

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

12th December 2025

Issue 7

Thank you to all our parents, staff and children for your wonderful donations to our Reverse Advent Calendar collection. Your generosity and kindness will make a meaningful difference to the Bay Foodbank and to families in our community. We are truly grateful for your continued support and compassion.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15.12.25 KS1 Christmas Performances
16.12.25 EYFS Christmas Party & UKS2 Christmas Party
17.12.25 Christmas Dinner Day - wear Christmas jumpers
17.12.25 - Christmas Fair
18.11.25 - KS1 Christmas Party & LKS2 Christmas Party
18.12.25 - Non-Uniform for house points winners
19.12.25 - Polar Express Day
5.1.26 - Staff Training Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
6.1.26 - School reopens for pupils for Spring Term 1

Have Your Say

Our parents views and comments are extremely important to us. So far this academic year we have gathered your thoughts on returning to School, School communication, pupil wellbeing and parent workshops. All of this feedback is valuable to us to help shape our school. Next term we will be asking for your comments on learning & progress and inclusion.



Designated Safeguarding Team



Miss Gibson
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Martin
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead
(Maternity)



Miss Fletcher
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss McEwen
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Miller
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead
(Maternity)



Mrs Thompson
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Fryer
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Cox
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Cox Mr Jefferson Miss Heppell Miss Fryer

Mental health first aiders





The Den

In the Den we have been enjoying the story of The Gingerbread Man. The children loved acting out the tale and joining in with "Run, run, as fast as you can!". We also had great fun baking our own gingerbread men. Everyone worked together to mix, roll and decorate their tasty treats. Luckily, the sneaky, sly fox didn't eat any of ours! We can't wait for our Christmas Stay & Play next week and to perform our Christmas songs for our grown-ups. We are very excited to read Dear Santa and begin the countdown to Christmas! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Nursery

Wow, how amazing are our Nursery children! We have explored the story of Christmas through role play and acting whilst practising for our Christmas Performance. Children have thoroughly enjoyed acting as part of our story characters. Alongside learning the Christmas story, we introduced December 1st by reading Stickman and the arrival of Santa down the chimney. We are excited to send home our Christmas cards and calendars which the children have worked very carefully on.



Reception

Reception have had a magical two weeks! The children have been full of Christmas cheer, writing their special lists and posting them to Santa through the real post box. They've loved learning about animals that hibernate during the chilly winter months and wowed us all with their wonderful Nativity performance, retelling the Christmas story so beautifully. After the show, families joined in for a joyful craft session, making treasured memories together. What an amazing and busy December—well done, Reception!

Y1

Our pupils have been successfully identifying and applying key writing features to help them write accurate and confident sentences. In Maths, we have begun exploring numbers to 20 through counting, ordering and matching activities. In Science, the children are continuing to learn about the human body, with a particular focus on our five senses. Across our wider curriculum, we have been evaluating the delicious fruit kebabs we made and discovering more about the world around us. Finally, the children all had an incredible time on our Rising Sun Santa trip, making it a truly magical experience for everyone!





Y2

This week in Year 2, we have been working on short-burst writing activities to help us plan and innovate our literacy work based on The Snowman. The children have been exploring descriptive language and creative ideas to make their writing engaging and imaginative. In Maths, we have started our new unit on multiplication and division, focusing on understanding equal groups and using arrays to solve problems. In RE, we have been learning about the gift of Christmas and reflecting on its meaning, while also practising enthusiastically for our KS1 Christmas performance.

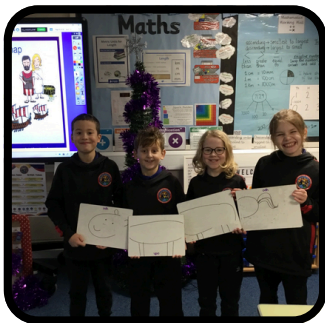
Y3

It's been a busy start to December in Year 3 decorating our classroom, collecting our Reverse Advent donations for the Bay Foodbank and presenting our Christmas performance, which we hope you all enjoyed! In Maths, we have started exploring multiplication and division and we have learnt a new Warning Tale in Literacy- Stone Age Boy. The children have been discussing vocabulary within the text and developing their use of direct speech. In Science, we have been looking at the skeleton and categorising animals that do and do not have a backbone.



