



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As anticipated, this half term has flown by in a flurry of seasonal fun, including class celebrations, festive baking, parties and pantomime visits. It is always a joy to see the classes collaborating to put together Christmas performance and activities to share with their peers and visiting family members. The effort put in by the pupils and staff is incredibly impressive. Thank you to all our parents and families who were able to offer support in one way or another over the recent weeks.

As well as Christmas performances, the pupils have also been showcasing their singing and signing to put together our songs for the Paces Winter Ball. The videos made of the pupils and adults were a beautiful reflection of what make Paces so special. It was lovely to see the videos played alongside our choir singing at the Ball. Our singing talents were also on display again at our evening carol service- this was lovely time together sharing the Christmas story.

In amongst the festivities, the pupils' learning has continued. It was a real pleasure to take Angela Sykes, our new Chair of Governors, on a walk around the school to observe the task series in each class. I was so proud of all the pupils who demonstrated the work they do day in and day out to develop their skills, celebrating each other's successes along the way. Angela has made a wonderful start to her role as Chair and is keen to build our governing board- more news on this to come!

We ended the term with a wonderful Christmas party day which included crafts, baking, Christmas dinner and karaoke! The pupils all had a visit from Father Christmas where they each received a donated selection box and a present for the whole class- games, books and activities for them all to share. It was a very special day!

On behalf of everyone at Paces, I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a very happy start to the new year! We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026!

Best wishes,

Lizzie

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Finish for Christmas: Friday 19th December 2025

Back to School: Monday 5th January 2026

Coffee Morning for Parents/Carers:
Wednesday 11th February 2026

Half Term: Friday 13th February 2026

Back to School: Tuesday 24th February 2026

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2026

Balmoral Class:

What an amazing term it has been for Balmoral! Our Roman topic has been a real favourite, inspiring brilliant discussions and fantastic engagement. In literacy, we explored the story of Spartacus and learnt how to write our own commentary pieces, which we loved sharing with friends, with excitement and enthusiasm.

Learning about Roman inventions was just as exciting, we discovered their roads, arches, domes, central heating and sanitation. Re-enacting a Roman courtroom was one of the funniest activities, full of laughter, great acting and very dramatic decisions! We also compared life in ancient Rome with Britain then and now.

Preparing for Christmas was another highlight. We wrote our own Christmas play, created invitations, and even cooked our own Christmas dinner, complete with menus and recipes. With festive music playing, we proved we have some excellent chefs in our class! Obviously Balmorals love of food shines through.

We also enjoyed two fantastic trips: Clifton Park Museum, where we handled real Roman artefacts (the swords were a favourite!), and Defying Gravity at Ice Sheffield, which really put us in the Christmas spirit.

To finish the term, we proudly opened our own art gallery to showcase our wonderful work.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us in Balmoral!



Edinburgh Class:

What a fantastic term it has been in Edinburgh! We have thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time during our Victorian topic, where the children learned about life in the Victorian times. They explored school life, homes, toys, and jobs, and were fascinated by the differences between then and now. Everyone showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the topic. The Children especially enjoyed a Victorian teacher coming into school to provide children with the experience of a day in the life of a Victorian child.

One of the highlights of the term was our ice skating trip. It was wonderful to see the pupils' smiles on the ice. We had lots of fun!

We are very proud of all the pupils and their hard work; we look forward to the exciting learning ahead next term.



Warwick Class:

This term has been fun filled with lots of different activities continuing our topic 'The Big Wide World'.

Warwick have enjoyed learning about the world around them with lots of visits into the local community. They have experienced story time at the library, walks to the local park, and placed a poppy wreath they had made at the local memorial for Remembrance Day.

Children have explored and engaged with our sensory story, 'Under One Sky' alongside Christmas sensory stories, 'That's not my Angel' and 'That's not my Reindeer'. They have enjoyed joining in with sensory reading sessions using the Little Wandle books 'Old Macdonald' and 'At the Beach'.

Children have celebrated bonfire night by making beautiful sensory fireworks for us to explore and count! We have used instruments and props along with our song to add a sound effect.

Warwick have been super busy enjoying lots of Christmas crafts and activities, we were all so proud at all the hard work they put into their Christmas performance, we hope you enjoyed it too!

What a fantastic way to end our term with a Christmas party day and a trip to see Santa at Gulliver's Kingdom!

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas holiday; we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!



Appleby Class:

Wow! How have we already finished our first term of the academic year? Time truly flies when you're having fun, and this term has certainly whizzed by!

We were delighted to welcome a new friend to Appleby Class. She has settled in beautifully, and it has been wonderful watching all the children build friendships and play so kindly together.

This term we continued our topic, Big Wide World, and enjoyed so many exciting experiences. We celebrated Bonfire Night with sparklers, marked Remembrance Day, visited other classrooms to meet new friends, and went on seasonal walks to spot the changes around us. We've also celebrated birthdays, supported Children in Need, and of course shared plenty of fun in our daily learning.

A highlight of the term was our fantastic educational visit to Whistlestop Valley, where we rode the trains and had a magical story time with the main man in red... Santa!

Across the term, the children have worked incredibly hard in all their physical programmes and lessons. They've explored transport, animals and other objects and materials through sensory stories, maths and play-based learning. They have shown their creativity as amazing little artists during craft activities... with lots of glitter. We in Appleby Class wish you all a wonderful, festive break and look forward to more fun, learning, and adventures in January!



