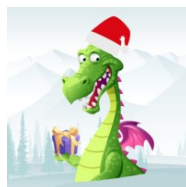




# Speenhamland Primary School

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## Newsletter 8th December 2023



**WE ASPIRE, WE CHALLENGE, WE SUPPORT**

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we launched Advent with a special assembly for the children. They learnt about the meaning of advent and how it is celebrated not only in our country but also around the world. Another tradition some of our Dragon Club pupils enjoyed this week was decorating our two beautiful Christmas trees, which were kindly donated by Moles.

On Wednesday, our Reception children did a phenomenal performance of their Christmas songs. They wore their Christmas outfits with pride and were so confident gathering on the stage to perform to a hall full of parents. Their confidence, singing and actions were a big hit with the audience who all felt the Christmas spirit. A special thank you to Miss Harrison, Mrs Neale and all the EYFS staff for their hard work and encouragement supporting the pupils. What a team!

In other news, our year 6 pupils attended the local church to take part in a special COINS Christmas workshop. The people running the workshop were amazed by our pupils, commenting, "Your children were really engaged and asked really good thinking-questions. They have obviously been educated to think and question." It is great to see our year 6 pupils being such great ambassadors for the school. The children themselves found the experience really enriching. Isabelle said, "I didn't have the opportunity to have a role in the year 2 nativity as it was Covid so having the chance to be Mary in this nativity made me really happy." Freddy followed this up with, "The star reminds me of how the wise men found Jesus, as it was believed in those days that whenever a king was born a star would go up."

After school today we are proud to hold our annual Christmas Fair from 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm. We hope that you will come along, support our school and spend lots of money! FOSS work tirelessly to fundraise for the school and help provide the children with extra resources. The most recent example of this is our brand new, wheelchair-friendly stage which FOSS kindly purchased for the school.

**Mrs J Lewry, Headteacher**



## Collecting Children from School

Please may we remind parents and carers that if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child at the end of the school day, that the office is informed, with good notice, either by calling the office or emailing the office, clearly stating your child's name, class and who is collecting.

**We will NOT let a child leave with anyone else unless we have been provided with clear details to safeguard all our children.**

*Thank you.*

## TEACHING ASSISTANT VACANCY

**Would you like to join our wonderful staff at Speenhamland?**

We are looking to appoint a special needs teaching assistant to work in our Keevill unit.

Start date, as soon as possible.

£14,568 to £14,832 pro rata

Please email  
[jburgess@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:jburgess@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)  
for an application pack.

**WE ASPIRE, WE CHALLENGE, WE SUPPORT**

AND THE  
WINNERS  
ARE...



## Achievement and PSHE Awards

### SCHOOL

Wisteria	Temi Olowe
Willow	Joseph Wheeler
Cherry	Sai Sahasra Alathur Venugopalan
Oak	Hassan Ali
Ash	Sinmi Oyedele
Hawthorn	Filip Stosak
Juniper	Ananya Arya
Maple	Harper Graham
Acer	Alice Jones
Redwood	Berat Findik
Cedar	Sonny Basden
Maths/English Group	Harvey Lawrence

### PSHE

Sophie Cheesman-Radbourn
Marlen Bori
Chester Pounds
Caelan Heller
Marilou Athanasiadou
Mollie Cole
Lola Aitken
Ava Lane
Harry Leeke
Molly Chaplin
Alec Down-Giddens



### Forthcoming Events

11-12-23 9.15 am	Infant Nativity (dress rehearsal)
12-12-23 9.30 am	Infant Nativity
13-12-23 5 pm	Infant Nativity
13-12-23	Christmas Lunch
20-12-23 1 pm	End of term
09-01-24	Pupils return



### Keep reading!

Reading logged in school and at home (3+ reads).  
CONGRATULATIONS to Redwood for achieving the highest results this week! Well done to Ash who were a very close second with 96%.

#### READING LOGGED 27-11-23 to 03-12-23

Class	Number of children	Percentage
Acer	28	93%
Ash	25	96%
Cedar	26	87%
Cherry	16	62%
Hawthorn	25	86%
Juniper	18	64%
Maple	25	89%
Oak	19	70%
Redwood	28	97%
Willow	18	90%
Wisteria	15	68%

### ATTENDANCE

This week's attendance is 93.27%  
Last week's attendance was 93.64%

With the change in weather and traffic,  
please allow more time for your journey to  
ensure your child is in class for 8.30 am.

