



Fulfen Newsletter

Leading the way to a brighter future

In this issue:

1. Foreword
2. Stars of the Week
3. Celebrations
4. Useful information
5. Dates for your Diary

Issue: 39
December 2024



Follow us on Facebook!

Foreword

We have had such a busy run up to Christmas with so many enjoyable activities being run for the children. Please enjoy looking through the photographs sharing what we've been up to. There are also videos and sound-clips for you to click on to give you a better insight.

We will close our doors to pupils and staff tomorrow as mark of respect for Max. This has been a difficult time for our school community and we hold Max's family in our hearts during this challenging time. The year 6 Carol Concert at Christ Church will still go ahead and the children have chosen a special song, which they will sing in memory of Max. The details of the celebration evening for Max, on 23rd of December, have been emailed out and are also included in this newsletter.

We wish you and your families a Christmas filled with warmth and love. May the spirit of the season bring moments of peace and comfort to everyone in our community, and may we all find ways to spread kindness and light to those around us.



Stars of the week!

Lexi Everiss, Logan Swinney, Georgie-Rae Waterhouse, Ben Scandrett, Livvie Doughty, Macy Allen, Leo Everiss, Lainey McDaid, Isla Holden, Charlie Taylor, Finn Saunders, Raine Meehan, Darcie Bird, Mia Mountford, Rupert Heaven, Alex Doricott, Lillie Rhodes, Ted Worrall, Harmony Powis, Jett Roberts, Isaac Deane, Ada Legood, Annabella Stilgoe, Arthur Roadnight, Isabella Ward, Theo Thorpe,

Millie Delamont, Raiven Meszaros, Daisy Walters, Teddy Douglas, Orla Dalloway, Benjamin Ricketts, Delilah Rose, Olivia Freeman, Bodhi King, Bailey-Mai Freeman, Arthur O'Neil, Emily Morris, Harriet Soetendal, Freddie Hems-Fish,, Harley Jones, Bobby Knowles, ienna Long, Maya Cockayne, Charlotte Burley, Izaac Cashmore-Johnson, Adam Aydi, Dylan Chadwick, Olivia Newman, Abigail Todino,

Leo Jones, Charlie Adams-Clarke, Jimmy Drennan, Baxter Sayer, Maisy Moore, Billy Berry, Belle Taylor, Penelope Harrington, Leo Ritchie, Noah Doherty, Sophia Smith-Hickman, Elissa Dafforn, Luca Bott, Isabelle Jones, Em Hall-Williams, Freya Phillips, Emilie Rhodes, Olivia Odejimi, Year 5, Holly Newman, Oscar James, Callum Tweddle, William Kershaw, Jaycob Chawner, Lyvia Gorman, Skylar, Lauren, Sienna Darnley, Chloe Hackitt

Love of Learning...

- dream big, have a thirst for learning and achieve your ambitions...

Encouraging...

- to be supportive of yourself and others and value everyone's ideas...

Adaptable...

- being versatile, creative and being prepared to take risks...

Determination...

- being resilient when the going gets tough...

Are you following us on Facebook yet?

Our Facebook page is brimming with photos and news of what's going on in school each day. If you haven't already, please take the time to follow our [page](#) so you can see what we're getting up to and catch a glimpse of your child in action! You can also share this with other members of the family so they can follow our successes.

You can also see our latest Facebook feed at the bottom of the home page of our website and, if you want more information about our exciting Enrichment opportunities, look at our [Enrichment page](#) in the parents' section of our website.



Love of Learning... Encouraging... Adaptable... Determination...

Celebrations - what we've been up to

Festive Fridays at Fulfen!

Friday mornings don't get more magical than this! Our iconic Fulfen Christmas Arch and a flurry of snow set the perfect festive scene as teachers greeted pupils and parents with warmth and cheer. The sound of Christmas music filled the air, spreading joy and excitement to everyone arriving at school!



Christmas Raffle Winners

Here are our raffle winners:

- Bobby - 3O – Aspire Hair & Beauty Voucher
- Lola - 1R – Slimming World Hamper
- Eva - 2P – Ninja Warrior Voucher
- Jack - 2FH – £10.00 Tenpin Bowling Voucher
- Oliver - 1B – £10.00 Tenpin Bowling Voucher
- Leo - 4S – £10.00 Amazon Voucher
- Florence - 5M – Christmas Chocolate Hamper.

