



# NEWSLETTER



## A BUSY AUTUMN!

As we come to the end of the autumn term, it is hard to believe just how quickly it has flown by. It has been one of our busiest terms, filled with wonderful learning, exciting opportunities and festive celebrations across the school. The children have worked incredibly hard right up until the very end of term, showing enthusiasm, resilience and pride in everything they have done. Alongside their learning, there has been a real sense of Christmas cheer, making this a truly special and memorable time for our whole school community.



## A MESSAGE FROM MISS CLARKE

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to all our parents, carers, and families for your incredible support and involvement in our recent events. It has been truly wonderful to see the school so busy and bustling with cheer as we've come together to celebrate the Christmas spirit. Your engagement makes such a positive difference to our school community, and I am deeply grateful for the time, effort, and enthusiasm you've all shared. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*We wish all our families a very  
Happy New Year!*

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Our current school attendance stands at **93.8%**.  
**This is below the national average.**

We would like to remind families that it is the responsibility of parents and carers to inform school if their child is going to be absent, for example due to illness. There are several ways you can contact us to report an absence: you can call the school office and leave a message on the answerphone, call the office and speak directly to a member of the administration team, or send a message to the Office staff via Class Dojo.

Please ensure that absences are reported to the office, as teachers are busy preparing for teaching and may not see messages sent directly to them. If we do not hear from you and are unable to make contact with you or the other emergency contacts linked to your child by 12pm, a safe and well check will be carried out at the child's registered address. Two members of our attendance team will visit to ensure that the child and family are safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe and accounted for each day.



*Our school target for attendance is 97%.*



## UPCOMING TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEM UPDATES

In the new year, we have plans to upgrade our technologies and systems, including our phone lines, and data and information systems. Our office team will be communicating these changes and providing clear instructions in due course. These improvements are designed to make our systems more effective and efficient for both the school and our families. Thank you in advance for your patience and support as we introduce these updates.



# FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We strongly encourage all families to apply for Free School Meals. With the current cost of living crisis, we want to make sure that all eligible pupils are claiming their Free School Meals entitlement. The Department for Education's eligibility checking system is used to confirm who qualifies.

To apply, you'll need to register and provide:

- Your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number
- Your last name
- Your date of birth

The application **only takes a few minutes** and is well worth completing if you are eligible. Even if your child is currently in Reception or Key Stage 1, please still apply to ensure your child can receive their entitlement from Year 3 onwards.

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO APPLY NOW.**



*The application takes only a few minutes!*

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK: THE POWER OF GOOD

In November, we proudly joined in with Anti-Bullying Week, where children across the school learned about the importance and power of good. Through a series of thoughtful lessons and discussions, pupils explored what bullying is, how it can be challenged, and the difference that kindness can make. The week ended with the children making personal pledges to stand up to bullying and support one another. At our school, we are guided by our motto of 'kind hands, kind feet and kind words', and it was wonderful to see the children living this out so clearly in their learning and actions.



# CHILDREN IN NEED

In November, we also proudly joined the national fundraising campaign to support Children in Need. The children had great fun learning the BBC Strictly Come Dancing routine, which they performed as a whole-school flash mob, creating a fantastic atmosphere of excitement and teamwork. Alongside this, pupils enjoyed taking part in a travelling activity box that moved between classrooms, packed with fun challenges and games – including the much-loved ‘Bear Pong’! The school was a sea of yellow and spots, and thanks to everyone’s generous donations, we raised over £300 for this fantastic cause. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.



Thanks to your generosity we raised over £300 for BBC’s Children in Need.



## ROCKING OUR TIMES TABLES!

We were delighted to host our first Times Tables Rockstar Day and NumberBot Day, organised by our brilliant Maths Lead, Mrs Jennings. The children looked fantastic in their outfits, and we would like to thank our families for their wonderful support in helping make the day such a success.

