# Fritwell School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 Friday 27th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is unbelievable that we are already going into the last month of the year. December is always a magical time at school, filled with exciting events, performances and memorable experiences for our children. I appreciate that there can be a lot to remember at this time of year, so please make sure you check the information below for details of upcoming events and any items children may need to bring with them.

As we enter December, we also begin the season of Advent, a special time in the Christian calendar when we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. As a church school, Advent provides an important opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the values at the heart of the Christmas story: hope, peace, joy and love.

Throughout the month, the children will explore the meaning of Advent through Collective Worship, classroom activities and our Christmas celebrations. We will be encouraging them to think about how they can show kindness, compassion and generosity to others, helping them to understand that Christmas is about much more than presents and festivities.

A huge thank you to Angie Stillgoe, our Crossing Patrol Officer, who joined us for Collective Worship this week as part of Road Safety Week. Angie spoke to the children about the importance of staying safe near roads and also worked with children in Sticklebacks and Seahorses, helping them to practise the Green Cross Code. The children thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and gained valuable knowledge that will help keep them safe.

It was wonderful to welcome so many prospective families to our second Open Morning this week. Thank you to Holly Haselgrove and her team for providing such a warm welcome and for showcasing everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. The team have also been busy taking our Minnows on their first visit to Warriner Farm as part of their learning linked to *The Three Little Pigs*. The children had a fantastic time and returned full of excitement and inspiration for their writing.

We are now in full swing with rehearsals for our Christmas performances. These events are always a highlight of the school calendar, and the children are working incredibly hard to prepare. Sharks will be representing Fritwell at The Big Sing, joining children from a number of Oxfordshire schools in what promises to be a wonderful celebration of music.

Our youngest children in Minnows are eagerly preparing for their first Nativity, and we are also very much looking forward to the Sticklebacks Nativity, which is always a special occasion for families and staff alike.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our fantastic Friends of Fritwell (FOF) team. They have worked tirelessly to organise so many events this term. The recent school disco was a huge success, with plenty of fun and dancing enjoyed by all who attended. Next week sees the return of our much-anticipated Christmas Fair, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you there as we come together to celebrate the festive season.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting and memorable final month of the year.

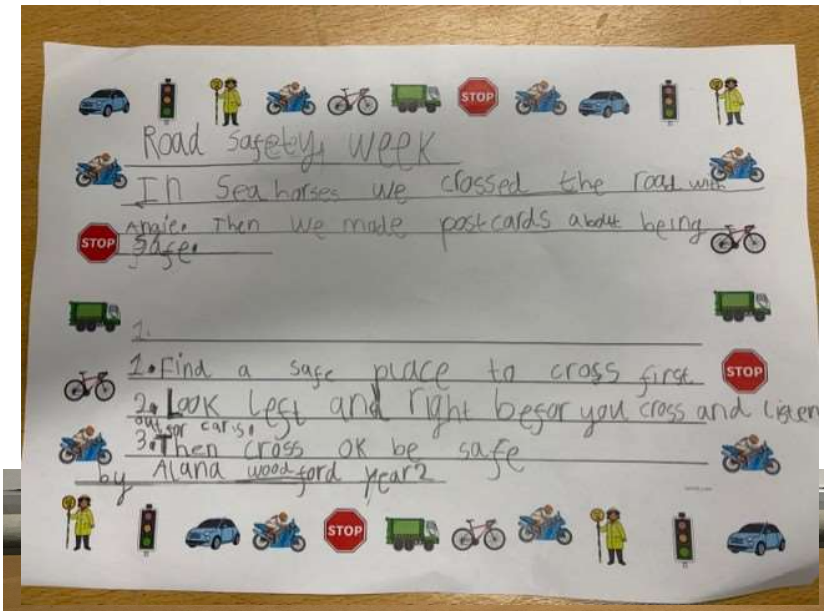
EPA Director of Primary School Improvement
EPA Executive Headteacher and Executive Leader for SEND

## Whats on in December……

**Monday 30th** – Sharks Big Sing. Accessorise uniform festively
Tinsel, headbands, light up necklace etc…
**Tuesday 1st** – Decorating day – come to school in your festive
jumper/t shirt over your uniform.
**Wednesday 2nd**, - Whole school trip to the Pantomime.
**Friday 4th** – FoFs Christmas festive fete – from 3.30pm
**Tuesday 8th** – Minnows Nativity to parents 1.45pm
**Wednesday 9th** – Santa Fun Run – Children will need to come to
school dressed in PE kits and change afterwards
**Wednesday 9th** -School Christmas dinner – Please book ASAP
**Friday 11th –** FoFs Secret present room – Don't forget your pennies!