Chatsworth Class:

This term it has been super busy in Chatsworth class, but full of fun and active learning at the same time. We got stuck into our study of *A Christmas Carol*, experiencing this as a sensory story in English whilst also using this as a basis for our ever-popular Music and Touch Communication sessions. In fact, we loved the story so much that we decided to retell it, in true Chatsworth style, for our Christmas performance!

We have continued to work hard on our communication this half-term, with all of us becoming more confident in our use of symbols, switches or spoken language. In phonics, we have enjoyed exploring some new rhymes and had lots of fun listening to different sounds, identifying them, and even trying to recreate them with our own voices.

As always, we have been engaging well during the task series and have been applying these skills to other aspects of the daily routine, with lots of us making excellent progress in aspects of our independence like feeding and dressing.

We have also enjoyed some great enrichment activities such as Children in Need Day and an end-of-term visit to the theatre for the Cinderella panto!

Merry Christmas, everyone!



Hardwick Class:

As we wrap up the festive term, we want to celebrate all the wonderful learning and activities the children have enjoyed!

This term has been full of fun, creativity, and festive cheer. The children loved making Christmas crafts, from decorations to handmade cards, as well as exploring their creativity and fine motor skills along the way.

Our trips this term were extra special — we had a fantastic time at the bowling alley, and the children were delighted to visit the Christmas Tree Festival, enjoying the magical decorations and festive atmosphere. Our children's Christmas tree theme nursery rhyme was "Hey Diddle Diddle".

A huge congratulations to all the children for their brilliant Christmas performance. We are incredibly proud of each and every child - you all shone so brightly!

Thank you to all our families for your support this term. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year for more learning, laughter, and fun!



Durham Class:

This has been a truly enjoyable half-term! The children eagerly continued to explore the topic of school days, starting a new book 'Topsy and Tim Start School'. They had a lot of fun with engaging verbs and learned about different nouns. Our R.E. unit on Judaism was particularly popular, and it will continue after the Christmas holidays. The children experienced their very own Bar Mitzvah, reading from the Torah scroll by candlelight.

Thank you for your continued support.



Wentworth Class:

What a fantastic and busy term we've had in Wentworth Class! Our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved.

We began the term by exploring inventions and developing our very own product ideas. Pupils worked through the design process, thinking carefully about how their inventions could help others. The creativity on display was brilliant, and everyone enjoyed sharing and discussing their ideas.

One of our big highlights was our exciting trip to ICE Sheffield, where pupils had the chance to try curling. They showed great determination and teamwork while learning new skills on the ice. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they embraced a completely new sport.

As we moved closer to the festive season, the classroom was filled with rehearsals, singing, and lots of laughter. Pupils worked incredibly hard practising for our Christmas play, learning their roles, supporting one another, and building confidence in their performance skills.

To end our term in the most festive way possible, we visited Hesley Wood, where pupils helped to prepare and cook our very own Christmas dinner. They participated in the whole process—from preparing ingredients to helping with the cooking—and felt very proud of the final meal we enjoyed together.

It has been a wonderful term full of learning, new experiences, and shared achievements. We are incredibly proud of every pupil and look forward to another fantastic term ahead.

Wishing you all a restful and happy Christmas break!



Windsor Class:

This term has been full of festive cheer, lots of hard work from the Windsor students, and fun. We've enjoyed learning all about the Christmas Carol which we then performed as a class for parents. Lots of idea sharing and work went into creating the perfect set up for our play, from decorating the classroom (including our Christmas Carol themed Christmas tree) to making all the props on scene.

We loved making Christmas gifts for home, particularly the ones we could eat as they needed sampling before sending home. Speaking of food, we all went out to a restaurant as part of our end of term trip! We also went bowling where we all had an amazing time, especially for those students who got a strike - well done!

Even with all this Christmas fun happening, we have still been working extremely hard with our daily tasks, including phonics, communication, lying programmes and walking challenges.



School Visits:



Chair of Governors:

Hello everyone, I just wanted to introduce myself.

I am Angela Sykes your newly appointed Chair of Governors. My career background has been in education, where I was passionate in my teaching, striving to give my pupils the opportunities to achieve as high as they could in their education and life.

Now retired I am a wife, Mum and Grandma. On visiting Paces I was in awe of your wonderful community and could relate to the passion and ethos of your CE school. I hope I can, along with our board, continue to support your hardworking leaders, staff and amazing pupils to reach their life goals.

I am looking forward to meeting lots of you as I pop in and out of school. Till then I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Director of Services:

As we come to the close of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, inspiring, and deeply rewarding few months for our whole school.

This term has been filled with learning, growth, and determination. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard, showing resilience, curiosity, and pride in their achievements—both big and small. From progress in communication and mobility, to growing independence and confidence, every step forward has been worth celebrating. It has been a privilege to see pupils supporting one another and embracing new challenges with such positivity.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff team. Their skill, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our pupils are evident every day. They continue to go above and beyond to ensure our pupils receive the very best support and opportunities. To our families and carers, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. It has been lovely to see so many of you in school over the festive period. Your involvement, encouragement, and communication are vital, and we truly value the strong relationships we share.

This time of year, is an absolute favourite for me and it has been a privilege to watch the pupils performing in the Xmas celebrations, the carol concert, and the Winter ball. These moments remind us that our school is not just a place of learning, but a community built on care, respect, and shared purpose.

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with optimism and ambition. We will continue to build on the progress made, always guided by our commitment to inclusion, high expectations, and ensuring every pupil is supported to reach their full potential.

I wish all our pupils, families, and staff a restful and joyful break. Thank you for everything you have contributed this term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the spring term

Ruth



