

Baldwins Hill Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Head Teacher: Jenny Dabell

Officebh@partnersinlearning.co.uk

Tel: 01342 321572

Respect, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of the first term and enjoying all the festivities that this time of year brings. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the activities at school such as our 'Reindeer Run' for St Catherine's Hospice and our INCREDIBLE Christmas showcase put on by Cherry, Pine and Hazel classes. It has also been wonderful to see our youngest children in Cherry class settling so beautifully into school and beginning to grow in confidence.

Thank you for all you have done to support the school over the last term, particularly for completing our parent questionnaire. Some of the comments that were written were so heartfelt and encouraging- thank you! We were also grateful to be given ideas for things that might make our school processes and communications even stronger. Over the next few Parent Forum meetings I will be sharing some of the feedback that we received and how we plan to go about maximising the successes and making adaptations where needed based on the 'even better ifs'.

All it leaves me to say right now is - please have a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year and thoroughly enjoy spending time with your loved ones. (I would say have a rest but I'm not sure Christmas is particularly restful!)

We will see you all on Monday 5th January when the terms starts for the children. Please note there is NOT an INSET day but a launch straight back into learning!

A very Happy Christmas from Miss Dabell and all of 'Team Baldwins.'



Classroom News



Flexible grouping continued in our mixed classes....

The use of flexible grouping this term has been hugely beneficial in ensuring each child is receiving the most appropriate content. We will continue to use this strategy next term in more subjects.

Read on to hear what Cherry and Pine class have been pioneering over the last few weeks. This term, our classes have been busy collaborating as young historians, exploring how we ourselves are part of making history. The children have sharing ideas, asked questions, while discovering that history isn't just about the past—it's about the stories we're creating today. In Design and Technology, we've been hands-on with mechanisms, learning how levers and sliders can bring pictures to life. The children have applied these skills in the most festive way possible—by designing and making Christmas cards with moving parts! From sliding stars to waving snowmen, their creativity has shone.

It has also been a real pleasure to welcome Cherry Class into Pine Class this term. The children have enjoyed working together, sharing their learning, and building friendships across classes, which has made our activities even more special.

Cherry and Pine Class Collaboration

Over the past week, the Year One children from Cherry Class have joined Miss Barber and the Pine Class team for some exciting writing lessons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own pieces all about why they would make a great elf in Santa's workshop—their imaginations have certainly been hard at work!

This writing project is just one part of the ongoing collaboration between the two classes. Throughout the term, Year One Cherry Class pupils have been joining Pine Class for a variety of lessons, including Geography and DT, through flexible groupings. It has been wonderful to see the children learning together, sharing ideas, and growing in confidence across different subjects

Cherry

This week in Early Years, we've been diving into festive stories during Drawing Club, exploring texts such as Stick Man and The Christmas Pine. The children have been making meaning from the marks they create by recording words and phrases to bring their ideas to life. In English, Year 1 have been busy writing fact files about the Grinch! We learned what a fact is and the key features of a fact file. Then, we became researchers—searching for facts in the text and using them to create our own fact files. The children have really enjoyed combining reading and writing skills in these creative activities.

Pine

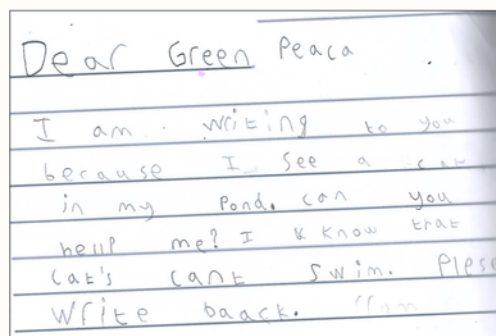
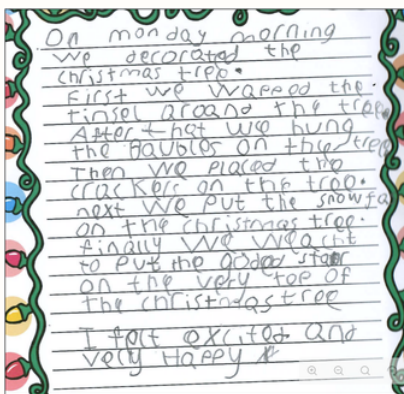
Pine Class have completed some exciting curious quests this term, and the children have shown enthusiasm and creativity throughout.

We began our journey with the book 'Dear Greenpeace', which inspired us to explore the letter writing. After reading the story together, the children imagined an animal living in our school pond and composed letters to Greenpeace, explaining what they had discovered and asking thoughtful questions. This gave us the chance to practise using full sentences, punctuation, and interesting vocabulary, while also learning how letters can be used to share ideas with others.

