



Istead Rise Primary Celebration Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

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Friday 15th December
End of Term 2

Tuesday 2nd January
INSET Day - School Closed

Wednesday 3rd January
Term 3 Begins

Friday 12th January
Science Museum Trip
Years 5 & 6

Friday 26th January
Spanish Day

Friday 9th February
End of Term 3

Monday 19th February
Term 4 Begins



Dear Istead Rise families,

We are immensely proud of all our pupils who have, over the past couple of weeks, shared their wonderful 'published' stories with you at the Storytelling Exhibition, watched a pantomime and performed their own Christmas plays to you. Thank you for the continued support you have given your children, staff and the school as a whole. We have more exciting learning and events planned for Term 3 onwards.

From all staff at Istead Rise Primary School, we would like to thank you for the kind words and generous gifts you have shared with us over the past few days - these are greatly appreciated.

We would like to wish you and your families a fantastic Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3rd January.

Best wishes,
From all the staff at Istead Rise Primary School

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PRRPS team for all their fundraising efforts this term. This isn't the final total but so far they have raised a whopping £3000!

The money has been raised from the following events and activities-

*The Elf Workshop
The Christmas market
Christmas Card Designs
Loose Change Jars & The Raffle.*

PRRPS also funded the whole school pantomime and the Christmas crackers for Christmas dinner day.

Thank you so much PRRPS from all of us at Istead Rise Primary



Family Nativity Service



Join in our Nativity, come dressed as a shepherd, sheep, angel or king if you want to!

Followed by Christmas crafts and refreshments.

St Barnabas Church
Istead Rise, DA13 9DA
Sunday 17th December 2-3.30pm

All welcome

All donations will go towards the new boiler and upkeep so we can host more family community events, we have planned for the New year.

GROW WITH US
NOURISH
School Lunch Menu



Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

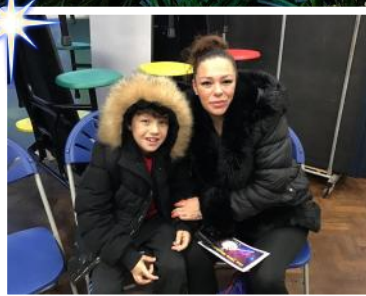


★★★★★ Absolutely Magical! ★★★★★
 The Children's Pantomime
 A Cast of Top Performers

Cinderella
 presented by
 Chaplins Gold
 Panto

Meopham Leisure Centre
 Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0AH
Friday 22nd December 2023
 Doors open 12.30 pm. Show starts 1.00 pm
 Tickets only £8.50pp Family of 4 Ticket £30
 To BOOK tickets, call us on 01474 814199

SWALE
 COMMUNITY LEISURE



Storytelling-Exhibition





Attendance Class Awards



W/C 04.12.23
KS1 - Acorns
KS2 Cherry



W/C 11.12.23
KS1 - Oak
KS2 Sycamore

Excellent

**98%
Or
Above**

**0 - 3
Days Of
School
Missed
Per
School
Year**

Good

**96% -
97.9%**

**4 - 8
Days Of
School
Missed
Per
School
Year**

Poor

**90.1% -
95.9%**

**9 - 18 Days
Of School
Missed
Per
School
Year**

*Cause For
Concern*

**90%
Or Less**

**19 Days
Or More
Of
School
Missed
Per
School
Year**

TERM 3

INSET Day: Tuesday 2nd January 2024
School Closed
Start: Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Finish: Friday 9th February 2024
Break: Saturday 10th February –
Sunday 18th February 2024

