



Chilton Foliat Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025



With thankfulness, courage and love, we strive to improve heart and mind'
Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst".
John 4:13

Chilton Foliat CofE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we head for a well-earned mini break, our last newsletter for Term 3 contains information about forthcoming events and a look back at some of our highlights.



Christingle Service - Friday 14th February 2025, St Mary's Church, Chilton Foliat

What is Christingle? Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread the message of hope. Christingles are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas) and we choose the latter to light up a particularly dull time of the year. The children will make their Christingle candles during the morning and bring them down to church for our service at 2.00pm. The candles will be lit to create a warm, magical glow, symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

We are especially thoughtful about families who are living in tough times and for the children who have it the toughest. We would like to support the Children's Society as part of our Christingle celebration **and invite each child to bring a £1 in on Friday in exchange for their Christingle candle.**

The children will be walked down to church for the service which will begin at 2.00pm and walked back to school for normal end of day collection/After School Club arrangements. You are very welcome to attend the service and if you would like to collect your child from church, please notify the office in advance.

Thank you for your support.

Pray and Play Club



Rev Beth and Mrs Bleasdale, who very kindly run our popular Pray and Play Club were super-impressed by the children's comments at a recent session and wanted to share their conversation they had with our incredibly thoughtful and reflective children.

As we work through the Lord's Prayer, line by line, we have been exploring 'Lead us not into temptation.

With KS2, whilst we built some spaghetti towers, discerning when to stop building, avoiding the temptation of growing higher and higher and risking collapse, we had a lovely conversation about temptation and about the consequences of making choices.

Inadvertently, the children led the conversation towards the subject of war and peace, being aware of some of the ongoing situations in the world. We wondered how God can let wars happen and discovered that when God does 'let' a war happen, he can bring out the best in some people and reveal some good things. We thought about freewill being why people sometimes submit to temptation and make unwise choices.

We also thought about us not being able to stop a war, but that we can learn to become peacemakers where we live. Several children shared stories about how they had been peacemakers and diplomats where there had been fallings out at home, e.g. one child had suggested a practical solution to a disagreement between their sibling and one of their parents about the use of a beautiful flowerbed for kicking a football!

Fallow class children played Snakes and Ladders to help us reflect on the ups and downs of life, and how good and bad decisions make us feel. We heard the story of Adam, Eve, the snake and the apple. A few of the children admitted that they have sometimes blamed other people for things they have done wrong. We don't like the feeling of being embarrassed or ashamed when that happens.

**The Friends – Valentine's Sweet Sale – After School - Thursday 13th
February 2025**



Looking forward to Valentines Day? To celebrate this **lovely** occasion and to help raise some much needed funds for our children, The Friends have organised a Valentines Sweet Sale for after school on Thursday 13th February at 3.20pm. Please see the advertising poster attached.

Attendance



Our attendance rate is 96.9% for the whole year and 96.7% since the beginning of January 2025. This is encouraging news and it would be great to see this rate climb even higher. Every child deserves the best educational opportunity possible and this is enabled by attending as much school as possible.

We understand that authorised absences caused by illness can be unavoidable. However, unauthorised absences such as taking holiday in term time, will have a negative impact on every child's education and their outcomes. As we look forward to the spring and summer holiday season, please bear this in mind when you are planning for your all-important family holidays.

Assessment and Reporting



During this first spring term, year 1-6, mid-year assessments have taken place across the school to support teachers with the annual report writing process. We send out each child's annual report in March to inform parents of progress made so far and next steps to take before the academic year is complete. With this shared understanding between school and home on how your child is progressing and what targets need to be attempted in the second half of the year, support is in place "two-ways" to enable each child to achieve well. Once the reports are sent out (we are planning for 11th March 2025), you will have the opportunity to speak to your

child's class teacher on an ad-hoc basis about any concerns or questions you may have. Your child will also be invited to complete the annual report survey, to gather important information on how they feel about their learning. A second set of formal parents' meetings will be arranged in late June/ early July to discuss progress made based on the recommendations made in the March report. For our EYFS children, Mrs Gibson has met her Reception class parents and will follow this meeting up with the formal end of year EYFS profile report in late June/early July, a reverse of the above.