Our next adventure took us into the world of poetry. We focused on winter poems, experimenting with rhyming words and exploring how to make our writing sound engaging. The children enjoyed playing with language, creating verses that captured winter and Christmas. It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence as poets.

As the festive season approached, Pine Class turned their attention to Christmas.

Together, we decorated a classroom Christmas tree, arranging decorations using teamwork. Afterwards, the children wrote detailed recounts to explain exactly what they had done, practising sequencing words such as first, next, and finally. This activity helped them to reflect on their experiences and to share them clearly in writing. We are very proud of everything the children have achieved this term.



Hazel

What a fantastic and bustling month it has been in Hazel Class! The children amazed us during our Christmas Showcase with their originality and confidence. They crafted, rehearsed, and performed their very own class poem, delighting everyone with their expressive performance and beautiful singing. We were incredibly proud to share their achievements with so many of our families.

In English, the children have been working hard as letter writers — sending thoughtful messages to the Greap and to various coloured crayons to help lift their spirits! Through this work, the class has been independently using Success Criteria, strengthening their editing skills, and consolidating key writing features such as full sentences, precise punctuation, and ambitious vocabulary. They are learning not only how to write letters, but also how written words can connect people and share emotions.

Our PE lessons have been full of energy and enthusiasm. The children have been building on their ball-handling skills as they begin exploring the rules and movements of netball.

Alongside this, they have been developing balance, control, and teamwork through gymnastics activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they support one another and celebrate each other's progress.

Cedar

To launch our Victorian diary writing project, we immersed the children in history by transforming Cedar Class into a Victorian classroom! The pupils experienced strict routines and discipline, giving them a real sense of what life was like for schoolchildren in the past.

This hands-on experience inspired their writing, as they created diary entries from the perspective of a Victorian child. They focused on key Year 4 writing skills, including expressing feelings, using fronted adverbials for detail, adding contractions for an informal tone, and organising events in chronological order. This cross-curricular approach made learning engaging and memorable.

Next term, we're excited to swap chalkboards for chocolate as we dive into *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl—get ready for golden tickets, chocolate rivers, and plenty of imagination!



Oak

The Writers sequence in Oak class has been based on some old war letters Mrs Custard found from her Grandma and Grandad. We thought they were fascinating and decided to write our own letters home from the trenches. From our book *War Games* we learned about The Christmas Day Truce where soldiers from both sides came together to celebrate on Christmas day 1914. We found out that the soldiers had met in no mans land, shares life stories, sang carols and even played a game of football.

Each child in the class decided who they were going to write to and structured their letter using an example we read together to find the features we needed. We made our paper look old by staining it with tea and wrote our letters on top so they looked authentic! We can't wait to share the finished product with other classes on the last day of term.

Redwood

Year 6 have been focusing hard on their writing this half term.

We used a picture as a stimulus to create a narrative text ensuring that we included dialogue and that speech marks were used accurately around what was being said. We included words that showed how our characters were feeling and move the action on in our narrative through the dialogue.

We have also used The Support Act video as inspiration for an inner monologue. We have used drama to get to know the characters better and then wrote from the person inside of either the dad or his daughter.

'I have enjoyed using other stimulus to help me to write!'

'I really liked the music that was put to the video as it is a good tune and encouraged me to write!'

Christmas Lunch



Christmas Nativity



Sports

KS2 Inclusion Festival at Imberhorne

Mrs. Foster and Mr. Grey recently took a group of children to Imberhorne to attend the KS2 Inclusion Festival. It was an exciting day filled with new experiences and teamwork! The children had the opportunity to learn and play two fantastic sports:

- Curling – A winter sport where players slide stones on a sheet of ice towards a target area, aiming for precision and strategy.
- Boccia – A Paralympic sport similar to bowls, where players throw or roll balls to get as close as possible to a target ball, promoting accuracy and tactical thinking.

Our pupils represented the school beautifully, showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. They had lots of fun and made us proud with their positive attitude throughout the event.

How children are chosen for events?

We categorise sports events into two main types: competitions and festivals. Competitions are structured to allow pupils to test their skills in a competitive environment, while festivals are non-competitive and designed to give children the chance to experience sports they might not normally participate in. These festivals focus on enjoyment, inclusion, and skill development, helping pupils discover new activities and build confidence in a supportive setting.

Festivals are more common in the Year 3 and 4 age groups, as they provide a great introduction to a variety of sports and encourage participation. As pupils progress into Year 5 and 6, there are more opportunities for competitions, which help them apply and develop the skills they have learned in a more structured and competitive format. For competitions, children are usually put forward either by their class teacher or, in the case of football and netball leagues, by the coaches who run the weekly after-school clubs. This ensures that pupils who have shown interest and commitment in these activities have the chance to represent the school.