TERM 4

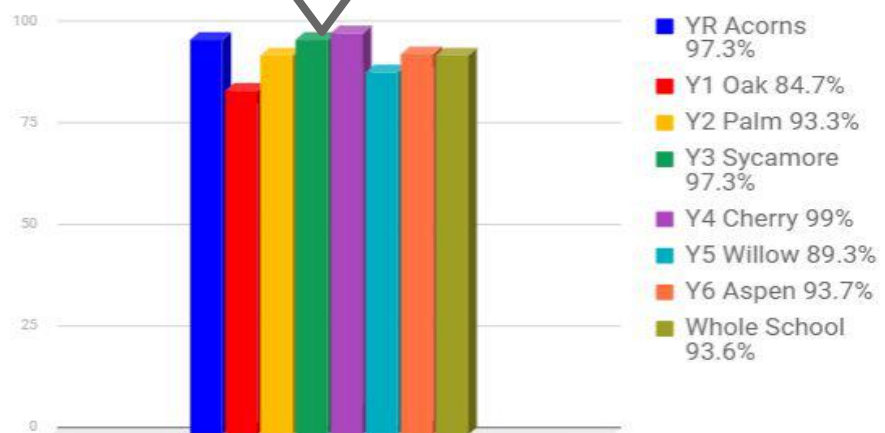
Start: Monday 19th February 2024
Finish: Thursday 28th March 2024
Break: Friday 29th March – Sunday 14th April 2024

TERM 5

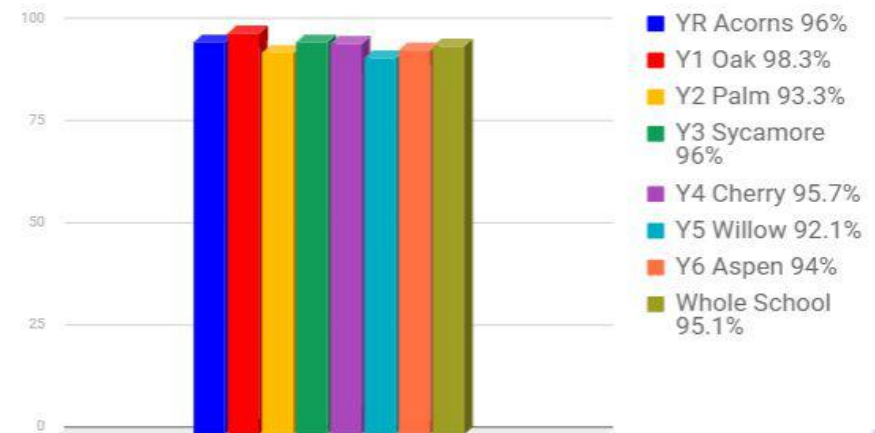
Start: Monday 15th April 2024
Finish: Friday 24th May 2024
Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May – School Closed
Break: Saturday 25th May – Sunday 2nd June 2024

TERM 6

Start: Monday 3rd June 2024
Finish: Friday 19th July 2024
INSET Days: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024
School Closed
Break begins: Wednesday 24th July 2024



Whole School Attendance Week Commencing 04.12.23



Whole School Attendance Week Commencing 11.12.23



Christmas Pantomime

Another big 'Thank you' to FIRPS! The children absolutely loved the pantomime and were full of beans for the rest of the day!



Elf Workshop

A very big 'Thank you' to our FIRPS team for organising an Elf Workshop. The children were so excited to see the workshop and once inside their little faces were truly memorable. They were in complete awe at the hanging naughty elves, the Santa Claus and Mrs Claus photo and the letter box with overflowing letters! It was great to see the children making their own Christmas bauble too.

Acorns



Snow Fun

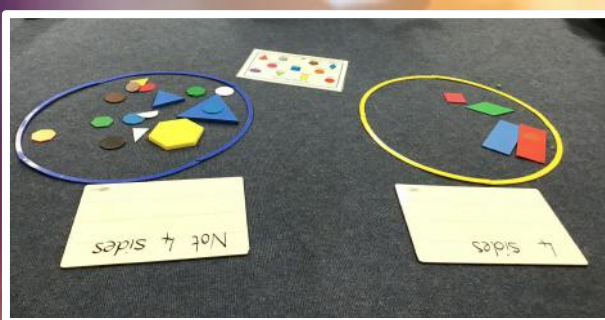
We were very lucky to have a little flurry of snow at school.

