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20th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2024. It is hard to believe we have reached the end of the term. We have been so busy, the time has flown by.

We have had a great last week to our autumn term. Thank you everyone who came to our EYFS nativity and our years 1, 2, 3 and 4 festive assemblies. It was so lovely to see you all there. The children loved singing their festive songs and recounting their favourite festive memories. Hopefully you have remembered some of their jokes to re-tell! We are very proud of how well they did and how confident they are becoming when performing in front of an audience. We have had some lovely feedback from you saying how much you enjoyed the shows.

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking our wonderful team of teachers, support staff, admin, premises, breakfast club, after school club and catering staff. They all work so hard to make sure that school is a safe and happy place for the children and are getting ready for a well deserved rest over the holiday period.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for your incredible support for your children and for the school. I am extremely proud to be the headteacher of such a caring and committed community. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in 2025.

I hope you have a great Christmas and wish you all the very best for the new year.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



Rights Respecting School

This week we have explored Article 31 (leisure, play and culture). Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities. We used our rights respecting assembly time to reflect on what an amazing year 2024 has been and discussed all the different ways we have enjoyed Article 31 throughout the year.



Corbett Chase

MARK YOUR DIARIES: 5th Annual Corbett Chase - Sunday 23rd March 2025

Calling all runners, walkers and supporters: Friends of Torridon is thrilled to be putting the Annual Corbett Chase in partnership with Sandhurst School. This local 10k and half-marathon, will take place on Sunday 23rd March 2025.



Mark your diaries! More info to come in the new year. If you'd like to get involved, please email: friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com

Festive Lunch

A massive thank you to Raheem and his team for our Festive Lunch on Wednesday. The children loved it!



Christmas Eve Family Service



Resource Base – Christmas Celebrations



This week we performed the Christmas songs and poems, that we have worked so hard on, to our families. As a festive treat, we decorated gingerbread men with icing and sprinkles with our families and teachers. It was a lovely way to end the term!



EYFS Nativity

We are so proud of our angels! EYFS performed their Nativity beautifully and confidently to a very large audience. We hope everyone who came enjoyed the show!



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Reception – Maths

This week in Maths, Reception have been learning all about Time. After exploring different ways to measure time, the children got busy making their own clocks, practised writing numerals and were most enthusiastic about making their own visual timetables! We also spoke about which activities we might do in the day and night time, or both! The children were excited to create their own starry night chalk art, and to learn about nocturnal animals...



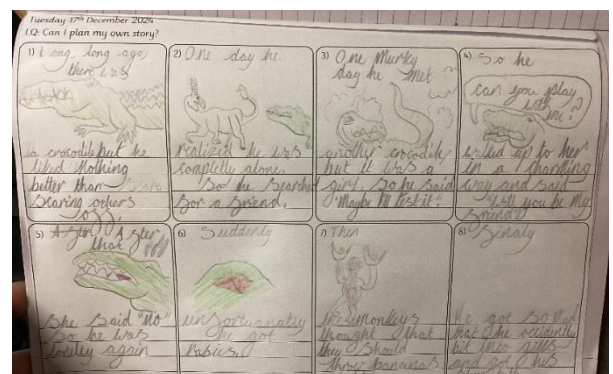
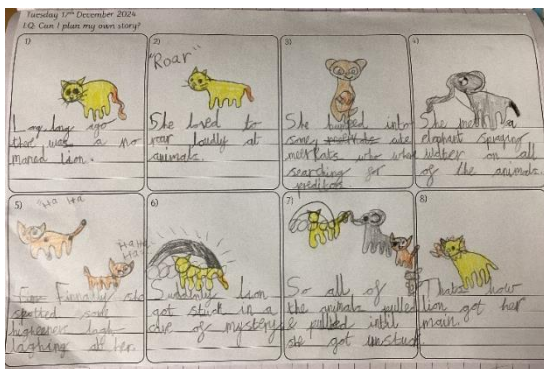
Year 1 – Gymnastics

This term, year 1 have been learning gymnastics in PE. We have explored balancing, moving across, and jumping off of different apparatus. We used our bodies to create different 'tucked', 'star' and 'straight' shapes. We had a lot of fun experimenting with other shapes that use our core, such as the 'dish' and the 'bridge!'