Thank you to all those who bought tickets! **We raised £470!**



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Chickens – we've had some new arrivals!

We've had three new ladies join our pen at Fulfen. A huge welcome to:



Beyonce



Cher



Taylor

Nugget has spent the last few weeks making the new girls feel at home and they've quickly settled in.

Poppy Appeal Thanks

The British Legion Poppy Appeal have confirmed that we raised a total of **£321**. Thank you to all those who contributed!



Year 5 and 6 French Dance Workshop!

Yes! They learnt to do the Can-Can!



"Nous avons passé un moment merveilleux!"

Celebrations - what we've been up to

Rudolph Fun Run for St Giles Hospice

You can still donate by clicking on the image below:

Altogether, we raised...
£840!

St Giles



Rudolph Run

A huge well done to all the children at Fulfen for completing the charity Rudolph Run for St. Giles! We had some very red-faced, determined children (and staff) who galloped, skipped, and walked 1 mile. Thank you to everyone who donated to this amazing charity!

YOU CAN STILL DONATE BY CLICKING ON THIS PAGE!



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Our fabulous Christmas Performances

What wonderful events these have all been! From our sing-along and crafts with EYFS children to our entertaining twists on the Christmas story in our KS1 and KS2 performances.



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Our wonderful Christmas Performances cont



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Our wonderful Christmas Performances cont

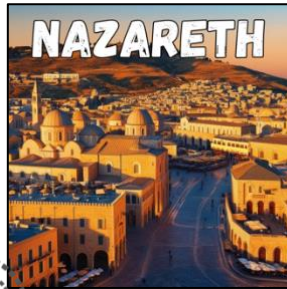


Love of Learning... Encouraging... Adaptable... Determination...

Celebrations - what we've been up to

Year 6 perform at the Church

Our Year 6 pupils are performing at Christ Church tomorrow evening. Here are a few short snippets of some of our favourites as well as a song that the children chose to perform in memory of Max:



Click on the images
to listen to the songs



Merry Christmas
Thank You to the
**CO
OP**



For donating all our lovely mince pies ready for our
Christmas productions.



Love of Learning... Encouraging... Adaptable... Determination...

Celebrations - what we've been up to

Year 5 visit Wolseley Nature Reserve

On a very cold day in November, Year 5 braved the weather and went on a trip to Wolseley Nature Reserve to learn about rivers. While there, they learned about the features of rivers, took measurements and did a field sketch. They did pond dipping in the river and in the lake and compared the animals we found. Probably the most exciting part of the day was playing Pooh-sticks - the aim was to see where the river was flowing the fastest. The staff from the centre were very impressed with the children's knowledge of rivers and the manners shown.



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Focus on Music – Exciting Opportunities on the horizon!

We are thrilled to announce that in January, the Fulfen Young Voices Choir will join thousands of other talented pupils at the Birmingham Arena to perform in the biggest children's concert series in the world – Young Voices 2025! The choir has been working incredibly hard, mastering songs, dance moves, and sign language to deliver a spectacular performance. It's going to be an unforgettable evening!

Looking ahead, our next big performance will take place in June when the Fulfen Voices Choir will perform at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre as part of a Gotta Sing evening. Stay tuned for more details on this in the Spring Term.

For our younger singers, we're excited to launch Fulfen Little Voices in the summer term. Mrs. Shermer will be running a lunchtime club for pupils in Years 1, 2, and 3, giving our youngest stars a chance to shine and share their love of music.

🎵 And there's more! After Christmas, every pupil in Year 4 will begin learning to play the recorder. Learning a musical instrument is a fantastic way to boost memory, stimulate creativity, build confidence, and develop patience. We can't wait to see their progress.

At Fulfen, we're passionate about bringing music to life for all our pupils and the community. Just last week, we visited the Magnolia Café at the Burntwood Institute for people suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia.



The music went down a treat!

It was a wonderful opportunity to bring our festive spirit and enjoyment to the special lunch and join in with creating some Christmas crafts.