The children were excited when they saw it and so we took them outside to have some playful fun!

Acorns Nativity

On Tuesday 5th December, Acorn class delivered their Christmas Nativity to an audience of 60 adults. The children were dressed beautifully as their chosen character and proudly acted out their parts. They sang their little hearts out to all the songs that they had learnt in only a few weeks. We're sure you will agree that they were absolute superstars! Miss Underdown, Mrs Ridley and Mrs Neal would also like to thank all the parents and carers that supported their child (or other children) in creating, sharing or purchasing their costumes.





This week in maths we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and sorting them according to their properties. We also made patterns with the 3D shapes with our partners.



The children really enjoyed reading their stories with Year 4 this week. They all listened attentively while their partner was reading to them.



Thank you to FIRPS for the wonderful pantomime and for the Elf Workshop!



Palm



After learning all about Christianity in RE, Palm class recreated their own version of the 'Christmas pudding' by making chocolate Rice Krispy cakes with melted white chocolate on top. They absolutely loved making AND eating them, yummy!



When they're not cooking, they're creating! For science, Palm class created boats using recycled materials! Because they learnt all about water resistant materials, they knew exactly what to use, to make their boat float!



What a fantastic musical performance from both Years 1 & 2!
Thank you to everyone who came and for the wonderful costumes you provided.



Forest-School-Palm Class



Year 2 have had a busy term at Forest School. They have been safe when using tools - the bow saw and the peeler. Everyone was excited to look for animals that matched the descriptive clues or footprints on their cards. Most of all, they all enjoyed the hot chocolate treat at the end of each session. Thank you for ensuring your child was prepared for every session. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas from Mrs T Clark.



Sycamore



Sycamore Class have been amazing the past few weeks showing their core values of perseverance and independence. In maths they have learned the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and how to multiply and divide by 10. After Christmas we will continue to explore multiplication and division with learning the column method. The children loved finding out about Jacques Cousteau the French naval officer and oceanographer and they wrote fantastic biographies. In art the children enjoyed finishing their Stone Age cave pictures. The class have been exploring the theme electricity as part of their science lessons and produced their final piece of learning as an LED Christmas card.

Mr-Tyler



Well done to all of the children who attended table tennis club this term and competed in the school's table tennis competition. Following a number of games in the group stages, 8 children qualified for the knockout stage of the tournament. Eventually Ruby and Nathan were the two children who made it to the final, and Ruby came out victorious in a closely fought game.

Well done to all 18 children.



A massive thank you and well done needs to go to our year 5 Sports Ambassadors. During terms 1 & 2, they have been helping out the KS1 children at lunch times on their playground by creating and organising games, and helping to make lunchtimes fun for the younger children. They have given up their own lunch times to help and their commitment to the role is very much appreciated.

Well done Millie, Lyra, Scarlett, Jacob, Thomas and Molly.



We made it! It's been a hectic last 2 weeks - from writing a description about Krampus in English, to using addition and subtraction for working out Little Bill's Christmas shopping and meeting his budget in Maths, to completing our work on Anglo-Saxons with the events of the Battle of Hastings, to the carol concert at the church, to the Storytelling Exhibition to ... PHEW!

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given us and your children so far this year. Whether that's listening to them read nightly, or helping them learn their times tables and spellings, or showing your support at the events we have been involved in. It's been a fantastic two terms - and the third will be here before we know it.

Please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. -
Mr Meredith & Mrs Green



Willow



We have had a fun and exciting last two weeks of the term. We designed and built our own boats on No Pens Day and then had a competition to see which one would sail to the other side of the swimming pool first! We've also had our Superclass afternoon, been to the church to perform 'A Muppet Christmas Carol' and made decorations in the Elf Workshop. The children have also been busy writing their own play script in English and creating portraits in art.