Y4

Year 4 have been working extremely hard in their Literacy as we come to the end of our Instructions unit of writing and move into exciting Greek myths! We have loved linking this to our History topic of Ancient Greece, where we re-enacted the story of the Trojan Horse. In Maths, we are continuing to multiply and divide increasingly bigger numbers. Miss Broderick and Mrs Abrahams are so proud of Year 4 for their hard work and determination in the Christmas performance and can't wait to show you what we have been working on! Thank you for everything you have been doing at home to prepare - including bringing in donations for our Reverse Advent!



Y5

Children in Year 5 have completed their Instructions Unit in Literacy and are now enjoying some Christmas related Poetry, creating some creative and humorous pieces of work! In Maths, children have completed their Unit of Statistics, exploring different tables and graphs and answering a series of Problem-Solving Questions on this. Children have impressed in their Christmas Performances and we want to congratulate them on their incredible commitment during such a busy, festive period. We have also enjoyed our Commando Jo sessions with the Foundation, developing our teamwork, communication and resilience skills during different activities.





Y6

Year 6 have been busy innovating their Cave of Curiosity poems into their own imaginative Forest of Wonder pieces. They have been developing their use of figurative language alongside powerful and ambitious vocabulary. In Maths, the children have started an important new unit on fractions, decimals and percentages, focusing on understanding equivalence between the three. This learning will support key skills needed for secondary school and beyond. We are all looking forward to enjoying the Christmas performance on Friday.

WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?



Hedehogs

Children have been thoroughly enjoying their time in our Hedehogs wraparound care. This week, they've especially loved getting into the festive spirit by making their own holiday biscuits — complete with lots of creativity and delicious smells! It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork as they decorate and share their creations.



Clubs

Our after-school clubs have been filled with fun, creativity and lots of smiles as the children explore a wide range of activities. They are not only enjoying themselves but also building new skills, developing teamwork and strengthening their social confidence. It's wonderful to see them try new things and make new friends. Our new range of clubs on offer will be shared in the Spring Term.

Fitness Club

The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our after-school Fitness Circuit, where they have loved getting fit, active and moving with enthusiasm.

During each session, they rotate around a lively circuit of activities to music, including hurdling, wall ball slams, sit-ups, step-ups and more.

They have even had opportunities to try out our gym equipment —such as rope ladders and jumps—which has made the club both exciting and motivating for everyone involved.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council members continue to meet and have lunch with Miss Fletcher each week. Recently they have been supporting our school by helping prepare for our Christmas Fair. The school council have helped to make reindeer food and hot chocolate cones which you will find for sale at our fair on Wednesday 17th December.

In the new year the school council will continue meeting to discuss pupils' views and help shape our school. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment so far.



GETTING INVOLVED



Parent Forum

Our parent forum is a great way to have your voice heard and shape developments to our school in the future. Thank you to those parents who joined us for our meetings so far. Our Spring Term dates are below and we would love to welcome you into school to hear your feedback.

Friday 23rd January @ 9:15am
Tuesday 24th March @ 2:30pm

Parking Outside of School

We kindly remind all families to park safely and responsibly around the school. Hadrian Wynd is a designated School Street, which means no traffic is permitted between 8:15-9:15am and 3:00-4:00pm. Please ensure you avoid driving through or parking on this street during these times.

Our school car parks are for staff and official visitors only and we ask that they are not used for drop-offs or pick-ups.

For everyone's safety, please obey all double yellow lines and zig-zag markings around school, as these must not be used for stopping, dropping off, or waiting.

We also ask all parents to take extra care when parking nearby and to be mindful of pedestrians—especially children—who need clear and safe access to pavements.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register; entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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