

Lacock Primary School Newsletter

"Love each other as I have loved you" John 15:12



Email: admin@lacock.wilts.sch.uk

Tel: 01249 730271

Term 2 Issue 8

Friday 13th December 2024

A message from Mr Laws

As we come to a close of the term, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to make our year so far so incredibly special at Lacock Primary School. **The teaching staff, support staff and office staff** have committed so much time and effort into not only ensuring our children have a high standard of teaching and learning every day, but also making every effort to bring their curriculum to life through trips, visits and visitors...they are always going above and beyond in all they do, for which I am so grateful.



The **Friends of Lacock School (FLS)**, through their hard work and dedication enable us to offer our children a wealth of enrichment opportunities which we otherwise couldn't offer...see below for a snapshot of how they've supported us in just the last fortnight! Sam, Ellie and Jess at the **Lacock Shop** have also been amazing in supporting our school endeavours, helping provide food before the Lantern Parade. **Mr Hillier** has also given so much time to capture beautiful photos of many school events, which helps us to show off some of the amazing things we are able to do! The **National Trust** and **St Cyriac's Church** have been working with our school to come up with new and exciting plans for the future, starting with this week's Lantern Parade...the future is looking very exciting indeed! Thank you so much to **all in our school community** who have supported our school, whether it's the time you offer, money you help us to raise, donations to Christmas hampers, creating costumes for nativities, positive feedback to the school, and much, much more...our wonderful little school wouldn't be as amazing as it is without all of your support...**THANK YOU!**

From all within the Lacock Primary School Team, we would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Mr Laws

Celebration Awards

Every Friday, we celebrate the achievements of our children in our Celebration Worship, with each class choosing a **Star of the Week Award** for being a superstar in learning, behaviour or attitudes, a **School Values Award** for demonstrating our school values, and a **Hot Chocolate Award** for consistently doing the right thing!



Congratulations to the following children who were selected in **Term 2 Week 4/5**:

Willow Class (EYFS/Y1)

Beech Class (Y2/3)

Oak Class (Y4/5/6)



Elsie, Fletcher, James, Everest, Freddie & Gabriella

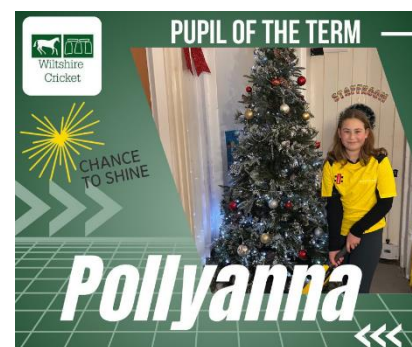
Hendry, Henry, Aayden, Jacob, Sophie, Livvy & Charlotte

Toby, Sanika, Annie, Arabella B, Finley & Arabella M

Pupil Achievements: Chance to Shine Pupil of the Term

We are so proud of **Pollyanna** for being awarded Wiltshire **Cricket's Chance to Shine PUPIL OF THE TERM** for Term 2. She is now in with a chance to win their Pupil of the year award! Well done, Pollyanna - what a wicket achievement!

"Pollyanna is always very polite and demonstrates a very good understanding during the sessions, taking it upon herself to offer assistance and encouragement to her classmates. She also works with the younger children without being asked to, showing both compassion and enthusiasm in whatever we are doing."



SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Lantern Parade Lights Up Lacock!

On **Monday 9th December**, the whole village community gathered together for one of the most spectacular and heart-warming events in our school calendar: **The Lacock Lantern Parade**. Starting in the school playground, children and their families gathered to sing some Christmas songs, before parading through the village towards Lacock Abbey with their lanterns lighting the way and Christmas music leading the way.



We entered the Abbey grounds, following lighted trail towards the courtyard, where we sang more songs around the National Trust's Christmas tree. This was then followed by the St Cyriac's Church Band, who treated us to a performance of more Christmas carols. It was wonderful to bring together many branches of our village community – the school, the National Trust, the church and the local residents – to celebrate and share this special event together.