# Road Safety week






# Children's allergies

We kindly ask all parents and carers to inform the school if their child has a known allergy, including any allergies to food, medication, or other substances. Please ensure that the school has up-to-date information about your child's allergy and any medication or treatment they may require. If your child's allergy or medical needs change, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

It is the parents responsibility to inform School of any new allergens or changes to existing conditions and this will be messaged through to the kitchen each day. Please inform the school of your child's allergens by contacting the school office:
Office.3065@fritwell.oxon.sch.uk

Thank you for helping us to keep all our children safe and well.

# Attendance

At the EPA Trust, we are committed to ensuring every child receives the best possible education. One of the most important factors in a child's success at school is their attendance. Regular attendance is key to academic achievement, personal development, and future opportunities.

**Why attendance matters**

**Academic Success** – Studies show that pupils with high attendance achieve better results and make faster progress.

**Social and Emotional Development** – Attending school consistently helps students build friendships, confidence, and resilience.

**Future Prospects** – Good attendance habits set the foundation for future education, training, and employment.

**Our Attendance Goals**

At the EPA Trust, we aim for at least 96% attendance across all our schools. Every school in our Trust is dedicated to working with families to remove barriers to attendance and ensure every child reaches their full potential.

| Class | Attendance % |
|---|---|
| Minnows | 92.9% |
| Sticklebacks | 94.5% |
| Seahorses | 97.2% |
| Stingrays | 96.7% |
| Sharks | 96.2% |
| Average | 95.5% |

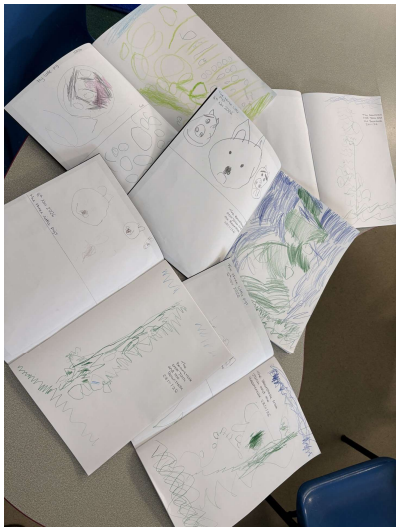
# Tiddlers.

he Tiddlers have been enjoying lots of exciting learning experiences this week ! The children have been getting creative through Drawing Club, bringing stories and their imaginations to life through our story of the week, pictures and mark-making. They have also been developing their fine and gross motor skills through our Dough Disco sessions, using playdough, music and movement to strengthen their little fingers. Alongside this, we have been enjoying plenty of opportunities to explore with trains, dressing up, small world play while learning together!

Warmly,

Mrs Wright & Miss Henderson





# Minnows.

We have had a busy few weeks in the Minnows class. We enjoyed wearing our 'Odd Socks' to raise awareness of being kind to each other. The Christmas production is well under way, and the children are learning the songs and their lines. We look forward to welcoming all the Minnow parents on Tuesday 8th December at 1.40pm in the school hall. The 'Open Morning' show cased the school beautifully with our children talking about their school environment and their learning with sincerity and clarity. The Minnows stepped the story of 'The Three Little Pig's' and I could see by the prospective parents faces how impressed they were. The Minnows have been enjoying some adventure time in the afternoons. Thank you for all you support and we look forward to the trip to the Warriner Farm.







# Sticklebacks.

We have had another busy and exciting week in class!

This week, the children took part in some important road safety sessions in small groups. We were joined by our wonderful lollipop lady, Angie, who taught us how to stay safe when crossing roads and helped us understand why road safety is so important.

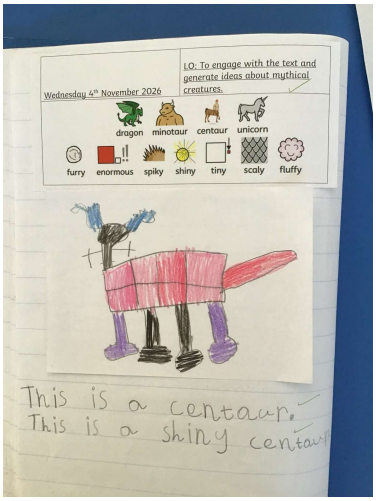
In Maths, we have been working hard on subtraction. The children used leaves to help them understand that subtraction means taking away. In Literacy, we have completed our final pieces of writing about mythical creatures. The children have worked hard and really impressed the teachers with their imaginative ideas, descriptive vocabulary and fantastic writing skills.