Whereas for festivals, children are given the opportunity to put their name forward to attend, and we aim to prioritise those who have not attended before, so that as many pupils as possible can benefit from these experiences.

Upcoming sporting opportunities

Skateboard & Scooter Experience Day

A fun-filled day for the whole school to try out skateboarding and scooters!

Date: 6th January

Location: School Grounds

Basketball Competition

Show off your skills and compete for the top spot!

Venue: Sackville school

Hockey Festival & Competition

Join us for an exciting hockey festival followed by a competitive match.

Venue: EGSC

Dance Showcase

Celebrate creativity and movement at our spectacular dance showcase!

Venue: Sackville school

After School Clubs

The list of clubs have been sent out and will commence 12th January, with the FLCs W/C 2nd February teacher led clubs will not be running that week. to book, please visit: <https://forms.gle/uGCRbBR3sRj9q1F49>

Reindeer Run

ST CATHERINE'S
HOSPICE



The choir did a fantastic job at Knowle House singing to the residents.



A BIG thank you for your support, we raised £94.39 at the book fair.

Congratulations!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO ATTENDED OUR
TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR.

Together we have raised...£94.39.....
for our school to spend on **FREE BOOKS**

TRAVELLING BOOKS

Upcoming Events

Dates for your Diary

Please click the link for the term dates for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

<https://baldwinshillprimaryschool.co.uk/term-dates/>

19 th December 25	Last day of term
20 th Dec – 4 th Jan 26	Christmas Holidays
5 th January 26	First day of term (Monday)
8 th January 26	Year 5 Bikeability
3 rd Feb 26	Family Learning Conference 3.30 – 6pm
5 th Feb 26	Family Learning Conference 3.30 – 6pm
13 th Feb 26	Last day of term
14 th – 22 nd Feb 26	Half term holidays
23 rd Feb 26	First day of term
W/C 2 nd March 26	Year 6 Bikeability
27 th March 26	Last day of term
28 th March – 12 th April 26	Easter holidays
13 th April 26	First day of term

Check out the video filmed back in spring of Baldwins Hill:



<https://baldwinshillprimaryschool.co.uk/>



Internet Safety



Online Safety: Top Tips

Online safety is so important, particularly over the holiday period when children may be online more than usual.

Please use the following link to find advice and guidance for your own online safety and for children and young people: www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety.

Here are our tips to get you started:

1. Chat to them about what they like to do online

Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

2. Talk about who they are in contact with online

Use settings to help limit who can contact your child. Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.

3. Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe. Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor

Speak to a member of Baldwins Hill staff or ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead

Community Events

west sussex music

TOMORROW'S ORCHESTRA PROGRAMME
Bognor Regis, Chichester, Crawley
Horsham, Midhurst, Worthing



Book now for January 2026 start
Lessons + orchestra + instrument loan for beginners

First term FREE
FIND OUT MORE AT
westsussexmusic.co.uk/top

Supported using public funding by:
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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Starting January 2026
TOMORROW'S ORCHESTRA PROGRAMME

Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme is a three term programme (Jan-Dec) for complete beginners aged 7 to 11 yrs old (Yr3 to Yr6)

It includes:

- Instrumental lessons on brass, wind, or strings
- Free instrument loan for the year
- Membership of the TOP Orchestra

The first term is **free** and terms 2 and 3 are just £78 per term or **free** to those on free school meals

BOGNOR REGIS The Phoenix Centre, PO21 5JD Thursdays 16:30 - 18:00	CHICHESTER St Joseph's CE Junior, PO19 10Q Saturdays 09:00 - 10:30
CRAWLEY The Mill Primary Academy, RH11 0EL Fridays 16:30 - 18:00	HORSHAM Milla's School, RH13 5HR Saturdays 10:45 - 12:15
MIDHURST Midhurst Rother College, GU29 9DT Tuesdays 16:30 - 18:00	WORTHING Bohunt School, BN14 8AH Saturdays 10:00 - 11:30

Creating the next generation of musicians

music_centre@westsussexmusic.co.uk
westsussexmusic.co.uk/top

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WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
22-23 DECEMBER 2025
Bognor Regis, Crawley, Worthing



Music activities for children & young people
FIND OUT MORE AT
westsussexmusic.co.uk/holidayactivities

Supported using public funding by:
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
West Sussex County Council

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WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
22-23 DECEMBER 2025

Rap & Songwriting
BOGNOR REGIS - The Phoenix Centre, PO21 5JD
Explore the fundamentals of rap and songwriting. From rhythm and flow to crafting compelling stories through lyrics. This hands-on workshop encourages creativity, self-expression, and collaboration - whether you're new to rap or have experience, you'll gain practical tips to enhance your songwriting skills.

