



# Reddal Hill Primary School Parents / Carers' Newsletter December 2024



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## WELCOME

Welcome to the December - Parents / Carers' Newsletter.

The month leading up to the Christmas break is an exciting time, albeit busy, with the pupils partaking in lots of exciting experiences, as well as skill learning.

Last week, some of our pupils took part in a Wind (Woodwind and Brass) and a Rocksteady concert. Both concerts were amazing, whereby the pupils demonstrated their instrumental skills magnificently. A HUGE well done to all the pupils who took part in these two concerts, and to all the parents/ carers who support their child when practicing their instrument at home. Year 5 were also magnificent in their year group assembly they clearly demonstrated a fantastic range of performance skills that definitely captured the attention of the audience. All the pupils enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner the week before last and most pupils took part in the autumn's **Bronze Behaviour Champions** activity. There are lots and lots of activities taking place during the last week of the autumn term, which I know will be enjoyed by our pupils. I hope that you thoroughly enjoyed the KS1 and KS2 Christmas Carol Concert, which was organised by Mrs. Stevenson and also the PTA Christmas Fayre.

Unfortunately, the staff at school have seen an increasing number of pupils wearing white or brightly coloured trainers; please note that all pupils are supposed to wear shoes throughout the school day; black trainers can be worn by pupils in KS2 for PE lessons only. It is important to establish these good habits before pupils move onto high school, where they will face sanctions for not wearing the correct uniform. Please support us as a school and your child/ children, by ensuring that they are wearing the correct school uniform and in establishing good habits. Thank you.

On a positive note, I would like to wish all of our families, who celebrate Christmas, a truly fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year. For those who don't celebrate Christmas, I wish you all a relaxing two-week break.



## School Admissions

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 then it is time to register your child for a **reception school place** for September 2025. You will be able to apply online at <https://sandwell.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Parents> during the period of **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024** until the closing date of **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

(Non-Sandwell residents must contact their home authority)

**Please note, Offer Day for Reception is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

**Please note: The application process for Year 7 school places for September 2025, is NOW CLOSED.** If you have not already applied for a place for your child to start high school in September 2025, you will need to complete a late application form.

Please click on the following link for late secondary application forms:  
<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/school-admissions/applying-secondary-school>

**Please note, National Offer Day for Year 7 is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.**

If you require any support in applying for a school place, then please speak to Mrs.

## Attendance

At Reddal Hill, we really value the attendance of all our pupils. As such, every week, the class with the best attendance, are rewarded with an extra 5 minutes play and our attendance trophy. At the end of each term, the class who has the highest attendance percentage for the greatest number of weeks, will enjoy a movie and popcorn afternoon. Please see below the classes that have won the highest attendance since we returned to school on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Week commencing	Winning class	Percentage
02.09.2024	Lilies	100%
09.09.2024	Snap	99%
16.09.2024	Tiger	98.6%
23.09.2024	Lilies	99.5%
30.09.2024	Snap and Sunflower	98.3%
07.10.2024	Luna	98%
14.10.2024	Sunflowers	98%
21.10.2024	Hermione	95.9%
HALF TERM		
04.11.2024	Buttercups	99.2%
11.11.2024	Luna and Sunflower	97%
25.11.2024	Tiger	98.2%
02.12.2024	Dobby	95.9%
09.12.2024	Hermione	97%

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO SUNFLOWERS CLASS** for being the overall **WINNER** this term! **SUNFLOWERS CLASS** has had the best attendance for the greatest number of weeks during the autumn term. The pupils will celebrate this achievement with a film and popcorn afternoon. Well done to the Sunflowers class and parents/ carers of these children 😊. Reddal Hill's attendance for autumn term 1 2024 was **93.98%**. (National: 94.75% - 2023/2024). Unfortunately, we are 0.77% below the National percentage. Please support Reddal Hill by ensuring your child comes to school every day. Thank you.

## Halesowen Constituency Christmas Card Competition.

During the autumn term, Alex Ballinger, the MP for Halesowen, invited the pupils of Reddal Hill to take part in the Halesowen Christmas Card Competition. The winner from each school will receive a certificate and a letter from Alex, their card will be displayed in Halesowen Library. As a school, we decided to select the best design from each class and an overall winner. As such, Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Whitehurst and I looked at every single entry that we received from pupils in KS1 and KS2. It was not an easy task as there so many fantastic designs. However, we finally decided on the following designs (below) and the overall winner, who was Sable (Year 5). Each pupil received a certificate and a cheeky chocolate treat. A MASSIVE well done to Sable and all of the pupils who took part, and to Mrs. Stevenson, who organised this event.



