

RECTORY FRIDAY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Festive Events Around School

With the build up to the holidays, we have been so busy in school with lots of different exciting events. We started off the week with the Nativity, performed by years R, 1 and 2. They performed it twice, once for the children and once for the parents. Well done to all the children and adults involved. See below or on Dojo for some more pictures!

On Wednesday, the children tucked into their Christmas lunches. We had Christmas jumpers and music too, so the hall felt very festive. It is a big job to feed so many children a full Christmas dinner so well done to Peggy and the lunchtime crew for making sure it ran so smoothly.

Thursday saw year 4 hosting a Christmas film night, to raise money for the environmental charity Cool Earth. We got to relax and watch 'Elf' with some snacks, which was the perfect end to a hectic week!

On our final morning of 2025, we were lucky enough to enjoy year 5's 'Winter Reflection', which was a time to reflect on the true meaning of the festive period. Thank you to all the adults who have helped make a busy week run so calmly and successfully. Have a lovely break from everyone at Rectory Farm!

Exciting News and Sad Goodbyes

There have been lots of changes this year, and we thank the parents and children for supporting us and we have had lots to celebrate this half term.

Some exciting news to end the year—Miss Bick is having a baby girl next year. She will be with us still after Christmas until later on next year. A big congratulations to Miss Bick and her family.

We also have to say goodbye to Mrs Bell, who has worked at Rectory Farm for over 23 years. She has been a great support to many of our children, teachers and parents over the years and has an immeasurable impact on our community. We wish her well for the next stage of her life and thank her on behalf of all the children who have come through our doors and been supported by Mrs Bell.

Curriculum



Year R, 1 and 2 — We were amazed about the parent turnout we had for the nativity. The children performed beautifully, and their singing made many of us emotional. Well done to everyone involved!



Year 3— Year 3 have been working on their self portraits this half term, using different effects. Here is Eric's example, showing how he has used cubism to create this effect.



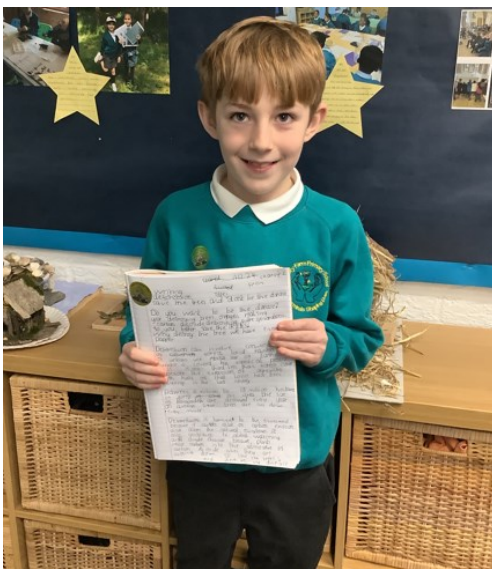
Online Home Learning!

Well done to our home learning winners this half term...year 6! Miss Thompson and year 6 will be deciding what they would like for their prize this week or the first week of January. Well done to everyone who has logged on and read this half term! We will hit the 'reset' button in January to see who our first winners of 2025 will be. Thank you for a great term of home learning!

Sycamore!



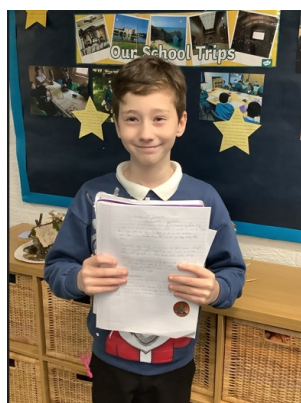
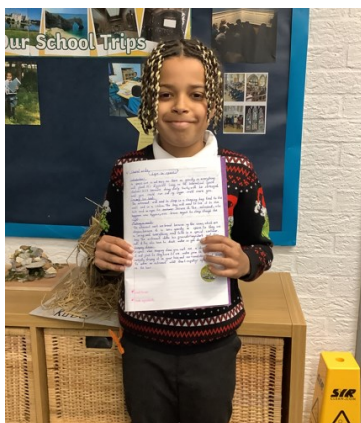
We love to celebrate our children's achievements out of school too, so I was delighted to see Jayden, Kunashe and Azeez's medals they got as part of their football team's Christmas celebration. It sounded like they had a wonderful time and are looking forward to more games in 2025. Well done boys!



Charlie in year 4 was so inspired about his work on deforestation, that he wrote a persuasive speech at home! Miss Badoi was especially proud of the improvement in his handwriting.

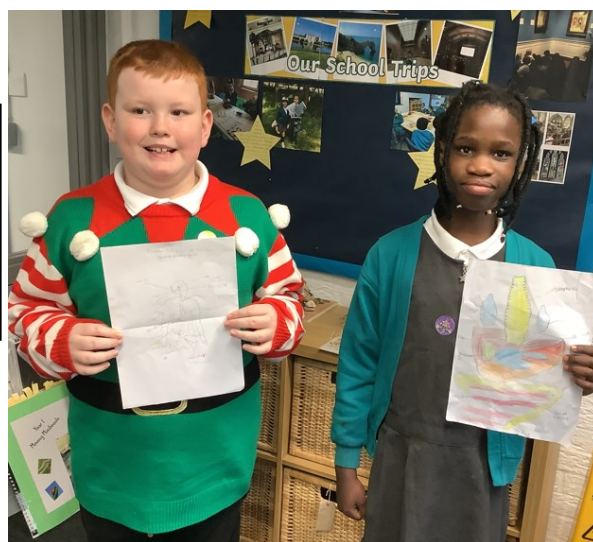
After learning about their bodies in year 1, William has labelled his own body. I was very impressed with his handwriting and letter formation.





Cai and Kobe have been completing some fantastic writing in English all about Space. They have been writing all about space and what it is like to live there. We are really impressed with the improvement in their handwriting and how much they are writing!

Here are Thomas and Precious who have drawn the digestive system, based on their Science learning. They have really enjoyed their topic and new lots about it!



As part of year 2's topic about how we get our food, Aedan has made this incredible replica of a farm. He had added some animals and had cleverly shown the different stages of harvesting crops. Well done indeed!



Ella has made this amazing model of the Northampton lift tower. She talked about all the steps she took to make this structure in great detail. Well done Ella!

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
Tuesday 7th January	4-6	Tennis club starting

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



We would like to say a huge thank you to the McArthur Dixon foundation for their support with Christmas hampers for some families in need this year. As you can imagine, some huge fundraising efforts and generous donations have gone into making this Christmas Campaign possible, and it has cost over £35,000 to put everything together.

We are extremely grateful for their support. We will make sure we do a cake sale in the new year to show our support to them. Merry Christmas and thank you, Sam

Please make sure you pack warm PE clothes for your child as they may still have PE outside, depending on the sport. Trousers and hoodies are encouraged!



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 20th December 2024

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College