



DENNINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter Christmas 2025



Chaffinches

Well, what a busy half term Chaffinches have had! They have continued to develop their understanding of our school rules and are really starting to gel together as a class, being kind and supportive to one another. They are VERY enthusiastic about their learning and are enjoying all our curriculum has to offer.

In phonics, Chaffinches have now completed phase 2 and have mastered the beginning of phase 3. Look out adults...digraphs are on the horizon! They remain VERY enthusiastic about digraphs and are beginning to spot them in their reading time – well done Chaffinches! They are starting to form letters, working on their pencil grip. They have particularly enjoyed using the clipboards!



In maths, Chaffinches have been using their measuring skills in context, making Christmas crispy cakes with Mrs Bowman. They were very hot on hygiene rules and kept Mrs Hoad-Sharp in line when she NEARLY ate some mixture off the spoon. They even made little boxes for the cakes to go in 'just like in the shops!'

Chaffinches have also enjoyed a lovely trip to The Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell this term and impressed the trip co-ordinators with their fantastic behaviour and manners. They enjoyed looking at, making and testing out toys as part of our 'Toys of the Past' topic.

We are so proud of how well Chaffinches have settled and how much they have achieved already. A big thank you to our parents and carers for your support in helping the children start school so happily. We wish you all a wonderful, restful half term break — well done, Chaffinches!



Thank you for all your support from home this half term. We hope you have a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Robins

We've had a busy and exciting time in Robins class! Here's what we've been learning and enjoying together:

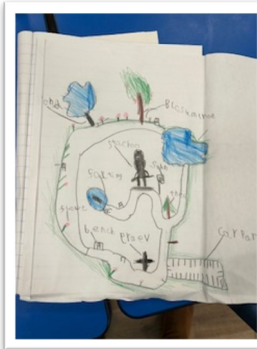


The children worked hard learning the songs and their lines for our Nativity performances. We are so proud of their hard work and they put on a great show!

In Maths, we have been exploring place value within 100 and practising counting in tens and ones. The children have also learnt how to compare numbers using the greater than (>), less than (<), and equal to (=) symbols. They've done brilliantly applying these skills in their work.

Our history lessons have focused on significant events, including Bonfire Night, World War I and Remembrance Day. The children acted out what it might have been like to be soldiers in the trenches, which really helped them understand the challenges faced during the war. They also designed a beautiful Remembrance Garden to reflect on why we remember the soldiers and their sacrifices.

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The Robins had a wonderful afternoon at their costume party, and great fun was had by all! Thank you for helping make this event so enjoyable.

The children have had a lovely week with lots of lovely Christmas activities and have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit.

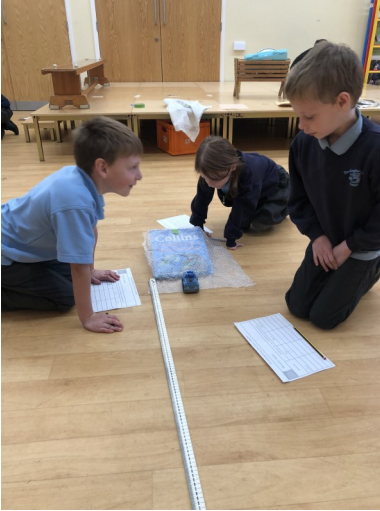


Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful Christmas and new year!



Wrens

We have had a busy term with lots of opportunities for learning!



In science, our topic has been forces and magnets. We carried out a number of experiments to find out more about forces including one to investigate the effects of friction. We released cars down a ramp and measured the distance travelled. We changed the surface of the ramp each time to see how friction effected how far the car had travelled. We made sure to keep everything in our experiment the same apart from the thing we were testing - the surface of the ramp.



In geography, we have been finding out what volcanoes are, where you find them and the affects of volcanoes on the people who live near to them. We kicked off the topic with a mini volcanic eruption in the classroom and learnt lots of new vocabulary including lava, magma and volcanic bombs. We watched a fascinating documentary about the Eldfell volcano that erupted on an Icelandic island called Heimaey in 1973. Despite most of the houses being buried in ash, the people were unharmed and managed to protect their fishing harbour.



In maths, we have been getting to grips with our times tables. The children really love learning them and we practice daily with songs—ask any child in Wrens or Swallows class and they will be able to sing you the song for the times table! In this last week of term we are having a battle of the bands times table competition on TT Rockstars. The children have been put into two bands *The Rocking Wrens* or *The Wren Sheerans*. The team with the highest times table score will win the coveted times table trophy!

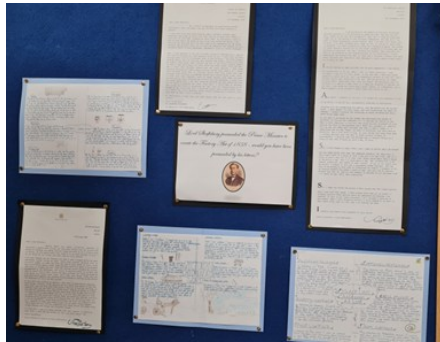
The children have produced some exciting stories linked to our book *The Barnabus Project*. They wrote a great escape chapter for the book where the main characters had to escape from the lab. They included speech marks and lots of exciting vocabulary.



