



Dear Parents and Carers,

The final day of term arrives and it leaves me with just enough time to say thankyou (before singing the Twelve days of Christmas yet again with all the children and staff!) for all the generosity that you have shown to myself and colleagues this past week or so. As I have stood at the main entrance talking with parents/carers today and at the Carols event; I have been reminded of how important our school is to all of us and that relationships based on respect and honesty matter. I have been humbled by the words of appreciation for the many ways in which the school team work together with our families to build our children's' confidence, independence and perseverance. All important as young children grow and learn. It is wonderful to see how different opportunities can inspire children and celebrate their care of each other. It was a pleasure to read about Oscar's opportunity to meet the Mayor- see below. Thank you for all your care, support and kindness. Truly at the heart of this holiday season. I hope that over the coming holiday you manage to spend time with family and friends staying safe and well. See you all on Wednesday 8th January 2025!

Oscar, from Robins, alongside his two older brothers, helped to decorate the Mayor's Christmas tree in the first week of December. They were joined by some other selected young carers from BCP. They got to spend time with the mayor, have a look round parts of the building, and even had some food and drink with the Mayor! Oscar was especially lucky, as he was chosen to put the star on top of the tree!

Kind regards,

Mrs Tracey Edwards

Mrs T. Edwards.



Diwali



As part of the Reception key question this term How Do I Celebrate? We have been learning about the festival of Diwali.

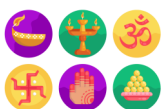
Diwali is celebrated in India and all over the world. It is often celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs but can be celebrated by other religions too. It is sometimes called the 'festival of lights' and is celebrated in October or November each year.

The festival is a time for cleaning the house, decorating the home with lights or divas, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts, having meals with family and friends and fireworks.

People often draw Rangoli patterns on the floors of their homes, the patterns are made using coloured rice, sand, flowers or paint.

A special thank you to the parents for sharing how they celebrate this wonderful festival all the children loved finding out about it.

Mrs Adeney- Reception Lead



Jurassic Journey

A coach journey out past Corfe Castle and towards the Jurassic Coast was the exciting start to our Year One trip this half-term. The children have been fascinated to learn about the life of Mary Anning and how her findings have helped historians learn about dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals.



Visiting the Etches Collection at Kimmeridge was the climax of our Jurassic Journey topic. The children handled fossils, used magnifying glasses and heard even more about palaeontology and how we find out about the past. Seeing the world famous Pliosaur skull that we'd seen being dug out of the cliff on David Attenborough's BBC television documentary was a particular highlight. The children did a fantastic job of representing our school.

The museum staff commented on how well behaved they were and how impressed they were with their knowledge of Mary Anning and dinosaurs.

Well done year 1!

We look forward to our next trip in the Spring term when we travel back in time to the Victorian era.

Mrs Wills and the Year 1 team



RE this term at QPIA

Over the last term our Year One and Two children have visited St Francis Church.

Our Church visits help to support our RE curriculum which focuses on developing the children's understanding of their own and others' worldviews. This helps to underpin the growth of empathy and respect.

In year 2 the making of a Harvest ring taught us about the universal importance of sharing.

Our Year One children, at this time of the year thought about journeys and the giving and receiving of gifts.

The children enjoy their visits and we are always extremely proud of their knowledge, their ability to listen and to share ideas with each other.

Our thanks go to Susie and all the team of volunteers who make our visits both memorable and very creative.

Within the EYFS it has also been wonderful for the children to learn about other festivals celebrated at this time of year in our community. We hope you enjoy reading about this and thank .

Mrs Richie - RE Lead



Would you like to be a reading ambassador at Queens Park Infant Academy?

We are looking for children who love books and will help us to promote our love of reading across the school. You will work with Mrs Mansell and Mrs Wills to keep the library, reading areas and book displays tidy and inviting around the school. At the end of the Spring term, we would like you to read a story to another class.



We need one child from each KS1 class to work with us and carry out the reading ambassador role. Reception children will have the chance to be a reading ambassador in the Summer Term.

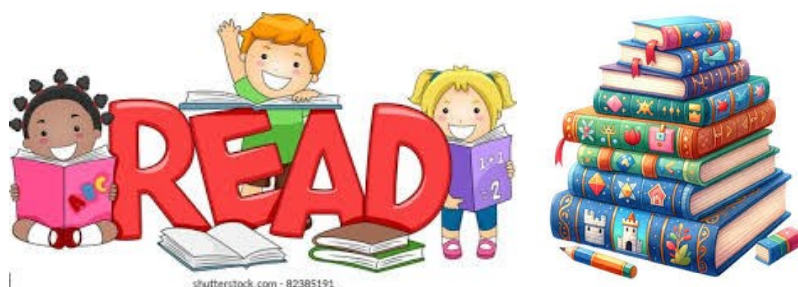
Our ambassadors will wear a badge designed by Dylan in Otters.

If you would like to be a reading ambassador, you can apply by writing a short book review of your favourite book (story or information book) explaining briefly what it is about, why you like it and why you would recommend it.

Book reviews need to be handed in to the office by Friday 10th January. We look forward to reading them and will select our Reading Ambassador team the following week.

Happy reading!

Mrs Wills and Mrs Mansell.



A thankyou message from the PFA

With the end of term in sight, we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on the fantastic winter events we have had this year, which have managed to raise a total of **£1,478.70**, a significant step toward our fundraising target. Our project this year is to raise the funds to provide brand new laptops and other equipment to completely transform the ICT suite and further enhance your children's learning experiences in Computing.

We kicked off our double-header of winter events with the Winter Bazaar which this year had moved back into the school hall instead of the studio. It really was heart-warming to see so many happy children leaving the hall with their bag of toys, for a £1 donation. The beauty of this event is it costs very little to organise, with all the toys being kindly donated by you and your families, so every penny raised goes back in to supporting the school. There is also a significant amount of work that happens behind the scenes to sort, clean, store and arrange all of the toys ahead of, and during, the event so we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of those who donated toys and their time to make this event as wonderful as ever.



Rounding off our events for this year once again was Carols with the Band and it was great to have the weather this year to be able to take this event back outside where it truly belongs. A superb addition this year was the light trail through the wild garden which was really popular and also gave us the chance to showcase our wonderful new outdoor classroom which is now complete and being used regularly by your children.



Our raffle was well supported once again this year and we would like to express our gratitude to those companies that donated prizes to make this possible.

Of course, none of these events would be a success without the support that we receive from you and your families. Whether you have donated money, baked something for the cake stall, helped to organise or run a stall, donated toys for the Winter Bazaar or come along with your friends and family to enjoy and support our events, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our events and our school over these first few months of the academic year.

The PFA Team

Dates for your Diary



Christmas Holidays 23rd December—3rd January 2025

January

Monday 6th January

Staff training day— school is closed to children

Tuesday 7th January

Staff training day — school is closed to children

Wednesday 8th January

Children return to school

Half Term

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

First Day

Monday 24th February

Last Day

Thursday 3rd April

(Friday 4th April– Inset day)

Easter Holidays

Monday 7th – Friday 18th April

Summer Term:

First Day

Tuesday 22nd April

Last Day

Friday 23rd May

Half Term

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

First Day

Monday 2nd June

Last Day

Tuesday 22nd July - 1.00pm Finish