

# December Newsletter

**FLOWING**  
**STRENGTHENING**  
**DEEPENING**

LIKE A TREE FIRMLY PLANTED BY STREAMS OF LIVING WATER  
PSALM 1:3



Dear Parents/Carers

A slightly earlier newsletter this time as I wanted to make sure that you all had the most recent version of the school dates, which is below. There are so many events at this time of year and I know that it is very useful to have them all in one place. I wanted to particularly remind you about the events on the 12th December as not only is it Christmas Jumper day but it's also the day of the school Christmas dinner. If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner on this day you will need to book this using the usual system before 9.00 on the 12th. There is also now a non uniform Feel Good Friday the following day, more details about this are below.

I wanted to once again draw your attention to the issues that we have with parking around the school. Whilst some of these issues are to do with the taxi companies who drop off at school, there are also other cars that regularly stop on the zig zags or double yellow lines to drop children off. As well as being dangerous, this causes a lot of anxiety and is having the effect of stopping children riding their bikes or scooters to school. This is because parents/carers who might otherwise have encouraged this feel it is too unsafe when there are known to be vehicles stopping in these areas and restricting vision. Please do show consideration to other families.

My thanks to those of you who came to last week's Christmas fair, it was certainly busy and we are very grateful to Victoria and the HSA team for having organised this, as well as the forthcoming discos. There are just under two weeks left of the term and many more school events to come. I look forward to seeing you at many of these events and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas from everyone at the school.

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley



## Feel Good Friday This Friday

Dear Parents/carers,

We have another Feel-Good Friday mental health themed day planned for the 13th of December. Children will be able to wear their own clothes as usual.

The theme this time will be around meditation, and the children will be able to listen to a meditation, and think of their own imaginative or real place that they can draw to mind when they need a quiet moment.

Teachers will then support the children to design their own picture to reflect this place, and children in KS2 will be able to write a meditation for themselves to go with their design that they can then use at home.

If you have any old travel magazines or craft materials you think would come in handy please drop them off. We are not limiting the children with places they can choose from so are encouraging them to be super creative!

Also, if your child has a favourite place, maybe from a holiday, an experience or from your own or a relative's house or local area that makes them feel calm and happy, please send it in with them and they could use it to design their meditation picture.

If you would like to find out about meditation for children yourselves this website would be a good place to start [Meditation For Kids - Headspace](#) and there is a free trial available.

Nicky



## Computing News

### Bebras Competition 2024

Some of the Year 5 and Year 6 children have been practising their logical thinking skills at lunchtime at a Bebras club, run by Mrs Edwards. The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. This exciting challenge takes place in schools, under the supervision of teachers, over a two-week period every November. Last year, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participated!

In the UK, the challenge is open to all young people aged 6 to 19. Each participant has 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. The challenge is conducted online, and tasks are marked automatically by our competition system.

The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not.

The UK Bebras Challenge is organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford.

The results are now in! All the children did really well and received certificates in assembly. A special mention goes to George in Y6 and Felix S and Charlie in Y5 who achieved certificates of Merit. And a big well done to these children: Alex in Y6 and Dylan, Laura, Ralph and Ruby in Y5 who not only were awarded distinction certificates they also received a Gold Award, which means they came in the top 10% nationally!! Mrs Edwards has been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and their perseverance with the challenges, some of which are very tricky! Well done to everyone who took part.



## School Playground Project

As you may have noticed, the team of volunteers from AstraZeneca have now cleared the tall vegetation from the area that used to be the Caretaker's Bungalow. We are now really keen to get this dug over to a depth of 10mm and get some hardcore put down so that we can advance the project to create more playground space for the children.

Unfortunately we don't have the funds for this part of the project and are reliant on community good will to be able to move forward. If you or anyone you know have the

necessary equipment and insurance to help us with this we would be incredibly grateful. Please get in touch.



## Information From The Education Inclusion Family Advisor

### Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter December 2024


#### A Message From Me

I feel like December has flown around and I am nowhere near as prepared as I want to be!

The Christmas countdown will be exciting the children and our own inner child, but there could be a few stresses and strains sneaking in there too. It is ok to take a step back, slow things down and take some time for ourselves to breathe. I know that isn't easy with the children around but look for the calming memories you can make with creating a hot chocolate station and a cheesy Christmas film (a personal favourite of mine is ELF).

#### Activity Idea Celebrate your child at Christmas

Write down some awesome things that your child has done this year: Important events, achievements, starting a new hobby or club, learning to swim or ride a bike, creating some amazing art or writing a cool story etc. Tear them up and put the 'tickets' in a jar (which you can decorate with glitter/inse!) Then on Christmas eve, turn the lights off and the fairy lights on and enjoy taking out the 'awesome' tickets and talking through and remembering them together.



#### Ideas to try - Sensory differences

Christmas can be a tricky time for children who have sensory differences. Whether it's different smells, bright lights, sounds, tastes, these can be hard for children to manage, and they become overwhelmed. Here are some top tips to help them:

1. Plan in advance. Explore opportunities to go to events at a quieter time or see if they offer a SEN specific session.
2. Consider the length, size and venue. How long do you plan to spend there, what's the environment like, how busy will it be, is there a 'quiet space' offered where they can take a break if needed.
3. Wear ear defenders. Encourage your child to use ear defenders, ear plugs or earmuffs to help them manage loud noises. You could also ask if they would like to wear earphones and listen to their favourite music/story.
4. Use regulation tools. Distraction is a great way to help children cope with sensory input that they find distressing. Fidget toys, things that smell nice, fabric they enjoy, a tight hug, can all be helpful. You could build a 'sensory bag' to have at home or take with you when things might get tricky.

Source: [www.futurestepsoc.co.uk](http://www.futurestepsoc.co.uk)

#### Parent Workshops

We are running three online workshops for parents in December:

- Supporting your child with feelings of worry, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6pm – 7.30pm
- Sleep, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 12-1pm
- Supporting your child with feelings of anger, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – 7.30pm


Book here: <https://forms.office.com/e/8SPwRFD1>

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint ([www.pinpoint-cambis.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambis.org.uk)) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/localoffer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/localoffer)



Cambridgeshire  
County Council

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# Need Support This Winter? We're Here to Help

Winter can bring many challenges,  
but you don't have to face them alone.  
Qwell is here to support you.



Visit Qwell for free, confidential,  
and non-judgemental support  
whenever you need it.

Let's get through this  
winter together.

[www.qwell.io](http://www.qwell.io)

## Dates



**New Dates In Bold**

- 10th December - 9.30 - Willow - Wriggly Nativity
- 11th December - 9.30 - Ash - The Big Little Nativity
- 11th December - 2.15 - Elm - A Fireside Nativity
- **12th December - 5pm - Yr3 and 4 Christmas Cabaret**
- 12th December - School Christmas Dinner
- 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- **13th December - Feel Good Friday**
- 13th December - HSA Christmas Disco
- **16th December - 5pm - Yr5 and 6 Christmas Cabaret**
- 17th December Carols by Starlight on School Playground.
- **19th December Christingle Services at St. John The Baptist Church**
- **20th December Last Day of School**
- 23rd December - 3rd January - Christmas Break (School Closed)
- 6th January - Staff Training Day (School Closed)
- 7th January - Spring Term Begins
- **25th June Sports Day Carousel (Morning) and Picnic**
- **26th June Sports Day Races (Afternoon)**
- **2nd July Reserve date for - Sports Day Carousel (Morning) and Picnic**
- **3rd July Reserve date for - Sports Dar Races (Afternoon)**