



OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

OAK TREE NEWS

Deep roots for future growth



Dear parents/ carers,

This is the hardest newsletter I have had to write and for those that know me only too well, the tears are rolling. Saying goodbye is never easy but I know in my heart this is the right time for me to go. Leaving the Infants has been an extremely difficult decision to make, but I now need to put my family first and make some life changes, which involves stepping away from education.

Over the past five years, it has been an absolute privilege to be the headteacher of this amazing school. I have loved watching the children grow over their time here and progress in their own little ways, how they have made me smile, laugh, and cry, not forgetting the many hugs!! I have never taken for granted the celebrity status this role has given me around the village and locally, suddenly hearing "Mrs O'Neill" being shouted has always made me smile!! I will miss it so much.

There are so many wonderful memories, I could not name them all. However, the incredibly special ones involve the class assemblies, Christmas plays, the whole school going to Southill park for the panto, Infant and Junior get togethers, PTA events, visits to Pinehurst care-home, world book day and seeing all the wonderful outfits.

I have been extremely fortunate to have had an amazing team around me, the Governors, the Trust, working closely with the Juniors and having the support of the heads Hazel and Jo – for that I am forever grateful. They have helped me so much in this role and offered advice and always been there at the end of a phone, I will miss their friendship and laughter.

As you already know, the Infant team are so experienced and amazing. Their support has been endless, and I would never have been able to do my role without them. Over the years, each staff member has gone above and beyond, and I know at times, I have asked far too much of them. They have never wavered or questioned. I know I have not always got everything right, but they have always supported me....thank you to them from the bottom of my heart.

My final thanks and best wishes go to Miss Weston. We both joined Oaklands at the same time with nerves and excitement, not sure what to expect. We have faced many challenges together, namely Covid and Ofsted, both of which have pushed us to our limits. She has shown excellent leadership skills and she will continue to take the school forward, with the great team of Miss Davies and Miss Devereaux. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I know she will show further strength and development.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and I really hope 2023 brings each of you much love and happiness.

Thank you is all I can say and goodbye.

With love and best wishes,
Hannah O'Neill

**It's time to say goodbye
My time with you has come to an end
I've made more cherished memories
And many more new friends**

**I've watched you all learn and grow
And change from day to day
I hope that all the things we've done
Have helped in some small way**

**So, it's with happy memories
I am leaving out the door
With great hope and expectations
For what next year holds in store.**



"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."





Children who have received a Holly leaf (now on display on the Oak Tree in the hall):

Ash: Saskia, Carlie, CJ, Jack, Mariam and Eleanor

Willow: Emily, Sophia, Isla, Oscar, Hugo and Sam

Chestnut: Lilly, Lucas, Hadley, Stephanie, Freya and Ellie

Silver Birch: Charlotte B, Freddie, Myles, Henry, Ivan and Evie

Beech: Kairi, Imogen, Stanley, Zerrin, Lilibeth and Lottie

Elm: Billy, Adrielle, Aryahi, Malik, Zurielle and Riaan

Goldie awards for children across the school:

Silver Birch: Charlotte B



*****Return to school date is Wednesday 4th January 2023*****

Governor Awards

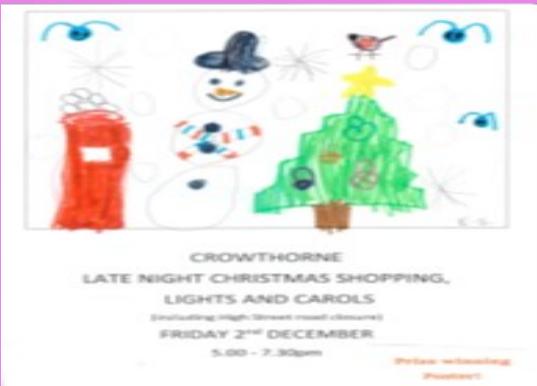
Today at our final assembly, the Governors came in to present six children with a Governor Award, based on our school characters. The teachers nominated different children from across the classes for these awards. It is always extremely hard to choose when everyone has been doing so well. All the children appeared surprised to receive their certificate but proud at the same time. Well done from everyone at the Infants.