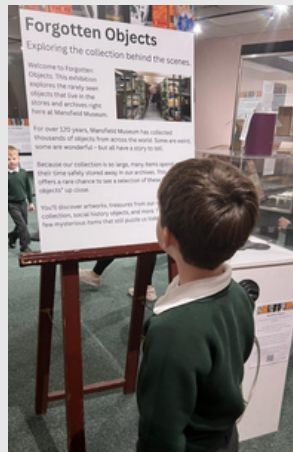
The children had an amazing day fully immersed in maths, enjoying this unique and exciting learning opportunity. We hope the experience has helped to ignite a love of times tables across the school, particularly for our Year 4 pupils as they prepare for their upcoming Multiplication Tables Check (MTC).



# YEAR 5/6 WORLD WAR II LEARNING SHOWCASE

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently invited families into school to share their learning about World War II and explore their enquiry question: Is war ever justified? The children confidently shared their knowledge and understanding with family and friends, demonstrating both maturity and depth of thought.

Alongside this, pupils supported visitors in developing clay modelling skills, allowing families to engage creatively with the learning experience. It was wonderful to see such meaningful conversations taking place and to celebrate the children's hard work and learning together.



## TRIP TO THE MANSFIELD MUSEUM

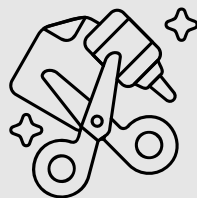
Our Key Stage 1 learners visited Mansfield Museum as part of their enquiry, How can we make the world a better place? During the visit, the children took part in interactive workshops that explored the impact of litter on the environment and how long different materials take to decompose. They also enjoyed making their own "litter bug," helping to bring their learning to life in a creative and memorable way.

The children travelled on public transport, giving them valuable opportunities to develop independence skills while exploring their local environment. It was a fantastic day of learning beyond the classroom, and the children represented the school brilliantly.

# LETTERS TO SANTA

Our Key Stage 1 children have been busy putting their writing skills into action by writing letters to Santa as part of their English lessons. They learned how to structure a letter, including what to include and how to present their writing clearly.

Once completed, the children enjoyed a walk to the local postbox where they proudly posted their letters. Keep an eye on your letterboxes — a reply should be on its way very soon!



# FESTIVE FAMILY CRAFTS

Our Key Stage 1 children were delighted to invite special guests into school for a festive afternoon of Christmas crafts and singing. It was wonderful to see families spending time together, creating beautiful festive crafts and sharing the joy of the season. Everyone also enjoyed hot chocolates and festive snacks, adding to the cosy Christmas atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the afternoon such a special and memorable occasion.

# OUR YOUNGEST STARS SHINE IN BARMY BETHLEHEM

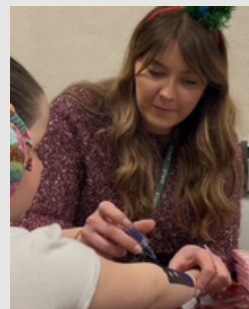
Our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception delighted audiences with their Christmas performance of Barmy Bethlehem. The children certainly brought the cute factor in their wonderful costumes and confidently showcased their singing and acting talents. It was a joy to see how much effort they put into their performance, and the smiles on their faces said it all. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the many families who joined us, making it a truly special and memorable Christmas event.



# A WONDERFUL WINTER FAIR

Our Winter Fair, delivered by our fabulous PTA, was a huge success and filled with festive cheer. A wonderful mix of external and school-run stalls meant that many families left with their arms full of goodies. There were lots of exciting items on offer, including gifts, scented candles, cupcakes, toys, the ever-popular tombola, and much, much more.

