



Nettlestone Primary School

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

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News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher: Miss K Howarth | Head of School: Mrs A Jacobs



20th December 2024

VALUE OF THE WEEK: Peace

KEY STAGE 1 MAKE IT HAPPEN—THE JOLLY POSTMAN!

Children in Years 1 & 2 delighted audiences over three performances of the Nativity themed production of The Jolly Postman this week. The story told of how a hardworking postman visits his faithful friends and encounters a few surprises on the way! Performed on our little stage the children showed confidence in their respective roles, especially the main cast and narrators from Year 2.

The children from Key Stage 1 sang, danced and shared their lines with so much enthusiasm and confidence and members of the audience shared some amazing comments after each show!

A special mention must go to all of the children that showed amazing resilience when the technology failed unexpectedly and to all of the children that stood in for their poorly classmates!

Thank you also to FONs who raised approximately £302 by hosting our three amazing raffles.

Thank you so much to the whole team for 'making it happen!'



THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN—A MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNORS

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to wish all our children and their families a very Happy Christmas.

This year, the School Place Planning project implemented by the Local Authority has been worrying for many of us. Despite this and other increased pressures, our schools have continued to deliver a quality education to all our children with exceptional enrichment opportunities. The Ofsted inspections earlier this year, substantiated our excellent work across those areas inspected and made us, as Governors, feel very proud of what the whole team across the Federation has achieved.

Have a fabulous Christmas and New Year break.

Mick and Ian
Co-Chairs of Governors



MAKING IT HAPPEN AT CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

This year's traditional Christmas Lunch was a heart-warming event, bringing festive cheer to over 180 children. The school hall was filled with laughter and joy as the children, proudly wearing party hats they had made themselves, gathered for the special meal prepared by our superb kitchen team.

The atmosphere was truly magical, with tables beautifully decorated and the delicious aroma of a traditional Christmas feast filling the air. The children enjoyed a yummy meal that included all the classic favourites: roast turkey, stuffing, vegetables, and a special Christmas biscuit or cake.

One of the highlights of the event was the sense of community and togetherness. All adults in the school joined the children at the tables, sharing in the fun and festivities. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to create lasting memories and reinforced the strong sense of community within our school.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this event a success, from Laura and Bethan in the kitchen to the teachers and volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly. They certainly 'made it happen!'

Happy Christmas everyone!



I CAN MAKE A HEALTHY CHOICE—BRIGHTEN YOUR BAG COMPETITION

We are thrilled to share the results of our recent **Brighten the Bag Competition!** Our PE ambassadors had the challenging task of selecting the winners from a fantastic array of entries. After much deliberation, we are excited to announce the outstanding winners.

Key Stage 1 (KS1)

Isabelle H from Reception

Ella R from Year 2

Both Isabelle and Ella won a new reflective bag and flashing bike clips for their creative designs.

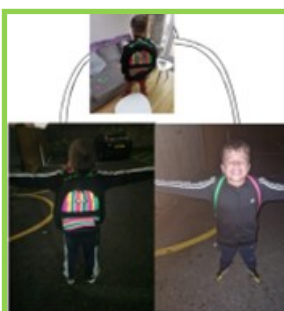
Key Stage 2 (KS2)

Mehmet from Year 4

Will from Year 6

Mehmet and Will impressed us with their use of fluorescent colours to make their bags stand out in the dark. All entries were sent to the Junior Travel Organiser at the Isle of Wight Council, who judged the winners from all competing schools. We are incredibly proud to announce that Will's bag was chosen as the best on the entire Island! As a reward, Will won his family a ticket for the Christmas Light Tour from Southern Vectis and a stunt scooter for himself.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this competition. Each of you has won a pencil and a fluorescent clip for your efforts. Well done!





WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—EYFS ROCKED AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

Our very little learners made it happen yesterday morning and truly rocked around the Christmas tree, performing their Christmas songs with amazing gusto and flair to an audience of family and friends who gathered on the playground to watch!



