



BOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning together with Kind Hearts and Determined Minds

NEWSLETTER – Week ending 20th December 2024

A message from Mrs Jackson...

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week we have experienced in school with many festive activities. On Monday, the Year 5 and 6 teams showcased a term of great learning with their big finish. I really enjoyed chatting with the children about their learning across the curriculum and hearing the knowledge and skills they have acquired. Thank you to the staff teams for providing such a lovely big finish to the topic.

On Tuesday, we welcomed many of you into school to take part in our very first crafternoon. Thank you for joining in with the fun we were impressed with the origami skills shown making those 3D snowflakes in Maple Class.

Mrs Armstrong led the school in a festive sing-a-long on Wednesday which was enjoyed by everyone in the hall. I would like to thank Mrs Armstrong for her leadership of music at Borough Green which has included weekly whole school singing, weekly choir practice, and a change of scheme also providing our script and music for the Key Stage One and EYFS Nativity.

It was a joy to attend both our nursery and school Christmas performances. The hard work of the staff teams made sure the performances were preparation and practices beforehand. Thank you to everyone involved, including the parents who sent in the costumes. The children were absolute stars, and the little angel really did deserve her wings-well done Autumn. Ronnie, Jack and George sang their solos and duets brilliantly. Zac also sang a beautiful solo at the end of the play which he should be very proud of.

A further thank you to our kitchen team for preparing and serving the wonderful Christmas lunch-it was enjoyed by everyone.

Now, it is time for our school community to take a break. I would like to thank every member of our staff team, including our governors, for their hard work, commitment and dedication to our children.

I hope everyone has a good break and enjoys time with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support.

I look forward to catching up with you in 2025!

Best wishes,

Mrs Jackson



A Christmas Message from the Governors

Once again, it has been an eventful year for the children of Borough Green Primary School, filled with numerous accomplishments. The school has seen pupils partake in regular events such as the annual year 6 residential trip, the school choir put on many performances including singing in the School Voices competition at the O2 and at the village Christmas Lights switch on, pupils performing in the iRock concert, and Reception / KS1 performing their festive nativity play.

However, this year has also seen the school re-establish links with the community by attending events such as the year 5/6 village war memorial visit for Remembrance and the choir singing for the U3A in the village hall as well as at the Westbank Care Home. When regularly speaking with Mrs. Jackson and by reading the weekly newsletters, it is apparent how proud all staff are of the children's achievements!

It has been another busy year for the school and Governors with the appointments of our new headteacher, Mrs. Jackson, and Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Wheatley along with an Ofsted visit during the week that we were recruiting the new Headteacher! Despite the challenges, the school leadership team and staff have shown remarkable adaptability and have worked tirelessly to minimize any impact on the children. As governors, we are particularly grateful to Mrs. Jackson, along with our interim Headteacher Mr. Cooper, and all the school staff for achieving this.

The school's amazing PTA have once again surpassed all expectations this year by organizing incredible events such as the trips to Legoland, Penny Wars, the Wonka Bar event, cake sales, discos, the summer and Christmas fairs and most recently Elfridges. This devoted team of volunteers has worked tirelessly to raise funds, ensuring that every child in the school has access to resources that enrich their learning journey. I am deeply grateful for their unwavering support and commitment throughout the past year.

Finally, thank you to the children, parents and carers who all work together to make Borough Green Primary School such a welcoming place for the children to thrive.

On behalf of all the governors, I would like to wish you a joyful festive break and a happy and healthy 2025.

Charles Copping
Chair of Governors Borough Green Primary School

What we have been up to this week...

