



### Newsletter

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 25

### Christmas Break



We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We hope you all have a lovely restful break with your families and wish you a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, ready to start the New Year.

### Christmas Jumper Day



On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December**, the children came to school in a Christmas Jumper in support of Save the Children and St Andrew's Hospice. We raised a total of **£337.95**, which has been donated between the two the charities.

We would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support.

### School Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day!

On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**, we hosted our festive Christmas Dinner full of seasonal cheer, warm smiles, and delicious food! Children and staff came together to enjoy a special meal — complete with all the holiday trimmings and festive fun. It was wonderful to see everyone sharing laughter, kindness, and holiday spirit around the tables. A big thank-you to everyone who helped!



Wishing all our school community a joyful and peaceful festive season!

### School Meals for January 25



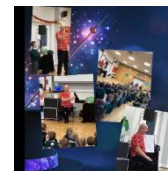
Please ensure that any meals ordered for the first week back are ordered by **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. Many thanks.

### A Special Christmas Visit from Mr Shiney!



On **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, our Nursery, Reception and KS1 children were treated to a magical Christmas performance from Mr Shiney — and what a fantastic time they had! The hall was filled with laughter, excitement and plenty of festive fun as Mr Shiney entertained the children with his

brilliant Christmas show. It was the perfect way to sprinkle some extra Christmas joy across our school!



A huge thank you to Mr Shiney for bringing so many smiles to our little ones today.

### Reception Visit Old Clee Church!



On **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, our Reception children took a magical trip to Old Clee Church — and what a wonderful experience it was!

The children sang some of the songs from their Nativity and loved retelling the Christmas Story together. They even had the chance to dress up as characters from the Nativity using special costumes, which made the story come to life even more! ✨

Before leaving, the children gathered to look at the beautiful, glowing Nativity scene, which was all lit up inside the church. It was a truly special moment.



Well done, Reception — you brought so much joy and Christmas spirit to the church!

### Year 6 Visit Horizon Youth Zone!



On **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**, a group of our Year 6 pupils had an exciting visit to the brand-new **Horizon Youth Zone** for a special taster session — and what an experience it was!

The children got stuck into a fantastic range of activities, from handball and basketball in the MUGA, to chilled-out fun like Jenga, bottle flipping, and hula hooping. They also took part in some brilliant drama activities, where they created their own characters and even dressed up as them — and yes... even Mr Kershaw got dragged into the fun! 😄

To top it all off, the pupils were lucky enough to enjoy a full tour of the centre and explore all the incredible facilities Horizon Youth Zone has to offer.



A huge thank you to the team for welcoming us — our Year 6s had an amazing time!

## Academy Choir at Wilton Fields Christmas Market



On **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, our wonderful Academy Choir sang at the Wilton Fields Christmas Market, and what a truly special performance it was. The children sang a beautiful range of Christmas songs, filling the air with festive joy and warmth.

They performed with such confidence and heart that many in the audience were moved to tears. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for representing the academy so beautifully and spreading the true spirit of Christmas. 🎵



A huge thank you to Mrs Hunter for all her hard work and dedication in working with the children. Her commitment and passion helped make this performance so special.

## Nursery Christmas Stay & Play



On **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, we were delighted to welcome our nursery parents into the academy for a morning full of festive cheer. Children and parents enjoyed spending time together taking part in a range of Christmas crafts, followed by some festive singing and dancing. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and to share such a special, festive experience together. Thank you to all our families who joined us and helped make the session so magical!



## Reception Nativity Performance



What a truly fantastic performance our Reception children gave on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** in 'A Wriggly Nativity'! 🌟 The children completely embraced their roles, wriggling, singing and acting with so much confidence and joy — they clearly had a fantastic time up on stage.

This was a very special moment as it was the children's very first Christmas performance, making it even more memorable. Seeing their excitement, enthusiasm and big smiles was an absolute delight, and we know it's a moment that parents will cherish for years to come ❤️.



Well done to our wonderful Reception children — we are so proud of you!

## Christmas Enterprise Year 1-6



On **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, we held our Christmas Market for Year 1 to Year 6 and what a fantastic day it was!

The atmosphere was absolutely buzzing as our children proudly sold their products, showing so much creativity, confidence and festive spirit. There was a truly Christmassy feel all around, with smiles, excitement and lots of wonderful conversations.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and for all of your generosity!

## The Importance of Getting to School on Time

	Attendance in December	Attendance since September 2025
Reception	93.5%	94.2%
Year 1	96.1%	94.8%
Year 2	95.9%	95.5%
Year 3	94.7%	93.7%
Year 4	97.3%	97%
Year 5	93.9%	93.6%
Year 6	95.1%	95.8%
Whole School	95.1%	95.2%

Well done to for achieving the attendance targets of 97% Year 4 🎉

Arriving at school on time plays a vital role in your child's learning and wellbeing. The first part of the school day is especially important, as this is when teachers set expectations, explain the day's lessons, and help children settle into learning. When a child arrives late, they often miss these key moments, which can leave them feeling unsettled or anxious and less ready to learn. Missing lessons, even for short periods, has a real impact on learning. Primary school lessons are carefully planned to build skills step by step. When children miss part of a lesson, they can struggle to understand new concepts and may find it harder to keep up with their classmates. Over time, repeated lateness or absence can lead to gaps in learning, reduced confidence, and frustration. Being on time also helps children develop important life skills such as responsibility, routine, and respect for others' time. It allows them to start the day positively, join in with their friends, and feel part of the school community from the very beginning. We understand that mornings can sometimes be challenging, and we appreciate your support in helping your child arrive at school on time every day. By doing so, you

are giving them the best possible start to their learning and helping them make the most of every school day.



- Ask guiding questions such as:  
*“What have you tried already?”*  
*“What else could you do?”*

## Diary Dates



- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026
  - **Return to School**
- 6<sup>th</sup> February
  - **Multiplication Tables Check Parental Workshop for Year 4 parents only - further correspondence to follow in the New Year**
- w/c 9<sup>th</sup> February
  - **Children’s Mental Health Week**
- 10<sup>th</sup> February
  - **Safer Internet Day**
- 13<sup>th</sup> February
  - **Break-up for Half Term**

## Habits of Mind



After half term, our next focus Habit of Mind is Question and Problem Posing

**Questioning and Problem Posing** is a Habit of Mind that encourages children to be curious, think deeply, and look for solutions rather than quick answers. Children who develop this habit learn to ask thoughtful questions, explore different possibilities, and see problems as opportunities to learn.

Instead of asking, *“What’s the right answer?”* children learn to ask:

- *Why does this happen?*
- *What might happen if...?*
- *Is there another way to solve this?*
- *What do I already know that can help me?*

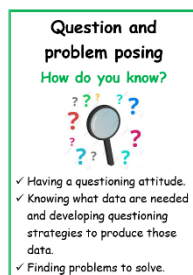
This habit helps children become confident thinkers who are willing to explore, investigate, and persist when something is challenging.

### How can parents support this at home?

You play an important role in helping your child develop this habit. Here are some simple and effective ways to encourage questioning and problem posing at home:

#### 1. Encourage questions

- Welcome your child’s questions, even when you don’t have the answers.
- Say things like:  
*“That’s a great question.”*  
*“How could we find out?”*



#### 2. Ask open-ended questions

Instead of questions with one right answer, try:

- *What do you think will happen next?*
- *Why do you think that worked?*
- *What could you try differently next time?*

#### 3. Avoid giving answers straight away

- When your child faces a problem, resist solving it for them.