Year 2 -

This week Year 2 have had lots of fun writing their own imaginative African tales. Following our sequence of learning, we made illustrated plans which helped us to create our incredible, original stories. Take a look at our lovely learning...



Wednesday 18th December 2024
Q: Can I write to entertain?

Long long ago in a dusty savannah there was a lion named Leo. She loved to do everything but she loved to roar loudly at beautiful, soft animals.

One hot, sunny day she was roaring at beautiful, soft animals when she bumped into a monkey who was searching for a friend. She met a monkey who was looking for a friend. She met a monkey who was looking for a friend.

Suddenly Leo got stuck in a big cave of mystery. All of the animals that she had met heard her call. They pulled, pulled, pulled & pulled until she got unstuck. That's how Leo got his name.

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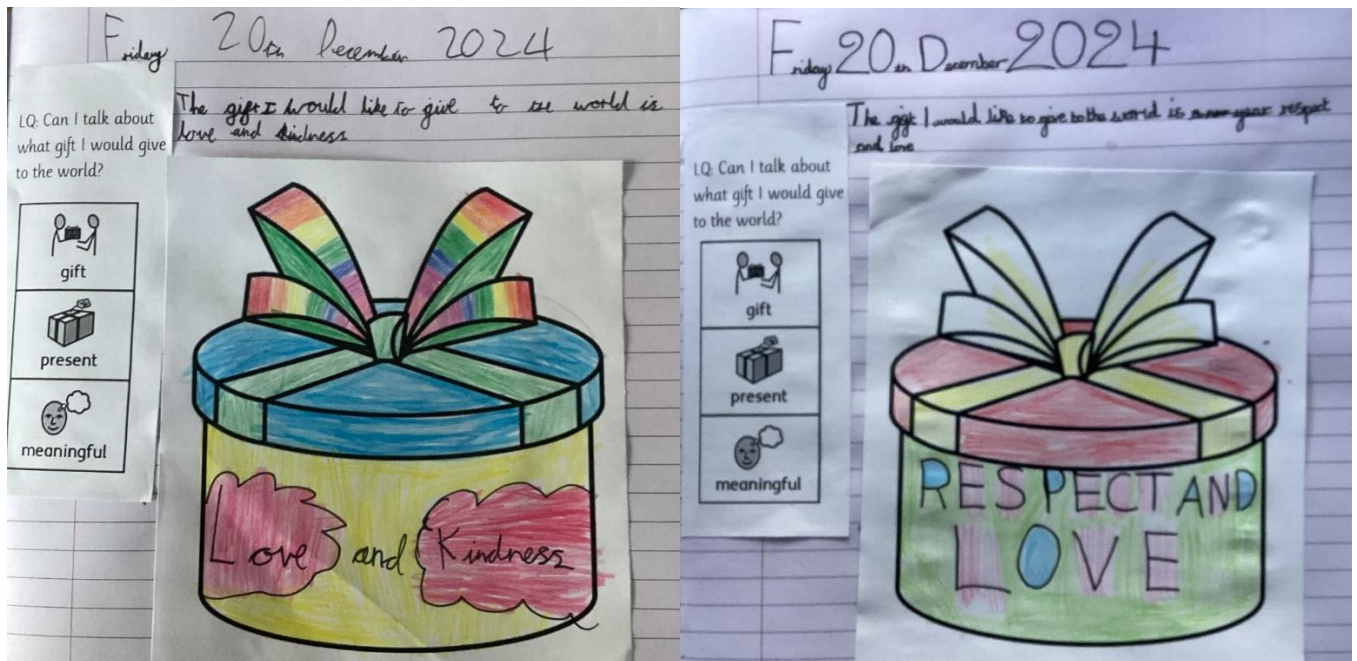
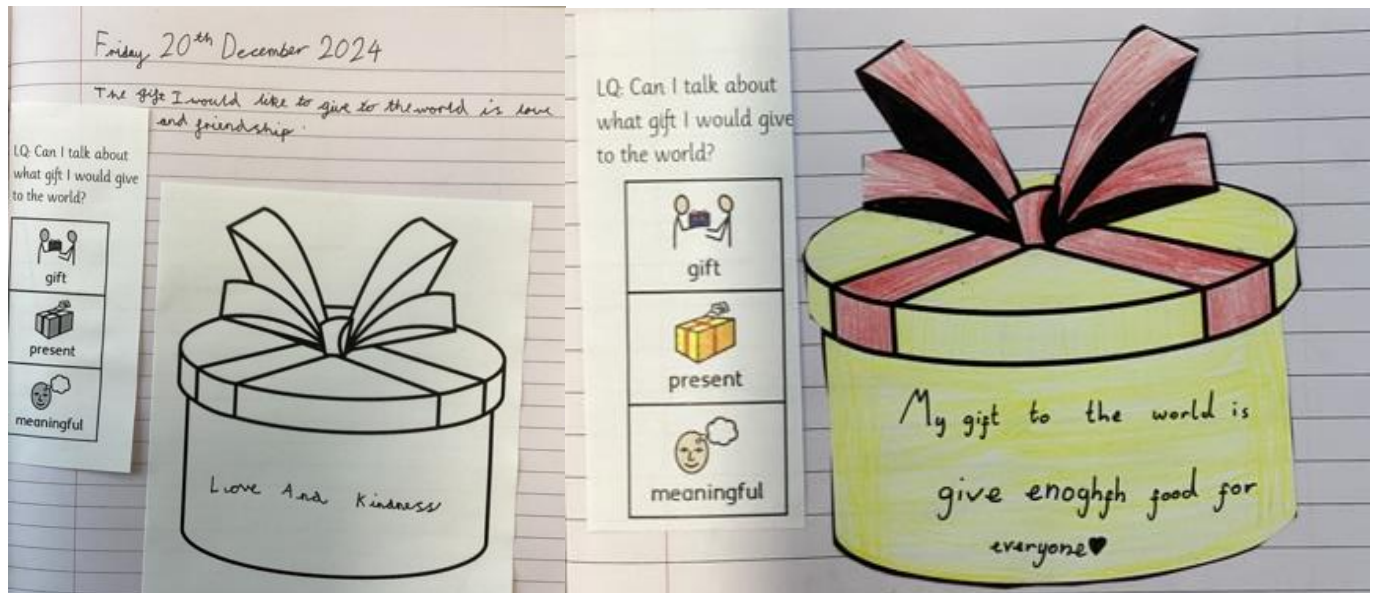
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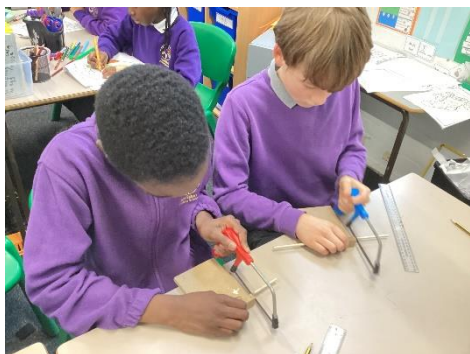
Year 3 – RE