Character	Name of pupil	Class
Ivy – rising to challenges	Frankie S	Silver Birch
Holly – not afraid to fail	Edie	Willow
Laurie – pride in achievement	Freddie	Ash
Solo – encouraging independence	Emma	Beech
Goldie – respect for all	Harper-Jane	Chestnut
Casey – being happy, cared for and cared about	Amelia	Elm

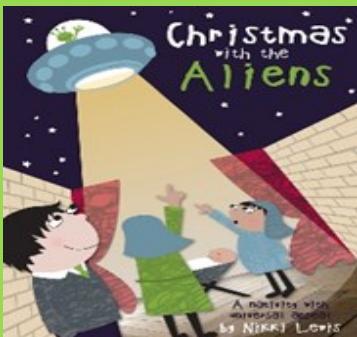


Well DONE!

Congratulations to Ella in Chestnut. She won the poster competition to promote the late-night shopping in Crowthorne. Well done from everyone at the Infants.



Congratulations to Mrs Shrieve and her family on their arrival of their baby daughter Scarlett Autumn. Both mum and baby are doing well, and we send them our best wishes.



All the team at the Infants would like to say a huge well done to ALL the children for their fantastic work, in learning their lines and songs for the Christmas play and the carol service. They did an amazing job and performed beautifully.

Thank you from me to all the staff for all their hard work in putting it all together.

WINSTON'S WISH

An amazing £410.00 was raised for our chosen charity Winston's Wish from the Christmas play collections.

Thank you all for your generosity.



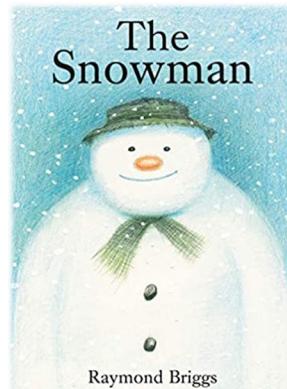
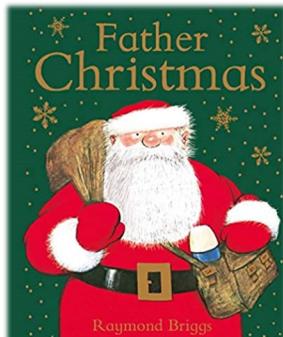
READING NEWS



One of my favourite books to share with children over the Christmas season is The Snowman by Raymond Briggs. One winter's night, a little boy's snowman comes to life and the magical adventure begins! It's a story that brings children's imagination to life. A story about true friendship.

40 years ago this classic story was first aired on TV on 26th December 1982. I

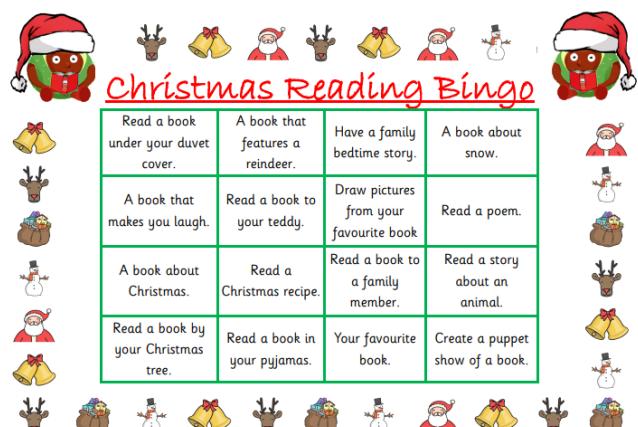
was sharing with my class that one of Christmas traditions is to watch The Snowman on Christmas morning with a hot chocolate in hand! Another Raymond Briggs classic stories is Father Christmas. Told through a comic strip, on Christmas Eve morning, a very grumpy Father Christmas is dreaming about summer, and certainly doesn't want to get up in the cold to deliver presents! Keep an eye out for both stories airing on TV this Christmas.



Merry Christmas everyone!

