

Willow Park News 6

17 December 2021



Dear parent(s) / carer(s),

It has been a wonderful end to the term with the celebrations of Christmas in full swing. The children have taken part in the School nativity (which we shall be able to share with you soon), Christmas parties, glow in the dark dodgeball and ending with carols around the Christmas tree today.

The one thing that is special about the children of Willow Park is that regardless of the children's own beliefs and religious values, they throw themselves into learning about new things about different religions.

Our children are so respectful, and they are a huge credit to Willow Park and to you as parents.

Covid update

You will have seen from the news that the new strain, Omicron, is really starting to have an impact on communities around the country and this has been no different in Bristol. Luckily, our cases at Willow Park have been really low and we have been monitoring the situation very carefully.

After the Christmas break, we shall be re-evaluating our risk assessment in line with local and national guidance in order to keep your children as safe as possible in school. Please be aware that school is open as normal from the

5th January 2022 unless you hear otherwise.

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance continues to be low and the majority of this has been down to illness or children with Covid symptoms.

However, there has been a significant number of requests for leave over the coming period. Please note that unless the circumstance you are requesting leave for is unavoidable, rare, and necessary, the leave will be unauthorised and could lead to further action. Any leave of absence will need to be passed through the leadership team and will notify you of the outcome.

Please also be aware that learning starts at 8:45am promptly - learning starts as soon as the children enter the classroom. Please ensure that children are in school for this time please.

Parking

Please note that we have limited space around school for vehicles to park and the surrounding area around Willow Park can be congested - if you are able to walk, use public transport or park further away that will really help us in moving forward. Many thanks.

I would like to end with a heartfelt thanks to the team at Willow Park. The staff have worked tirelessly to ensure your children receive the best learning experiences and definitely deserve a well-earned break this Christmas.

Also thank you to you all at home for continuing to support your children's learning. It's great to know we have a strong partnership between school and home in order to give your children what they deserve.

I wish you all a wonderful break and a merry Christmas.

Chris Larke-Phillips

Reception places for September 2022 – apply by 15 January

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 you need to apply for a Reception place by 15 January 2022. Please apply online via the following link:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply>

We would love to welcome you and your child at Willow Park!

INSET Day

4 January 2022

Please note that Tuesday, 4 January 2022 is an INSET Day.

We look forward to welcoming the children **back on Wednesday, 5 January 2022.**

Robin Class (YR)

We have been getting very festive and crafty in Robin Class this week as we have been learning about What Christmas means to Christians.

We have been exploring watercolours and metallic watercolours to create some beautiful tree inspired Christmas cards and also making our own Christingles.

We have been focusing on this term's enquiry questions 'What is a Show' through practising our Christmas nativity of The Little Fir Tree.

We were so sad we weren't able to show off all our singing and acting talents to a live audience this year but hope you will enjoy the recorded version

from the comfort of your own homes.

We hope all our lovely little Robins have a well-deserved Christmas break at home with their families and we look forward to welcoming them all back reenergised and ready to take on a new year of learning, play and creativity.

Happy Christmas to all our families

From Mrs Leaker and Miss Comfort

Starling Class (Y1)

In Starling class, we have been very busy rehearsing our Nativity play, but we always have time for Fun Maths exploring 2D and 3D shapes, we have been learning about them, playing with them and

making some incredible patterns.

Also, we have followed the instructions to grow a Christmas Tree in 12 Hours.

It was very impressive.

Here are some pictures, but please ask your child about it!



Goldfinch Class (Y2 / Y3)

What a wonderful, exciting term we have had! From starting off the term being historians and looking at all Mrs Jones' old mobile phones, to finishing the term producing a fantastic play.

The Year 3's have excelled themselves, working with Rich at becoming music directors and performers.

Year 2 have shone on the stage performing "The Little fir tree" by Carole Matthews.

We know that Mrs van der Laan would have been very impressed with all of the Goldfinch children and we hope that she rests and feels better soon.

We would like to finish, wishing everyone a restful and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

What's on

Here are some dates and reminders...

Term 3

Swimming

Year 4 and **Year 6** and Golden Eagle class will be swimming in Terms 3 and 4.

Clubs in Term 3

Zumba (Y1-Y6): Continuing. £20 per term from next term

Sport (all years): Continuing. £2 per session from next term.

Places still available. Please sign up via ParentPay!

Term 4

Year 6 Residential Trip

Mon, 4 Apr – Fri, 8 Apr 2022

Culmington Manor

Term Dates and INSET Days

Term 3:

Tue 4 Jan – Fri 18 Feb 2022

INSET Day: Tue, 4 Jan

The first day back for the children will be Wed, 5 Jan

Term 4:

Mon 28 Feb – Fri 8 Apr 2022

Term 5:

Mon 25 Apr – Fri 27 May 2022

INSET Day: Fri 27 May

The last day of term for the children will be Thu, 26 May.

Term 6:

Mon 6 Jun – Thu 21 Jul 2022

Golden Eagle Class (Y4 / Y5 / Y6)

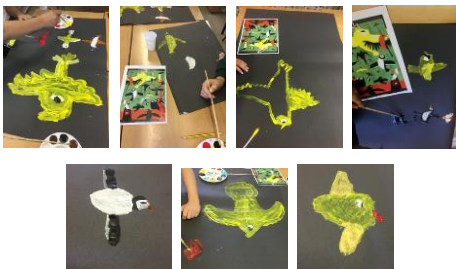
The Golden Eagles had a wonderful day out at the SS Great Britain learning about how people crossed continents before aeroplanes.



We were particularly interested to see how tiny the cabins were and how closely packed the passengers were.

Continuing our theme of journeys, we talked about how birds migrate like people do.

Here are some of our paintings.



Merry Christmas from the Golden Eagles!



Kingfisher Class (Y4 / Y5)

Kingfisher have had a busy end to the term.

We have been finishing off our work on the Mayans by writing a non-chronological report and making some clay tiles with Mayan Hieroglyphs.



The class have also been working hard on an assembly that we will present to the rest of the school this week.

It has been a long term and I am really pleased with how well the children have applied themselves in what are still challenging times.

In between all the hard work, we have found time to enjoy some of the fun activities that come with the end of term (I am sure you have been hearing all about them!)

I hope you all enjoy a joyful, restful break and I look forward

to welcoming the children back in 2022!

Owl Class (Y6)

We have had such an eventful time in Owl Class.

We were invited to spend an afternoon in the delightful bijou cinema of 20th Century Flix, an experience which we really enjoyed and felt so grateful for.

On Monday, we took part in an Audio Advent Calendar event at St Michael's Hospital; it was great to be able to get back out in the community and spread some festive cheer and represent our school locally.

We have since learnt about multiplying fractions by fractions as well as what the story of the Transfiguration as told by Matthew and Luke means to Christians. We have looked at how this important event has been represented in Art by painters such as Raphael and Bellini. Fascinating!

Winter Support for Children & Households – from Bristol City Council

Over the school winter break children and young people in Bristol who are eligible for free school meals can access free holiday club places that include provision of a hot, nutritious meal, through Your Holiday Hub (YHH). The free places are funded by the Department for Education as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The YHH programme also includes over 3,500 food parcels from FareShare South West, going to around 40 different organisations across the city,

Through the council's Household Support Fund, during the Christmas period around 28,000 households and individuals, of working age, on Housing Benefit or the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will receive a one-off £100 supermarket voucher to spend on food and household goods. Free school meal vouchers will be made available to parents of eligible early years and school age children during February 2022 half term, as they were in October 2021 half term.

Please find full details in the Press Releases below:

[£4 million grant given approval to support vulnerable Bristol residents - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/news/press-releases/4-million-grant-given-approval-to-support-vulnerable-bristol-residents)

[Your Holiday Hub returns to support families this Christmas - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/news/press-releases/your-holiday-hub-returns-to-support-families-this-christmas)