

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:

The children have been wonderful this term and although they have found some of the changes to our timetable more of a challenge they have persevered and got on really well.

Can we please ask as the colder weather approaches that we have at least one set of spare clothes, wellies, a warm coat, and hat (if your child is likely to wear it). Most of you have brought this in already. Please can we also ask that your child's clothing, bag, lunchbox/bag and drink bottle are named. This ensures that if they are ever misplaced, they can always be returned to their rightful owner.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for an amazing term in Puffin Class and I have enjoyed getting to know all your children, they make coming to work an absolute pleasure. I know they will continue to flourish with Holly and the team.

Puffin Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Hunter

Week Two: Maisie

Week Three: Stars of the Term – Lily, Jack and Maisie

Week Four:

Learning that we have been focusing on this month:

We have been continuing to work hard in all aspects of our learning based around our topic of 'Wordly Celebrations'. These last few weeks we have been exploring the theme of Christmas. We have enjoyed the story 'We're Going on a Present Hunt' and are all getting very good at some of the Makaton signs we have learnt alongside the story.

Literacy

In literacy the children have enjoyed taking part in a sensory story. They have enjoyed feeling the spikey Christmas tree leaves, shaking the jingle bells and listening to the reindeer crunch some carrots. The children all engaged in a range of festive phonics activities, they especially liked finding foam Christmas shapes in the shredded paper, matching the letters together and finding the initial sounds.

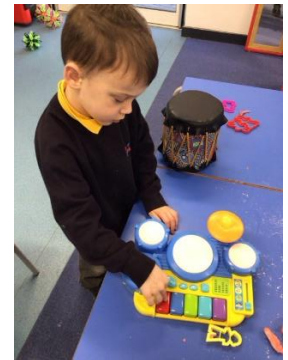
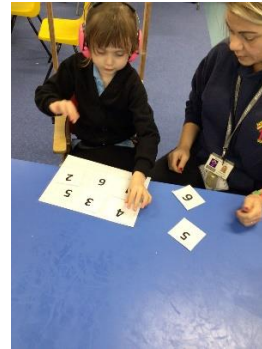




Maths

In maths we have continued to learn about numbers, matching number cards and counting out colourful boulders for our dumper trucks. The children have enjoyed a fishing game, where they had to fish out the correct number of coloured fish using a pipe cleaner hook.

We have also learnt about big and small, we sorted different toys into big and small piles, as well as sorting different sized pine cones, candy canes and dried orange. The children enjoyed feeling the different textures and smelling the oranges.



RE

We have explored the Christmas Story recently. The children enjoyed creating stable scenes, sticking characters from the nativity to a stable picture. The children really enjoyed learning the songs for the nativity and danced along in the classroom, copying some of the actions and signs.

We learnt about Christingle and made a Christingle in the class. The children liked adding on all the different elements.



DT

The children have enjoyed making lanterns. We have used tissue paper and paint to decorate cup lanterns and paper lanterns. The children enjoyed choosing the colours they wanted to decorate their lanterns.



PSHE

The children have been starting to show us how good they can be at sharing toys. We have had a lovely donation on some vehicles and the children have enjoyed taking turns to have a go with them. The children have continued to show us how great they are at circle time. They are now starting to recognise themselves and their friends and say their names when they are shown their picture. The children then say hello to everyone and put their picture up on the board.