Thank you to the **National Trust** for allowing us to parade into the Abbey, to **St Cyriac's Church Band** for providing live music, **Mrs Ley** for practising the songs with the children, and to **Mrs Crowe** and **Mrs Tedds** for leading the lantern-making workshops. It was a truly magical evening!

The **Friends of Lacock School** also raised a further **£366.75** through food and drink sales, very kindly supported by Lacock Shop! Thank you Sam and Ellie from the shop for supporting, and Jess Trought for designing the posters advertising the food/drink!



Willow Nativity Brings Christmas Spirit to School!

On **Tuesday 10th December**, Willow Class performed their Nativity – ***A Little Bird Told Me*** – to family and friends in two spectacular performances! The children worked so hard to learn their lines and pulled off a funny, beautiful and very special performance to bring Christmas spirit to the whole community!



Thank you to the children and families of Willow Class for working so hard to prepare, and thank you to the whole Willow Class staff team who dedicated so much time to help put on such an amazing performance. A special thank you goes to **Mrs Simms** for spending hours sewing many of the costumes, **Mrs Ley** for orchestrating the entire production and **Mr Hillier** for the fantastic photographs!



The **Friends of Lacock School** also raised a further **£108** through the Christmas Hamper raffle! Well done to the winners and thank you to parents of Willow Class for providing the prizes, and an extra thank you to Nettie Coop for creating such beautiful hampers to be won!

Good Luck John Watling!



Thursday 12th December marked the launch of local jewellers, **John Watling's**, incredible challenge to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean as part of Team Seasoar for The World's Toughest Row race in aid of Lyme's Disease UK. Last term, John visited our school with his boat to explain what his challenge would entail, show us his boat and answered lots of questions for us.

This week, our children sent him good luck messages and were featured on **BBC Wiltshire's Ben Prater's radio show!** You can listen to our messages of support from Josh, Livvy, Sophie, Finley, Astrid, Pollyanna, Arlo, Arabella B and Ruby here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0k5jj8n> at the 8:20 mark.



You can find out more about his team and how to track their progress live here at <https://teamseasoar.co.uk/> and if you'd like to support his fundraising efforts, visit his Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-watling>.
Good luck, John! We will be following you each stroke of the way!

Chippenham Sports Partnership: Multi Skills Event for Willow Class

On **Friday 6th December**, the Chippenham Sports Partnership **Christmas Multi Skills event** for Willow Class was a magical day filled with festive fun and laughter at Abbeyfield School! The day began with an energetic warm-up dance to the "12 Days of Christmas," setting the tone for an exciting celebration of movement and joy.



The main event featured 16 activity stations, each with a delightful Christmas theme. From reindeer relay races to snowball throwing and candy cane obstacle courses, the children explored a variety of fun, skill-building activities that kept them engaged and smiling. Each station was designed to encourage coordination, teamwork, and festive cheer. To wrap up this wonderful event, the children came together for a final rendition of the "12 Days of Christmas," complete with a joyful sing along that filled the room with festive spirit. It was a day of laughter, learning, and Christmas magic that the children will surely remember for years to come!



Sheldon Perform Peter Pan Panto for Lacock Pupils

On **Monday 9th December**, Oak Class were very kindly invited to **Sheldon School** to watch a fantastic **pantomime production of Peter Pan**. It was lovely for our children to be inspired and see what they could potentially be doing in a few years' time if the acting bug catches them! The children had a fantastic time and we are very grateful for being asked to come and watch.



Christmas Fun Run: Friday 13th December

On **Friday 13th December**, Beech and Oak Class went to Sheldon School for a **Christmas Fun Run** as another part of our involvement in the Chippenham Sports Partnership.

It was a festive, fun-filled morning with a certain, red-suited special visitor making an appearance! Although the wet weather meant our fun run became a Christmas Scavenger Hunt, we all still had a lovely morning! Well done, Beech and Oak Class!



Lacock Primary School go to the panto...OH NO THEY DIDN'T!

On **Wednesday 11th December**, our whole school went to **Salisbury Playhouse** to watch a fantastic **pantomime performance of Sleeping Beauty!** The children embarked on an unforgettable adventure as Princess Stella fell under the wicked curse of evil Fairy Badflick, doomed to sleep for a hundred years. It was full of dazzling dances, laugh-out-loud hilarity and sparkling songs...it was a real festive treat!