A few weeks ago, we welcomed some special visitors from Uganda. The children learned all about what life is like for children living there and were fascinated to discover how many similarities there are between their lives and our own.

Above all, we have been putting lots of time and effort into rehearsing our Nativity performance. The children are working extremely hard to learn their songs, words and actions, and we are very proud of their commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Wheatley & The Sticklebacks Team*





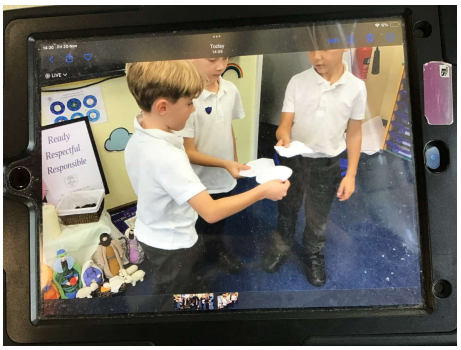



# Seahorses.

This week the Seahorses have written poems linked to our unit of work about Remembrance. Their use of adjectives to describe and vocabulary choices have made them interesting to read. We have decided to create a class book of them so we can look back at our work across the year.

Seahorses have started a Sweet Shop dance in PE that encourages imaginative and repetitive moves. We teamed it with the Wonka theme tune and have impressed each other with our creativity! Each week we add a new element and then share ideas to make it flow.

In Science we have developed how to record our results clearly and planning for the next investigation. We have learnt about air resistance, gravity and how to ask good scientific questions. We particularly enjoyed hypothesising what would happen if the air became like jelly!








# Stingrays.

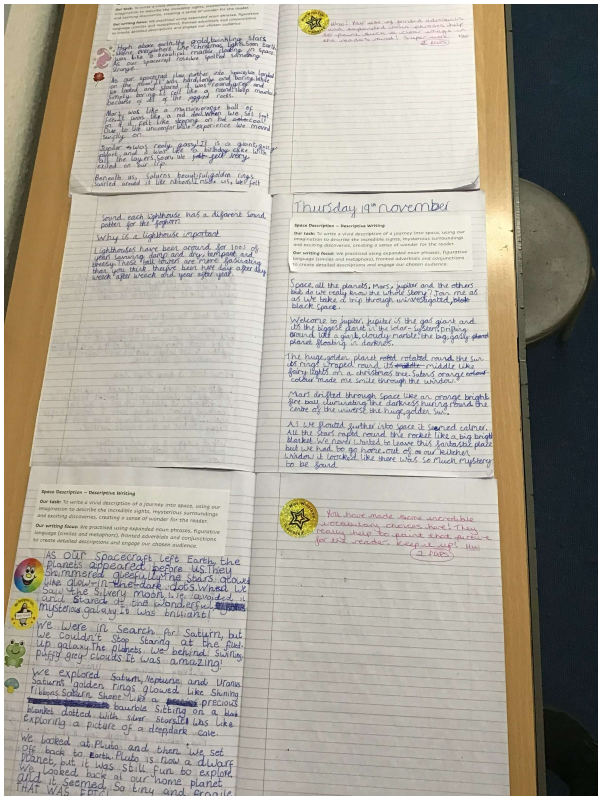
The past two weeks have been jam-packed with exciting learning and activities for Stingrays!

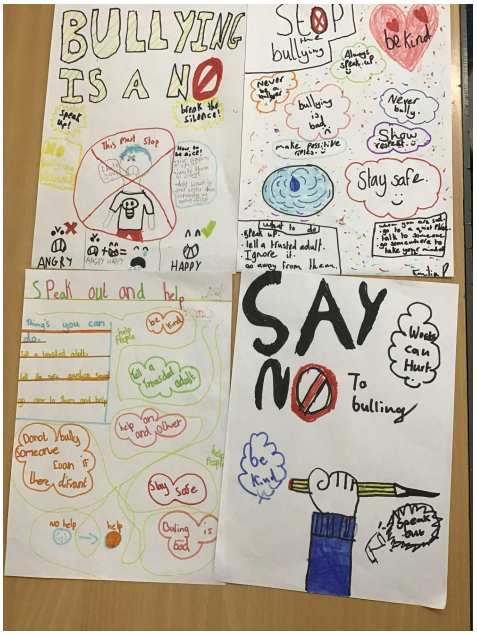
In English, learners published the final drafts of their fantastic space descriptions and have now embarked on a new project, discovering how beautiful cyanotype prints can be created using light-sensitive paper, leaves and sunlight. In Maths, learners have continued to push and challenge themselves, developing their confidence in four-digit column addition and subtraction involving multiple exchanges.

