



## Building Bright Futures

**Responsibility:**  
make good choices  
because your  
actions matter

**Respect:**  
value everyone  
and everything in  
how you listen,  
speak and in what  
you do

**Compassion:**  
show care and  
understanding for  
everyone

**Courage:**  
be brave; believe  
you can

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# Blackwell News

Issue 7

12th December 2025

## Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed another couple of fun-filled weeks of learning. Thank you to those who were able to attend the Nativities for our younger children this week. We are now looking forward to our Years 3–6 service at St Swithun's on Monday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the term. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Sarah Martin  
Headteacher

## FOODBANK—DECEMBER OPENING HOURS

### EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

From **Friday 12th December**, our **CHRISTMAS ROOM** will be open, and we'll be offering **extended hours (1.00pm—4.00pm)** on:

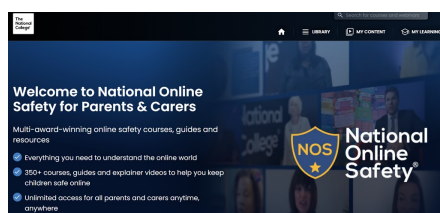
- **Friday 12th December**
- **Monday 15th December**
- **Wednesday 17th December**
- **Friday 19th December**
- **Monday 22nd December**

We will then close for Christmas and reopen **on Monday 5th January 2026, 1.00pm—3.00pm**

## Keep me safe online'

We want to help you to keep your child safe online, so please find below a couple of resources to support you. The QR Codes below provide you with easy access. Do take the time to have a quick look as there are step-by-step instructions, as well as short videos.

[www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/#choose-parental-controls-guide](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/#choose-parental-controls-guide)



### St Swithun's Crib Service

All children are very welcome to be part of St Swithun's Church Crib Service at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve. There will be a rehearsal for participants on Sunday 21st Dec at 11.30am in Church.

Please bring any dressing up clothes you love wearing. Actors meet in the hall at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Otherwise just come and join us at St Swithun's for our Crib Service, 6.00pm on Christmas Eve.

Everyone is very welcome. Please feel free to email or phone Julia (Rev. Canon Julia Peaty) 07915090920, 01342 322386, [julia@peaty.net](mailto:julia@peaty.net) if you want further information.



### Blackwell Sport

Our A and B football teams played on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the support and encouragement the team gave each other was heart warming.

So far the A team are undefeated in the local league. The B team have won two of their games, and have had one draw.

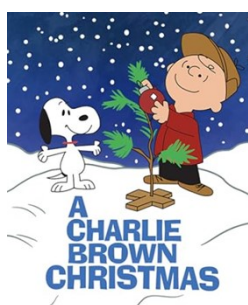
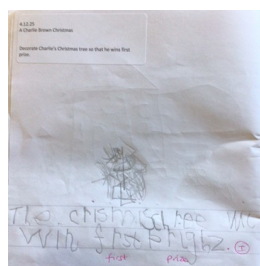
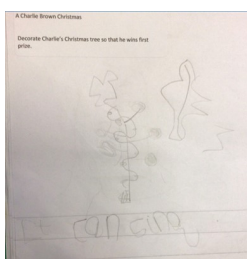
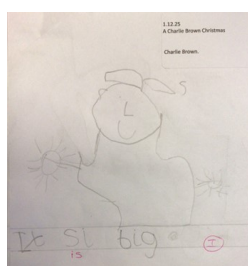
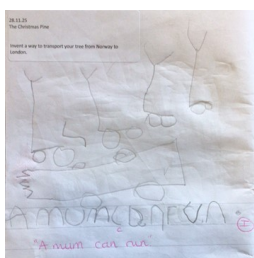


Our amazing athletes made it through to the Mid Sussex final for Sportshall athletics. We went into this competition fully prepared as the children have been attending practise sessions after school, to practise their events. On the big day, Sarah Young, an experienced PE teacher, lead to the team to a third place victory. We are very grateful to Sarah, and incredibly proud of our athletes!



## Year R

The children in Reception have been enjoying Christmassy themed stories for our Drawing Club sessions. We have read a beautiful book called The Christmas Pine by Julia Donaldson which is a story all about the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree that is gifted to London from Norway each year. We also watched a clip of Charlie Brown's Christmas. Each week we have eight high level words which we learn actions for to help us remember them. The children have been working hard to write words with three letters and lots of them are putting these three letter words into short sentences. Well done Squirrels!