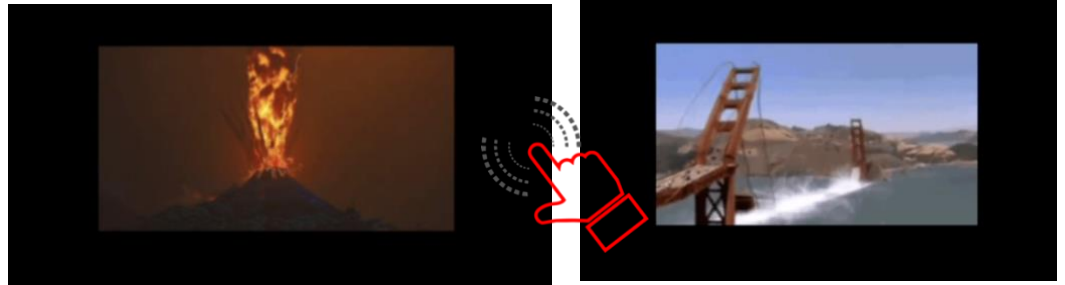


Celebrations - what we've been up to

Digital Artifacts

Pupils have been getting creative on their iPads! Here are a few examples of us showcasing what we've learnt recently:

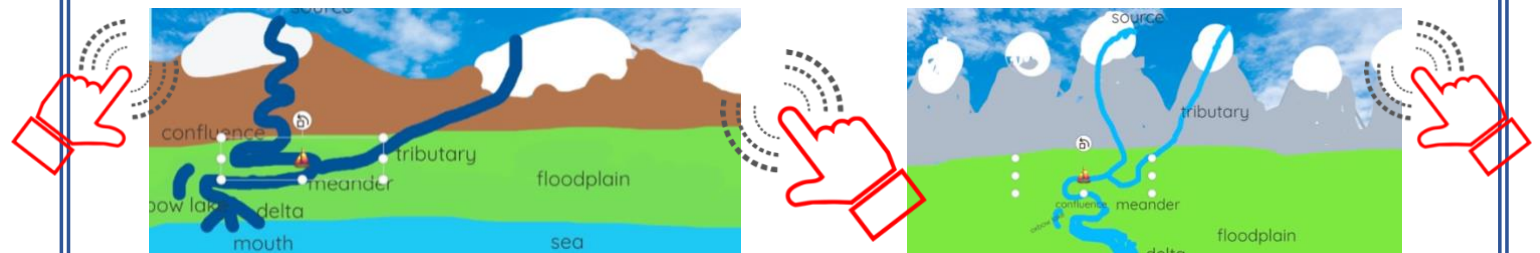
Ethan and Harriet in Year 3 are great experts on what's in the earth and tectonic plates:



Year 4 have been collecting ideas (as demonstrated by Finley) to then perform their own poems – videos by Isabelle and Oliver:



And Year 5 can explain the journey of a river. Here are Jessica and Zack's videos:



Discos – Fun had by all!

Everyone loved the discos that were held in the school hall last week. Staff and children enjoyed strutting their stuff to the beat, bringing fantastic energy to the dance floor. Thank you to all the staff who stayed late to support this event.



Celebrations - what we've been up to

Autumn

SPORTS NEWS

A huge well done to our team of girls who competed in a football tournament before half term. They smashed every game and got through to the final; however, they lost out on the win to penalties. Congratulations girls!



Our Y5/6 football team have played at two recent tournaments.

They earned their place in the final, where they came 3rd out of 12 teams!

This is an excellent result – well done to all those who took part!

A celebration of life – Max

The school will be closed tomorrow as we come together to remember and pay our respects to Max. He was an extraordinary boy whose bravery and kindness touched all our lives. Despite facing tremendous challenges – the loss of his mum and his own battle with a brain tumour – Max remained joyful, resilient, and full of love for those around him.



[A website](#) has been created as a tribute to Max, where you can add thoughts and memories and donate to Acorns Children's Hospice in lieu of flowers. The family are hosting a Celebration Event in Max's memory at Christ Church on Monday 23rd December, which will give everyone an opportunity to reflect, remember, and celebrate Max's life together:

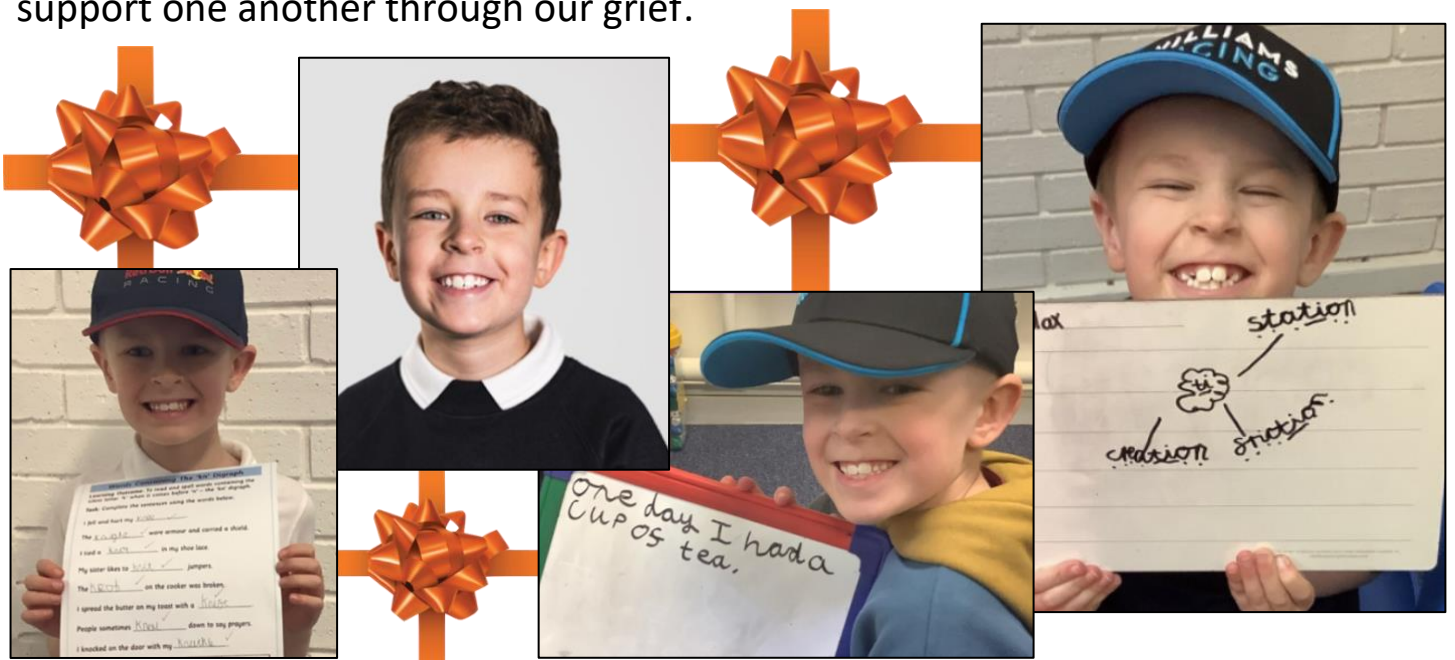
- **Session 1** (4:30-5:30 PM): *For Yr 3 families and close friends* – a presentation of memories, Max's favourite songs, and a reading of *The Memory Tree*.
- **Session 2** (5:30-6:30 PM): *Open to all families and year groups*. Drop in to read memories, view photographs, and enjoy Max's favourite songs. Copies of *The Memory Tree* will be available to share with your children.



All children attending will receive a small goodie bag and there will be a remembrance book to sign and a space to share your special memories of Max.

Max's courage, joy and kindness will remain in our hearts forever.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if your child needs additional support during this difficult time. Together, as a community, we will honour Max's memory and support one another through our grief.



Useful Information & what's coming up

Enrichment Clubs in the New Year

We don't stop at the end of the school day! Here are the extra-curricular clubs we've got coming up in January:

Monday – Tennis – Years 1&2

Monday – Dance – Key Stage 2

Tuesday – Tennis – Years 3&4

Tuesday – Cheerleading with Fulfen Club

Wednesday – Tennis – Years 5&6

Wednesday – Cross Stitch & Cookies

Wednesday – Football with Fulfen Club

Thursday – Rugby – Years 5&6

Thursday – Film Club – Years 3&4



Swimming is on the Timetable!

5M will be starting their swimming lessons in January. Children will need to be in school before 8:30am on Thursdays, wearing their PE kit with their swimming kit underneath.

As well as being part of the National Curriculum, swimming is an important life skill and learning to swim at a young age lays the foundation for a lifetime of water safety, physical fitness and confidence.



ADMISSIONS – want your child to join our school?

We've enjoyed inviting parents into school recently for our open days.

Our admissions for Pre-School and Reception places for next year are open. You can find our more information [here](#).



Useful Information & what's coming up

Support for School Trips

School trips are a vital part of a child's education, offering hands-on experiences that enhance learning and build life skills.

Unfortunately, last year, the school had to heavily subsidise many trips due to a lack of parental contributions, placing significant strain on our budget. To keep offering these opportunities, **we need parent support**. While contributions are voluntary, they are essential to ensure trips can go ahead.