If at any time throughout these more formal reporting procedures you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please catch them on the playground, or if you believe a little more time is needed, please phone the office to make an appointment.

Dragons and Castles in Fallow Class – Inspiring Imaginative and Creative Writing



What is that? Where did it come from?



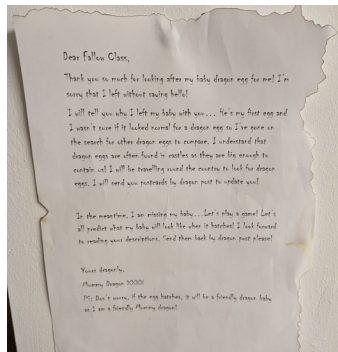
We are learning how to mix colour to make different shades too.



We need to fortify our castle. It's a dragon's egg!



We have to look after the egg. Is it going to be a friendly dragon when it hatches? Where is mummy dragon, will she be friendly too?



Mummy dragon has written a letter, what does it say?

Phew! Mummy dragon is a friendly dragon and she is going to send us some postcards. Look, the edges of the letter looked like they have been burnt with dragon breath...

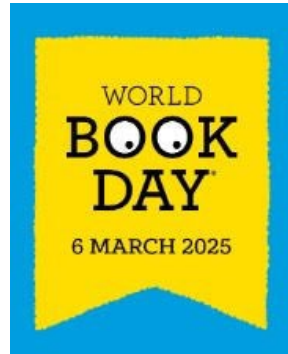
Fallow Class, we can't wait to hear what happens next and to look at some of your wonderful writing!

Walk Safe

We welcomed a special visitor to school this week. Ms Barker from the Wiltshire LA Walk Safe team came to school to help our children understand and learn how to manage walking safely when we are out and about. Not only when walking on roads and managing how to cross them safely but also when walking in and around parked cars.



World Book Day – Tuesday 6th March 2025



We are delighted to announce that the school will be taking an active part in this year's World Book Day. Our aim for World Book Day 2025 is linked to our core Christian value of **Courage** and how this value can also be linked to a broader set of British Values we often talk about in school. With support from all our families, it is our absolute ambition for every child in our school to be given the teaching, the time, the tools, and the resources to become fluent readers and emotionally engage in the love of reading. The evidence shows that by supporting a child to read for pleasure this ambition can and will be achieved. All our children must be able to:

- be read to regularly at home and at school
- access high quality books at home and at school
- have choice in what they want to read for pleasure as well as reading to support phonetical understanding
- have trusted adults and peers sharing and recommending books
- enjoy the reading experience, and
- have designated time to read.

To celebrate World Book Day itself

- The children are invited to come to school in their World Book Day costume representing a book character, author, or theme, even better if it can be linked to our **Courage** theme. They are asked to bring a £1.00 contribution which will be used for the purchase of new books for the school.

- During the day, each class will be engaging with a range of World Book Day resources. Please take a look at this World Book Day web link which offers an amazing array of ideas and resources, webinars, and recommended reads. It also has an extremely useful section on ideas for costumes – all linked to a book of course!

[World Book Day March 2025](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

As we approach our half term break, many parents and children will be deciding how to best plan the time around work commitments and turbulent weather whilst other families will be

organising holidays. The following website has some great ideas about how to spend the half term break without breaking the bank!

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/december/supporting-your-child-s-wellbeing-during-the-school-holidays/>



Supporting your child's wellbeing during the school holidays - Place2Be^[1]

Place2Be's Principal Educational Psychologist, Dr. Julia Clements, shares some simple tips and advice for making the most of the school holidays with your children.

www.place2be.org.uk^[2]

1 - [1] <https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/december/supporting-your-child-s-wellbeing-during-the-school-holidays/> [2] <https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/december/supporting-your-child-s-wellbeing-during-the-school-holidays/> [3] <http://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Mental health and wellbeing book this week:

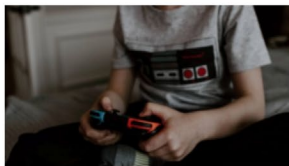
Pizza Pete and the Perilous Potions by Carrie Sellon, illustrated by Sarah Horne. Published by Guppy Books. 08 June 2023. ISBN: 978-1913101954. Theme of: **anxiety** is covered in this extremely funny and highly illustrated story of a young boy trying to help his dad save the family pizza takeaway. It's a deliciously entertaining read with a positive message at its heart.