## Year 1

This week, the children in Honeybees and Ladybirds classes, along with their friends in Year 2, brought the magic of Christmas to life with their wonderful Nativity performance.

Over the past few weeks, the children have worked extremely hard learning the songs and actions. Their dedication and enthusiasm shone through as they performed beautifully on stage, filling the hall with festive cheer.

From the joyful singing to well-rehearsed actions, every child played an important part in making the Nativity a truly special occasion. Families and staff were delighted to see the children's confidence and teamwork, and the performance was a heart-warming reminder of the joy of Christmas.

Well done to all our Honeybees and Ladybirds – you should be very proud of yourselves!



## Year 2

The children all worked really hard on their fantastic Nativity, Prickly Hay. We hope that their performances left you feeling, festive and full of Christmas spirit.

It has been a great first term in Year 2. The children have all worked incredibly hard and deserve a relaxing Christmas break.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Year 2 Team.



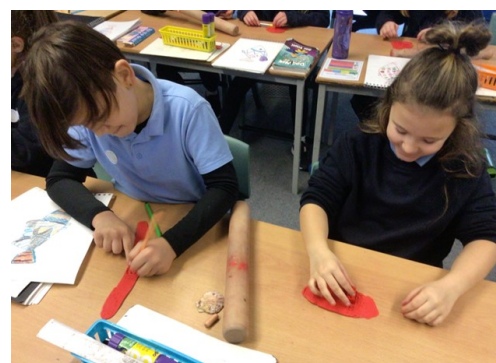
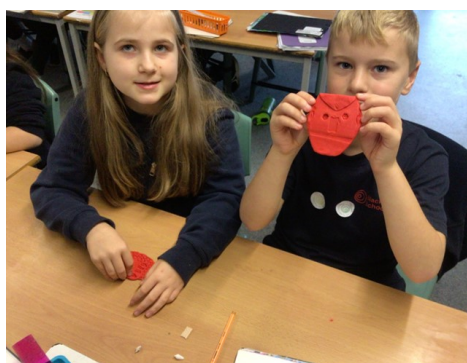
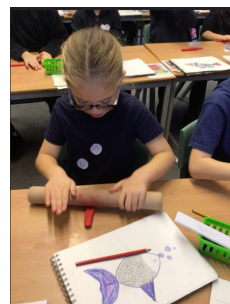
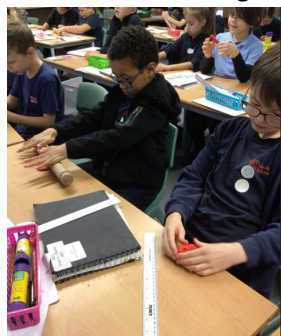
### Year 3 & 4

Goldfinch class have been showing **fantastic progress and enthusiasm** in their recent fitness classes within their PE lessons on a Thursday! They've been tackling a **diverse range of circuit-style fitness exercises** with great energy, demonstrating improved stamina and skill. This week, the addition of **yoga, guided by Miss Harman**, has been a wonderful success. The children embraced the new challenge, focusing on balance and mindfulness, proving just how well-rounded and committed they are to improving their **physical health and well-being**. Their engagement in every activity is excellent, making the fitness sessions both productive and fun!