Music Production & DJ
CRAWLEY - The Mill Primary Academy, RH11 0EL
Get a hands-on introduction to music creation and mixing. Learn beat-making, sound design, track arrangement with professional tools, DJ-ing, beatmatching, and seamless transitions. This workshop offers practical skills and insights into both the creative and technical aspects of music production.

Play In A Band
WORTHING - Northbrook College, BN12 6NU
Come and experience Northbrook College's state of the art music studios to form a rock or pop band. Collaborate on covers and originals, and develop song arrangement, stage confidence, and live performance techniques.

Join for one or both days. Lunch will be provided.
Free for those in receipt of free school meals
£39 per day for those paying
westsussexmusic.co.uk/holiday-activities

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HOLIDAY CLUBS



PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS

MORE fun, MORE friendships, MORE smiles
during the WINTER HOLIDAYS!

Book today
premier-education.com

Premier Education

Excellent
Trustpilot

YOUR NEAREST HAF CLUBS...

Worthing/Lancing	Crawley	Arun	FREE HAF Spaces
Our Lady of Sion School Scampton Village Primary School	Seymour Primary School Hilltop Primary School	Barnham Primary School Angmering High School	*HAF for children who receive benefits related free school meals

PLEASE BRING
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!

Our 5* Holiday Clubs are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the winter holidays.

And with the HAF programme, your children can attend sessions free of charge. Each session includes healthy food and enriching activities.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

Book now for lots of festive fun!

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps/HAF

Excellent
Trustpilot



East Grinstead Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Can you help us to put food on the tables of those in need this Christmas?

★ Extended Opening Hours & Christmas Room

From Friday 12th December, our CHRISTMAS ROOM will be open, and we'll be offering extended hours (1-4pm) on:

- Fri 12th Dec
- Mon 15th Dec
- Wed 17th Dec
- Fri 19th Dec
- Mon 22nd Dec

We will then close for Christmas and reopen on Monday 5th January 2026, 1-3pm.

Community Events




HOLIDAY HQ Winter Fest
WINTER HOLIDAY CAMP

SPORTS | TEAM GAMES | STEM
ARTS & CRAFTS | MAKE & TAKES
& MUCH MORE!


BLIZZARD BASH REINDEER ROUND UP

22nd, 23rd Dec 2025
At Halsford Park Primary School, East Grinstead

Book online at www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk

Plus FREE HAF Places Available!
HAF Places are FREE to those accessing benefit related free school meals





WOWSI

Join a WOWSI Parent Chat Session

We will be joined by
Vik Machin - Schools and Colleges Mental Health & Wellbeing Advisor, WSCC

Our Working On Worries Support Intervention (WOWSI) parent chat sessions are led by Parent Carers with lived experience of supporting their own children through fears, worries, and anxiety. It's a relaxed, understanding space to share, listen, and connect with others who truly "get it."


If you're not taking part in WOWSI but are interested to know more join us and hear from Vik Machin who will explain how WOWSI works and how it can help your child.

Upcoming Dates (Online):
Tuesday 13th January
6.30 - 8.00pm

[CLICK TO JOIN](#)

Join us for a relaxed online chat focused on what WOWSI is all about and how it can help you to support your child with their worries.

You don't need to prepare anything - just come as you are.




LINGFIELD COLTS CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMP

MON 22 & TUES 23
MON 29 & TUES 30 DECEMBER
9.30AM TO 3.00PM

LINGFIELD COLLEGE PE TEACHERS LEADING THE COACHING

£25 PER DAY PER CHILD

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
£25 PER DAY FOR NEW STUDENTS

EMAIL FOR DETAILS: lingfieldcoltsfootballcamp.com




SNOW MUCH FUN CAMP 2025

ARTS & CRAFTS | PARTY GAMES | SPORTS & TEAM CHALLENGES
CHRISTMAS BISCUIT DECORATING | DRESS-UP DAYS | FESTIVE SURPRISES!

CAMP DETAILS:

- ❄️ Dormansland Primary, Clinton Hill, Dormansland, Surrey, RH7 6PE
- ❄️ 22nd & 23rd of December
- ❄️ 9AM - 3PM
- ❄️ AGES 5 - 11

PAID SPACES:
Book Online at OurCamps:


FUNDED SPACES:
If your child is eligible for Benefit-Related Free School Meals, Book Online at Eeq:


IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SURREY COUNCIL

AWARD WINNING HAF PROVIDER

07306297789 SCHOOLCAMPINFO@OURPARKS.ORG.UK

WWW.OURCAMPS.ORG