These are our trips and visits we've had so far this year, which have broadened what we can offer within the classroom:

- Y6 - Packington Farm
- Y3 - Dudley Canal
- Y4 - Tamworth Castle
- Y5 - Chase Terrace Fire Station
- Y1 - Animal Man Visit
- Y5 - Wolseley Centre
- Y2 – Pantomime
- EYFS – Packington Farm Visit
- KS2 – Rocktopus Experience
- Y5/6 - French Dance Workshop



With regret, we've had to cancel the trip to Harry Potter for year 6 later this year as there were not enough contributions made in time for us to continue with the booking.

If you are struggling financially, please contact us confidentially – we are here to help.

Thank you to all those parents who do support us. Moving forward, we hope that future trips do not have to be cancelled.



Useful Information & what's coming up

Little Heroes Campaign

Regular school attendance is key to pupils' success: it improves educational outcomes, life opportunities, and personal growth. Being in school regularly also benefits wellbeing by fostering friendships and being able to engage in new activities in a supportive and secure environment.



Launching in January 2025, our campaign aims to help children overcome barriers to attendance, ease their worries, and inspire them to be a HERO: Here Every day, Ready, On time.

**HERE
EVERY DAY
READY
ON TIME**

We will:

- hold weekly class competitions with the highest attendance earning our prestigious Attendance Trophy.
- award a special prize to the class who is the overall half term winner.

If the school meets the 97% attendance target by July 2025, the entire school will also enjoy a special treat.

Let's work together to make every day count!

Please begin by watching [this video](#) with your child.

Are you
Ready
On Time?



The Importance of Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality are *vital* in order to get the most out of school. Consistently being late into school soon adds up to having a negative impact on learning.



With this in mind, we would like to remind you of some of our timings and procedures for our school day which can also be found [here](#) on our website.

Morning Registration:

- **Class starts at 8:55 AM.** Students are considered late if they are not in their classroom by **9:00 AM** (L Code on the register).
- Students arriving after **9:10 AM** will be marked as "unauthorised late" (U Code on the register).

Addressing Persistent Lateness:

- If a student is persistently late, parents will initially receive a letter outlining the concern.
- You will have an opportunity to discuss barriers to punctuality and explore support options with us.
- If a student accumulates **5 late codes in a half term**, a second letter will be sent expressing further concern. Continued lateness may result in a meeting to find solutions together.

Recording and Reporting Lateness:

- Lateness is recorded daily, including arrival times and reasons (if known).
- This data may be shared with the Local Authority or courts if lateness persists, leading to potential legal consequences.

End-of-Day Collection:

- Please ensure prompt collection of your child at the end of the school day. Persistent or significantly late pickups may result in the school sharing concerns with relevant agencies.

After-School Clubs:

- Children must be picked up on time from school-run clubs. Late pickups will result in your child being placed in the After-School Club, and a fee will be charged.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring your child's punctuality and regular attendance.



Useful Information & what's coming up

Keeping Safe!

The holiday season brings joy and togetherness, but also represents unique safety challenges for children and families. Here are some practical tips from the National College to help you a more secure and fulfilling festive period:

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.



Useful Information & what's coming up



Oaklands Academy
of dance & drama

Oaklands Academy based in Hammerwich has been established since 1981. Our syllabus is designed to cater for students who wish to dance as a career or just for pleasure. We hold a bi annual show and participate in operatic shows, professional ballet company productions and local community events.

We offer classes in the following...

- Classical ballet
- Musical theatre
- Tap dance
- Modern jazz
- Gymnastic dance
- Freestyle
- Adult tap
- Latino dance exercise

*“To touch, to move, to inspire.
This is the true gift of dance.”*
Aubrey Lynch

Call for more information:
01543 684446
or **07774 481401**

Cannock Cricket Club

JUNIOR WINTER TRAINING

Where: Cannock Chase High School

Mon 6:00-7:15 – School Years 3-8 (GIRLS ONLY)

Fri 6:00-7:15 – School Years 1-4

Fri 7:30-8:00 – School Years 5-7

Starts Monday 13th January

Contact Graham on : **07836 371043** for further details



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Useful Information & what's coming up

Dates for your diary

Friday 20th December – Christmas Party Day!

BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Monday 6th January – INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 7th January – Back to school

Thursday 9th January – 5M start swimming

Monday 13th January – Young Voices in Birmingham



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