It was a very proud moment for the EYFS team as they supported each and every child to have fun and truly share the Christmas spirit.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our community for joining us and sharing in the sing-along. Your support made the event even more special.



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—KEY STAGE 2 CAROL SERVICE

Today, all children from Key Stage 2 attended a wonderful carol concert at St. Peter's Church. The event was the perfect way to finish our Christmas celebrations at Nettlestone Primary.

Year 6 pupils took on the important role of narrating the traditional nativity story, bringing the timeless tale to life. Each class also shared a Christmas song, delighting a packed congregation with their festive performances. These included Away in a Manager, Little Donkey, We Three Kings, Jingle Bells, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.



We also would like to praise Piper for her amazing rendition of 'Tarantella', played expertly on the keyboard.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and the spirit of Christmas, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved. Thank you to everyone that performed at St Peter's and thank you, as always, for the church for allowing us to use this amazing facility.



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY 6TH

TUESDAY 7TH

WEDNESDAY 8TH

THURSDAY 9TH

FRIDAY 10TH

NO CLUBS, except
Breakfast Club and
Coolkidz

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Club list out to
parents.

KS1 Celebrations

OUR POETRY CORNER



'A Visit from St Nicholas'

by Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering sight should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof—
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly;
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

"A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore is a beloved poem, and is one of Miss Howarth's favourite ever poems. She remembers learning the lengthy verses when she was at school and can still recall the names of all of the reindeer as a result—which comes in very handy for a Christmas Quiz!

The poem describes a magical Christmas Eve when St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) visits a household. The narrator hears a noise and sees St. Nicholas arrive in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. St. Nicholas is described as a jolly, plump figure with twinkling eyes and a red nose. He fills the stockings hung by the chimney with care and then disappears up the chimney with a nod.

The poem ends with St. Nicholas wishing everyone a "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



SANTA SLIDE SUCCESS!

On Wednesday, we had an amazing time during our annual Santa Stroll and Reindeer Ramble! Unfortunately we had to change the style of the day because of the weather but our new style 'Santa Slide' went down a treat.

Amazingly we had 166 children who enthusiastically joined the experience and had a 'whale of a time' dancing the time away!

The children joined the enthusiastic dance team of Mr Phillimore, Miss Holbrook, Mrs Lemon, as well as Mrs Dyer and the EYFS Team to ensure that they all heard a very large number of Christmas cheery tunes and had a super sing-along! The festive spirit was truly in the air. After their energetic outburst each child received a special Santa greenarmy hat and a warm cup of hot chocolate, to top off a fantastic time.

This event certainly puts the 'fun' into fundraising and has helped to raise £680.02!

'For those children who had booked but missed out on this opportunity due to illness, whilst we can't offer a refund as we had to pre-order supplies, rest assured a Green Santa hat will be saved for them. Don't forget to collect from the school office.





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—DEVICES AT CHRISTMAS

We know that many of our children have asked Father Christmas for a new device this Christmas whether it be a games console, tablet, Kindle or even a phone. Please can we encourage families to think carefully before gifting your child's first or fifth device, to make sure it is not just a present but an opportunity to provide a safe and secure digital

experience for your little ones.

By following this link to the [Safety Centre](#), you will discover information on setting up parental controls, privacy settings, and safety measures. Please can we encourage you to 'take a moment' to do so before wrapping the box to ensure that devices are safe and ready to use and enjoy on Christmas Day.

On this site you can also download a guide, "[My Child's First Device](#)," which outlines five essential steps to enhance device security.

At Nettlestone Primary we want to make sure that our children are as safe in the online world as the real world and by taking just a few minutes to initiate these checks will help to make all the difference.



MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO TAKE CARE THIS CHRISTMAS

Sadly some of our community have missed the final few days of school of 2024 due to contracting Flu A.

