptionally cold visit, so the children enjoyed participating within the indoor Christmas activities and soft play! Lastly, the children have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit with lots of exciting festivities such as a special visit from two Reindeers called Tornado and Jet, our stay and play session with the parents and visiting the Robin Hood Pantomime. The children have enjoyed decorating the classroom, especially our class Christmas tree and of course keeping an eye on our cheeky Elf called Jiggles.



Well done Pine class for a fantastic term! Pine class team and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ☺



## Rowan class

This half term we enjoyed exploring aspects of space and the night sky during our Starry Night topic, introduced by looking at Van Gogh's famous painting. We completed a range of crafts including rockets, stars and spiral galaxies, using a variety of colours and textures. In Literacy we explored stories including *This is the Bear and the Scary Night* and *How to Catch a Star*, before taking part in lots of creative writing opportunities. Numeracy topics included money, addition and measurement, where we used equipment such as measuring jugs and weighing scales with growing independence.

We loved the Christmas-themed activities of the last weeks of term, which included baking gingerbread, sharing the *Nativity Story* and a visit from some reindeer, to name just a few. It has been a super rewarding half term for all and every pupil has most certainly earned their Christmas break!



## Willow Class

Willow class have been inspired by the KS2 topic Starry Starry Night which has led to some fantastic creativity including writing about space and painting in the style of Vincent Van Gogh. The pupils have settled wonderfully into their new class and are motivated to learn as well as enjoying social times with friends.

We are now well into our Christmas festivities. We had some fantastic entries to the inter-house gingerbread competition which was won by Louie and enjoyed a visit from some reindeer. We walked to Woodley with our friends from other classes to sing carols in the precinct. Now that Covid is no longer a threat it's great to get out and about and to be able to invite parents into school. Thank you to the mums and dads who were able to make it in for our Christmas Stay and Play.



During our KS2 Christmas Carousel we made hats for our Christmas lunch! After lunch there was great excitement about a very special visitor with a white beard and a sack full of presents! We all wore our festive clothes for a rather chilly Santa Dash. This afternoon we are enjoying a party with entertainment from our very own rock band the 'Addingtones'

Finally all the staff in Willow class would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!



# Complex, Therapeutic and Sensory Needs Department

## Apple Class

This term Apple Class have been working hard in all areas of our Curriculum. In *Our Movements* we have really enjoyed regular sessions in the pool and on the trampoline. In *Our Senses*, we have been working on keeping ourselves regulated and been engaging in a range of sensory play. In *Our Discoveries*, we have been developing our concentration skills through Waldon activities and during Bucket sessions. In *Our Interactions*, we have been continuing to build up relationships with our staff and have been making fantasting progress with functional communication. This looks different for all of us, but we have all done so well this term! In these last two weeks before the holidays we have enjoyed doing some more “festive” activities including making gingerbread, painting and dancing to the music!



## Birch Class

Birch class has carried on with their adventure traveling on a time machine to Ancient Greece, meanwhile, they have been working very hard on numeracy, phonics, reading and communication which they are doing very well. Towards the end of this term, they have travelled to the North Pole to explore the winter with Vixen, the naughty reindeer and they have also met real reindeers!



## Poppy Class

This half term we finished our Ancient Egyptian theme, we have enjoyed our story 'It's miles to the Nile' and have been anticipating the sensory props well. We have been in the sensory room using the different lights and have worked hard on our visual tracking, reaching and grasping skills. We moved into our winter theme and have been getting warm and cosy with our Sensology session by the fireplace! Everyone likes the smell of cinnamon and watching the twinkling stars float around the room. Meeting the reindeers when they came to school was amazing and we got to stroke them and feel the antlers.



Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Cherry Class

This half term we finished our Prehistoric life theme, we have enjoyed our Prehistoric Adventure sensory story. We developed our anticipation and were excited whenever the dinosaurs came out!