Wrens wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Swallows



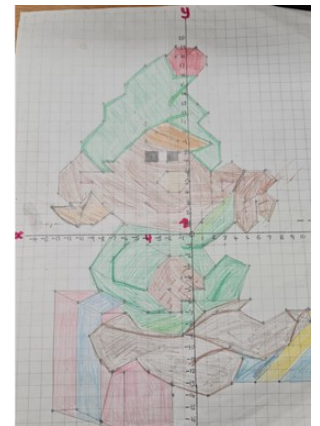
We have continued with our work on the Victorian Era, this half term covering the cholera epidemic, where we became detectives to work out where the source of the infection was from and how the spread could be prevented, using evidence available to Dr John Snow at the time!

The children have researched conditions for Victorian children at work and wrote (extremely) persuasive letters to the Prime Minister calling for the Factory Act of 1938. Their writing this term has been very high quality in content, with the children really engaging in the genre they have been learning. They have also worked hard on their hand writing and produced some beautifully presented work.



We are nearly through all the work on fractions—probably the most difficult area of maths, so there was a sigh of relief there! The children have done well to master all the methods for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

We went on to coordinates in the four quadrants—always good to do at Christmas!



Swallows have enjoyed a brilliant half term developing their geography fieldwork skills.

Their trips to Aldeburgh and Framlingham were a huge success, with the children working sensibly and showing geographical curiosity as they collected data for a traffic survey, recorded observations for a building-type survey, and gathered views from the local community through public opinion questionnaires. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork and asked thoughtful, well-considered questions. The high-quality data they have gathered will be used back in school to draw conclusions and present our findings.



In science, the Swallows have been exploring electricity, learning about circuits and the meaning of different symbols. They have been enthusiastic in building circuits and understanding how electricity flows. This work will continue into the new year, including an exciting visit to Sizewell Power Station, where they will see electricity generation in action and make real-world connections to their learning.

Well done, Swallows—you deserve a rest now over Christmas!



Forest School

The children have had lots of fun at forest school half term doing all sorts of activities including den building, nature art.



Christmas Table Decorations

The entries into the Christmas table decoration competition were all fantastic. The children had all put a lot of hard work and effort into their decorations and it was so hard to choose the winners. The table decorations then decorated the hall and tables so beautifully when we all ate our Christmas dinner.

Congratulations to Molly, Arty, Lilith, Ollie, Leo B, Millie and Maria who won first prize in their year groups!



Thank you to everyone who supported the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.
As a school, we raised £100!





FRIENDS OF DENNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (FODS)



Its been a busy few weeks for the FODS team, (as it is for many of us!) as Christmas draws ever nearer. We have loved providing refreshments at the two nativity performances and watching the amazing chaffinch and robin children, what stars they were! Thank you to the Neathouse for making the scrumptious mince pies.



In addition, a big thank you to all of you who have donated prizes for our Christmas coloured raffle hampers, we have been blown away by the amount of donations, the boxes are looking fab, what amazing gifts they will make! So far we have raised £241.50 on this with tickets still selling daily ahead of the final draw on the last day of term.

Of course the highlight of the last few weeks was the Christmas grotto when the big man himself paid a very special visit to Dennington school. Some of the FODS were delighted to help him as stand in elves while the real ones were busy making presents back in the North Pole. It was such a magical day and we loved watching all the children's excited faces as they met Father Christmas and had some lovely chats with him. What a treat!



As 2025 draws to a close, FODS are turning our thoughts to 2026 and look forward to arranging more lovely events and fundraising efforts for our school.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Emma Keeble, FODS Chair, on behalf of your FODS committee





Class Christmas Parties



Christmas Lunch



Christingles



Christmas Cards Fundraiser



Thank you to all who ordered Christmas cards.

You helped raise an amazing **£184** which has been given to FODs!



Cross Country Finals at Hartismere

A fantastic effort from Harrison, Fletcher, Ethan, Tom and Charlie.



After School Club & Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available 8am-8.45am from Monday to Friday @ £5.00 per session including breakfast.

After School Club is available on Mondays (Lego), Tuesdays (Craft), Thursdays (Games) and Fridays (Film club) from 3.15-5.30pm. You can book a session from 3:15pm to 4:30pm for £5 or 3:15pm to 5:30pm for £8. Multi Sports Club with Premier Education runs Wednesdays 3:15pm to 4:15pm and must be booked and paid for with Premier Education at £5 per session.

Breakfast Club does not run on the first day of any term.

After School Club does not run on the last day of any term.

Please remember to prebook using Arbor account to ensure we have sufficient provisions and staff.

Dates For Your Diary

January

- Monday 5th—Non-pupil day
- Tuesday 6th—Children back to school
- Tuesday 6th—No breakfast club
- Friday 9th—Wrens begin weekly swimming
- Thursday 15th—Parents evening, booking open from Tuesday 6th January
- Thursday 22nd—10am, PINS coffee morning



*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