Aspen



In English, Year 6 have been writing a description about a lovely, forest winter scene. They have worked hard to come up with lots of powerful vocabulary to describe the scene, as well as using a range of sentence starters to ensure their writing is interesting and written to a high standard.

We have just finished our sequence of learning about the Victorians. Year 6 have really enjoyed this sequence of learning and have showed so much interest in the topic. Some children had a go at playing a Victorian playground game and dressing up in Victorian clothes recently! We also looked at Victorian artefacts and compared these to the modern day equivalent.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Family Christingle

24th Dec Christmas Eve

10am

St Barnabas Church,

Istead Rise DA13 9DA

Make a Christingle, sing some well known carols and enjoy a Christmas Christingle story.



All donations will go towards the new boiler and much needed upkeep so we can host more family community events in the New Year.



Meopham Leisure Centre Christmas Holiday Club

MONDAY 18TH DEC	TUESDAY 19TH DEC	WEDNESDAY 20TH DEC	THURSDAY 21ST DEC	FRIDAY 22ND DEC	AGE 5+ £25 FULL DAY £15 HALF DAY
Arts & Crafts Cardboard Christmas trees	Snowball Fight and Fort Making	Karate Sessions	Christmas Baking	Arts & Crafts Christmas Card Making	
Giant Inflatables Sports & Games	Giant Inflatables Arts & Crafts	Giant Inflatables Sports & Games	Giant Inflatables Arts & Crafts	Giant Inflatables Sports & Games	
Christmas Disco Party	Christmas Cooking	Christmas Painting	Trampolining	Cinderella Pantomime	

To Book call us on 01474 814199

From ages 5 - 12. Full day sessions are 08:00 - 17:00 and half day sessions are from 08:00 - 13:00 or 12:00 - 17:00

For more information visit our website www.meophamleisure.org or call us on 01474 814199



Forest School



Friends of the Forest (F.O.F.) enjoyed their last session this week. The group worked hard to make their Christingles where they learnt about natural materials and flora. I am so proud of the Christmas cards they made using Hammer Zome - a leaf printing activity. I would like to wish them and yourselves a very Happy Christmas. - Mrs T Clark



Children from Key Stage 1 took part in a Kinetic Sand Lunchtime Club in the Hub this term. The children visited different places around the world including London, Paris, Egypt and Japan. They made tall buildings, sushi and bridges to represent something iconic from the places they visited. Our year 5 STEM ambassadors were on hand to support the children with their chosen designs.

SEND & Inclusion

We've reached the end of Term 2, and what a busy, exciting term it's been!

Thank you for your continued support, and also for your Christmas cards and gifts.

In Term 3, starting Wednesday 3rd January 2024, our weekly SEND surgery will continue with Mrs Andreou having bookable appointments available to discuss anything SEND and Inclusion related.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and new year!

Mrs J Andreou and Mrs M Clark



Kent County Council



KCC have opened their public consultation into their new Locality Model for SEND Inclusion.

Please access information about their new proposal [here](#). There are links to further documents on this page and a questionnaire to capture your views on SEND provision and funding in Kent.

YOUTH CLUB

AT FUTURE SURVIVAL

FUTURE SURVIVAL GRAVESEND
51-53 NEW ROAD, GRAVESEND DA12 0AD
(ENTRANCE AT REAR)

Come and join our youth club for autistic 8-16 year olds in Gravesend. Activities will include retro gaming, pool and board games.
Parents/carers required to stay throughout, refreshments can be purchased on site.

10am-12pm
First Saturday of the month*
*Values otherwise stated
£11 or £16.95 with two games of laser tag

BOOK YOUR PLACES NOW!