We have moved onto looking at winter and all the activities we enjoy in the run up to Christmas. We have really enjoyed our sensology and have discovered that a lot of us are secret hot chocolate fans!! We have enjoyed being able to meet Reindeer as well this term, they were really soft and it was nice to be able to spend some time with them. We have all worked hard at developing our individual communication skills and have been making great progress! We have been enjoying our hydrotherapy sessions and regular rebound.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Beech Class

There has been lots going on in Beech class this term, with all of the excitement of counting down to Christmas!

We had a lovely visit from the reindeers, we learnt lots about them and were able to feed them and stroke them. Bailey our Pet therapy dog was a little unsure at first but soon got used to them!

We also enjoyed a visiting Pantomime, which was Robin Hood, the students were fantastic, sitting for the whole performance and joining in.

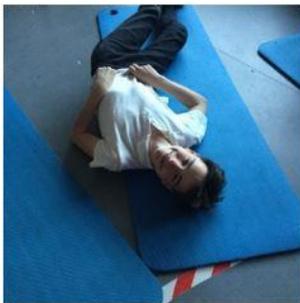
Some of the students walked up to The Birches, to sing carols to the residents. They were fantastic, singing with huge enthusiasm and even doing requests from the residents!

We have been doing lots of Christmas crafts in class, which the students will bring home to show you.

We have also started doing class Yoga at the end of the day, this is a lovely calming session, with techniques that can be used to relax any time.

As we approach the end of term, we have Christmas dinner and our class trip to Clip and Climb to look forward to.

Clare and the team wish you all a peaceful and fun Christmas and look forward to welcoming the students back in 2023.



## Holly Class

Holly class have had another productive half term. This term some of the pupils have been learning about laundry through the Waldon approach. They have been picking up items of clothing from the floor and placing them into baskets and also sorting clothes into lights and darks.

Some pupils have been learning how to set the table for lunch. The pupils have been working hard on taking part in whole class sessions, which have been successful, especially Music Therapy. Another success is our cooking sessions. This half term we have focused on making cupcakes. Some of the pupils are able to indicate what ingredients they need by using communication board. We hope you all have a great Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in January.



## Lime class

This term Lime class worked on developing children's life's skills. Children enjoyed cooking while they were working on finding ways to regulate themselves. We made festive mince pies and chocolate fruit cake.



## Key Stage 3

### Aspen Class

Wow, what a busy term! In Literacy we have been working on our colourful semantics sentences in relation to our class topic books: *The Queen's Hat* and *I Want To Do It By Myself*. Our sentences have been developing so beautifully, it has been great to see. In maths, we have been looking at measure, specifically capacity and weight. We have been weighing objects in around the classroom to find out which one is heavier. In Science, we have been looking at babies and adults and matching baby animals to their adult families. We have enjoyed our extra curricular activities the most, such as visiting the reindeer, going to camp Mohawk and singing in Shute End and Woodley plus all the birthday parties we have had!. The festivities have been in full swing at the latter end of this term and we have really enjoyed the arts and crafts inspired by Christmas. A quick joke for our pupils – Who gives presents to baby sharks? Santa Jaws! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and look forward to seeing you in 2023 ☺

Elizabeth and the Aspen Team.



## Cedar Class

In Cedar class we have had a great half term! We continued with our 'Kings and Queens' topic and we learnt through the different stories we have been exploring. This has been a particular good half term as now we are all very familiar with the class routines and daily schedules and we have made a lot of progress! We really enjoyed going to camp Mohawk on Fridays and a few Tuesdays. This half term we got to see some real life reindeers which was very exciting! Highlight of the term was also our school trip to the 'Mad House' soft play area where we had loads of fun with our friends. We are now looking forward to the New Year with more learning and fun!



## Chestnut Class

This term Chestnut class have continued our topic on Kings and Queens using the book 'The Snow Queen'. They have developed their editing skills in Computing in and learned about the human reproductive system in Science. In music, the class have explored pitch and PE has been focused on preparing a martial arts based dance for a performance to some peers. Maths has seen the students working so hard on moving forwards with their calculating skills, developing their place value knowledge and refining knowledge and skills in measurements. The students have also focused on baking in cookery this half term.