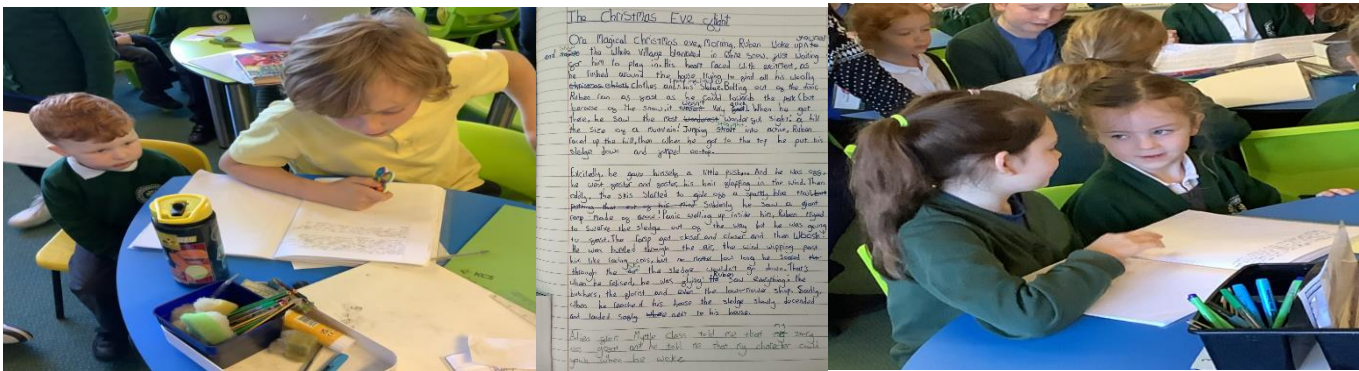
Crafternoon photos



Year 2 have had a wonderful week performing their Nativity play for their families. They have done brilliantly and I am extremely proud of each child in Bay class. They learnt their lines, used their biggest best voices when speaking and singing and all looked amazing in their wonderful costumes. I am also really impressed by the positive attitude shown by many of the children, particularly those performing solos. It is a big thing to stand alone and sing to lots of peers and adults. Children, thank you for embracing the challenge and saying yes! Thank you parents for organising costumes. We couldn't do it without you all. Here are some photos for you all to enjoy. Merry Christmas, Mrs Wibroe.



Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed sharing the winter-themed stories they have written this week with some of our younger pupils, who also gave them some expert feedback and advice.



From our FLO..

I just wanted to share a few pictures of how our Wellbeing Room is developing with you all. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who has donated time and resources to setting this up and helping as many children as possible to access it. The room is used for a number of groups including Yoga, Lego, Lunchtime and wellbeing groups, all of which are very popular! I hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mrs Dechaine – Family Liaison Officer



Attendance...

We really do want your children to achieve the best education at Borough Green Primary School, in both their academic and personal development. For us to achieve this, we need them to be here. Let us work together to improve attendance. There are 190 school days in every academic year. Together, we can make the most of them...

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Apple | 93.92% |
| Willow | 92.15% |
| Myrtle | 92.19% |
| Bay | 95.12% |
| Cherry | 91.54% |
| Poplar | 90.21% |
| Acacia | 96.46% |
| Maple | 91.76% |
| Oak | 93.00% |



The total attendance so far this year is 92.7%, while the national average is 94.6%.

We want our children to experience the full curriculum and range of opportunities on offer at Borough Green Primary School. We need the children here to work with them and provide the best opportunities to succeed...

Awards this term...

Star of the Term

Well done to our Children that have received a Star of the Term Award this Term.

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Year R | Orla | Year 4 | Siya |
| Year 1 | Harry | Year 5 | Millie |
| Year 2 | Ronnie | Year 6 | Bobby |
| Year 3 | Sienna | | |

Mathematician of Term 1/ 2

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Year 1 | Sophie | Year 4 | Harlow |
| Year 2 | Charlie | Year 5 | Alexander |
| Year 3 | Ayesha | Year 6 | Kasper |

Term 2 House Points Total

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| House | Ashdown | Malyon | Morris | Seamark |
| This Week | 455 | 383 | 463 | 538 winner |
| Total | 2620 | 2428 | 2520 | 2928 winner |

Congratulations to this week's Times Tables Rock Stars



House Winners: Maylon

Y5/6 Winners: Acacia

Other Information ...

Winter Mini Reading Challenge



Following the success of the Marvellous Makers Summer Reading Challenge, the Winter Mini Challenge is back and running from 1st December until 20 February and will be continuing the Marvellous Makers theme brought to life once more by the amazing illustrator, Natelle Quek. The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter break and help spark a love of reading even in the most reluctant of readers.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December and 20 February 2025 and add them to their online profile at wintermini.org.uk. Reaching their reading goal will unlock rewards including a new online badge and a Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep when they have finished.

Kent libraries will be featuring a run of social media posts throughout the challenge to maintain awareness and interest and will have a linked web page to their catalogue as a useful tool where everyone can find information about the Winter Mini Challenge and other related information.

The wonderful thing is that the Winter Mini Challenge is absolutely free, and children can either read their own books or pop into their closest library and choose from a huge selection of books, all free of charge. For more information pop onto your nearest Kent Library or visit the Reading Agency's website on wintermini.org.uk.

Young People's Winter Wellbeing Guide

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/TcW861K5ZmLbUuIN?ref=email>

Reminders

Please do not email your child's teacher direct, all emails are to go through the school office instead.

10 Top Tips for Parents/Carers - Safety over the Festive season

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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.

Email's sent out this week...

All years: Written statement of behaviour principles emailed out.

KS2: Final reminder for swim payments.

Choir / O2 concert: Link to words sent out this week.

FSM: Christmas Holiday Food Vouchers sent out this week

KS2: Return of VR Forms for 6 January asap.

Term 3 dates to remember...

Fri 20 December: Last today of Term 2

Mon 6 January: Start of Term 3

Mon 6 January : KS2 Prime VR workshops

Mon 6 January: Seamark House winners from Term 2's own clothes day

Mon 13 January: PTA: Year 2 Cake Sale after school

Fri 24 January : Choir at O2 Young Voices Concert

Mon 3 to Fri 7 February: Children's Mental Health Week

Mon 10 February: PTA: Year 3 Cake Sale after school

Tue 11 February: Safer Internet Day

Fri 14 February: Last day of Term 3

Mon 24 February: Start of Term 4

FULL LIST OF CALENDAR DATES ARE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

