



# Redbrook C of E Primary Newsletter

No 103 December 18th 2025

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear families,

As I write, we can tell that the Christmas holidays are very near. The children have performed in their Christmas carol concerts, they have had their Christmas lunch, the classrooms are festooned with decorations and preparations are well underway for our Christingle service. The sense of excitement for the coming week is palpable and on the way to school this morning, the radio played a song called Wrap Myself in Paper which references that it's a week and a day until Christmas (hands up who is ready - I most certainly am not).

Our amazing staff team, as ever, have thrown themselves into all of these events with the children with gusto and once we finish on Friday, I am sure they will take a well-deserved break and some time with their families to celebrate what I have always considered our 'second Christmas', the one we have at home. I want to thank them for another wonderful term in school and for all that they do for the children, I am ever grateful.

With all the joy of these festivities, it is sometimes important to take moments of stillness and calm to pause and reflect. Our Christingle service always enables us to take a moment to be thankful, to offer a thought or a prayer for others if that is something important to you, and enjoy some of those final moments together. Whilst we are unable to hold our service in the traditional way this year, I hope that you are able to join us in what has become my favourite service of the year (I lead 3 of them over both schools – all different, all special and all beautiful) and here's to being back together in our church next year.

Wishing you much joy and love over the coming weeks.

Natalie Frey

Executive Headteacher

## Robin Class

The children have enjoyed this half term, with lots of super learning taking place.

Reception and year 1 have been busy learning and retelling stories, including 'The Papaya that Spoke' and 'The Gingerbread Man!' They have made and decorated gingerbread men, made remembrance poppies and have been busy elves, wrapping presents in the Santa's grotto role play area!

Year 2 enjoyed exploring the story 'The Journey Home'. They made fact files about the animals, used commas in a list to add description and then wrote their very own stories with a twist, based on the text.

The children continue to love Numbots and TTRS, building on those key foundational skills. In computing, year 1 have enjoyed 'music creation' and year 2 'data handling'. The children enjoyed learning and practising the songs for the carol concert, especially 'Jingle Bells!' In Geography, we have been learning all about maps and using symbols and a key. I was very impressed with the children's maps that they brought in for their home learning projects - thank you for your support. The children loved sharing these with their friends.

We've had a fun few weeks of Christmas activities, including the wearing of Christmas jumpers, step-by-step Christmas drawings and of course, our visit to Perrygrove. The children were a credit to our school and had a fantastic time!

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Best wishes,

Miss Marfell and Miss Taylor



















## Kingfisher Class

This half term has been a mixture of emotions for many. Our thoughts go out to those that have been affected by the local flooding.

The children have engaged with a range of subjects and curriculum focuses this half term. We finished a popular Geography topic, learning all about leisure activities in The Alps. The children are quite jealous about not being able to ski! They've also completed a second topic in computing; data handling. The ilearn2 scheme is great for mixed year groups and encouraging independence. The children are becoming more and more confident and capable with their computer skills. One of the children's favourite areas of learning has to be DT – biscuits! The children had to do essential research (taste-testing), learn how to adapt a basic recipe, work to a budget and design packaging for their own biscuit design; very successful!

With it being the half term before Christmas, and being a Church of England school, we do have a significant focus on RE. The children explored 'Jesus as the Messiah', looking specifically at the Gospel of Matthew and the telling of what we know as the Christmas story, comparing it to prophecies recorded in the Old Testament. The children then made links, developing their understanding of sacred and secular, between people's understandings of Christmas exploring adverts, pictures and writings.

One of the highlights of the half term has to be the carol concert! I was so impressed with all of the performances. During music in school, the children worked very hard practicing the songs and those that learnt an accompanying percussion instrument. A particularly big well done to those children that performed individually. You definitely inspired and awed your classmates and it's lovely to see an increased uptake in those playing an instrument; a wonderful life skill. We look forward to seeing how you progress over the coming months. Kingfisher's dance brought me great joy – seeing the smiles on the children's faces during rehearsals and for their big performance was an amazing moment! I have never seen the church so full!

This half term wouldn't be complete without some Christmas activities! From decorating the classroom, to enjoying Christmas dinner together, wearing Christmas jumpers and a trip to Hereford Courtyard for the pantomime. We will now finish the year, and the first full term, with a wonderful Christingle service albeit a little different this year.

And just like that, we're at the end of 2025! Wishing you all a joyful break, a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

All the best,

Miss Chambers

















## Friends of Redbrook School (FORS) round up

- Curry night was again a huge success and raised a whopping £1,326 at the end of the first half term.
- FORS donated 25 Glockenspiels to the school this term enabling the school to have access to their own instruments.
- Board game club returned with 20 of the children taking part. This event is ran by Smarties board game club.
- The school disco was a huge hit with the children. This year we brought in the brilliant DNA disco company to host the event.
- FORS hosted a Christmas craft club in the church for the children to make festive decorations some of which were then sold within the local community to continue fundraising for our school.
- Festive refreshments were served at the carol concert along with our Christmas raffle. We made a fantastic £178! Thank you to all those who donated a raffle prize and supported this event. A hamper was also donated to the Forest of Dean food bank.
- We have again given a pot of money for each of our class teachers to use how they wish to over the year, to purchase those extra things that the children love.
- This year FORS have gifted each classroom a class Christmas present. Robins class received magnetic tiles and Kingfishers have received a Lego starter set.







## Forest Foodbank Christmas Opening Hours



During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

The last session before Christmas for Lydney distribution centre will be on 16th December and for Cinderford will be 18th December.

Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7th January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8th January 2026.

To get help look on their website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.

Best wishes,

Forest Foodbank

## Thank you!



Thank you to our amazing FORS, who have organised many very enjoyable events for children and adults, and raised lots of money for our school through the year, it is all much appreciated, thank you!

A big thank you to Miss Marfell's Dad, for providing Christmas trees for the village shop to sell. Thank you so much to Tara for organising this - £110 has been donated to school from the sales of the trees! A fantastic amount and we are so grateful. Thank you.

## Water Safety



## Dates For Your Diaries

Please check emails home for more details about events. Please note dates may change.

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri Dec 19

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon Jan 5 2026

Tues 27 Jan and Thurs 29 Jan - Parent Meetings - times tbc

Tues 3 Feb - SEN parent meetings (rescheduled from January)

Fri 13 February - School Photographers - leavers and class photographs

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 13 Feb

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 23 Feb

We update key dates on our website ([www.wyforestfederation.co.uk](http://www.wyforestfederation.co.uk)), please check there and in your emails for notifications.

## Term Dates 2025/26

Please note these are for the academic year starting in September 2025 .

Term dates can be found on our website here:

[https://www.wyforestfederation.co.uk/web/term\\_dates/363933](https://www.wyforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/363933)

Term Dates 2025/26																			
SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER									
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur		6	13	20	27		
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		
DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY									
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon		2	9	16	23		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues		3	10	17	24		
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed		4	11	18	25		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur		5	12	19	26		
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Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat		7	14	21	28		
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22			
MARCH					APRIL					MAY									
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		5	12	19	26	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur		7	14	21	28	
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Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31	
JUNE					JULY					AUGUST									
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24	31	
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		4	11	18	25		
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Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		
Term Time				Holidays															
Bank Holiday				Inset Days															