



Mendell Primary School

December Newsletter 2022

A message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful festive season we have had in school, all children have done so well preparing for their Christmas performances – I hope you enjoyed it if you were able to attend.

Staffing Changes:

- Mrs Harris has decided that she is enjoying being a new Mummy so much, she is not going to return to the classroom. I know you will join me in wishing her the very best and thank her for all her hard work at Mendell over the years.
- We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Chee and again, I know you will join me in wishing her all the very best and thank you for her hard work over the years.
- We have welcomed some new members of staff to our wonderful team:
 - Miss Sprakes has joined our office team as an apprentice
 - Mr Corner will be joining us in January as our new Site Manager
 - Mr Barry will be teaching year 4 with Miss Jones (as Mrs Harris is leaving) and he will also be teaching throughout the school

I know you will welcome all our new staff to the team.

Good news... Mrs Eason is pregnant and expecting her first baby in the summer – huge congratulations!

More good news... after a local authority review and good school results last year, the Local Authority have banded us as a band 2 school – this means we are not a cause for concern for the local authority – well done to all the team at Mendell, our hard work is paying off! We are now looking forward to Ofsted coming as we are ready to move our grading to 'good'!

Have a wonderful Christmas, see you in the new year!

Mrs O'Neill Edwards

Art Exhibition

Thank you to all parents/ carers who came to view the children's 'Christmas Candle' artwork at St Barnabas and at our school Art Exhibition. We are sure that you will agree the children's artwork was spectacular and Mendell Primary actually came 5th place at the St Barnabas Tree Festival - well done Mendell!



Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all that came to our Christmas Fair! Children attended 'Elf School' before getting to meet Santa Claus. We had a variety of stalls, tombola, a fantastic raffle and some food made by our kitchen team!

A special thank you to Miss Jones (office) and the 'Christmas Crew' for organising this festive event!

Dates to Remember:

Term Dates

Due to an error there has been a slight change in the school calendar:

Wednesday 4th January – *Inset Day*

Thursday 5th January – *Children return to school*

Friday 17th February – *Children break up for half term*

ParentPay

Toast Club is now available for next half term on ParentPay. Please ensure toast is paid for the Friday before the week you wish your child to have it.

Clubs for next term are available to pay for. If you wish for your child to attend any club, please pay by **Friday 6th January**.

Class News

Foundation 1

We have had an amazing term in F1. We have learnt lots of new songs and nursery rhymes along with being part of our first Nativity performance. This term the children have enjoyed creating lots of different Christmas decorations to bring home and they have been so brave trying lots of new foods. Many of our class have already taken Bibi The Bear home and there are many more opportunities after the break so keep making those good choices. Have a fantastic Christmas and a happy new year.

Foundation 2

F2 have enjoyed a wonderful term of learning. We have loved practising for our nativity and learning new songs. The children have made various Christmas decorations following step by step instructions F2 have also baked dairy free ginger biscuits following a recipe and we enjoyed eating them. The children have been busy using their challenge books and winning prizes for completing all challenges set for that week. Have a lovely Christmas and a happy new year.

Year 1

Year One have had a very busy half term! We have performed our Nativity play for the whole school and it was great. Thank you to all parents who helped by getting costumes sorted and for practising the songs with their children. Year One enjoyed exploring the signs of Autumn and Winter in Science and the cold weather proved that snow or ice is a sign of Winter. We used our geography skills in our field study to conduct a traffic survey - we realised that cars are the most popular and that we need to see more people on bikes. We loved getting the chance to design our own Christmas snack in Design and Technology and can't wait to eat them next week. Well done to everyone in Year One for working super hard and for improving so much since the start of this school year. I hope you all have a nice time enjoying Christmas and I can't wait to hear what the pupils got up to on their holidays.

Year 2

During this half term Year 2 have worked super hard! In English, we have read the story 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and have learned lots of facts all about owls, which we have used to write a non-chronological report! In Design Technology, we designed and made our healthy fruit Christmas snack. Year 2 also had lots of fun filming the Christmas Nativity this half term!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant half term.

We have been learning about multiplication and division in maths and have taken on lots of challenges and word problems to expand our knowledge. We have been reading *Winter's Child* in English and the children have produced some fantastic pieces of descriptive writing about their own fantasy characters.

In our Geography lessons, the children have developed a brilliant understanding of the world and how it was formed. We used different colours of play dough to create models to show each of the Earth's four layers, and have learnt all about volcanic eruptions! In our final week of this half term, the children are using their understanding of levers and linkages to create Christmas cards! Miss Holland and Miss McKinney hope Year 3 have an amazing Christmas break with family and friends, and look forward to welcoming the children back again in 2023!

Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing half term! We have been very busy studying mountains in our Geography unit, we have learned about the five different types of mountains, how they are formed and we even made our own out of playdough! Year 4 have also thoroughly enjoyed DT week for our topic of 'pneumatics and hydraulics'. The children have designed, made and evaluated a Christmas themed toy using a pneumatic system for Y1 children to play with - it was so much fun! I hope the children have a restful break, they have certainly earned it!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy half term doing lots of learning. We have been reading and exploring traditional tales, such as Hansel and Gretel and The Lost Happy Endings, that we have successfully written our own alternative endings to. In Science, we have taken part in experiments to investigate insulators and conductors. The children liked investigating whether adding a coat would cause a snowman to melt quicker. Over the last few weeks, the children have particularly enjoyed preparing for their Christmas Carol concert that we performed at St Barnabas church. I hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Year 6

This half term Year 6 have continued to work hard practising for their SATs in May, we are really proud of the efforts they have put in so far and hope they come back after the Christmas break all refreshed and ready to tackle the Spring Term! In October, Year 6 went swimming at The Oval where they practised how to safely self-rescue, how to swim over a distance of at least 25 metres and how to use a range of strokes effectively. In Design Technology this term, Year 6 took part in The Primary Engineers 'Rail Project', where they constructed moving vehicles using their design, construction and problem-solving skills.