Chestnut class enjoyed some real 'wow moments', for example when the class watched an internet safety theatre performance, enjoyed a visiting panto, met some reindeer and shared visits to Camp Mowhawk. We also started weekly food play activities to support pupil confidence in exploring a wide range of foods, including a Weetabix and a spaghetti challenge so far.



## Elm Class

“What have you enjoyed doing this half term?”

Aaliyah: I liked making gingerbread and I have enjoyed being with my friends.

Joshi: I loved going to sports club and playing in a football tournament with other schools.

Ruby: I enjoyed doing the Cinderella panto in Drama with Carla.

Daisy and Jenna: We liked going to Camp Mohawk and playing with our friends.

Aisla: I loved making cheesecake in cooking. I made a toffee-flavoured one!

Ryan: I liked working with Bailey each week. I am practising a trick with him!

Austin: I liked doing Drama and I liked reading the Queen’s Nose in Literacy.

Cody: I have enjoyed writing monster stories and I liked feeding the reindeer!

Milena: I loved doing Bike Maintenance this term, and my drum lessons too!

Tom: I loved Music lessons and we went carol singing this week!

Jake: I loved seeing the reindeer and I would like to own my own reindeer farm when I am older!

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a brilliant 2023!



## Maple Class

This term we have continued learning about Kings and Queens. We focused on 'The Queens Hat', a story book. We tried on different styles of hats and eventually we wrote our own version of the story. In maths, we have focused on measurement, which has tied in nicely with cooking which we also tried to keep topical! At the start of term, we focused on savoury items around Bonfire night and finally on the run up to Christmas we focused on sweet items: gingerbread and mince pies.

We had several trips on the mini-bus too. We visited Camp Mohawk twice, both with a focus, the first a Bonfire Night focus and second a Christmas focus, both of which were a great success. We visited Wokingham Superbowl for an exciting bowling trip, we even managed to have lunch there before heading back to school. Finally, we ended the term with singing at Twyford Age Concern where we performed 10 carols, 3 of which were solo's and shared a cold drink with the people.



## Sycamore Class

In Sycamore Class this term we have really been enjoying Camp Mohawk visits.



We have especially enjoyed the 'treasure' hunts . . .



We have also really been having fun with some food challenges:



2D shapes with pretzel sticks . . . then we tried 3D – adding marshmallows

## Key Stage 4

### Kite Class

Kite Class have had a very busy half term! We have been travel training on the bus, using our bus passes and learning how to scan them. We have also visited local cafés, buying ourselves a snack within a budget and focusing on being able to identify a £1 and £2 coin. This term our topic has been community superheroes – we learnt who to call in an emergency and the different people who help us in the community.

We have been community superheroes too, by collecting goods for the Wokingham Borough food bank Christmas appeal. We went into the shop to choose the food from the food bank calendar sent by Wokingham Council and located the food bank drop-off points within different supermarkets.

Kite Class have been enjoying visiting Jealotts Hill Land Share – we have learnt how to rake the leaves and collect them into wheelbarrows. We have also been preparing for the Upper School Christmas Fayre; we have made some lovely snowmen jars with sweets inside! On top of all this, we are busy every week with phonics and reading, communication activities, music, art, drama with Make Sense Theatre and weekly swimming.



## Swan Class

**Inter-film Festival** - We started this term with a trip to Winnersh Cinema as part of the inter-film festival. As our project was community superheroes we watched a superhero film about 'Buzz Lightyear'. Swan students had to travel train to and from the cinema using public transport and then a ten minute walk through a park where they found a fabulous Muriel. The students loved being out in the community.



**Wokingham Foodbank** - We learned about foodbanks and how important they are. We looked at the Wokingham Christmas foodbank appeal. We chose some of the foods on the list to collect in school. Thank you to all the families who contributed festive food to the foodbank appeal. We took the food to Frederick House in Winnersh. The foodbank staff were very appreciative as we gave them a whole trolley of food!