As flu season is in full swing, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of flu and how best to treat it. Here are some key points and advice from the NHS to help keep your family healthy:

Signs and Symptoms of Flu: Sudden fever, chills and sweats, headaches, muscle aches, sore throat, cough, fatigue

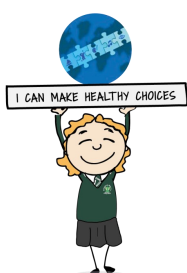
How to Treat Flu (NHS Advice):

Rest and Sleep: Ensure your child gets plenty of rest and sleep to help their body fight off the infection.

Keep Warm: Make sure they stay warm and comfortable.

Medication: For children, give paracetamol or ibuprofen if they are distressed or uncomfortable. Always check the packaging or leaflet to ensure the medicine is suitable for your child, and consult a pharmacist or GP if you're unsure.

Hydration: Encourage your child to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Their pee should be light yellow or clear.



PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT SCHOOL REOPENS
TO PUPILS ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025



RECEPTION CLASS MADE IT HAPPEN AT THE DONKEY SANTURAY

On Tuesday Reception went to the Isle of Wight Donkey sanctuary. We had lots of fun meeting the donkeys and ponies and learning about them. Some were very noisy! We then learnt about what the donkeys eat and how grass grows and how it turns into hay. We also got to mix up some feed for the donkeys to enjoy later in the day. We then went bug hunting and looking for signs of nature in the meadow. Reception were amazing listeners and knew lots of information and asked some good questions.



MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES—BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH

We have been asked to share the following information in our newsletter this week that may provide support to our families.

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a not-for-profit service run by the National Energy Foundation, working to help residents living in or at risk of living in fuel poverty to access advice and support.

We're a service that's free of charge and open to all residents experiencing issues with keeping warm at home.

As part of our service, we have a helpline that's free to call where our team can give valuable tips on how to stay warm at home, help to arrange free home energy visits, sign up those in need of additional support to the Priority Services Register and access grants for energy efficiency measures. We understand the physical and mental effects of living in a cold home, and we feel it's more important than ever to ensure everyone is living in a warm and happy household.

For more information please go to <https://www.bhbh.org.uk/>



SPRING TERM CLUBS

Please be advised that our clubs programme will not start until 13th January.

Coolkidz provision is available to book on SchoolMoney.

INSET DAYS

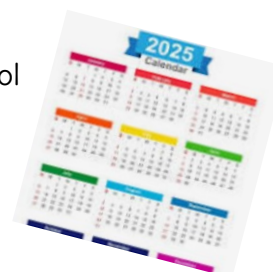
When populating your new 2025 calendars please remember to note that the school will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

Monday 2nd June 2025

Monday 28th July 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Tuesday 29th July 2025



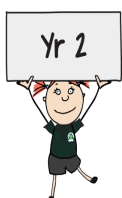
SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

This week our little learners have shown how resilient they can be as we've had a variety of exciting experiences and changes in routines. We were able to take part in lots of festive activities as part of the school including watching the Key Stage 1 play, Christmas lunch, Reindeer Ramble and Christmas jumper day. We were also very proud performers for our adults as they came to watch us sing festive songs. We were very proud of all our little learners.



Wow what a week in Reception. It has been so busy. On Monday we made Christmas cards using our knowledge of maths and measuring skills to create our designs. We also really enjoyed watching the KS1 play performance. Reception listened very well. On Tuesday we enjoyed a really lovely trip to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary. We were greeted by some lovely volunteers and spent time looking around and learning about the donkeys and meeting some. This week we have also enjoyed singing to our families and also to the Year 6 buddies. They sang so well and learnt all the actions. Well done. The Reception team are incredibly proud of everyone in Reception and think they have had a fantastic first term. Happy Christmas.

