



The Belfry CE VA Primary School

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Monday 8th December 2025

Dear parent/carer

Last Friday, we were visited by members of local churches (C of E, Methodist, Baptist, Free and the Salvation Army) to talk about what Advent and the countdown to Christmas mean to them, as well as what they do to mark and celebrate the time. My personal highlight was seeing our oldest and youngest children, Oak and Holly classes, working together to make their Christingles. Many thanks to Mrs Lee for all her hard work in organising the day, and to all our visitors for supporting the school's work. I have said it before and will doubtless say it again: of all the gifts we can give, time is perhaps the most precious.



As I type this, KS1 are having a penultimate nativity rehearsal before their dress rehearsal to KS2 tomorrow. This afternoon, our juniors have their dress rehearsal to our infants. With performances across the rest of the week, it is going to be busy, a little less structured than normal and the children will likely be excited and tired in equal measure. First and foremost, whatever their role, we hope that the children are enjoying performing - we hope to see lots of you there to support them if you can make it. I'd also just like to thank all the classroom staff for their efforts in putting these on. They are not part of the national curriculum, but, at the end of a long term, our staff go the extra mile to plan, cast, rehearse and support the children. Not only that, but they do it brilliantly. Thank you, team.

Finally, we have our termly parent assembly next Friday 19th December, starting at 2.15pm. If your child has 10 blue cards, encourage them to bring them in so we can celebrate their achievements. We'll also look at team points and give out the coveted trophies – one for our best role model and another for ambition and progress. Any children nominated for the trophy but not winning it, receive a gold card that cannot be earned any other way. If your child is going to win one of those two trophies, we will contact you *this week* to let you know. I hope to see lots of you there next week.

Have a fantastic week.

With kind regards

Steven Boast

Executive Deputy Headteacher
North Star Federation

Ms Soanes (formerly Mrs Lemmon)

Longer-standing parents/carers will have noticed Ms Soanes' absence from school in recent months. After a period of ill health, she has now retired. With many years of service at The Belfry, she will have seen and helped so many children, not just those at The Belfry today, but older siblings and other children who have moved up to high school and beyond. Her contribution to the school will be greatly missed, but I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best, and a happy and healthy retirement.

Brilliant Bowlers!

Congratulations to the bowling team who took part in the Panathlon Bowling at JR's last Wednesday. They gave it their all, got lots of spares and Sophia top-scored for Belfry. Above all else, their support and encouragement for one another was amazing and a perfect representation of our school and its values.

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

A huge THANK YOU for all of your donations for the appeal this year. Everything was collected by the Salvation Army visitors to our advent day last week and every gift donated will go to a child who might otherwise miss out this year, bringing them the hope that is part of our vision as a school and drives everything we do.

Thank you again.



Out of school success

Congratulations on the following for their successes outside of school:

- Florence H who has just moved up to Stage 4 swimming. She has worked hard and persevered. Well done, Florence – be very proud of yourself 😊

Celebration Assembly Winners

Class certificates

- Holly: Neve - for always including people in your games and playing nicely with them.
- Larch: Frankie - for taking great interest in our history topic learning about Overstrand in the past and asking some very good questions.
- Willow: Phoebe - for producing a beautiful Christmas card based on a phrase from John's Gospel.
- Ash: Thea because you are a role model. You listen carefully and are always ready to listen and join in. You also work hard across different subjects. Well done.
Summer because you are always enthusiastic. You usually listen carefully and you are always keen to contribute and share your ideas. Well done.
- Oak: Thiene – because you always try your hardest in lessons and you are a kind and considerate member of Oak Class.

Perseverance Pioneers

- Holly: Arlo - for trying hard in your phonics to spell words with digraphs.
- Larch: Oliver - for persevering in his attitude towards learning especially when he sometimes finds things tricky and would like to give up.
- Willow: Lucy – you showed perseverance by getting back up and carrying on after falling over.

Ash: Dougie for setting an excellent example: 'you are always good'.

Oak: Eli has shown perseverance in his learning. Every day he perseveres and tries his best.

Forest School:

Bertie Bee goes to Summer for her super attitude helping at the church community garden and for her Christmas crafting creativity.

A **special mention** to all the students in Ash class who helped at the Methodist Church Community Garden on Thursday morning. They made a big difference in a short amount of time, and they were great ambassadors for the school.

Bella Bee goes to Delilah for her perseverance whittling her jingle stick and her safe handling of tools. Well done, Delilah.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 9 th December	KS1	Christmas performance dress rehearsal: 9 am
Wednesday 10 th December	KS2	Performances at 9 am & 6.30 pm
Thursday 11 th December	KS1	Performance at 9 am
Friday 12 th December	KS1	Performance at 9 am
Friday 12 th December	Y4	Friendship workshop for parents (of those children who took part) 2-3 pm
Tuesday 16 th December		Christmas Service, St. Martin's Church, 2-3 pm
Wednesday 17 th December		Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day!
Friday 19th December		Last day of term & Parent Assembly 2.15 in school. All welcome!
Tuesday 6th January 2026		First day of Spring term 2026