In DT, learners have been getting creative, experimenting with a range of recycled materials as they continue constructing their very own lighthouses. In Geography, we have been exploring how people have adapted to survive in desert environments and how they use the land and its natural resources to their advantage. In Science, we have been learning all about sun safety and the importance of protecting ourselves from the sun's harmful rays. Meanwhile, in RE, we have been exploring different symbols associated with Christmas and discovering what they might represent and why they are significant to some Christians.

Alongside our usual lessons, we have also been marking Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week. Learners have taken part in a range of engaging practical activities to explore these important topics and have created their very own informative posters to help spread awareness.

Another fantastic two weeks of learning, creativity and teamwork in Stingrays! Well done, everyone!



# Sharks.

It has been a busy and exciting time in Sharks! In English, we have started our new unit based on The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, where we are working towards writing our very own biographies about William Kamkwamba. We have been fascinated by his story, particularly his incredible determination from such a young age and the impact his achievements have had on his local community in Malawi, Africa. The children have really enjoyed exploring his journey so far, and I am looking forward to seeing how they bring his story to life through their own writing.

The past fortnight has also been our assessment window, and I could not be prouder of how hard the children have worked. They have approached their assessments with such maturity and determination, demonstrating so many of our school values, particularly Confidence, Self-Belief and Endurance. Their perseverance and tenacity, especially when faced with those tricky questions, has been truly inspiring. All of the adults in Sharks are incredibly proud of the resilience and determination the children have shown. They should also feel very proud of themselves!

We have also enjoyed celebrating Anti-Bullying Week. From wearing our odd socks and designing our very own pairs to thinking about the positive ripples we can create through our words and actions, it has been a really thoughtful and meaningful time. I particularly enjoyed listening to the children's contributions and hearing their ideas about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference to those around us.

There has been lots of singing in Sharks over the past couple of weeks as we have been working incredibly hard on our songs for the Big Christmas Sing on Monday! The children have put so much effort into learning their lyrics and practising our actions, and it has been lovely to see their excitement building. We cannot wait to show off all our hard work on Monday!

And finally, we have some very exciting news! Sharks have been invited to take part in BBC Radio Oxford's Christmas Karaoke! We will be recording our song for them to play on the radio, which is such a lovely opportunity for the children. We will be sure to let you know as soon as we hear which day and time our song will be broadcast.

Warmest regards,

Miss Winstone & The Sharks Team

# Sharks.













# FoFS

Hi Everyone,
As we approach the end of the first term, we wanted to give you an update on all things FOFs!

We have raised an amazing **£2,158** from the Firework Event and **£414** from the Disco. Thank you so much for supporting these events and helping us raise valuable funds for the school.

We also have lots of exciting Christmas activities coming up, with Christmas cards and gifts being ordered this week.

A reminder that we will be holding our **Christmas Fair** on **Friday 4th December** after school. There will be a Christmas raffle, refreshments, and plenty of festive activities and games for everyone to enjoy. The fair will start at **3.30pm** in the School Hall.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the **Secret Present Room**. This will take place on **Friday 11th December**, when children will have the opportunity to buy up to two presents for their loved ones. Gifts are priced between **£1.50 and £5** and will be wrapped and labelled by our FOFs volunteers. Please send your child in with some cash on the day if they would like to take part.

Thank you once again for all your support so far this year!
The FOFs Team



# FoFS

# Secret Present Room

**Friday 11th December | From 9am**

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

A special morning in School for the children to choose, buy and wrap-up presents for their parents, carers or important adults in their life to open on Christmas Day.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

We're asking for donations of any unwanted gifts or new items. They need to be brand new and suitable for adults, (but no alcohol or fragile items please). We'd love items such as; scented candles, gift sets (especially for men), scarfs, jewellery, boxes of chocolates etc.

Please bring any suitable items in to School Reception from **Mon 9th Nov - Fri 20th Nov.**

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

On the day (Fri 11th Dec), please send your child in with some money and a carrier bag. They will be able to purchase two gifts for their loved ones. *They will need a maximum of £10 each.*
Gifts will be priced between £1.50 – £5 each.

