



December 2024

FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

Dear Parents,
The end of term has come in a whirl of wonderful memory making for our little fish. We have had so many highlights - from the incredible nativity play to our annual community tea party and so much more! There is no better place to be than in a primary school in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It's been such a pleasure to share the anticipation and excitement with our little fish. We hope you will have a wonderful Christmas time with you families.



Our 'Hey Ewe!' Nativity play was such a joyous time to see our little fish flourishing! Ninety children aged between 4 and 7 performing the Christmas story just beautifully. Their confidence, enjoyment and joy shone through and we could not have been any more proud of all of them! It was just wonderful to see them shine. Huge congratulations to the children and staff in Pufferfish, Shark and Chameleon classes... you were AMAZING!

On Tuesday morning, a group of children from Year 5 and 6 went off to make the world a better place to be by singing carols to Fishbourne Companions and the residents at Manor Barn Care Home. Not only did they sing their hearts out, but they were also wonderful at saying hello and chatting away to residents. We were so thankful to be welcomed so warmly by the companions and residents - it was lovely to be able to join members of our wider community to enjoy celebrating Christmas together!



Worship Team have spent this half term preparing for an act of worship at the church! It was lovely to go back this year and enjoy celebrating together as a school family! For some of our younger children, it was their first visit to church as a school family and they relished the challenge of squeezing into the pews to fit us all in! This year, our youngest children sat with

their older buddies and so there was a truly family-like feel to the service which was wonderful to see!



Always a mission, but so lovely to be together in our local church to celebrate the birth of Jesus together. Huge thanks to Jess and the team at the church for making us so warmly welcome.

Our youngest three classes went off to Chichester Festival Theatre last week to see 'Hey! Christmas Tree' written by Michael Morpurgo... a story inspired by a beautiful book called 'My Heart was a Tree'. The story is about the importance of finding friendship and somewhere to call home, was created especially for Chichester Festival Theatre by Michael Morpurgo.



Another huge highlight in the build up to Christmas is flinging open our doors and welcoming our local community into school to enjoy an afternoon tea served by our youngest children and joining in singing carols together! This year, the event was as well attended as ever and it was wonderful to catch up with many of our neighbours, volunteer army, governors and Fishbourne Companions. Listening to the children chatting away to our visitors was wonderful and we have received so many lovely words of thanks from our guests:

'A heartfelt thank you to teachers, staff and children of Fishbourne school for such a wonderful afternoon, You are an inspiration to us!'

Shark class had made beautiful tree inspired Christmas cards and our Pufferfish, colourful tree decorations to create a ripple out into the homes of our visitors this Christmas time.



This photo of one of our Story Tellers chatting away with a child in Chameleon class is such a lovely reflection of the importance of making time for the children to talk with members of our wider community. Ken visits our school every half term with a team of eight Story Tellers who are Christians, mainly made up from our local church, who come to tell stories from the Children's Story Teller Bible.



Talking of Christmas decorations, our lovely Hippos also helped us make the world a better place by refreshing our Fishbourne Christmas tree decorations—they spent an afternoon crafting under the guidance and expertise of Kerry Eames to create wonderfully unique decorations. Our youngest children then took on responsibility for decorating the tree which has brought us a lot of joy throughout December and will be used for Carols Around the Tree on Friday afternoon!

Please do come and join us for this very special end of term tradition—an opportunity to come together as an extended school family to start the Christmas holidays full of joy! The gates will open at 2.45pm... bring your best singing voices to join in.

Huge thanks to our incredible team at FOFS for providing so many wonderful Christmas activities over the last couple of weeks. In total they've raised an amazing amount of approximately £1,000 (and still counting!).



INSET DAYS 2024/2025

**Friday 14th February
Monday 2nd June**

A special thank you to Jo for all her hard work in organising and coordinating such wonderful events for our children and families:

- The Hamper Raffle (it's been lovely to see families arriving to collect their hampers and being so thrilled!)
 - Elfridges - the Christmas shopping experience for the children, together with a team of wrappers who helped children wrap literally hundreds of carefully selected gifts.
 - Gifting all the resources needed to provide Christmas crafting opportunities for the children to make a treasured Christmas decoration to bring home and add to the tree.
 - Gifting Christmas hats for the children to wear to our Christmas lunch on Thursday.
 - Organising wreath making workshops for parents.
- What a lot of enriching, additional opportunities for our little fish to enjoy in the lead up to Christmas. Hugest thanks to the team at FOFS for making our school a better place to be!

New Year Resolutions

As a school family, we have a number of NEW new year resolutions which we thought we would share with you ahead of the start of 2025.



PACKED LUNCHES:

Firstly, a reminder please that packed lunches should NOT contain chocolate bars or sweets.. As much as possible they should be a healthy, balanced meal in a box! The children are welcome to bring a snack of fruit or vegetable to enjoy at playtime.

BIRTHDAY SWEETS:

Secondly, a NEW rule.. Fishbourne tradition has always been that children are allowed to bring in sweets to share with their class on their birthday and while this is lovely, it creates a number of problems including pressure and healthy living. From January 2025 onwards, we ask for families NOT to send sweets in for children's birthdays. We will still mark their special day by singing for them.



ATTENDANCE:

Thirdly, as of the 6th January 2025, we will be adopting our NEW Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership attendance policy that is available for you to read on our school website. The new policy has been adopted following the renewed guidance from the Department of Education about school attendance which places increased responsibility on the school to address attendance. You can read this guidance on the DfE website in a report called 'Working together to improve school attendance'. In the new year,

there will be a short film available on the Fishbourne Primary YouTube page that outlines the new policy and which we hope you will find helpful in navigating the new rules. We will also be writing to all families during the first week of the spring term to report your attendance for the autumn term and inviting those families who have low attendance in school to come in and work with us to put a plan together for improving this during the spring term.

PUNCTUALITY:

We have an increasing number of families who are arriving late to school on a regular basis. It's really hard for children arriving late into school, missing the input and then disrupting the learning of others as they catch up on what they have missed. The gates open at 8.45am and are shut at 8.55am. Please ensure that children are arriving on time!



We will send out reminders about all of the above in the new year too! Please do help us to work together to make Fishbourne Primary the very best it can be!

Mon 6th Jan	First day of the Spring Term
Thu 16th Jan	FOFS Meeting—Staff Room at 7pm Do come and encourage the new committee by showing your support.
Tue 11th Feb	Safer Internet Day 'Too good to be true?'
Fri 14th Feb	INSET Day
24th March onwards	Whole school learning experience— Resurrection Rocks
31st March	Mid-year learning reports come home
Fri 4th April	Easter Service - all families invited

Words of thanks received from one of our Volunteer Army...

'Words cannot describe how privileged I felt to be included in such delightful events. The Nativity was incredible, every child singing and enjoying it at the same time, putting their hearts and souls into it!

The Tea Party was an absolute delight, must say I did eat too many mince pies! The children again were amazing and really enjoyed entertaining us all!

The Church service was so beautiful and moving. Even now whilst writing this Evie and Daniel's solos made me cry it was so incredible and moving!

Thank you to all the Children and Staff at Fishbourne School you are all amazing!'



"The true spirit of Christmas is to recognize that we have the power to make the world a better place, one small act of kindness at a time."

Unknown

At Fishbourne CE Primary, we nurture our children to be...

