

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

Merry Christmas

Class team update:

What a wonderful first term Otter class have had.

The class have worked so hard already, formed friendships with their peers and we are excited to see what 2026 brings for them and their learning together.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful, festive break.

See you all in 2026!

Otter Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Micah

Week Two: Lenny

Week Three: Ella- Mae

Learning that we have been focusing on this month:

Well done Otters for a very busy December. The class were amazing in the Christmas show and we are very proud of you all!

Our learning this month has been focused on creating special Christmas bags for our families with lots of wonderful treats inside for you.

We have used all areas of our learning to make all the gifts but the class especially loved the cooking sessions!



Christmas Show

Well done Otter class for a wonderful performance in the Christmas show.

We had the best time singing and dancing on the stage!

PHSE

In PHSE we have been working on taking turns and sharing with our friends. We have been using choice boards to pick the games we want to play and who with and have especially enjoyed our new board games.



Outside Learning

In outside learning this month we have thoroughly enjoyed using the bikes and scooters! We talked about keeping safe whilst using them and what we need to protect ourselves. The class were great at cheering each other on and taking turns too. Well done Otters!



Maths (measure)

In measure this month we enjoyed making some Christmas treats for our families. We measured out all the ingredients to make peppermint creams. The class really enjoyed rolling the icing out and dipping them in chocolate!





Science

In science we have been experimenting through taste! We had all the ingredients for decorating our own gingerbread trees and we explored them by smelling and tasting.

The children chose their own colour icing and different toppings with sprinkles being a favourite!

The class were then able to taste and eat their creations- some really liked it while others weren't very keen at all!

Design Technology

In DT this month we made the most wonderful Christmas carton lanterns.

The class thoroughly enjoyed using Christmas crafts to decorate their milk cartons before adding the coloured light inside. They enjoyed exploring them after and trying to look through them!



Communication

The class have been amazing at using the TD Snap app on the iPad to express their wants and needs especially at snack time.

Now they have mastered using it with this part of their daily routine, it will now be on offer for all areas of their learning and their day.