Once they have chosen their gifts, they will be given help to wrap them up and write tags to their chosen recipient.

**Thank you for your support!**
**Fofs Team**

# Other Opportunities.

# Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

**Primary school place – you must apply now**

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2027**.

## Apply online at

**www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions**

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.




**For help and information:**
Web: **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions**
Email: **admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk**
Tel: **01865 519800**

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

# Music lessons in school

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**We have spaces available for music lessons starting in September.**

**Music Lessons at School with Musical Minds (Independent Tutor)**

Musical Minds is offering *in-school music lessons* for a range of instruments, including **woodwind** (recorder, clarinet, flute and saxophone), **piano**, and **trumpet/cornet**. Lessons are suitable for beginners through to more advanced students and are tailored to support musical enjoyment, confidence, and progress.

For more information or to enquire about availability, please contact:

magic_flute@yahoo.com

Please contact Ms Fulopp-Herman directly magic_flute@yahoo.com

# Dates for your diary

**Please see changes to calendar highlighted in red.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday 30th November | Christmas Big Sing – Sharks – Festive accessories |
| Tuesday 1st December | Christmas decorating day – Chritmas jumpers |
| Wednesday 2nd December: | Whole School trip to Pantomime |
| Friday 4th December | FoFs Christmas Fair |
| *Monday 7th December* | *Minnows Nativity to school: 9.50am* |
| | *Tiddlers Christmas show to parents 2pm* |
| *Tuesday 8th December:* | *Minnows Nativity to parents: 1:*45pm |
| Wednesday 9th December | Santa Fun Run 9am |
| Wednesday 9th December | School Christmas lunch |
| Friday 11th December: | FoFs Secret Present Room |
| *Monday 14th Dec:* | *Sticklebacks Christmas* |
| | *Production to School 1:45pm* |
| *Tuesday 15th Dec* | *Sticklebacks Christmas performance to parents* |
| | ***9.30am*** |
| *Tuesday 15th December* | *Irock End of term Concert 2.30pm* |
| Wednesday 16th December : | Community Christmas Tea Party at 1:30pm (Stingrays) |
| Friday 18th December: | End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm) |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Monday 4th January:** | **INSET Day 3** |
| **Tuesday 5th January:** | **Term 2 (First half begins)** |
| **Monday 25th January-** | **Year5/6 Residential to Yenworthy** |
| **Friday 29th January:** | |
| Monday 8th February: | Parents' Evening: 3:30-6:30pm |
| Tuesday 9th February: | Parents' Evening: 3:30-5:30pm |
| Tuesday 9th February: | Safer Internet Day |
| Friday 12th February: | Last day of half term |
| Monday 22nd February: | Term 2 (second half begins) |
| Thursday 4th March: | World Book Day |
| Monday 8th March- | Year 5 Bikeability |
| Thursday 11th March | |
| Monday 23rd March: | Seahorses & Stingrays production to whole school at 1:45pm |
| Tuesday 24th March: | Seahorses & Stingrays Production to Parents at 1:45pm |
| Wednesday 25th March: | Seahorses & Stingrays Production to Parents at 1:45pm |
| Thursday 25th March | End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm) |
| Monday 12th April: | Term 3 (First half begins) |

# Dates for your diary

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 14th April: | Swimming for Year 3 begins |
| Monday 10th May- | Year 6 SATs week |
| | |
| Thursday 13th May | |
| Thursday 27th May: | May Day Celebrations at 1:30pm |
| Thursday 27th May: | Term 3 (First half finishes) |
| **Friday 28th May:** | **INSET Day 4** |
| **Monday 7th June:** | **Term 3 (Second half begins)** |
| Monday 7th – Friday 18th June | Year 4 Multiplication Check |
| Monday 14th – Friday 18th June | Year 1 Phonics screening |
| Thursday 1st July: | Sports Day |
| Monday 12th July: | Sharks Production to whole school |
| Tuesday 13th July: | Sharks Production to whole School |
| Wednesday 14th July: | Sharks Production to whole school |
| Tuesday 20th July: | Year 6 Leavers' Service at 9:30am |
| Tuesday 20th July: | End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm) |

**Brass lessons** – Year 5 Fridays at 10.45am

**Forest School** is on Monday afternoons: 1-3pm

Term 1 - Sharks
Term 2 - Stingrays
Term 3 - Seahorses
Term 4 - Sticklebacks
Term 5 - Minnows
Term 6 - TBC

These dates and times are subject to change but should give you an idea of our structure for the year.

