



NEWSLETTER

5th December 2025

A message from our school leaders

This week, our pupils have been learning a lot about online safety and how to keep themselves safe. Some of our pupils spoke with trust visitors and demonstrated impressive knowledge and understanding of safety, as well as their care for one another. It is wonderful to see our younger pupils extend their knowledge of safety online too. In the new year, we will be inviting parents into school for an [Online Safety Workshop](#). It is important that we keep up to date with new online trends and safety features on mobile and iPad. More information to follow, after the Christmas break.

Earlier this week, Phototronics visited us to take some wonderful pupil/family photos that would make lovely Christmas gifts. These photos have been sent home tonight with the children. For more details and important deadlines, please check our Class Dojo.

We were also delighted to welcome The Pathway into school for our 'Open the Book' assembly, where they shared one of the enchanting Christmas stories. We're also looking forward to visiting The Pathway on Monday for our KS2 Christmas concert. It promises to be a delightful afternoon, and we hope to see you all there!

It's the most wonderful time of the year as we prepare for Christmas! The excitement is building with concerts, rehearsals, and plenty of festive joy. Please check our upcoming dates for times of all events—we'd love to see you there!

Reminders and Messages

- Please remember to bring water bottles into school every day.
- A reminder that we are a '**NUT FREE**' school.
- **POLITE REMINDER:** We are unable to read or answer messages which are sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact teachers, please telephone or make an appointment at

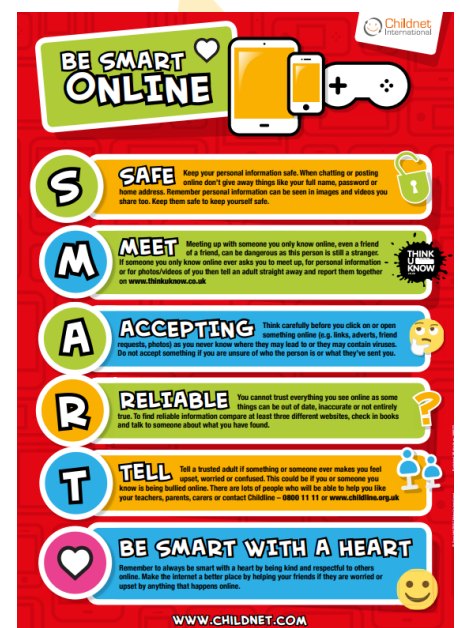
A Message from The Friends (FOMS)

MOVIE NIGHT

Tickets cost £5, which include entry, refreshments, crafts and a gift.
Payment via ParentPay.

Useful Online Safety Links

- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Childline](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	96.0%
Yr 2/3/4	92.1%
Yr 5/6	98.2%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

We've had an exciting and creative week in Nursery, full of stories, music, and festive fun!

Story of the Week: **Betty and the Yeti**

The children loved exploring this wintery tale and even designed their own Pom-Pom hats for Betty - what a fantastic display of imagination! We also discovered some wondrous words from the story:

Jingle Jangle, **Enormous** and **Blubber**.

The children enjoyed discussing what these words mean and how they make the story come alive.

To bring 'jingle jangle' to life, we experimented with different instruments to create fun, jingling sounds. It was a noisy but joyful activity!

Letters to Santa

The festive spirit is in full swing, with our children writing their letters to Santa. They have all thought hard to think about their wishes and, now after writing them, they are ready to be posted.

Nativity Practice

We've also been busy practicing our Nativity play. The children are learning their lines and songs, and we can't wait to share this special performance with you soon.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson, Miss Anderson and Mrs Niven

The arrival of the Kindness Elf has brought daily excitement to our classroom! Each morning, children have eagerly looked for where the elf might be hiding and what kind message or challenge it has left. This has encouraged kindness, sharing, and thoughtfulness throughout the week. Both Reception and Year 1 have written their letters to Santa, carefully sounding out words and forming sentences. The children were very proud to see their letters ready to be posted, adding to the festive spirit.

Reception children have been getting into the Christmas spirit with festive maths activities. They practised counting and number recognition by adding the correct number of baubles to Christmas trees and explored shape recognition by colouring the correct shapes in their pictures. They have also enjoyed making fruit kebabs as part of their learning about a balanced diet in PSHE. They talked about the importance of eating different fruits and vegetables, practised fine motor skills while assembling their kebabs, and of course loved tasting their creations afterwards!

Year 1 have been consolidating everything they've learned this term. They tackled reasoning questions, which encouraged them to explain their thinking and apply strategies to solve problems — a big step towards building mathematical confidence. Children completed their piece for this writing cycle - a recount of a science lesson about sound. They practised using time connectives (**first**, **next**, **then**) and descriptive detail to make their writing clear and engaging.

The class explored toys from the past in history, comparing them with modern toys. They discussed how materials, designs, and play have changed over time, sparking curiosity about life in different eras.

Finally, Year 1 investigated their sense of smell, correctly identifying a range of scents. This hands-on activity helped them understand how our senses work together and why they are important in everyday life.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

What a delightful week we've had at school! Our class elf, Tinsel, joined us this week, bringing a sprinkle of magic and a touch of mischief. Tinsel has been keeping a close eye on the children, ensuring they stay on the nice list!

Further excitement erupted this week, when we received reports that the Iron Man has been lurking around the school, searching for metal to munch on! Mr Burnip even caught a glimpse of him! To help in our quest to locate this curious character, the children created a fantastic **'WANTED'** poster. These will be placed around the school to help with the capture if the Iron Giant!

During maths, our Year 2 students have been busy mastering addition and subtraction across 10, while Year 3 focused on subtracting two numbers. Year 4 have been exploring the concept of area, and it's wonderful to see their progress.

This week, we also continued our R.E. lessons, diving into the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah. We discussed how this celebration is observed by both Orthodox and modern Jews, fostering a deeper understanding of diverse cultures.

During our PSHE lesson, we examined various scenarios to determine whether they represented bullying or not. The discussions were insightful, and the children shared thoughtful ideas on how to handle each situation.

Lastly, our students have been working diligently on their lines and carols for the upcoming Pathway Service next week. We can't wait to see you there!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

This week Year 5/6 have worked hard to publish their balanced arguments, demonstrating thoughtful reasoning and clear presentation of ideas.

In French, we embraced the festive spirit by designing and writing about Christmas jumpers, which led to some wonderfully imaginative creations.

In PE, teamwork was at the heart of our lessons, as the children worked in groups to create their own gymnastics routines. They showed great confidence and enthusiasm when performing these routines in front of the whole class.

Alongside this, we have continued practising for our Christmas Carol Concert and are very excited to share this special event with you. We look forward to seeing you at The Pathway on Monday afternoon, 1:30pm, for what promises to be a joyful celebration.





NEWSLETTER

Upcoming
Events:

	Event
DECEMBER	
Mon 8 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carols, 1:30pm at The Pathway FOMS Movie Night
Wed 10 th Dec	Pantomime at The Hippodrome, Darlington
Friday 12 th Dec	Nativity – Nursery, Reception and Year 1
Mon 15 th Dec	Christmas Crafts, a.m. – parents welcome
Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas School Dinner School Choir at Middleton Luncheon Club
Fri 19 th Dec	School Closes for Christmas Holiday
JANUARY 2026	
Tues 6 th Jan 2026	School re-opens to pupils
Tues 13 th Jan	Key Stage 2 SATs Information Evening, 3:30pm