**Visiting Reindeer** - Our school had a visit from a local farm which keeps reindeers. The keepers told us all about their diet and habitat. They showed us some reindeer antlers and talked to us about how the reindeer use their antlers. The reindeers were very gentle and enjoyed eating lichen from the students' hands.

**Travel Training** - Swan students have been using their bus passes and have been travel training into Reading, building up their independence using public transport. They are set a variety of tasks during our travel training, from finding information out from Reading Train Station, to locating clothes shops, cafes and supermarkets. Some of our students have also started planning their own routes using timetables.



## Sixth Form News

### Eagle class

*It's behind you; Oh no it isn't. Oh yes it is; this term and the year is behind us. And what a term it's been.*

It has been another busy activity filled time. Over the term, our young people have enjoyed a number of activities in the wider community to develop social, leisure, independence and life skills in readiness for life after Addington. Students have been given opportunities to attend college links courses at BCA, Bracknell & Wokingham and Reading College, and to undertake travel training, using public buses and to practise road safety. While in the community they have practised their money skills in shops and cafes, gaining an understanding of budgeting.

A number of students did work experience and excelled in sporting tournaments.

The highlights of this term, gauging from the responses and reactions of our young people, were the trip to Windsor to enjoy the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty', after seeing the guards march down the High street from Windsor castle and lunch at McDonald's; 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas lunch, cooked by staff and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas Fair.

For years the Freemasons have generously donated tickets for our students to attend the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Windsor. This is the ultimate highlight of the autumn term, which the students look forward to. The event is very inclusive as the Freemasons cater to students not only with moderate needs, but also to those with complex needs. This year to show our gratitude, two leavers presented a thank you card to Peter Sands, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire. In the background is Gerry Preston the Provincial Grand Charity Steward. A special thank you to Neil Murphy and each of you for your thoughtfulness.



## Sleeping Beauty

Pictures are worth a thousand words and the ones below are evidence of some more very positive and enriching activities enjoyed by all. Eagle class wishes all a safe and enjoyable festive break, and only the very best in 2023.



## Kestrel Class

It's been an exceptionally busy term for Kestrel students. Our hospitality team have been preparing and serving lots of wonderful food, cakes and drinks in the 6<sup>th</sup> form café. We've had some students completing work experience placements that have involved restocking shelves and collecting money for charity.

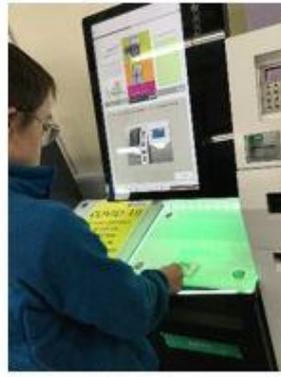


We've made some good progress in our independent living skills. Students have been working together to organise laundry and cleaning tasks.



While in the community we have been working hard on ensuring we know how to use self-service tills in shops, navigating using technology and being aware of the choosing the correct bus stop. Some students have been visiting the library on a weekly basis and are beginning to use the self-service kiosks.





We have spent time creating autumn crafts that has included making pumpkins from orange coloured fabric.

Our annual trip to the pantomime in Windsor was enjoyed by students. Always a treat to see Basil Brush!

We have finished the term with lots of Christmas based learning. Kestrel students worked hard to produce food items to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

## Owl Class

Last term before Christmas Holidays in Owl class. We have continued to go offsite during the week to Woodley Precinct and Ridgeline. We have been getting ready for Christmas this last few weeks including our gingerbread men and house, getting arts and craft ready for the Christmas in school fair and general Christmas fun. We were fortunate to be able to go for a work experience opportunity at Pizza Express and then squeeze in a little trip to bowling after for our Christmas trip. Was a great experience for all and they seemed to all love bowling! We were also lucky enough to go see the reindeers the other week in school.