In year 3, we have been thinking about the meaning of Christmas to Christians. We have explored the difference between a religious and non-religious Christmas. We then discussed the gift we would want to give to the world. We all felt that it was important to spread kindness and love.

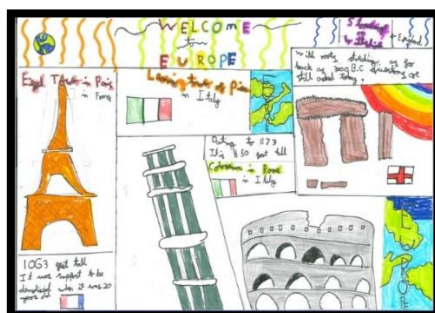
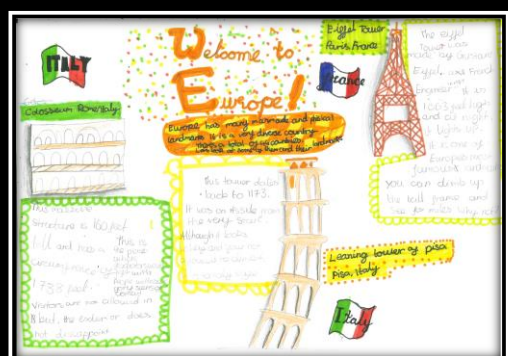