The hall was full of magical moments as children enjoyed having their photographs taken with Mr and Mrs Claus, creating special memories for the festive season. A huge thank you to our PTA for organising such a fantastic event, and to everyone who came along to support it.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND FESTIVE FAVOURITES

Our Year 3 and 4 children treated families and friends to two wonderful performances of their Christmas Carol Concert. The children sang a mix of traditional carols alongside popular Christmas party favourites, filling the hall with festive cheer. One particularly memorable moment from the evening was their beautiful performance of *Somewhere Only We Know* by Keane, which was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

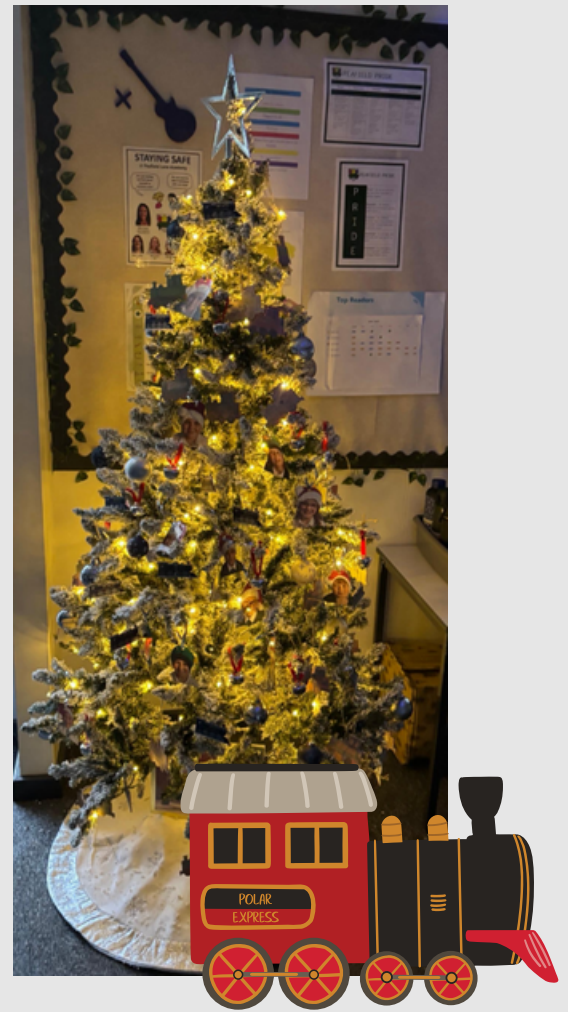
Families and friends were also able to enjoy hot chocolate and mince pies, making the evening a warm and festive celebration of music and togetherness.



# A TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

As part of our festive celebrations, Miss Clarke set all classes a Christmas tree challenge: to decorate their tree based on a children's book. Classes worked together to share ideas and vote on their chosen theme, resulting in a wonderful variety of beautifully decorated trees. Many featured handmade decorations and carefully designed baubles, showcasing creativity and teamwork across the school.

Teachers took the competition very seriously—especially with the promise of chocolates for the winning class! From Stick Man and Aliens Love Underpants to The Grinch and festive reindeer themes, the standard was incredibly high. The winning class was Thoresby, whose tree was inspired by The Polar Express. Well done to everyone who took part for making the school feel extra festive.



# A FESTIVE DASH WITH SANTA

Our Santa Dash was a fantastic festive opportunity that combined fun, fitness and Christmas cheer. Children, organised in their phases, took part in a running challenge with Santa himself acting as the pacemaker. The playground was booming with festive songs as the children eagerly chased Santa around, creating a joyful and energetic atmosphere. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, plenty of laughter, and children staying active while celebrating the season together.