**EVERY DAY REALLY DOES MATTER!**

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day



# PUPILS' AMAZING WORK THIS WEEK



This week, Reception children took to the stage for their Christmas performance. They all sang beautifully, stood on stage with pride and put on an amazing show for their family members.



**The River Thames**

The great, great, strong River Thames with 200 bridges that cross the River Thames, and has been involved in a lot of British history.

Where is River Thames?

The amazing River Thames is located in the South of U.K. It runs through nine counties and three known cities including London, Oxford and Reading. The sources of the River is in Kemble and the mouth of the River travels in to the North sea.

Why is River Thames so popular?

The River Thames so popular because it flows through famous city called London. In addition to this, there are over 200 bridges crossing the River and also the River Thames has been involved in a lot of British history.

Leisure on the River Thames

There are many leisure activities that can be done on the River Thames. Fishing, sailing, canoeing, swimming and mudlarking. Mudlarking means is very popular with people searching in a mud and also find arrows, gold coins.

River Thames at Christmas time

In the older days, the River Thames can be freeze over in the winter months and people can get also walk on River Thames, skate, and have Frost fairs on it. And now River Thames can not freeze over, although many people can go to boat trips and see Christmas lights.

Fun facts

- Did you know the River Thames its second longest River in England.
- River Thames has 200 bridges that can cross the River Thames.
- River Thames has been involved in lots of British history.

Hawthorn class have been writing information texts about the River Thames and produced amazing double-page spreads of their work.

**Work by Isla and Phoebe from Hawthorn class.**

The year 5 children enjoyed a visit from some members of Lambourne fire station.

We learned about the safety requirements of their uniforms and how they work in teams during emergencies. We were lucky enough to look around the fire engine too, which had so many hidden compartments, it was amazing. Our visit was cut short a little as they had to attend a real-life call out, but we watched them speed away with their sirens blaring. It was a great morning!



**REVER**

The forceful, formidable River Thames is located in England, it flows through nine counties including: Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Essex and greater London.

Where is the River Thames

The world-famous River Thames is located in southern England, where the potent River Thames flows into the North sea and the source is at Kemble.

Why is the River Thames so Reverberated?

The River Thames is so world-famous because it flows through the distinguished city London. In addition to this, there is over 200 bridges crossing it, and has also been involved in two thousand years of British history.

Fun on the river Thames

These fun activities include: fishing, swimming, sailing and mudlarking. Mudlarking is a popular activity where people look in the muddy riverbanks to see if they can find objects such as: coins, pottery, toys and even swords.

The wonderful River Thames at Christmas

In the past, the River used to freeze over and people would throw 'frost fairs' when people would skate, dance and drink. Sadly, today it doesn't freeze over but people still go on a boat trip to see the Christmas lights.

Interesting facts

- The River is home to over 119 species of fish.
- The river is 20m deep.
- It's the longest river in England.





# WINNER

# WINNER



**LAURA FARRIS MP**

*Member of Parliament for Newbury*

Ms Julie Lewry  
Speenhamland Primary School  
Pelican Lane  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1NU

Our Ref: LF39299

5 December 2023

Dear Julie,

I am delighted to inform you that Angie Liu Ngai Ching, a Year 6 pupil at your school, has been chosen as the winner for my Christmas Card Competition 2023. I absolutely loved Angie's creative design and, as you may know, Angie's card will be sent to the Prime Minister and across West Berkshire.

## **Huge congratulations to Angie from Acer class!**

We were absolutely ecstatic when we received the news from Laura Farris MP that Angie was the winner of the Christmas card competition. Angie is such a creative pupil and thoroughly deserves this recognition.

It is lovely that Speenhamland School is being represented in West Berkshire and Angie's Christmas card will be seen by our

Prime Minister - we are immensely proud!"

When Angie found out that she won, she said "I feel so famous as my Christmas card will be representing West Berkshire and the Prime Minister will see it!"

# Congratulations

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