Sia Younis Amal Eretria Rosie Jay



Omar Isla Sable (Winning entry) Noha Zac

**SCHOOL MOTTO: GLEE: 'Growing – Learning – Enjoying – Excellence'**

## Dates for the diary



2024-2025

### Autumn Term 2024:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Children return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Half-term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Spring Term 2025:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Half-term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### Summer Term 2025:

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Bank Holidays: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half-term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

### Teacher Training Days 2024 - 2025:

Day 1 - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Day 2 - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Day 3 - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Day 4 - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Day 5 - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

For the school term dates for 2024-2025, please refer to the school [Term Dates 2024 - 2025 / 2025 - 2026 | Reddal Hill](#)

## Safeguarding

At Reddal Hill, we take our safeguarding duty very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, then you must contact the school or the Sandwell Children's Trust on 0121 569 3100 in confidence. If a child is in immediate danger, you should contact the police; call 999. The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs. A. Bashir-Pugh and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs. J. Nisbet, Mr. J. Stokes, Mrs. H Rogers, Mrs. T. Whitehurst and Mrs. K Beard.

## Staffing update...Maternity leave

Miss Hackwood is expecting her second child and will be commencing her maternity leave on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Hackwood as she prepares for an exciting new arrival in her life. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Whitehurst will be the replacement teacher for the class when she leaves. Mrs. Whitehurst is an experienced and dedicated Assistant Headteacher and we know that she will provide a smooth transition and continue to deliver a high-quality education for the pupils.

## Staff leaving

It is with sadness to announce that Mrs. Mundon, the Learning Support Practitioner who teaches in Elephant class, will be leaving Reddal Hill at the end of the autumn term as she was successful in obtaining a job at a local school. Mrs. Mundon will be a big loss to the school but we wish her all the very best. Mr. Ali will be replacing Mrs. Mundon in Elephant class from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

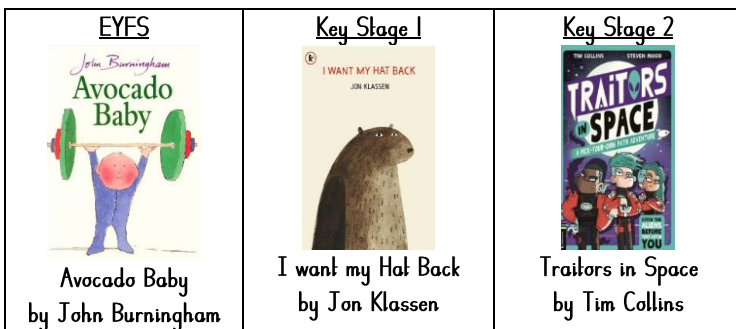
## Afternoon Tea Surprise

The pupils tucked into pancakes, biscuits and a refreshing cup of squash. During this time, they had a visit from a Snowman and the Grinch, who delivered their Christmas gift from the school on behalf of Santa. A HUGE thank you to two of our PTA members, Mrs. Lloyd and Miss Evans, for delivering 422 presents to our lovely pupils and dressing up in your amazing costumes, to make this event very special. A HUGE thank you also to Miss Sidaway, for purchasing the Christmas gifts, and the food for the Afternoon Tea Surprise and Christmas parties; your kindness does not go unnoticed.



## Books of the Month - January

Please see below the following recommended book/s you can read with your child. For older children, your child could read this book to you. These books are age appropriate and provide key vocabulary that is important in supporting your child's developing language skills.



## Reading with your child

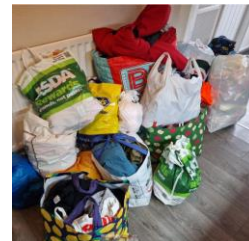
Lives can be so busy when your child / children are at home, but finding just 5 / 10 minutes a day, to read with your child, can be hugely beneficial. Reading together stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. It is a fact that children, who have spent time sharing a book at home, on a regular basis, make the greatest progress. Try to support your child with reading at home. Thank you.

Remember, there are a range of EXCELLENT online reading books, located on our school website, that you can share with your child at any time.

[virtual-library-final-draft.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

## Kids Clothes Project

This year, the Eco Council are again supporting the local charity, 'Kids Clothes Project', by requesting donations to support families in need across the Black Country. This took place in November 2024. Mrs. Harrold and the Kids Clothing Project (Please see the certificate below), wanted me to **thank you** again, for your generous donations; this will help many local families in need this Christmas.



## Thought for the Month

'Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas.' Peg Bracken

Enjoy the Christmas break with your precious family and friends.

Kind regards,

*A. Bashir-Pugh*

Mrs. A Bashir-Pugh

Headteacher

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