## Robin Class

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Robin class have been keeping busy this half term, with all of our usual activities such as work experience, college, Ridgeline, project work, and leisure. Alongside this we have started to get into the Christmas spirit with a visit from the reindeer, a gingerbread decorating competition, tree decorating as well as the annual visit to the Pantomime in Windsor, which was greatly enjoyed by all of the students!





## Work Experience at National Grid

The students at National Grid have all become more confident in their respective roles at NG.



One of the students in the NAP department has now become adept at using three screens to do her work, one screen usually has an excel spreadsheet on it that she is working on and then she has a diagram in Visio on one and a new program called Power Factory on the other. The students also took part in the Diwali celebrations at NG which were held at the end of October and created a Rangoli design. We also had a very interesting meeting arranged by a member of the Control Room team where the students learnt how and why the National Grid works and where the work the students do fits in. We were lucky enough to be able to go into the Control Room itself and 'helped' one of the engineers 'buy' electricity to cover gaps in the demand. The students all enjoyed the visit.



We rounded off this term with having the Addington Students sing festive songs at National Grid which was enjoyed by all NG staff and we were happy to meet up with some ex-Addington students who now work full time for National Grid.

### **TeamSport Mechanics**

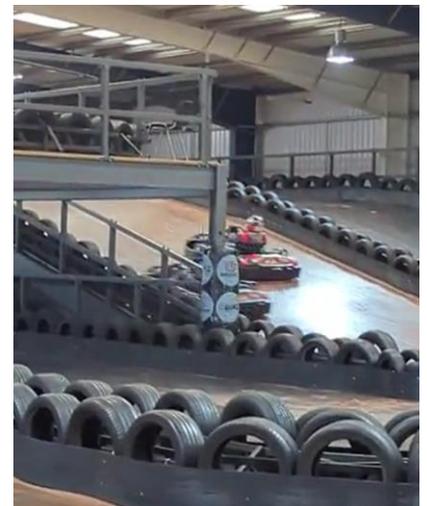
This half term some of our sixth form students have been accessing their level 1 mechanics course at TeamSport Go-Karting track in Reading.

They have been learning about MOT tests and pre-delivery checks after completing the Health and Safety module.

In practical sessions they have learnt to check and adjust tyre pressures using an air compressor, as well as checking oil, screen wash, brake fluid and coolant levels. They have also had to perform interior and exterior checks on seatbelts, dashboard functions, lights and body work.



Students have also been testing that the karts are working properly by driving test laps and they have all successfully completed an entire circuit since learning to drive up and down the ramps.



### **Work Experience – External Placements**

We have had a busy term for external work experience placements. We have been working in Decathlon, Co-op, Superdrug, Loddon School and many more! 28 students have been placed this term with over 4 weeks' work experience each. These placements are providing valuable insight into the world of work and helping the students to gain new skills, experience work life and develop and engage with new skills.

## Employer Comments:

'It has been a pleasure to have a student working with us, they have slotted straight into the team and work extremely hard'

'The students always work hard and are keen to learn new things and help customers out'

'We don't know where we would be without Addington students coming to work with us. Always great to watch them grow'



## Work Ready Days

Owl Class enjoyed a work ready at Pizza Express in Bracknell. They learnt lots of new skills such as how to stretch the pizza dough into the correct shape, why they use pizza ovens, how pizza dough is made and the types of tasks the employees have to complete on a daily basis. The students got the chance to play chef and create their own pizzas from scratch!





# The Creative Arts Page

This half term, specialist subjects lessons have continued across the department and many of our students have been attending offsite events, especially during the festive period.

## Music

Early Years have been exploring the theme Autumn and Bonfire Night. They developed their awareness of changing between two rhythms using the gathering during our Halloween song. Students explored playing a variety of wooden percussion instruments including a large xylophone. During the festive period, there are been a focus changing playing styles using a glockenspiel and developing anticipation and interactions skills through musical cues.

In Sensory and Complex Needs music lessons, we have continued with our journey through Tolkien's Middle-Earth, this time retelling the story of The Lord of the Rings. We started in The Shire, celebrating Bilbo Baggins's birthday with a song about fireworks, focusing on vocalising 'oooohs' and 'aaaahs'.