Online Safety

As more and more children have access to technology - from online games to Kindles and phones, we have discovered a website that can help navigate the positive and safe use of technology for all of the family. Please take a moment to read the following article:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parenting/7-tips-to-help-our-children-use-technology-well/>



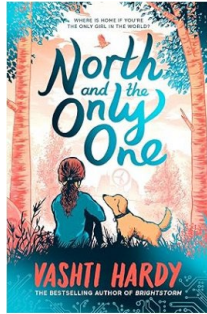
7 tips to help our children use technology well - Care for the Family^[1]

'Mummy,' he said, 'don't bring your phone with you. You have to watch it properly with me.' That was me told, but he had a good point. I needed to take that opportunity to connect with him and not check my emails, reply to texts, or browse my newsfeed on Facebook.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk^[2]

2 - [1] <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parenting/7-tips-to-help-our-children-use-technology-well/> [2] <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parenting/7-tips-to-help-our-children-use-technology-well/> [3] <http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/>

Book Review by Eloise, Sika Class



This book is for readers of 9 + years. I enjoyed learning about Rose's adventure because she experienced a lot of adventures which ultimately ended in the discovery, she was only part human.... A particularly pulse racing part of the story which upset me a little as well, was when a stung grenade hit the dog called North. This interrupted the wiring inside of North, so Rosie's mother needed to help him, and Rosie cried into his fur....This is an amazing book and I would give it a full five stars!



Maths Challenge Day at St Gabriel's for Year 5 by Rory, Eleanor, Eloise and Poppy

We were given 20 questions which we had to solve as a group. Eleanor and Eloise liked the Sudoku style challenges called the Magic Squares. Eloise liked the staff at St Gabriel's because they were great at giving hints and tips to solve the challenges. Rory enjoyed solving the multi-step problems involving square numbers. Poppy liked the linear number problems.

Year 6 Maths Challenge Day at St Johns, Marlborough by Sasha, Fred, Gilbert and Joseph

Fred's highlight of the Maths challenge day was having a great lunch! He also enjoyed completing the quick quizzes and a 'T' challenge which was a bit like using algebra. Joseph really enjoyed working with the other Year 6's from Chilton Foliat to tackle the challenges. He particularly enjoyed the 'handshake challenge' and the 'T' challenge with Fred. Sasha also enjoyed learning about 'T' and square route numbers, She really enjoyed the experience of secondary school, especially ordering food from the canteen and the kind teachers! Overall, the experience was very enjoyable and if she had the opportunity, she would do this all over again! Gilbert's highlights were the quizzes because they were interesting. He also enjoyed working

both independently and with the other Year 6's from our school to complete all of the challenges. The Year 6's would recommend the maths challenge days to anyone who has the opportunity to attend these experience days.

Food Glorius Food!



We are delighted that our school lunch offer remains so popular and our talented chefs continue to find new ways to tempt the children to eat well and try new dishes. We are also aware that the cost of living remains a pressure on our families and with that in mind we do not intend to increase the price per meal anytime this academic year, but will always strive to offer a "Michelin" style school food experience!

Dates for your diaries



Friday 14th February – Christingle Service at St Mary’s Church, Chilton Foliat at **2.00pm - All Welcome**

Friday 14th February - End of Term

Monday 24th February – Teacher Development (TD) Day – School Closed

Wednesday 26th February - Year 5 & 6 Hockey Festival

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Tuesday 11th March - Annual Reports Year 1-6 available to parents

Thursday 13th March - Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby

Tuesday 1st April - Year 4 & 5 Orienteering Festival

Friday 4th April - Easter Service at St Mary's Church Chilton Foliat at **2.00pm - All Welcome**

Friday 4th April - End of Term (No After School Club)

Our Christian Value for Spring Term is ***Courage***

My World, Your World, Our World, One World