This trip would not have been possible if it weren't for the **Friends of Lacock School**, who contributed £1200 towards the cost of the trip. Thank you FLS yet again!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oak Class STEAM Museum Trip: Monday 16th December

Oak Class' trip to STEAM Museum has been rearranged to **Monday 16th December** following the postponement due to flooding two weeks ago. It is set to be a lovely way to round off their topic on railways from this term and we look forward to finding out how they get on!



Whole School Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 18th December



On **Wednesday 18th December** we will gather together as a school for our whole school Christmas lunch in the Village Hall. If you have not ordered a Christmas Lunch via Lataca, please send your child into school with a packed lunch.

As part of our celebrations, pupils can **wear a Christmas jumper or any other festive clothing** on this day (no cost/donation required).

Christmas Church Service: Thursday 19th December

On **Thursday 19th December** at **2:30pm**, our whole school community will be heading to **St Cyriac's Church** for our end of term **Christmas Church Service**.

All are welcome to join us for what will be a beautiful reflection on the true meaning of Christmas before we conclude what has been an exceptionally busy term. We look forward to seeing you there!



REMINDERS, SAFETY & WELLBEING

Top Tips for Safety Over the Festive Season

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to **make these weeks as safe as possible** for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. The **free guide from the National College**

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides> attached to the end of the newsletter offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, safeguarding any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.



NSPCC: Speak Out, Stay Safe



Next term, we will be taking part in **NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe** programme, which is designed to enable children to recognise things that stop them being safe and empower them to speak up if needed. More details will be shared closer to the time so you can help reinforce the messages children learn in school.

Lacock Primary School Safeguarding Team

At Lacock Primary School, **the safeguarding and welfare of all children in our care is of the utmost importance and highest priority**. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, no matter how big or small, please contact a member of the Lacock Primary School Safeguarding Team as soon as possible; there will *always* be a member of the team available to address your concerns.



Aaron Laws
Head Teacher
Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)
head@lacock.wilts.sch.uk



Ann White
Oak Class Teacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
a.white@lacock.wilts.sch.uk



Jax Brady
Teacher/HLTA
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
j.brady@lacock.wilts.sch.uk



Stella Sage
Chair of Governors
s.sage@wilts.sch.uk

Letters sent home via ParentMail in the last fortnight

Subject	Class / year group	Date
End of the NHS supervised Toothbrushing Programme	Willow Class	13/12/24
Arrangements for STEAM trip on Monday 16 December	Oak Class	13/12/24

Diary Dates for 2024 /2025

*Some events (in italics) are run by Friends of Lacock School (FLS) and some may not confirmed.
All dates are subject to change. We will give as much notice of any changes as possible.*

December 2024	
Wednesday 18th	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19th	2:30pm Christmas Service at St Cyriac's Church (all welcome) 3:15pm Term 2 ends
Friday 20th	TD day (no children in school)
January 2025	
Monday 6th	Term 3 begins
Tuesday 7th	Swimming lessons for Oak Class begin (every Tuesday for 6 weeks) details to follow
Wednesday 8th	PCSO Jamie Moore Workshops (Willow Class & Oak Class)
Friday 17th	Chippenham Sports Partnership Multi Skills (Y3/4)
Monday 20th	NSPCC: Speak Out, Stay Safe assemblies and workshops
Tuesday 21st	Hardenhuish workshop (Oak Class)
Friday 24th	Chippenham Sports Partnership Orienteering
February 2025	
Tuesday 11th	Book Fair arrives
Friday 14th	Chippenham Sports Partnership Mini Mudder (Y3/4/5)
Friday 14th	Term 3 ends
Monday 24th	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 25th	Book Fair leaves

Please be aware that from time to time we are asked to publicise events from other groups / organisations. While we are happy to advertise events and distribute letters from third parties, we do not endorse them and it is for parents / carers to check the reliability and safety of these events / companies.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays. Increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

Instagram @wake.up.wednesday

Twitter @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.12.2024