

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: We hope you have a good Christmas break and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing the children in January for another fun packed term. Although we can only have 3 stars we think the whole class are amazing and all the children deserve a round of applause for how hard they all work.



Starfish Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Jude

Week Two: Pheebie / Owen

Week Three: Joseph

Stars of the term:

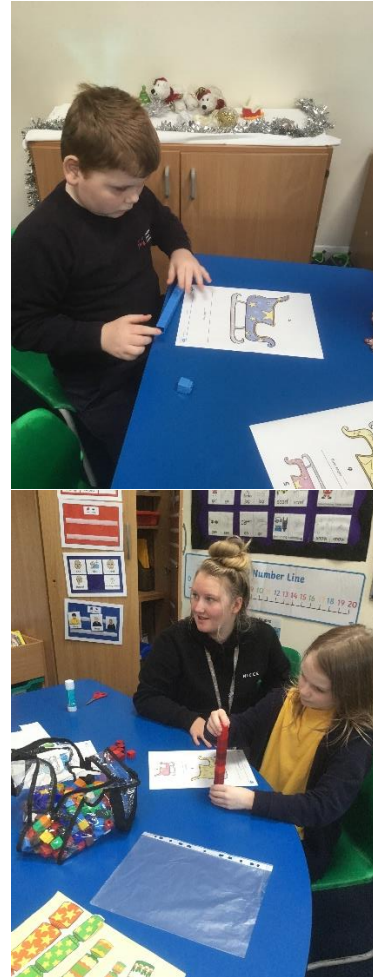
Learning - Fraiser, Kindness – Pheebie, Staying Safe – Harry.

Learning that we have been focusing on this month: We have started all our Christmas preparations alongside continuing our literacy and numeracy work. We have finished our focus story of Stick Man and have been listening to the story Grandad's cracker won't go bang. The children enjoy having their own copies of the story to follow while others enjoy exploring the props.

We have had a push on the children being more independent in a variety of areas – personal care routines, clearing away after themselves and carrying out little jobs for the adults.

Maths

We work with the children daily on their individual counting skills. We also worked on size – measuring different Christmas pictures with cubes to see how long they were.



Cross curricular learning

We were learning about India in Geography and did some work for ICT and RE. We learnt about Diwali and used the paint programme on Busy Thing to make Rangoli patterns. We didn't finish there on top of this we made tea light holders in DT.





Christmas dinner

The children enjoyed their Christmas dinner last week. Thank you to the cook for the yummy food. Some children enjoyed the roast while some just needed the usual routine of their lunch boxes and classroom for their lunch.



Christmas show – Behind the scenes

As you can imagine getting the children ready for a Christmas show can prove difficult and a bit busy at times! Here is a sneak preview of the behind the scene fun – getting the children dressed up for their performance!



Literacy

The children sit during story time with their own copies of the story to follow. They also like to explore the different props that go with the story.



Fun in the snow!



Church

Once again the children did us proud at church and even those that didn't come were amazing back at school. Well done Starfish we hope you all have a good rest over Christmas.