Miss Weston (Deputy Head and English Lead)

Please find attached to the newsletter Christmas reading bingo that your children might like to participate in to keep reading fun during the holidays.



Watch to Watch

One of Julia Donaldson's stories 'The Smeds and The Smoos' will be airing on BBC one over the Christmas holidays. BBC One is adapting Charlie Mackesy's bestselling novel, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, into an animated short film. This film follows the unlikely friendship of a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse as they journey together in the boy's search for home.

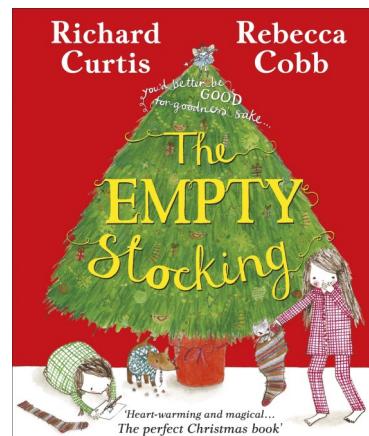
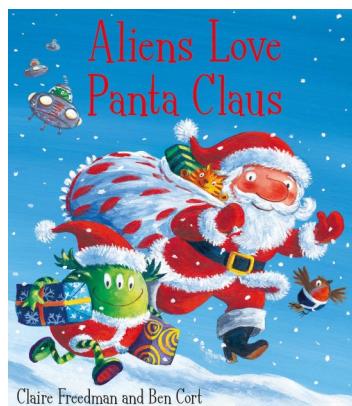
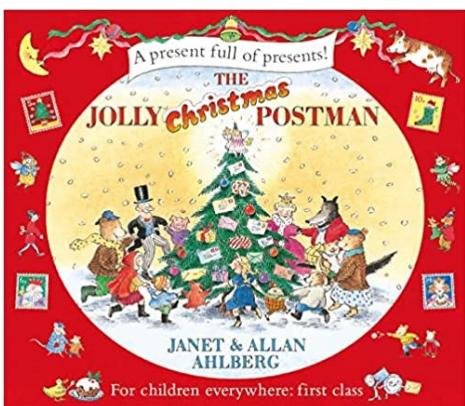


What are we reading?

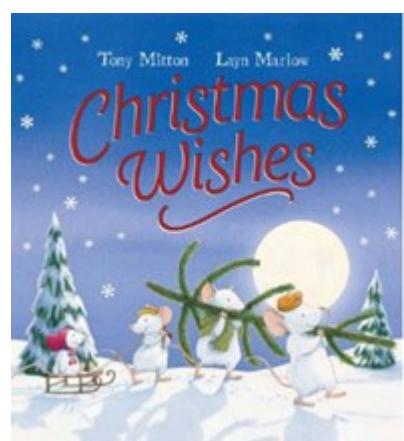
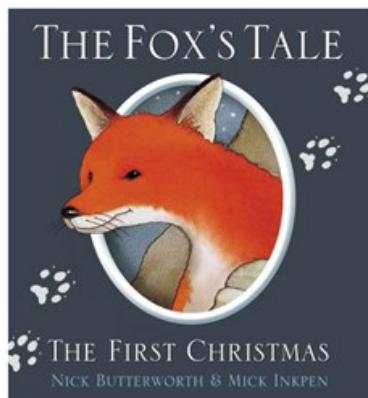
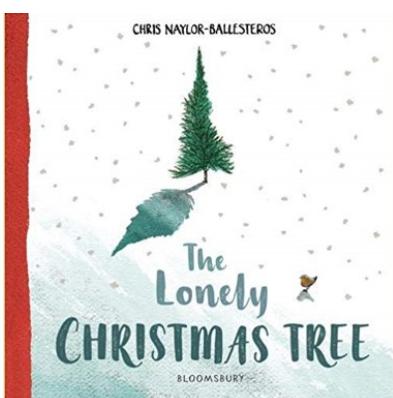


We have been reading many Christmas stories over the last few weeks. See below just a few of our favourites!

Ash and Willow Recommendations



Chestnut and Silver Birch Recommendations



Beech and Elm Recommendations