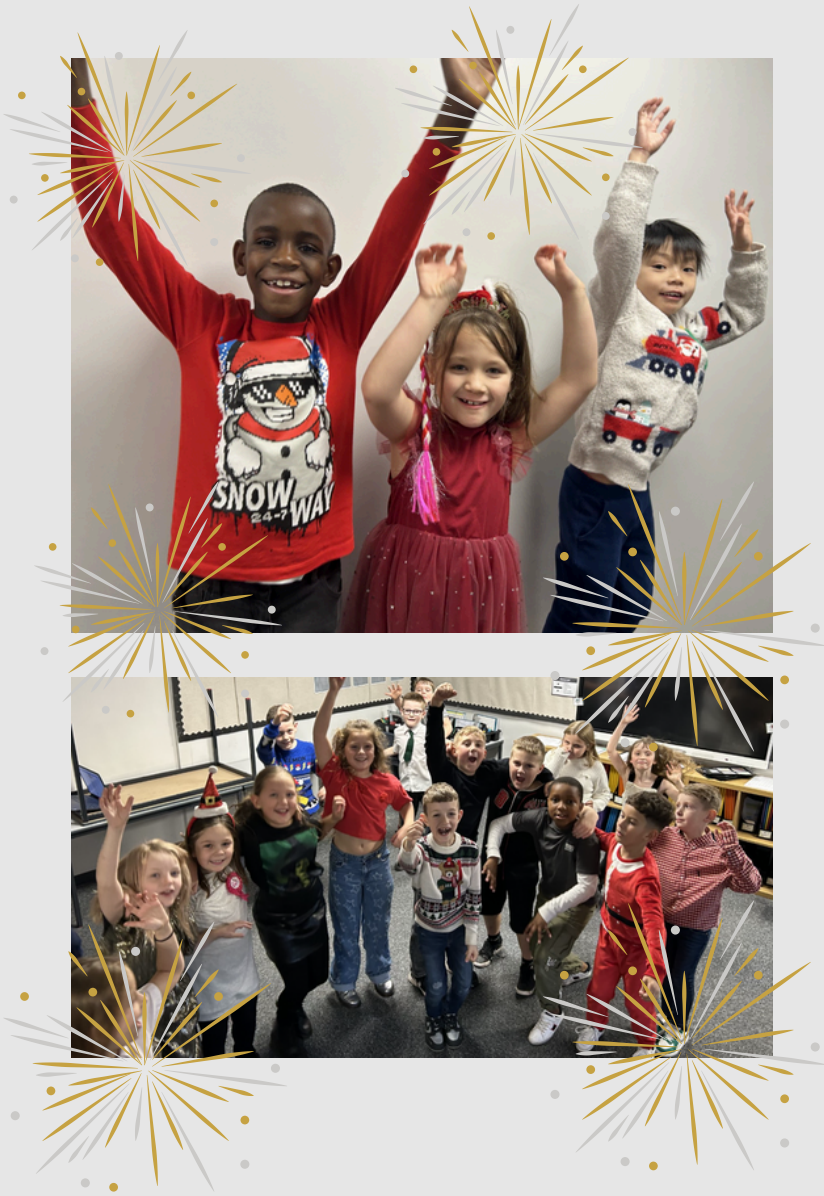


# CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The children have been working incredibly hard right up until the very end of term, and we were delighted to celebrate their efforts with some well-earned treats. Teachers organised class parties which were enjoyed by all, featuring music, dancing and a range of fun, festive games.

We are very grateful to our PTA, who added to the excitement by generously providing sweet treats and prizes for every child. Some classes also celebrated earning their Beanstack reward, with children voting for special treats such as coming to school in their pyjamas and enjoying a Christmas movie together.

It was a lovely way to end the term and a well-deserved reward for the children's hard work and positive attitudes throughout the term.



## SPECIAL NEWS TO SHARE

We are delighted to share some special news with our school community: Miss Dowsing is expecting a baby girl in April. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Dowsing and her family on this wonderful news.

Miss Clarke will be in touch in the New Year with further information regarding how Sherwood Class will be covered during the Summer term.



## SCHOOL PLACES AVAILABLE

You may have noticed our banners and posters around the local area advertising that we currently have places available at our school. We would be grateful if you could help spread the word by sharing this information with family and friends. Even families who live outside our catchment area are likely to be offered a place.

We warmly welcome all prospective families to visit our school and take a tour with Miss Clarke. To arrange a visit, please ask them to contact the school office for further information.



Please promote our school to friends and family! We have places from Reception to Year 6.

## HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

The New Year is a great opportunity to establish new routines and embed home learning into everyday family life. Creating regular habits for reading and times tables practice can have a significant impact on children's confidence and progress, and we thank you for your continued support at home.

