



Hatch Ride Matters December 23



Dear Hatch Ride Community

We've had a very busy and festive last few weeks in school. Everyone has loved the advent activities that have been taking place in the classrooms and the daily hunt for our cheeky, school elf, Patch has been popular with the children as usual. We were also lucky to be visited by Father Christmas himself yesterday! We are all joining together for a festive lunch in the hall today. The staff are all very proud of the children's efforts in their Christmas performances, we were enchanted by Reception, dazzled by the confidence of KS1 and delighted to be invited to 'Step into Christmas' by KS2. We hope you enjoyed it too.

After lots of work, we have finally been able to launch our new website, please have a look at www.hatchride.wokingham.sch.uk. We are excited to be able to bring you more regular updates of what happens in school, the photo content will increase in time. Please note that from January homework will be set using TEAMS, look out for instructions and logins coming home next term. There will be no homework set until week commencing 15th January to allow everyone time to get used to the new way of working.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTO for all their hard work this year. We have been able to purchase all of the following with funds the committee has raised. We need our PTO to continue to fundraise for us, please get involved by visiting the parent group Facebook page for the date of the next meeting or email pto-enquires@hatchride.wokingham.sch.uk for information.

Dining benches

Spinning seats for Reception Class

Soft play equipment for Reception Class

2 terms recorder lessons for KS2

Educational subscriptions including Twinkl, Time Table Rockstars, Tapestry and Purple Mash

Y6 Wellington College Tech

120 new classroom chairs

Playground equipment repairs

Playground markings

Christmas Advent Activities

Rabbi visit

Thank you to all the children who wore a Christmas jumper last week, we raised over £140 for Save the Children. Our KS2 Christmas performance was in aid of Shelter this year and we have raised over £140 in our collection.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Metson at the end of term, we all wish you lots of luck for the future.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for the generous and thoughtful gifts we have received this week. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward seeing you all in 2024!

Thank you,

Ms Sparrowhawk



School diary dates:

January	
Tues 2 nd	INSET Day – no pupils in school
Weds 3 rd	Start of term
Fri 12 th	Year 5 Assembly
February	
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th	Half term
Mon 19 th	INSET Day – no pupils in school

Reception

We have been enjoying a holly, jolly countdown to the Christmas break in Reception as we excitedly open our advent calendar of Christmas treats each afternoon. We have made and eaten Christmas pudding, using Mrs Joyce’s magic spoon to stir the mixture and make a special Christmas wish. There have been so many Christmas crafts made, ready to decorate your homes - calendars, cards and decorations to mention just a few! Christmas stories have been made extra special with some hot chocolate, cookies and marshmallows and we made natural wreaths in the woods. The highlight though has to be the wonderful performance of our nativity, the children loved learning the nativity story and songs and when we performed to the parents they added an extra sparkle of magic which made it a truly festive occasion. We wish you all a very happy break and look forward to seeing you in January.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a productive last few weeks of the year. We’ve explored nursery rhymes in English, found out about 3D shape in Maths and explored different beliefs about how people, animals and plants are created in RE. One of the highlights of December is our annual advent calendar and the children have loved discovering which exciting Christmas activity they will do each day. From making candy canes with beads, creating elves, building snowmen with rice and a Christmas computing lesson, the children have been enthusiastic in all activities and it has been lovely to see them helping each other throughout these tasks and really embodying our school value of collaboration. This was also evident during our joint task with Year 3 where we teamed up to make paper chains. Another highlight was our production of ‘Everyone Loves a Baby’. We are so proud of how well Year 1 performed and can definitely see some future stars of the stage! The children have an amazing first term in Key Stage One and we hope they all enjoy a fun filled Christmas break. We look forward to seeing them ready for Term 2 in January!



Year 2

For those who were able to make it, we hope you were entertained by the children's performance of 'Everyone Loves a Baby'. Thank you very much, Year 2 parents, in helping the children learn their lines and where needed, providing costumes.

In maths, children have enjoyed working on shape. Please do ask them what are vertices / a vertex! In the past it would be corners for 2-D shape, points for 3-D shape – it's useful for the children to be aware of this as well. We have been developing our knowledge of continents, writing a report in English lessons. For geography, we have been learning about human and physical features found on continents. By the end of the week, we will have completed our work on materials in science and will have enjoyed more Christmas craft by then, too. Wishing a merry Christmas to you all!



Year 3

December has been extremely busy between rehearsing, crafting, playing while still learning and finishing all of our topics! We have loved the advent event this year. We have sewn Christmas wreaths and made Christmas cards that are going to be sent out to local care home residents. We have done Christmas drawings, quizzes, games and outdoor learning. It has been so much fun! It was a great way to end the term with a lovely Christmas lunch together and a visit from someone very special. Thank you to the PTO for the donations for the advent event and thank you to Mrs Adams and her mum for helping with sewing this half term.

We were also visited by Rabbi Zvi who shared stories, food and traditions about Judaism. We looked at fabulous pictures, tried Challah bread, matzos, horseradish and grape juice like at Passover and we wore kippahs. It was so interesting and thank you for Rabbi Zvi and the PTO for the donation for the visit.