XMAS

HOLIDAY CLUB

THE ACTIVITIES

Panto production - Robin Hood
Visit from Santa
Animal encounters
Arts & crafts
Sports & team challenges
Cooking & baking
Free play
Hot lunch & healthy snacks included

AGES 5-13
10AM - 2PM

Christmas Dates

18th - 21st December

Gravesend

Whitehill Primary School

FREE or £147

FREE for children on Free School Meals (book using your wonde/evoucher) or £147 per week (email for booking link)

BOOK NOW 01634 907 088 office@twttutorsltd.com

Christmas HAF Activities

Northfleet Youth Centre, Hall Rd, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8AJ

Over the Christmas period, we will be offering a hot meal for young people that receive FREE school meals during our sessions below. All sessions include fun activities such as games and arts & craft.

PLEASE NOTE ALL SESSIONS BELOW ARE BOOKABLE ONLY

MONDAY (18/12/2023)

CHRISTMAS COOK OFF: 14:00-16:00 - AGES 11 - 18 (UP TO 25 WITH SEND)

GENERAL YOUTH CLUB: 19:00-21:00 - AGES 11 - 18 (UP TO 25 WITH SEND)

TUESDAY (19/12/2023)

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS 12:30-14:30 - AGES 11 - 18 (UP TO 25 WITH SEND)

TWILIGHT DETACHED (RIVERSIDE FIELD) 15:00-17:00 - AGES 8+

WEDNESDAY (20/12/2023)

TWILIGHT DETACHED (CARL EKMAN) 15:00-17:00 - AGES 8+

ACCESSABILITY CLUB 19:00-21:00 - AGES 11 - 18 (UP TO 25 WITH SEND)

THURSDAY (21/12/2023)

CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF 12:00-14:00 - AGES 11 - 18 (UP TO 25 WITH SEND)

FUN TIVITIES THURSDAY 16:00-18:00 (AGES 8 - 12YRS)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A PLACE

ON THE SESSIONS ABOVE, PLEASE

CONTACT US ON 03000 420666

How Mainstream Schools Support Children with SEN

Training for Families of Children With SEND in Mainstream Educational Settings



Overview

The Education People have been funded by Kent County Council to deliver training to parents and carers of children with SEND from across Kent. Our aims for the training are to:

- build parental confidence in what is on offer to support children and young people with a SEND in mainstream schools
- answer questions that you may have about the offer
- develop your knowledge of how the Mainstream Core Standards are being used in schools to support your children.

This free training will be delivered virtually, via Zoom. If you have any issues with accessing the internet then please do get in touch and we will do our very best to make the training accessible to you.

How to Register

Choose which date you are able to attend below and either scan the QR code, or click the button underneath it to register.

Primary School Aged Children

Tuesday 12
December 2023
(10am to midday)

[Book Your Place](#)



Secondary School Aged Children

Thursday 14
December 2023
(10am to midday)

[Book Your Place](#)



On behalf of...
THE EDUCATION PEOPLE
Kent County Council
Mainstream

SEND & Inclusion



Lunchtimes can be tricky for some children. The hall can be noisy, busy, and unstructured times can cause some to go off-track. We aim to recognise and reward the effort that our children have shown towards making positive contributions to the lunchtime environment. Each term, 12 children from years 2-6 will be chosen as our lunchtime All Stars. Each day, all members of staff aim to recognise good behaviour, good manners, kindness, helpfulness, table manners and where children have made determined efforts to improve on all these things. Staff nominate children each day, and at the end of the term, the 12 children with the most nominations will be acknowledged and rewarded with an All Stars lunch.

This term our All Stars are: Sophie and Annabelle in year 2, Saskia and Evelyn in year 3, Ruby and Delphine in year 4, Mila and Tess in year 5 and Oliver, Elsie, Charlie and Mia in year 6. Well done!



Lego Club

Northfleet

Join us for a creative play Lego session. Lego will be available for imaginations to run wild!

Friday 24th November 2023
Friday 26th January 2024
5:30pm-7:00pm

BOOK NOW
AUTISMSE.UK/LEGOCCLUBNF

Suitable for ages 3-16 years.
Pre-diagnosis and siblings welcome.
Parents are required to remain throughout.
Refreshments available to buy.