We then travelled through a forest, exploring wooden instruments, with pupils using a switch to signal for us to 'STOP!!!' if they saw a monster. After several other exciting musical activities, we ended our journey in Mordor, with our huge gathering drum. The pupils absolutely loved this journey; and all this before we moved onto our festive journey in December.

In KS2 lessons, we have continued with our theme of 'Journeys', starting off with turning last half term's song 'Slow Train Coming' into a full band piece, learning about the different parts that make up a band including bass, rhythm, harmony and melody parts, then putting it together as a class band. We also explored tempo and dynamic changes through Rossini's 'William Tell Overture', first through body percussion, then through drumming and by taking it in turns to lead the group with tempo and dynamic changes. In the latter part of the half term, we learnt some simple rhythm notation with the song 'Mango Walk', before beginning some seasonal singing.



KS3 classes have been focussing on developing ensemble skills playing chords and the bass line to 'Fly Away' by Lenny Kravitz. Students have also explored learning the chromatic melody of 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'.



KS4 students have been focussing on learning the melody to 'William Tell'. They used rhythm grids to learn the rhythm of the melody and then worked towards playing each phrase until they could play the whole melody. Students have spent some of their lessons learning about different art forms and the different jobs in the arts sector. They used to talk about what they like and are good at in the arts.

In 6<sup>th</sup> Form, the community group have been learning to play the ukulele. They have been focussing on learning two chords and exploring how to change between them. They have also focussed on developing ensemble skills, choosing their role in the band and developing their independence to set up and rehearse their parts on their instrument of choice.

## Art

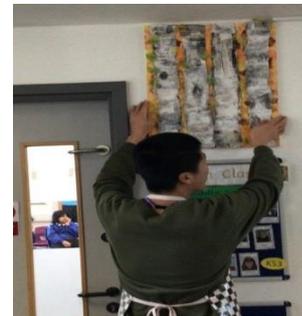
In Key Stage 3 we have continued developing our drawing and painting skills. Sycamore, Chestnut and Elm class have been creating imaginary portraits of Kings and Queens. Aspen and Maple class have produced a range of pictures using a variety of different mark making techniques.



In Key Stage 4 we have been creating stop motion animation!  
Students have created their own characters, sets and directed short stories.



6<sup>th</sup> Form Art community group are still working on our brief to create canvases for all the new classrooms at Addington School. So far we have made new canvases for Aspen, Rowan, Primrose and Oak class.



## Drama

In KS3, students have been learning about Pantomimes and even had a go at performing a short Cinderella Panto Show.



KS4 students have been editing and adding effects to their Covid Time Capsule Film. We will be showcasing this in the summer term.

The KS5 Community Drama group; The Wonky Veg Theatre group have been busy rehearsing their version of Hamlet which will be performed on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at South Hill Park in Bracknell.





## Clubs

This half term Addington Band started to work towards the Addington Association Christmas Carol Concert. They have been learning 4 pieces and had to make a tough decision to leave one out. Out lunchtime clubs have started as well. Carla has been running a drama club, Martin has started the Xylophone and Percussion Club and Sean has started a choir. Claire has been running an EY music club throughout the week and a Yoga club for Poppy and Cherry class.

## Reading Junior Music Festival

In November, 4 of our KS2 and KS3 students performed in the Reading Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon which involved primary schools from the Reading and Wokingham area. Our fabulous choir have been rehearsing since September and have attended mass rehearsals at Earley St. Peter's School and at The Hexagon. They were brilliant, singing and signing and were the stars of the show. They did themselves, their families and the school proud in our first concert in a long time.



## Addington Art Exhibition

This half term, our 6<sup>th</sup> form students have been planning an art exhibition at the school which displayed artwork from across the whole school. They worked in groups to plan and complete jobs needed for the exhibition. This included making invitations, sourcing artwork, creating timetables, creating an activity booklet and role playing jobs and roles at the exhibition itself. The event was a huge success with each student taking on a responsibility during the exhibition and students from across the school enjoyed seeing their artwork displayed and completing the activity created by the 6<sup>th</sup> formers.



