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# HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual  
Responsibility and Excellence

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Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe how much we have been able to achieve and celebrate this week. We had our most successful Cross Country event, as a school, to-date on Saturday, held three gorgeous Christmas performances for Reception, Year 1 and 2 children, a virtual Bayeux Tapestry Workshop for Year 5 pupils and a fabulous Castles and Dragons Activity Day for Year 2. Oh - and I nearly forgot to mention our Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch today! Phew! I'm exhausted just remembering it all!

## Cross Country

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Cross Country Competition last Saturday. We had 20 runners (our highest number yet) and 4 podium, places. We are so proud of all of them! Well done to Aarika and Angelina (Y1), Tess, Percy, Thomas and Aurelia (Y2), Zara, Aadi, Isla and Paloma (Y3), TJ, Charlotte, Reece, Lara, Cara, Bella and Rowan (Y4), George (Y5), and Joe and Finn (Y6). A special mention to Angelina who came 1<sup>st</sup>, Charlotte who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Reece who came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in his race and overall, across the 3 Winter Series Year 6 Races!

## Christmas Performances

Thank you to all the children and staff in Reception, Years 1 and 2 for the wonderful Christmas performances this week. I'm sure you'll agree that the children were amazing, singing, dancing and signing to all the lovely songs. It was really special for the children to be able to perform to you. I think they enjoyed themselves as much as you all did! The children in Years 3-6 are looking forward to their performances next week.

## Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Thank you for helping us support National Christmas Jumper Day today, in Aid of Save the Children. I couldn't believe how many different styles of jumpers the children and staff were wearing! If you would like to donate to Save the Children, please use the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/theheightschristmasjumperday>

Thank you again to Ralfie's Gran for the fabulous personalised jumper she knitted for me last year. I am thoroughly enjoying wearing it again! Big thanks to Mrs Kovacs and all the Caterlink team and lunchtime staff for the delicious Christmas Dinner. It was so lovely to eat all together in our large school hall, with our friends, teachers and support staff.



## Reception

In Reception this week, we've been revising our Phase 2 Phonics sounds as we've finished Phase 2! In Maths, we've been exploring symmetry and patterns and sequences and made Christmas Tree boxes and buttons to wear for our Christmas Performance along with our brown outfits. We were SO excited to perform in front of you yesterday, and to wear our Christmas jumpers and eat the yummy lunch today.

## Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we've been writing letters to Father Christmas. Mrs Barker and Mrs Abraham will be sending these home so that we can share them with our parents, before we post them to the North Pole. In Maths, we've been completing some festive Maths challenges and in Science, we've continued to look at materials and their properties, thinking about flexibility, absorbency and transparency. We've enjoyed sewing Christmas Stockings and loved performing Hosanna Rock to you all yesterday.

## Year 2

This week, we've been completing some different assessments which will help us see how much fabulous progress we've been making in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science and what steps we need to take next. We've been making hand sewn binka baubles which we will bring home next week, and the Year 6 Eco Councillors came and taught us how to make Christmas Crackers. We had so much fun performing to you all on Tuesday and loved our Castles and Dragons themed activity day on Wednesday. We learned about the 'Siege of Reading', how to dance medieval style, what jobs people had in castles and then made our own concentric castles out of junk modelling. We then had Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner today. What a week!



## Year 3

This week, we completed an independent write, recounting the events of our Ancient Egypt day last week. In Maths, we've been focussing on different types of lines, starting with horizontal and vertical lines. We then drew right angles and later this week identified parallel and perpendicular lines. In Science, we've been learning about the different types of skeletons (exo, endo and hydrostatic skeletons) and in topic we continued to work on our Egyptian Pharaoh burial masks, adding gold paint to them as a base coat.

## Year 4

This week, in English we've continued to draft our persuasive letters to Matt Rodda, and have been looking at the 9 and 7 times tables in Maths and applying our reasoning and arithmetic knowledge in an assessment. In Science, we've been revising and naming parts of the digestive system, using key vocabulary such as glands, enzymes and enamel and in topic, we've been looking at the effects of climate change and global warming. We're developing our understanding of reducing carbon footprint and appreciation of how we ourselves can have an impact on reducing this problem.

## Year 5

In English this week, we've been learning the story of the Nutcracker and then illustrating and re-writing it in our own words. In Maths, we've completed some end of term assessments as well as some festive work on line graphs and multi-step problems. Our line graphs show what time Santa arrives in different cities around the globe - the children of Reading can expect their presents to arrive by 07:30 on Christmas Day! In Science, we've been considering what factors affect the time it takes for salt to dissolve in water and in RE we enjoyed our first debate, which was about whether the true meaning of Christmas has been lost. We thoroughly enjoyed our virtual Bayeux Tapestry Workshop, led by staff from Reading Museum, and are really looking forward to singing some carols for you next week. Here's a few photos of some of the children wearing Norman Helmets, our line graphs and rehearsing for our Christmas Performance.



## Year 6

We've been working hard on our homework projects linked to our topic and have blown Mrs Rogers away with the quality of them - so much so, that after speaking to Mrs Edwards, they agreed that some of us will present them to some parents and Governors in the New Year! In addition to our presentations, we've been starting to look at non-chronological reports this week. We're researching unusual and exotic animals and will take on the role of a zoologist to help us write high quality texts. In Maths, we've been using and applying what we have learned this term to solve multi-step word problems and in Science we've been exploring the evolutionary similarities in animals that inhabit the same groups. In Topic, we have been exploring the different designs of World War 1 vehicles, focussing especially on the new technology - tanks. We will compare the tanks of allied and central powers and then design and build our own in the coming weeks. We're really enjoying our computing lessons, where we've been creating games and are now looking at how we can create a scoring system for our gaming projects. Finally, in DT, we've been designing, sticking and sewing Christmas decorations.

## Twitter

The school has a Twitter Feed - please follow [@AtHeadteacher](#) for updates!

## Dates for the Diary

Year 3 & 4 Christmas Christingle	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 9.15am
	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2.15pm
Panto - Key Stage 2 at the Hexagon	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 5 & 6 Community Singalong	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm
Year 5 & 6 Christmas Singalong for Parents	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 9.15am

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edwards