Year 4

Year 4 have experienced a mix of Christmas and the Egyptian period, as their first term in Year 4 comes to an end. The children have all become reporters and written brilliant newspaper reports about the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb and I have enjoyed finding out all the fun facts they have been learning through reading at home. The increase in the amount of reading at home has been brilliant this half term! Egyptian day involved mummifying fruit, hieroglyphic code breaking and the creation of Egyptian art. Egyptian art is becoming a strength for the children as they have also created ancient Egyptian scrolls using the weaving method to make paper. All the children looked amazing in all their brilliant costumes and I was amazed at their thoughtful questions regarding the Egyptian period and the Romans.

To begin the countdown to Christmas, the children have enjoyed opening their class advent calendar and participating in a range of advent activities. The rice crispy cakes, although a mess, were fun to model and the children created a range of Christmassy designs. Alongside cake making, the children have made beautiful Christmas cards for the local care homes and spent time outside modelling wreaths with natural materials. They have spent lots of time practicing their songs for the KS2 Christmas festival and performed beautifully to both the school and parents.

Although the Egyptians and Christmas has been a large element of the children's learning this month, they have also been creating wallpapers using their knowledge of the repeat function in computing. In PE, the children have become experts in passing backwards in tag rugby and they have created excellent routines using a range of elements in gymnastics. Science has involved a puddle investigation to understand the states of matter and to practice drawing continuous line graphs. In French the children have been practicing describing their families and I look forward to moving on to describing their favourite places in the spring term.

I hope you all have a relaxing Christmas break and I look forward to starting our new topics in the spring term!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a lovely season in school. We have enjoyed a range of craft activities which have included making our own snowman bookmarks, a Christmas tree decoration and making our own electronic greeting cards. We've worked really hard this term, covering a range of topics through Ancient Greece and mythical narratives to multiplication, division and now fractions! We also owe a huge thank you to Mrs Metson for all of the wonderful art she taught us this term. We now look forward to the Spring, where we will focus our attention to the historical and geographical features of Reading and Berkshire! Wishing everyone a relaxing festive break.



Year 6

Year 6 have been busy enjoying their advent activities which have involved using our crafting skills and working on our knot tying and needle threading when sewing our Christmas waistcoat projects. As well as this, we were busy preparing for the KS2 production which we enjoyed sharing with you on Wednesday evening.

Outside of our advent activities, we have also studied A Christmas Carol and A Christmas Carrott this month. Using an adaptation of Dickens, we explored some very interesting vocabulary broadening our word banks ready for our writing. Inspired by A Christmas Carrot, we created a first-person recount of the story of Ebanana Scrooge. As a class, and returning to a more classic retelling, we also wrote a story opener for the Ghost of Christmas Future giving their account of their first meeting with Scrooge.



Pupil Leadership Team

It has been a busy term for our newly elected Pupil Leadership Team. Everyone has shown great commitment, attended all the meetings and worked hard on our projects this term which have included:

Polling and representing our classes to vote for new playground markings - these are now on the playground and proving very popular

Making our own poppy wreath and presenting it at our Remembrance service.

Raising £48 for the school at our Celebrity Jelly Baby stall at the Christmas Fair



We are looking forward to a busy Spring term!

Crowthorne Late Night Shopping Evening – Poster Competition

Well done Olivia for being a winner, we love your colourful poster!



Community News

Get help with the cost of living

The **Household Support Fund** www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/household-support-fund can help you pay for food, energy, bills and other essentials. It's open to:

- Families where children receive means-tested free school meals can get £20 per week during the school holidays until Easter 2024
- Anyone struggling to pay household bills or buy food can apply for £240 or £120 depending on the size of their household

If you've already applied for the Household Support Fund you do not need to apply again.

Other cost of living help options

There's a range of help and support options you can use to help you this winter:

- Check the cost of living hub www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living, including our guides
 - Help for people with children

- Help for single people
- Help for pensioners
- Help if you're in an emergency
- SHARE Wokingham offers fresh produce, like bread and vegetables, for those who need it. These are surplus stock from local supermarkets. More than 2,000 people use it each week and it has saved more than 1,000 tonnes in food waste since it was launched a few years ago. View the food map to see SHARE's 15 locations and find your nearest.
- Follow these top tips for households www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk on how to lower your energy bills this winter. Or you can try:
 - The council's new home energy advice www.wokingham.gov.uk/news/2023/offering-residents-free-advice-make-their-homes-more-energy-efficient service to see how to lower your bills
 - See if you're eligible Great British Insulation Scheme www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme is offering free or cheaper insulation to reduce your home's energy bills
 - Check if your home is eligible www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/check-if-youre-eligible for a Heat Pump Grant a part of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme – up to £7,500 on offer towards the costs
- We're encouraging people to register with power, water and gas suppliers if they are potentially vulnerable this winter. These are known as priority services, which mean you get help faster if you are cut off or additional warnings if there are outages like loss of water pressure or power cuts
- The Winter Warmers scheme <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/help-essentials/get-energy-efficiency> can help you get free items, if you're struggling with the cost of living. This includes things like air fryers, slow cookers, heated airers and more. These will lower your energy usage and bills
- Contact Citizens Advice, Wokingham, to find the most appropriate support for your situation. Use the online referral form www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor or call 0808 278 7958, Monday to Friday.