£5
PER FAMILY

St Botolphs Church Hall
The Hill
Northfleet
DA11 9EU



Autistic Girls

Understanding and insight into the presentation of Autism in girls
by Mandy Cook

Thursday 25th January 2024 - 6:00-8:00pm
Tymberwood Primary Academy
Cerne Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4BN

£7
Per person

For many years Autistic girls have been misunderstood and underdiagnosed but now research is catching up and the voices of Autistic girls are being heard. This is the opportunity to hear about how Autism can present in girls from someone who has an Autistic daughter and is Autistic herself.

Mandy is a well known, teacher, speaker, advocate and Autism figure. Mandy is a mum to Autistic children, has worked and specialised in autism and challenging behaviour for 20 years. Mandy is CEO of Autism South East and has been an autism advocate for over 7 years. Mandy is a full time teacher and is The Autistic Teacher on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Being Autistic herself, Mandy is able to explain Autism from an experienced and deeper level, captivating, inspiring and engaging those that come to hear her speak.

Book now
autismse.uk/autisticgirls

Refreshments & merchandise will be available to purchase
Pre-booking required - Main entrance only will be open to booked guests
Free parking on-site - Use gravel car park on the left



Autism and the Christmas Season



The Autistic Teacher



autism south east

AUTISM COFFEE MORNING

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

GRAVESEND TOWN CENTRE

WINDMILL STREET, GRAVESEND, DA12 1BB

We run monthly coffee mornings in Gravesend. Whether you are autistic yourself or a parent, carer or professional, come along for a chat with us! Tea and coffee is available.

10:00-12:00

#AUTISMFRIDAY

Booking isn't required for our Coffee Morning... **Just turn up!**

SEND & Inclusion

AUTISM CAFE

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

GREENHITHE - ST. MARY'S CHURCH

LONDON ROAD GREENHITHE (DARTFORD), DA9 9ND

We run monthly drop in sessions on Wednesdays at Greenhithe Community Cafe. Whether you are autistic yourself or a parent, carer or professional, come along for a chat with us! Tea, coffee and other refreshments available at the cafe.

10:00-12:00

Booking isn't required for our autism cafes... **Just turn up!**



The food...

Autistic people often struggle with food due to sensory differences or anxiety. We are not being fussy or picky eaters- these are real issues. Ensure you have food you are comfortable with. Yes, we absolutely have chicken nuggets available for Christmas dinner! Do what works for you.

The Autistic Teacher



Overwhelmed !



All the Christmas lights, decorations, visitors, events, music, different foods and smells... it can be totally overwhelming! If you need minimal decorations in your house then do that! If you are visiting people, ask for them to create a quiet safe space where you can regulate. Don't feel you have to join in with everything. Do what works for you and your family.

The Autistic Teacher



The presents...

There are so many things to think about here. As an autistic person worried about whether my face was portraying the right emotion, I hate having people watch me opening presents! Don't demand that you see children open their presents. Sometimes too many presents at once can be overwhelming and you might want to stagger them throughout the day. For others the wait is more anxiety inducing and they need to open them.

The Autistic Teacher



Presents continued...

There's an element of surprise... many autistic people struggle with surprises. Me included!! My children couldn't cope with wrapped presents, so one year I used cellophane so that they could see! It definitely reduced anxiety but we weren't there yet... with fine motor difficulties we discovered gift bags were the best option. Agreeing what presents people will get you with a list might work too. Again, do what works for you!

The Autistic Teacher



Christmas events!

It can be overwhelming to go to noisy events with lots of people. Christmas tree light ups, family events, visits to Father Christmas... we might need adaptations. Consider a safe place at home or family's where you can regulate. Consider ear defenders when out and about. Don't push children to see Father Christmas if they don't want to... they don't know him! And definitely consider a calendar with events on so that everyone knows what is happening and when. And don't feel you have to do everything!