We would like to remind families of our home learning expectations to support children's progress and development. All children are expected to read at home a minimum of three times per week, with reading recorded on Beanstack. Regular reading is essential in developing fluency, comprehension and a love of books.

In addition, children in Year 2 to Year 6 are expected to complete 10 minutes per day of times tables practice using Purple Mash and Times Tables Rockstars. Little and often practice makes a big difference, and your support at home is greatly appreciated.



A few minutes of reading every day builds skills that last a lifetime.

## A FAMILY FEAST

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day was a truly special occasion for everyone. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff, who worked incredibly hard to prepare and serve over 220 delicious Christmas dinners. This year, we tried something a little different by hosting family-style dining within the classrooms. Teachers beautifully decorated the tables, and every child received a Christmas cracker to add to the festive atmosphere. While waiting for the meals on wheels to arrive, the children enjoyed playing Christmas games and quizzes, and it was lovely to see teachers and pupils sharing relaxed, happy conversations together. It was a joyful, memorable experience that truly captured the spirit of Christmas in school.



## JOIN OUR STAFF TEAM

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor and would love to hear from anyone who enjoys working with children and supporting them during their lunch and playtimes. This role involves helping children to enjoy their lunchtime, encouraging positive play and ensuring everyone feels safe and included during their break.

The position is ideal for someone looking for regular, short hours within the school day and who would enjoy being part of our school community. If you are caring, reliable and enjoy working with children, this could be a great opportunity.

For more information or to apply, [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff who cook and serve hundreds of dinners everyday!

# SAFEGAURDING IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

At Peafield Lane Academy, the safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority. We would like to remind parents, carers and children that if you are worried about your own safety, or the safety of someone else, please speak to a member of our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) team.

Our DSL team is here to listen, offer support and take concerns seriously. No worry is ever too small to share. By working together and communicating openly, we can ensure that children feel safe, supported and able to thrive.

If you feel unable to speak to us in person, you can email our safeguarding [email](#). Please note that this inbox should not be used for urgent matters — in these cases, contact the school directly or seek immediate advice from the relevant authorities.



*Keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do.*

## STAYING SAFE

at Peafield Lane Academy

Are you feeling worried about yourself or someone else?

Do you want to talk to someone who can help?

**Miss Clarke**  
Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Miss Rowbotham**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Miss Trolley**  
DSL

**Mrs Jones**  
DSL

**Miss Bradley**  
DSL

**Miss Fairlee**  
DSL

## MASH - MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB

If you think a child is at risk of abuse, please report this via this [form](#). If you have urgent concerns or suspect that a child has been abused, call us immediately on [0300 500 80 80](tel:03005008080) (if you are a member of the public).

If you require an urgent response outside of the MASH's working hours (8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm Friday), contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on [0300 456 4546](tel:03004564546).

**In an emergency call 999.**

**To report a crime call 101.**

# SUPPORTING OUR PEAFIELD FAMILIES

We understand that sometimes life can be hard for children and families, and that everyone may need a little extra support at different times. At Peafield Lane Academy, we are committed to supporting our families and ensuring no one feels alone.

If you feel you or your child would benefit from support, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs Rodgers. She is here to listen, offer guidance and help point families in the direction of support through external services, as well as support with making referrals where needed. There is no judgement – just a caring, confidential helping hand.

Please call the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Rodgers or drop her a message via Class Dojo.



## CELEBRATING ACHEIVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We love hearing about the wonderful achievements our children accomplish outside of school and celebrating their successes with our whole school community. This term, we were delighted to hear about Piper's fantastic gymnastics competition, where she showcased her amazing talent and dedication. We also want to congratulate Alfie, who was awarded Man of the Match in his rugby game — a brilliant achievement!

Well done to you both! We are very proud of you and look forward to hearing about many more successes.

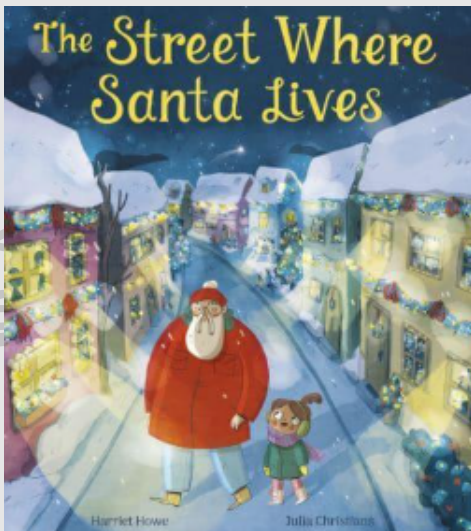
Tell us about your child's achievements via messaging Miss Clarke on Class Dojo.



# RECOMMENDED READS

Here is this month's recommended reads...

We encourage all children to read at least once a day, 3 times a week.

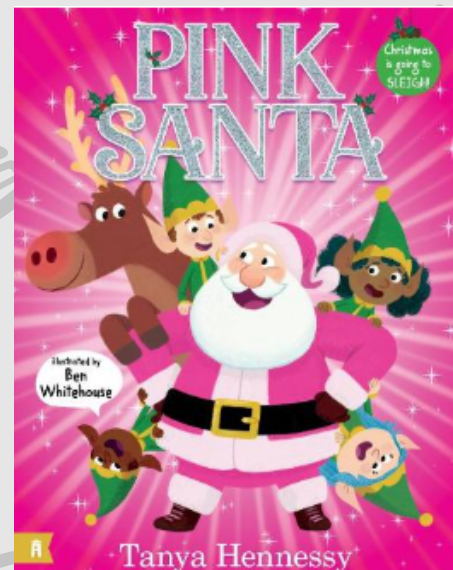


## EYFS

A group of children notice mysterious clues on their street that suggest Santa might live nearby. As they investigate, the story celebrates imagination, kindness and the magic of Christmas, reminding us that the spirit of Santa lives wherever people care for one another. 🌲 ✨

## KS1

This festive story challenges traditions as Santa appears in pink, encouraging children to question stereotypes and celebrate individuality. The story promotes acceptance, confidence and the message that it's okay to be different while still spreading kindness and Christmas cheer. 🌲

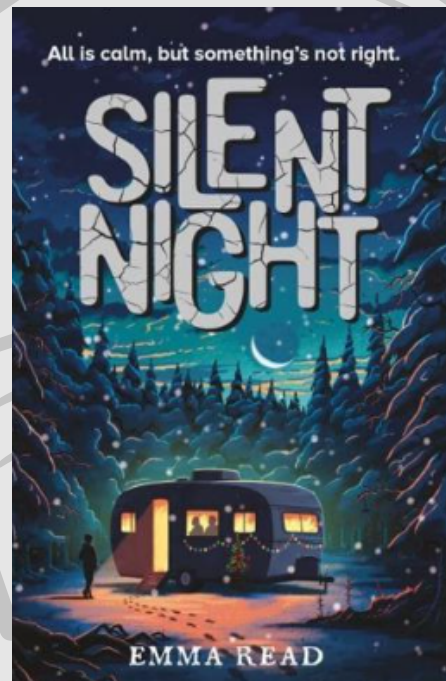


## LKS2

A group of children uncover a mysterious code left by a snowman, leading them on a wintry adventure full of clues and surprises. As they work together to solve the puzzle, the story celebrates friendship, teamwork and the magic of the season. ❄️

## UKS2

A spooky Christmas read for ages 10 and up. All seems calm, but something isn't right... When Masen, Conor and Joss wake up on Christmas morning, their parents have vanished, their presents lie untouched, and a blizzard traps them inside. Families don't just disappear on Christmas Day — so what's really going on? A chilling winter mystery, perfect for spooky nights.



## STAFF FAVOURITES:

MRS JONES loves... THAT'S NOT MY REINDEER!

Mrs Jones loves That's Not My Reindeer, which she enjoys reading to her little baby. He enjoys the story and especially likes exploring the sensory pages. It's a favourite book for snuggling up together and sharing a special reading moment around Christmas time.