What a lovely and busy end to the term we have had in Year 1. Our week started by performing our Nativity on Monday and Tuesday. We all felt so proud of the class to go up on stage and remember so many different songs and actions. Well Done! We finished our topic Toys from the Past by discussing our favourite toy from the past and why. The class was able to identify how toys are different today. In Maths we shared all of our learning on 2D and 3D shapes and made Christmas patterns using a variety of shapes. During DT we evaluated our moving part pictures. The class thought critically about what they might do differently next time although quite a few were completely happy with their final product! In Phonics this week we have been reviewing all of the



new phonemes we have learnt this term. The children have worked hard at recognising tricky words and have become more familiar with their tricky spellings. In addition to learning split-digraphs this term they have become more confident in spotting these within words. Well Done on a great term Year 1!

This week in Year 2, we have been busy performing the Nativity to the school and to family. We have been finishing our learning on Hanukkah and Advent as well as taking part in Christmas activities throughout the week.

We have had a lovely final week to the term. The highlight of the week was Wednesday, when we had a celebration afternoon to reward us for all of our hard work and good behaviour this term. Mr Cooper came in to visit us and together with Miss Beale, turned our classroom into a movie theatre. We watched a film that made us feel very Christmassy -Arthur Christmas -and when the film was over, we continued the fun with some party games. We played musical chairs and musical statues and we also had a dance-off. Everybody ended up winning a prize and Miss Beale thought we were the most amazing musical statues she had ever seen! We are making the most of our beautiful Christmas tree, which is lit up every day and have now made some other decorations for the classroom. We have collaborated to make some colourful paper chains, as well as making some seasonal snowflakes,



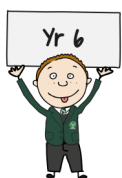
which we have pinned to the display boards. We have also enjoyed helping Miss Beale and Miss Daniel to complete some special Christmas challenges. We think our favourite one was dressing them up as Christmas presents!

We have had a fantastic end to the year this week. We finished the week with our Carol Service at St Peters. We thoroughly enjoyed watching the KS1 Nativity on Monday and lots of us had great fun taking part in the Santa Stroll and Reindeer Ramble on Thursday. At the start of the week we took some virtual tours of different deserts so we could see what was similar and different and produced information pages comparing a hot and cold desert. We also finished our computing module on microbits where we programmed them to turn on and off like a street lamp. Thursday we had great fun making our Christmas dinner hats and enjoyed eating our dinner and having our party in the afternoon. We would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas from the Year 4 team and we look forward to making more school memories in 2025.

This week, Year 5 have been blending their learning with some festive fun! We tackled a Christmas murder mystery, solving grammar challenges to uncover clues. We also completed a Christmas coordinates challenge, plotting points on a grid and connecting them to reveal a festive picture. On Thursday, we made our own festive hats for our Christmas lunch and then enjoyed a delicious meal and lots of Christmas fun with our friends. We ended our festive week with a trip to the church to take part in the Christmas carol concert. Merry Christmas Year 5, see you in 2025!



This week in Year 6 we have spent time rehearsing our readings for the carol service on Friday. We are reading the story of the Nativity. Some of us are reading the poem by Clement Clarke Moore 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' ('Twas the Night Before Christmas'). We have continued with our World War II topic. We focused on the countries that were part of the Allies and the Axis powers. Many of us took part in the Santa Dash with Mr Phillimore. It was great fun! We also enjoyed listening to the Reception class practise their songs for Singing Around the Tree later in the week. It has been a busy term and the Year 6 team has been very impressed with our hard work and resilience.



CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about...how resilient I am.

Words to use.... "have a go" "can you try" "I'm proud of you."

Tips for the week...enjoy your festive break and take time to relax .

We have been reading...Festive Stories.

YEAR 1

Talk to me about...this term!

Words to use... moving parts, toys from the past, subtraction, shapes, valuing others.

Tips for the week... have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We have been reading...Snowball by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet.

YEAR 3

Talk to me about...the final chapter we wrote for Voices in the Park from the viewpoint of Victoria, the dog.

Words to use...compound, complex and simple sentences, direct speech, inverted commas, paragraphs.

Tips for the week...we are looking at organising related sequences of sentences in paragraphs. For our stories, we had a clear beginning, which took place heading to the park, so this was the first paragraph, a middle, which took place in the park, for the second paragraph, and a final paragraph, where the characters were heading home.

