

Newsletter –December 2025



Important dates for your diary:

Monday 5th January – School Closed for Development Day (2/5)

Tuesday 6th January – Start of Spring Term.

Friday 6th February – Number Day (more details to follow).

Tuesday 13th January – 9.30am – Coffee and a Chat with Chris (venue TBC depending on numbers). **Please let the school know if you will be attending in person or online.**

Thursday 29th January – Newsletters to parents

Friday 30th January – Dance Live!

Monday 2nd February – Stay and Learn (two weeks).

Week beginning Monday 9th February;

- Children's Mental Health week
- Golden eye (earwig assessments)

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Monday 16th – Friday 20th – Half Term

Headteacher update:

What a wonderful week we have had here at both School Lane and Green Street sites!! We've had a jam packed schedule of Christmas performances, church services and parties. As we come to the end of the Autumn term we are reminded how inspirational our children are and how much they love taking part in shows and performances! There was not a dry eye in the house during our Christmas shows and in true Medina House style, these were filled with fun, friendship and lots of smiles. A huge 'shout out' to Andrew and Layna who were the narrators for both the KS1 and KS2 performances which involved standing up in front of everyone and talking into a microphone – they both spoke so clearly and confidently! These shows and services do not happen by accident and a huge thank you to all class teams who were instrumental in their success!

Some sad goodbyes:

This week we have said farewell to a much loved member of staff, Paula. Many of you would have spoken to Paula over the many years she has worked in the office and was always a smiley face, greeting visitors and staff into the school. She is starting a well-earned retirement but I'm sure she'll be back from time to time to see us all. On

behalf of the pupils, staff and governors at Medina House school I would to thank Paula for all of her hard work and commitment to our school over the years!

We also say goodbye to Georgia who has completed her first teaching placement at the school. Georgia has been based in Seal class and has settled so well into MHS life. We wish her well on the rest of her training and hope to see her again soon. Thank you, Georgia for your hard work and dedication to the children!

A special thank you:

Whilst our PTA is no longer running, it was great to see former members coming into the school this week to decorate a Santa's grotto at both School Lane and Green Street- this is very much appreciated by us all and thank you for giving up your time for the children.

Also a thank you to Zack, a Stingray parent, for giving up his time in setting up and leading our Christmas disco.

Development day reminder:

A reminder that the school is closed on Monday 5th January for our second development day of the year. The start of the Spring Term is Tuesday 6th January.

Chillerton Update:

We are raring to go in opening our Chillerton site! Lianne and her team are preparing to welcome seven new pupils to our school in January. This has been a lower anticipated number but will steadily grow over the Spring and Summer term.

A reminder that these new pupils (and families) are all part of our Medina House family and in time will be joining whole school celebrations, performances and using facilities at all of our sites.

In terms of staffing, only **one** member of the Newport team has requested to move to Chillerton with all other staff being new to our school. All current and required roles are filled with no staff vacancies.

Staffing update:

In terms of a broader update regarding staffing, we are well staffed across all of our sites with only one TA vacancy.

We do have some vacancies for Midday Supervisory Assistants (MSAs) and if you know anyone that may be interested in these niche roles then please do let us know.

Continence service update:

Victoria Bamford, the Children's Continence Associate Practitioner, has asked that if parents can contact her directly so she can arrange any home visit appointments as required. She can be reached on 07825858412.

Home-School Link Worker update:

After a successful recruitment process, we have now appointed our new Home-School Link Worker. Vicky joins the team in February but will be spending some time popping into school before then to discuss the next steps and strategy moving forward.

More information and the next steps to follow in the January newsletter.

On behalf of all of the staff team, I hope that you all have a lovely festive break and we look forward to seeing all children back in school on **Tuesday 6th January**.

Festive wishes

Chris



Class team update:

As the weather gets colder please make sure children have lots of warm layers to wear into school and when we go outside during the day, including a water proof layer.

Swimming is on a **Monday**. It is always helpful to have two towels if possible, a disposable swimming pad and washable splash about pants.

Library is on **Thursday** mornings, so please remember your book bags.

Octopus Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Happy

Week Two: Harper

Week Three: Learning, - HS Kindness-TD, Safe AH.

The Learning we have been focusing on this month:

We have been really enjoying our new topic 'Worldly Celebrations'

Please continue to practice and sign our topic words when at home; celebrate, party, music, lights, share and present.

In Literacy, we have loved our sensory story, 'Christmas is coming'. The children have engaged with the different sensory experiences as the story works through all the senses.

In Maths, we continue to work on early number skills and following instructions, in out and on. We love singing counting songs; the children are engaging and showing recognition of known songs and props.

We have introduced a 'counting Christmas Magic' story using props which is helping to make counting fun.

In Art, we have really enjoyed all of our Christmas art using different painting, printing techniques and making many crafts using a variety of art tools and everyday objects.



Literacy/mark making

Every day, we practice writing and working on our fine motor skills. These skills help us develop coordination, life skills; and our writing skills.

Switch work

We show a lot of enjoyment while working with switch activated toys and lights; developing our hand eye co-ordination and showing understanding of cause and effect.



Art

We love to explore and create our masterpieces in Art, learning new skills and helping us to develop strength, coordination and fine motor skills.

Fine motor/Mark making

We work on these techniques each morning helping to strengthen and develop further skills. We often experience sensory trays or use different tools to create marks.



Numeracy

Number work is so important, whether it's through songs and actions rhymes or practical maths and experiencing our new number stories. We have really enjoyed counting objects as we put them 'in' and take them 'out'.

Cooking

We've experienced making several food items to share at home.

We show enjoyment learning different life skills with chopping, mixing, pouring, adding one more and seeing the task from beginning to the end.



Christmas fun!



Sensory

We often create a mini environment area to experience light and dark, to help focus on sounds and our senses.



Christmas jumper day

Thank you for your support with this.

Christmas nativity

Barmy Bethlehem....we think these pictures say it all!