Year 4 – DT

In DT this week, the children in Year 4 learnt about different types of doors and how they open as part of a unit on Mechanisms. They then identified different hinges and labelled a Butt Hinge. They then had to design their own hinge, thinking about the type of equipment and materials needed. After that, we set to work making our hinges using dowel, cardboard, paper straws and the children were very excited about using saws with a glue gun. Hopefully they can attach them to a box over the holidays. If any of them are successful with this, please bring them back to show us



Year 5 – Geography



To wrap up our study of 'Around the World' in Geography this term, in year 5 we have created informative leaflets highlighting some of the most interesting human-made landmarks that tourists, friends, and families might enjoy while traveling across Europe. We hope you find these insights both helpful and engaging. Who knows? We might even see you next year in Paris at the Eiffel Tower!

Forest School

Forest School

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the children and teachers for an amazing term at Forest School.

Please see below for Spring 1 Term sessions

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nursery PM/FT		Nursery AM/FT		
Yellow class			Red class	Blue class
	2E		2SW	2S
	4S		4L	4K
Resource Base				

Please remember that we are out in the woodland in all weathers so ensure your child has a warm waterproof coat, waterproof trousers, welly boots, warm socks, hat and gloves.

Thank you for your continued support as we incorporate Forest School into our curriculum.

Bedtime Routines



Bedtime Routines



Come and learn techniques that can help your child under 5 develop good bedtime routines

Tuesday 19th January & Wednesday 17th March
10:00am - 11:30am

Online
Zoom
Sessions

Teaching your child the skills they need to get into a good bedtime routine

How to encourage your child to stay in bed



Learn alongside other parents



Learn new approaches

Learn why issues may be occurring

To book your **FREE** place
email: ladywell.cc@lewishamcfc.org.uk
call or text: **07377 724243**

@lewishamchildrenscentres @lewishamcfc

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

At The National College, we understand college is your gateway to your future, and we're committed to helping you make the most of it. We offer a wide range of support services, including academic advising, career counseling, financial aid assistance, and more. We're here to help you succeed, both in and out of the classroom. Visit our website at www.thenationalcollege.edu for more information.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to increasing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1. MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

The holiday season is a time when children and teens spend more time online, whether it's for entertainment, social media, or schoolwork. This increased digital activity can present unique safety risks, including cyberbullying, online predators, and identity theft. Parents and educators should monitor digital activity closely, setting boundaries on screen time and using parental controls. Encourage children to share their online experiences with trusted adults and to report any suspicious activity.

2. PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The holiday season is a time when homes are decorated with lights and candles, increasing the risk of fire. Parents and educators should practice fire safety protocols, including checking for smoke detectors, having fire extinguishers, and ensuring all exits are clear. Educate children on fire safety and the importance of not playing with matches or candles.

3. CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

The holiday season is a time when many families travel, whether for a vacation or to visit loved ones. Parents and educators should create travel safety plans, including identifying travel routes, checking for travel advisories, and ensuring children have necessary documents. Educate children on travel safety and the importance of staying with trusted adults.

4. BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

The holiday season is a time when many families gather, often with food. Parents and educators should be aware of allergies, especially if children have food allergies. Educate children on allergy safety and the importance of not eating food they are not sure of. Encourage children to report any allergic reactions to trusted adults.

5. PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

The holiday season is a time when many families gather, often in close quarters. Parents and educators should take steps to prevent the spread of illness, including encouraging children to wash their hands, avoid close contact with sick individuals, and staying home if they are sick. Educate children on illness prevention and the importance of staying healthy.

6. STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

The holiday season is a time when many families travel, often in cars. Parents and educators should stay vigilant on the road, including checking for car safety, avoiding distractions, and ensuring children are properly seated. Educate children on road safety and the importance of staying safe while traveling.

7. MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

The holiday season is a time when homes are decorated with lights and candles, increasing the risk of fire. Parents and educators should maintain safe decorations, including checking for smoke detectors, having fire extinguishers, and ensuring all exits are clear. Educate children on fire safety and the importance of not playing with matches or candles.

8. SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

The holiday season is a time when many families exchange gifts. Parents and educators should set boundaries for gifts, including checking for gift safety, avoiding cash, and ensuring gifts are appropriate. Educate children on gift safety and the importance of staying safe while exchanging gifts.

9. ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

The holiday season is a time when many families experience stress and fatigue. Parents and educators should address stress and fatigue, including taking breaks, staying hydrated, and ensuring children get enough sleep. Educate children on stress management and the importance of staying healthy.

10. DRINK RESPONSIBLY

The holiday season is a time when many families gather, often with alcohol. Parents and educators should drink responsibly, including limiting alcohol consumption, avoiding driving while intoxicated, and ensuring children are safe. Educate children on responsible drinking and the importance of staying safe.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. [Name] is a [Title] at [Institution], where they focus on [Research Area]. They have published numerous papers and are a frequent speaker at conferences. They are also a member of [Organization].

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Dates for Your Diary

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 6th January 2025	First day of the spring term
Friday 17th January	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Thursday 30th January	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Wednesday 5th February	9am – parent and carer coffee morning with the Mental Health Schools Team
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February	Whole school art exhibition PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Friday 14th February	PTA fundraiser (Non-uniform day)
Monday 17th – Friday 21st February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Reminder!

Spring term starts back on January 6th 8:55am.



STARS OF THE WEEK



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Anastasia	For being fantastic this week attending Nursery all day and playing nicely with her friends. Well done, Anastasia! 😊
Nursery AM	Abdulsalam	For being kind and helping your friends outside. Well done, Abdulsalam! 😊
Nursery PM	Sufiyan	For being very helpful during tidy up time. Well done, Sufiyan! 😊
Blue Class	The whole class	For their amazing nativity performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. We are so proud of you all!
Red Class	The whole class	For their amazing nativity performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. We are so proud of you all!
Yellow Class	The whole class	For their amazing nativity performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. We are so proud of you all!
1M	The Whole Class	For their fantastic efforts in everything they've done this term and for their brilliant Christmas performance this week. Well done 1M! 😊
1N		
1W	Zolihat	For being very helpful and thorough during tidy up time. She is always willing to keep the classroom organised. Thank you Zolihat!
2E	Temi	For being such an amazing member of 2E. She is kind, enthusiastic and always ready for the day! Well done Temi, keep it up! 😊
2S	Adam	For his fantastic effort towards his learning this week. Keep it up Adam! 😊
2SW	Ilakkiya	For her politeness and kindness towards her peers. She is such a good role model. Well done Ilakkiya! 😊
3A	Vivien	For being a fantastic Christmas helper! You have been so helpful all week, well done 😊
3G	Cedar	For her amazing singing and dancing during our winter performance. You are a star!
3S	Victoria	For being a fantastic member of our community. We are really going to miss her and wish her the very best in her new school – they are very lucky to have you 😊
4K	The Whole Class	For a very impressive performance during the Christmas Assembly. You have all been amazing this term and should be proud of yourselves. Well done 😊
4L	4L	For their fantastic effort in putting together the festive assembly. You worked very well as a team.
4S	4S	For their amazing effort in putting together a lovely Christmas performance! Beautiful singing, heartfelt poetry, jolly jokes and expressive reading aloud. Well done, you are all super stars!
5C	Junior	For consistently being a polite and respectful member of the class, and for setting a positive example for your classmates. Well done!
5L	Vaishnavi	For consistently having an excellent attitude towards learning. You are self-motivated and always produce learning of a high standard. Well done!
5V		
6A	Evie	For her resilience and commitment towards every area of her learning, which has enabled her to make good progress. Keep it up!
6L	Nicole	For working extremely hard in your writing this week by carefully considering the features needed. Well done!
6R	Tavarie	For always demonstrating integrity and collaborating well with his peers. Well done.
RB Blue	All of RB	For fantastic Christmas performances – well done!
RB Green		