The Autistic Teacher



Socialising

Along with the other demands of Christmas events is the socialising. It can be lovely to see people, don't get me wrong, but it can be exhausting, especially for those of us who find conversation challenging. A quiet space can help and knowing when you will be leaving...it can help to have a time to work with. There can be lots of hugs with family too...again, some people find this awkward. Just ask if it's ok! Never force a child to hug or kiss someone they don't want to.

The Autistic Teacher



Enjoy the Season YOUR WAY!

Christmas is a time for everyone to enjoy and so it's really important that you and your family do what works for you! It doesn't make it any less Christmas if you don't have too many decorations, or you have chicken nuggets for Christmas dinner, or if you don't all have matching Christmas pyjamas! Above all, enjoy the season YOUR WAY!

The Autistic Teacher





***Years 3 & 5
Storytelling
Afternoon***





***Years 3 & 6
Storytelling
Afternoon***



***Years 1 & 4
Storytelling
Afternoon***



Mathletics

Gold Mathletics

Mathletics

W/E 08.12

Lucas, Matilda, Katelyn, Nihaal & Samuel-Yanis of Cherry, Henry, Sujaan, Harry & Saskia of Sycamore, Charlie, Millie H, Thomas, Scarlett, Jace, Tess, Molly, Lillie & Harvey of Willow, Lily of Aspen

W/E 15.12

Oliver & Lily of Aspen, Charlie, Millie H, Thomas, Scarlett, Jace, Tess, Molly, Lillie & Harvey of Willow, Samuel-Yanis, Lucas, Matilda, Katelyn & Nihaal of Cherry, Henry, Sujaan, Charlie, Harry & Saskia of Sycamore



Congratulations for all your hard work!

W/E 08.12

Most Valuable Player

1st Edward of Cherry

2nd Samuel Yanis of Cherry

3rd Charlie of Sycamore

W/E 08.12

Winning Class

1st Cherry

2nd Willow

3rd Sycamore

W/E 15.12

Most Valuable Player

1st Samuel Yanis of Cherry

2nd Edward of Cherry

3rd Ronak of Willow

W/E 15.12

Winning Class

1st Cherry

2nd Willow

3rd Sycamore

Bronze Peg Up Points

W/E 08.12

Keira of Sycamore

W/E 15.12

Jeremiah, Oliver F & Samuel L of Cherry

Silver Peg Up Points

W/E 08.12

Nihaal, Matilda, Katelyn & Delphine of Cherry, Alf of Sycamore, Sybil & Jujhar of Oak

W/E 15.12

Ruby WN & Cooper M of Cherry, Darcey & Saskia of Sycamore



Core Values Congratulations To All Our Winners



Week Ending 08.12

Acorns Class

Jorge, Lillie & Able for Independence

Oak Class

Lennon & Jacob F for Perseverance, Jaxon for Self Reflection

Palm Class

Rajah for Self Reflection & Zachary for Respect

Sycamore Class

Jack E for Independence, Constance for Respect

& Margaret for Perseverance

Cherry Class

Ruby H & Nihaal for Independence, Esme for Respect

Willow Class

Jace for Independence, Harvey for Self Reflection

& Lillie for Respect

Aspen Class

Abigail, Oliver & Lily for Respect

Week Ending 15.12

Acorns Class

Florence for Independence, Jeremias & Ava for Self Reflection

Oak Class

Aubany for Independence, Elena for Self Reflection

& Neda for Perseverance

Palm Class

Iyla & Luna for Self Reflection, Felix for Respect

Sycamore Class

Saskia for Independence, Stanley & Evelyn for Respect

Cherry Class

Summer, Delphine & Cooper M for Perseverance

Willow Class

Millie C for Independence, Ronak for Self Reflection

& Harry for Respect

Aspen Class

George, Maisey & Seth for Self Reflection