## Carol Singing

It has been so fantastic to get back out in the community this year to sing carols. We have had 7 trips out with nearly all of our secondary students to Shinfield View, Peach Place, The Birches, Shute End Council Offices, Twyford Age Concern, National Grid and Woodley Precinct. The students have been amazing and thoroughly enjoyed their festive singing.



### **Upcoming Events**

Here are key dates for your diary in 2023:

- Shakespeare Schools Festival – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Evening
- Proms Week – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

You can find regular updates on our music page on the school website

<https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/pupil-pages/music>

Here you will also find resources and videos for the pupils to engage with at home.

From the Creative Arts Team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Creative Arts Team



# News from the Association

Email: [AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com)

Dear Parents and Carers

How quickly time flies by! I'm finding it hard to believe that we're coming towards the end of another year already.

The autumn term is always the busiest for the Association. We've already held the Christmas Fayre and at time of writing we're selling tickets for the Christmas Raffle and putting the finishing touches to the Christmas Song and Carol Concert.

It was lovely to see so many of you visit the Christmas Fayre back at the end of November. We were delighted to be able to make the Fayre bigger this year (following the recent restrictions of Covid) and were able to showcase the 6<sup>th</sup> form café area as well. It was a lovely event and raised a lot of money for the School and Association. It was very much a joint venture this year, with the young people from the school playing a major part, be this with the Business Enterprise team, the Horticulture team or in the 6<sup>th</sup> form café. I'm sure you'll agree that they produced some beautiful and quite unique Christmas gifts and decorations. I hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time doing a little early Christmas shopping!

Whilst at the time of writing we're still in the final planning stages for the Carol Concert, I would just like to say that all of us at the Association are so pleased that this event can go ahead this year. We've all really missed the sheer joy and fun that comes along with the evening, thanks in large part to the Woodley Concert Band. I'm sure it will be another wonderful event this year. Thanks to everyone that has purchased tickets for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. I can already say this has raised a significant amount of money for the school. We have 6 lovely hampers/baskets this year and I hope the winners enjoy the contents!

Finally, I would like to say a number of thank you's! For those of you that helped me organise the Fayre, for those of you that donated items during our themed donation weeks, for those of you that helped at the Fayre, for those of you that came along and supported the Fayre and for those of you that have purchased raffle tickets. A huge thank you to each and every one of you! Without all of you the Christmas events just couldn't have gone ahead, and we wouldn't have been able to raise the funds we have, so thank you once again from all of us at the Association. Which only leaves me to wish you all a very well-deserved Christmas break. Relax, enjoy, stay safe and wishing you all a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes & see you all in 2023.

Dawn Adams & all at the Addington School Association

## ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022 - 2023



Addington School

### AUTUMN TERM 2022

<b>Inset Days – (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 2 September &amp; Monday 5 September 2022</b>
<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Tuesday 6 September 2022</b>
<b>Inset Day – (Closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 21 October</b>
<b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October inclusive</b>
<b>Inset Day (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Monday 31 October 2022</b>
<b>Term Restarts</b>	<b>Tuesday 1 November 2022</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Tuesday 20 December 2022</b>

### SPRING TERM 2023

<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 January 2023</b>
<b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023 inclusive</b>
<b>Term Restarts</b>	<b>Monday 20 February 2023</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Friday 31 March 2023</b>

### SUMMER TERM 2023

<b>Term Starts</b>	<b>Monday 17 April 2023</b>
<b>Inset Day – (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 26 May</b>
<b>Half Term – (closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023 inclusive</b>
<b>Term Restarts</b>	<b>Monday 5 June 2023</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Friday 21 July 2023</b>

#### **Inset Days – School closed to pupils**

Friday 2 September 2022  
Monday 5 September 2022  
Friday 21 October 2022  
Monday 31 October 2022  
Friday 26 May 2023