

Cheddington Combined School

Christmas edition



20th December 2022

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Festivities

We have been working hard to ensure the children leave the Autumn term with a smile on their faces.

Each class took part in our annual Christmas craft day where the children are able to explore their more creative sides and link this with some western traditions of Christmas. We saw some wonderful examples of Christmas cards, trees, advent calendars and Christmas tree decorations going home.



The children also enjoyed a Christmas lunch—especially as they were all gifted a Christmas hat courtesy of our PTA. Thank you PTA!

Carol service at St Giles



On Monday the whole school took a trip to St Giles to learn about the history of Christmas traditions and to sing some Christmas carols. Miss Pughe conducted the choir and the rest of the school to enjoy some festive songs. Some members of the Year 6 class read beautifully in church to help us understand some traditions of Christmas:

- The word 'carol' comes from the word 'carole' which was a kind of dance.
- Many Christmas tree traditions (e.g., decorating and lighting it) were brought to the UK by Prince Albert when he married Queen Victoria.
- The Christmas star represents the star that guided the Three Wise Men to the place where Jesus lay in his manger. It is a symbol of hope.
- Christmas gifts help us show our feelings for those around us.
- Mince pies were originally filled with meat.
- The word 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ.

Snow days



Thanks to an icy blast from the Arctic in the last couple of weeks, we got to enjoy a whole week of snow. The area around Cheddington looked beautiful, it certainly allowed me to reflect on the beauty of our country as I travelled in the local area. I hope you were also able to enjoy the beauty—and maybe even make a snowman or two!



It is important to let you know that if we feel it is unsafe to open the school due to the weather conditions, we will notify you via eschools and via the Buckinghamshire Council website as soon as we are able.



Team member changes

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Rogers as she leaves us to take advantage of an excellent opportunity at a school closer to where she lives. The Year 5 teaching team will consist of Mrs Williams for four days of the week and Mrs Kingswell for the remaining day. The children were sad to hear of Mrs Rogers leaving, but very excited when they found out about who would be teaching them.

Miss Lang has worked tirelessly in Year 4 this term and we are so happy that she has been able to provide stability for the children. I am pleased to be able to confirm that Mrs Wright will be joining the Year 4 teaching team as of January 5th and she will be supported in class by Mrs Price and Mrs Poulson.

Our staff team are fantastic and respond to the needs of the children at every step. To help this further, we are re-deploying some members of year group teams to work with other classes: Miss Smart will be moving from working in Year 3 to Year 5 and Mrs Webber will be moving from Year 6 to Year 3.

It is also exciting to be able to tell our community that we will be joined by Mrs Anna Majcher at the start of the spring term who will be taking over as Interim Headteacher for the school. Mrs Majcher is a very experienced Headteacher who was recommended by the Local Authority as she has been in a similar position before. Concurrent to her starting, the Governors and the Local Authority will begin the process of recruiting a new substantive Headteacher. Buckinghamshire Council have significant experience with the process and will support the school to make the right appointment for the school. We will keep you updated on our progress as time progresses.

The children have been told that Mrs Majcher will be starting in January. The children seemed excited about her starting and asked a number of very interesting questions—one of which being 'Will there be changes?' I attempted to reassure the children that changes are good, though they can sometimes feel scary. We can all help each other through this period of change, but that if they were unsure of anything they are to ask an adult and we can work together to find the answer.

Cheddington School PTA

Another fantastic event arranged by our wonderful PTA allowed the children to let their hair down and dance the night away to their favourite songs. Thank you so much to all who contributed to the event. All profits go directly back into the school to benefit the children's education. Keep an eye on future newsletters as we update you with further information.



Ofsted Information Evening

Thank you to all who attended the Ofsted Information Evening held on Thursday 15th. If you were unable to attend, we hope you have found the subsequent communication helpful.

Three key words came from the evening: consistency, communication and stability. We will continue to work hard to provide these for the children and the extended community and keep you updated on how we are updating our procedures.

Keeping safe

We have spoken with the children today about how to keep safe when the weather is so cold. The children had great advice for each other:

- Wrap up warm—make sure you wear your coat and keep it done up. If you have gloves, hat and scarf, put these on too.
- Walk carefully when the ground is icy—you could slip and hurt yourself.
- Never walk over frozen water—The ice may look thick and be able to support your weight, it may crack and you may become poorly.

Thank you to all the children who helped us learn about staying safe.

Cheddington School Bits and Pieces

- Please note, school reopens to pupils on January 5th.
- If you would like your child to have a hot school meal, please don't forget to book their lunch through schoolfoodunited.com
- Young Voices tickets—For those parents who have ordered tickets and/or t-shirts, please note they will be ready for collection from the school office from January 5th. Unfortunately, we cannot send these home with pupils as we require a signature of receipt.
- In addition to recent club communication, we are now able to offer a Mindful Colouring Club for Years 2&3 on Wednesday lunchtimes from January. If your child would like to join, please email admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk

Dates for your diary:

20th December—13:30 End of Autumn term

5th January—School reopens for the Spring term

11th January—Reception 'Share the learning'

—Year 4 resume swimming

—Curriculum Enrichment recommences

13th January—Young Voices Concert (tickets available for collection at the start of the Spring term from the school office)

15th January—Reception 2023 Application deadline



A final note...

As we draw an eventful Autumn term to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on our many successes. The Year 4 pupils presented a fantastic assembly on their residential visit to Woodrow; the Year 3s were musically informative about Harvest and the Year 2s presented a fantastic nativity. The Year 5s enjoyed a fantastic experience at the Space Centre and the Year 1s enjoyed a very special visit from some members of the 'Teaching Talons' team including a real-life owl! The Year 6s have settled well into their responsibilities, working as excellent role models for the Reception children and others around the school. I am immensely proud of all the children and what they have achieved so far this academic year.

We now start to look forward to the Spring term where there are a great many exciting opportunities for the children and the school.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Mrs White