We have been reading...Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about...the meaning of Christmas.

Words to use...Nativity, Jesus, celebration, Christianity, family.

Tips for the week...have a holly jolly Christmas!

We have been reading...Lightning Mary by Anthea Simmons.

YEAR R

Talk to me about...donkeys, Christmas story.

Words to use...measuring, phonemes, blending.

Tips for the week...to practise doing up our zips on our own.

We have been reading...Christmas themed stories.

YEAR 2

Talk to me about...The Jolly Christmas Postman

Words to use... journey, letters, parcels, mince pies, chimney, nativity, party.

Tips for the week.... Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Light. It is the story of Maccabees fighting the invading Greek Army and the miracle of the sacred lamp that burned for eight days with just one bottle of oil. Advent is the start of the Christian year. It is a time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

We have been reading...The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony and Charlie and You're a Bad Man Mr Gum by Andy Stanton.

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... how plants are adapted to the desert, similarities and differences between hot and cold deserts and how we programmed our micro-bits.

Words to use... hot desert, cold desert, adapted, similarities, differences, micro-bits.

Tips for the week... continue learning your times tables and common exception words.

We have been reading... The Lost Whale by Hannah Gold.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... the different countries which were involved in World War II.

Words to use...the Allies, the Axis powers, Gospel, the Nativity.

Tips for the week... rest, relax and READ!

We have been reading...we finished Emma Carroll's Letters from the Lighthouse. We were really pleased that Olive and her family were reunited!

A MESSAGE FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

Children's COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments – Winter Clinics at North Hospital

We are offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children aged 5-17 at the Children's Outpatient Department, North Hospital, St Mary's (NOT the Hospital Vaccine Hub).

Eligibility:

Children in clinical risk groups (as defined in the Green Book)

Vaccine:

The latest Pfizer JN.1 vaccines will be administered.

Clinic Dates:

- Monday, 6 January 2025: 2pm – 5pm
- Thursday, 16 January 2025: 8am – 11am

How to Book:

Appointments must be booked in advance by calling the Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline at **0300 561 0018**. We are unable to offer walk-ins.

Parking:

Accessible parking is available in the North Car Park.

For more details, contact the Hospital Vaccine Hub Team at iownt.vaccine-hub@nhs.net.



NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember that due to keeping children with serious allergies safe we are a nut free school.

When packing lunchboxes in the New Year please have this in mind when packing items for your children to enjoy.

Thank you for making this healthy choice.



Lunchtime Menu – from Chartwells

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Veggie Supreme Pizza	Beef Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Veg Pie with Mashed Potato & Gravy	Crispy Chicken Burger with Chips
Vegetarian	Vegetable Fajita	Chinese Vegetable Noodles	Winter Vegetable Hotpot & Gravy	Macaroni Cheese	Quorn Dippers & Chips
Dessert	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Apple & Cinnamon Sponge & Custard	Fruits of the Forest Jelly	Chocolate Cookie	Orange Glazed Sticky Sponge

Please don't forget to order your meals on School Money before you come to school on Monday!



FONS

Friends of Nettlestone School

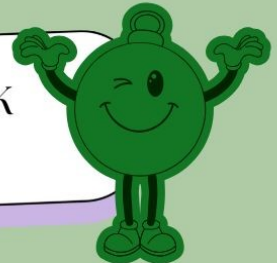
A huge thank you !

We've had brilliant festive fundraising month - and that's all thanks to the support of our wonderful school community. Thank you to everyone who donated or bid in the silent auction, bought raffle tickets & bits'n'bobs, made a Christmas wreath or ordered a letter from Father Christmas.

Love the FONS Team

PS. Thank you also to the parent who bought us a card reader to take payments!

THANK
YOU!



Christmas with FONS



**FONS HAS RAISED A
TOTAL OF £1,800 THIS
CHRISTMAS!**

Follow us
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Get in touch with any ideas or questions:
fons@nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk