

Fritwell School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

Friday 13th December



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to have the Yenworthy children and staff back this week. As Mr Protherough explained in the celebration worship on Monday, the children had a fantastic experience, which was in no small part to their positive attitude and living out the values and Fritwell Footsteps. Well done to you all and a huge thank you to staff for committing to this week away from your own families.

Linked to our whole school English project, last Friday was the Polar Express cinema night which came complete with hot chocolate and popcorn! It was a big hit with the children, and I can't wait to see the children sharing their writing on this Christmassy theme.

The Santa fun run on Tuesday raised a whopping £243.20 for Katherine House Hospice. Well done to all the parents who got involved and braved the damp conditions. The run was made extra festive by the children singing Christmas carols as they passed on the baton.

Today we had the secret present room run by FoFS. This is unique to Fritwell and something that the children look forward to. Thank you all helpers for making this special – the children really do appreciate it.

Next week we have a lot to look forward to starting with the Stingrays community tea party on Monday. We have had lots of responses from the invitations, and guests can look forward to tea, cakes, singing and musical performances.

On Thursday we have the iRock concert which is always a fabulous way to round off the term. I heard some of the bands practising this week, and they are ready! This is one of my favourite extra-curricular activities that the school offers as it encourages so many life skills and we really do see the children flourish.

We end the autumn term on Friday with our church service and all are welcome to attend.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that morning gate opening times are 8.40am-8.50am. Recently, we have had children arriving well after 9am which is very disruptive for the class, as teachers are getting lessons underway. In addition, a child arriving after 8.50am could lose 1 hour a week of morning activity learning compared to a child arriving at 8.40am. Morning activities include responding to marking from the previous day and prior learning activities for the day ahead. Every moment in school is precious; please support us by ensuring children arrive during this window and as close to 8.40am as possible.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Jon Jeffries

Executive Headteacher

Guidance for illness

Please see the following simple guidance for when to keep your child at home if they become unwell. It is imperative that if your child has one of these illnesses, they are kept off school for the the recommended time to stop the spread.



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

Stingrays

Wow! What an incredible term it has been in Stingrays! It would be an understatement to say that our class has been filled with lots of excitement, curiosity and collaboration.

Recently, there was true excitement on a trip to the pantomime, sparking wonder and laughter amongst the children, along with an unforgettable performance in the Big Christmas Sing—our young stars truly shone!

This term has been highly guided by the principles of the Fritwell Footsteps, in particular concentration where the children have been showing focus and giving everything their all. We have also been demonstrating our shared values, this term with a special focus on personal success with humility. I think we can confidently say that Stingrays have smashed this!

Furthermore, we've also explored a wealth of learning opportunities: wrapping up our science topic on light with an intriguing experiment that demonstrated refraction, and showcasing critical thinking and eloquence in our English debate. Each of these activities has been carefully planned to provide enriching and engaging experiences that deepen the children's learning and inspire their love for knowledge.

Looking ahead, we are brimming with excitement for our Christmas Tea Party on Monday, where we'll warmly welcome village guests to enjoy tea, cake, and the beautiful sound of music performed by the children.

Thank you for your continued support; it plays a vital role in creating a warm and enriching learning journey for the Stingrays!

Warm wishes, Miss Winstone and the Stingrays Team.



Sharks

The Yenworthy Experience

Wowser, what a term!

Personally, there are far too many highlights to choose from, so I am handing over to the children to share their thoughts and feelings about a very exciting week away.

Day one: The Journey

We all came to school and met with our friends and family at 7 am, which was a very early start. Then we said our final goodbyes and we were on our way. After a couple of hours, we got to Bristol services around 9.30 am. We watched the muppet's Treasure Island and Mr Protherough did an impression of a pirate: Arrrrgh!

After eating our snacks and having a stretch, we were back on the coach and headed to the South West. As we got close to the lodge we saw some beautiful scenery, like the wonderful Dunster Castle that was built into the side of a hill. The highlight of the trip was the really steep and windy hill just before we got there, it was genuinely scary. We finally arrived at Yenworthy just in time for lunch, which we ate out on the decking. From the deck you could see all the way over the Bristol Channel and make out Wales on the other side. It was a lovely way to get introduced to the site.

After we were given all the rules and we were told our rooms we had the opportunity to try out our bed making skills, Mr P said they were generally dismal – at best.

In the afternoon, we were unleashed onto the rope course – see the pictures. It was a great way to work as a team and encourage each other. Then, after a wonderful chicken curry, we went on a night walk on the moors. We lay on the heather and looked up at the stars. We saw ancient stones that marked a Roman road and looked for minerals that were mined by the Romans.

It was a great first day...

Day two: Surfing in December

Who goes surfing in December? We do! It all started at around 7.30am, when Mr P knocked on our door and told us to get ready for breakfast. We had cereal and a bacon bap – it was a good start to the day.

After we were given our different jobs, some of us cleaned and some prepared the lunches. Mr P did a room inspection and was really strict about things being messy or not put away properly and we were told we needed to come up with a song, dance or something like a poem to earn extra points.

Once, we had our wetsuits and waterproofs on we went to the beach. There was hardly anyone there and no one else in the sea. Because it was December and freezing cold. One we had carried our board to the beach we had to feed an angry penguin to earn stars for our Christmas dinner on Thursday evening. The penguin was massive and made loud noises.

In the water, loads of us managed to stand up on the boards and everyone had a go at surfing. We were in the water for hours – check out the pictures. The worst bit about it was getting out of our wetsuits at the end – it was FREEZING.

The sunset on the way home was beautiful. There was almost no wind all day and the sky was clear and blue.

In the evening, we went orienteering on the site and Mr P, me and Miss O'Brian did a Christmas themed I'm a Celebrity challenge to earn more stars for dinner. Pete was one of the instructors and he was mad about Christmas.

Mr P lost the quiz and said it was a fix. A balloon got popped over his head and it had reindeer sick in it. He wasn't happy but earned a star.

Sharks Cont...

Day three: On the beach

After a croissant for breakfast and doing all our jobs, we layered up, put on our waterproofs and got on the mini-bus headed for Lynmouth beach. After driving along the coastline, we came into village. Before we went onto the beach, Skedge (our course leader for the week) told us all about a catastrophic flood that killed over a hundred people back in 1952. All the water came off the mountains and took trees and sediment into the water – the stone bridges stopped the water and acted like dams before collapsing one by one. A wall of water rushed through the village and destroyed everything. The people didn't have any warning because there was no power. Later on, when we were on the beach being archaeologists, we would find loads of old bricks and fragments of pottery that had been swept on the beach in the flood. We even found part of an old car sticking out of the sand.

Before we explored the beach, we went rock pooling. Skedge showed us how to search properly without hurting or scaring the creatures. We found: five different types of crab (one called a devil crab because of its red eyes), strange fish that had no scales but sensors on their heads, a type of catfish and these strange fish that looked like eels with seahorse heads.

In the afternoon, we went on a scramble. There were massive rocks/boulders on the far side of the beach – all stacked up. We went climbing on them and squeezing our way through the gaps – it was awesome.

In the evening, we did a quiz that meant we had to search for answers around Yenworthy grounds and got our hoodies from the shop. We then had hot water and watched the first part of The Polar Express. Mrs O'Brian did another Christmas challenge to earn a star.

Day four: Don't go climbing waterfalls, stick to the... oh, no, wait. Do go climbing waterfalls

By day four, we were all fast asleep when Mr P or Mrs Lyons came to tell us to get ready for breakfast. We were very tired from all the activities and fresh air. This was one of our favourite days. In the morning, we split into two groups. One group went on the zip line and the other used the climbing wall. There were presents at the top of the climbing wall and if we reached them and carried them down we got a star, then if we could climb the wall with them and get them back to the top we would get two stars. Going down the zip line, we had a present between our knees and we had to drop it into a Christmas chimney to earn a star. It was really difficult when you are going fast. The afternoon was the best. On the walk down to the stream with the waterfalls, we were told all about edible and poisonous plants that grow in the area. Then we had to walk down a really, really steep hill to get to the valley. In the woods we found oak apples that had tiny little wood wasps living in them. Then finally, we got to climb the waterfalls – see the pictures. It was soooo much fun.

After earning all the stars we needed, we had a full Christmas dinner in the evening. With crackers, hats and table waiters. It was delicious...

Written by Harry P, Oscar L, George H & Oliver N



Sharks Cont...

Day 5: The legend of Lorna Doone

To end an amazing week, we went for a walk really close to the Lodge in the Doone valley. We made rafts from sticks, reeds and moss and raced them. On the way back, Skedge told us the story of Lorna Doone and the history of the valley. We acted it out and Ruben wore a massive wig and played the character of Lorna.

After a final lunch at the lodge and sad goodbye, we got on the bus and made our way home.

It was a great week with loads of memories.



FoFs

Calling all online shoppers!

Dear Parents and Carers... if you've started your Christmas shopping please consider signing up to this cash back scheme for the School.

All details are in the poster below but here is the link for desktop:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoffritwell/

Many thanks and happy shopping!
FoFS team :-)



Have you heard about the EASIEST way you can help raise money for Fritwell School?

Introducing.....

EASY FUNDRAISING!

WHAT IS IT?

Easy Fundraising is a super *easy* way to donate to our School via your usual online shopping. Shops will donate a % of your purchase straight to the School without any additional expense to you.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

>> DESKTOP

Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoffritwell/>

- Set-up an account
- Accept the option to install a browser extension - Donation Reminder. Once activated it pop-ups automatically when you're browsing online on every retailer site where a donation is available which means you don't have to remember to go to easyfundraising first!

>> MOBILE

- In the App Store search 'Easy Fundraising' ..install the app and set-up your account. We are listed as 'The Friends of Fritwell School'
- When you shop online remember to do so through the App

The Well

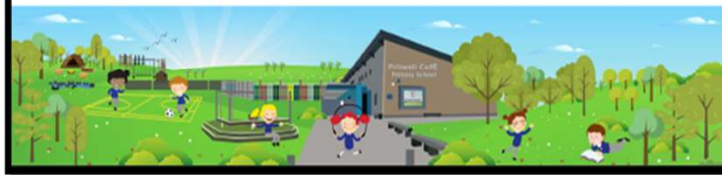
Would you like to meet new people?

Would you like to feel listened to?

Come along for a cuppa and a chat.

You'll receive a warm welcome, a nurturing environment
and a listening ear.

Every Thursday
2.30pm-3.00pm



Dates for your diary

December

Monday 16th – Stingrays community tea party 1.30pm

Wednesday 18th – School Christmas lunch

Friday 20th - Church service 9.30am

Last day of term, finish at 1.15pm.

January

Monday 6th – Inset day

Tuesday 7th – First day of term 3

Friday 24th – Stingrays and Sharks trip to The Sheldonian (Music Concert)

Term 3

Forest School moves to Friday mornings EYFS & Stingrays

Brass lessons – Year 5/6 Fridays at 9.30

Music for schools lessons Monday AM