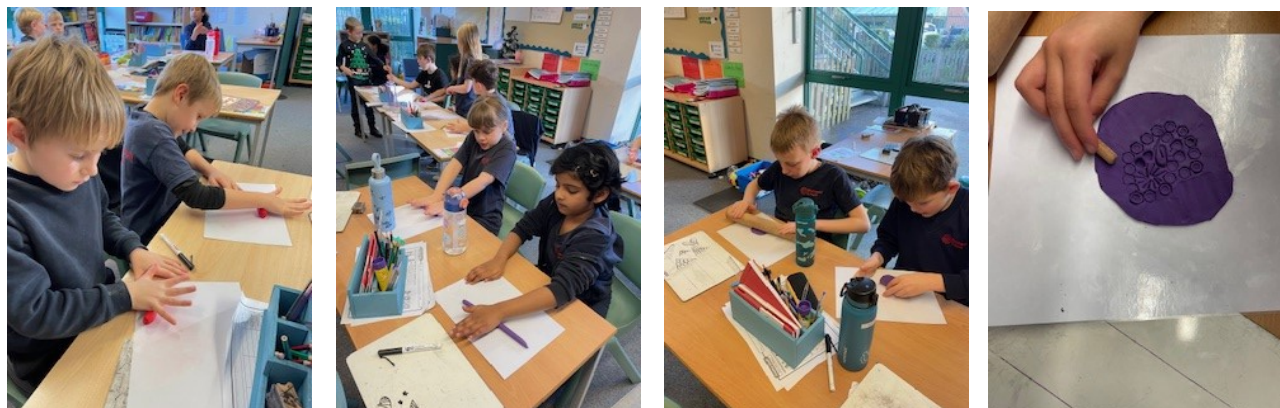
Here are some photographs of the range of exercises that the children have been working on which includes but not limited to: planks, sit ups, press ups, shuttle runs, lunges, burpees, stepping up onto a bench and doing a specific movement, skipping, jumping, hula hooping and squats.



In Art, Years 3 and 4 have been exploring the art of fish sculptures through history, particularly during the time of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We have appraised a favourite piece and stated why we think it should be displayed in a museum. We have also developed our own skills in manipulating clay through the medium of plastine. We warmed it up then rolled and flattened it then explored using a variety of objects to mark make. From this we then drew our own design of our fish and labelled which markings we plan to use and which mark making implement we shall use.



## Year 3 &amp; 4



## MTC

Wow – look at them go! They've absolutely smashed their MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) scores, and we couldn't be prouder!

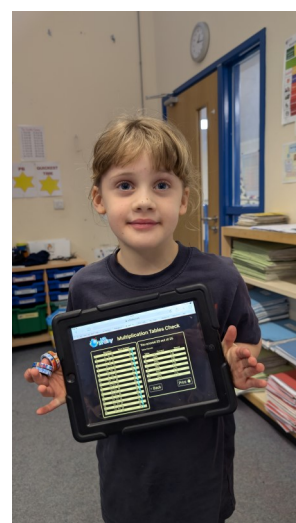
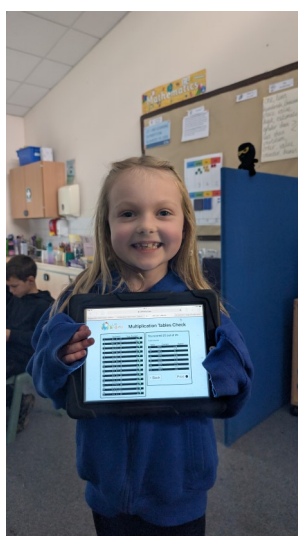
They've practiced, persevered, and now they're at the top of their game! Learning times tables is no easy task, but these superstars have shown what hard work, determination, and a positive attitude can achieve. And here's the cherry on top – one of our incredible Year 3 children has even hit the Year 4 target! How awesome is that?

Let's give the biggest round of applause to our multiplication champions! Keep aiming high, keep challenging yourselves, and remember – every big success starts with small steps.

Don't forget to use the following

[MTC - Multiplication Tables Check - URBrainy.com](https://www.urbrainy.com/multiplication-tables-check)

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

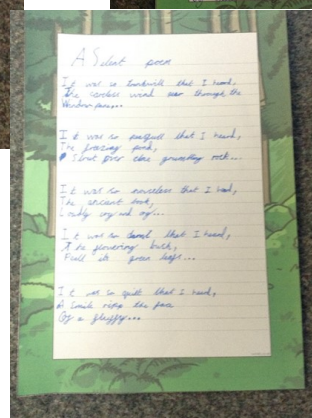
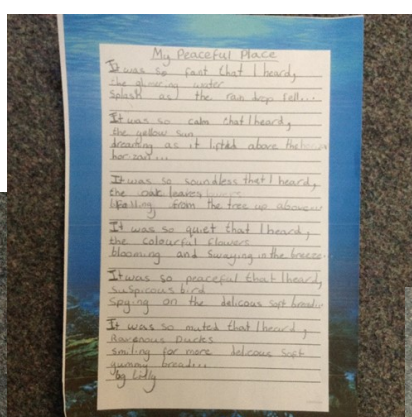
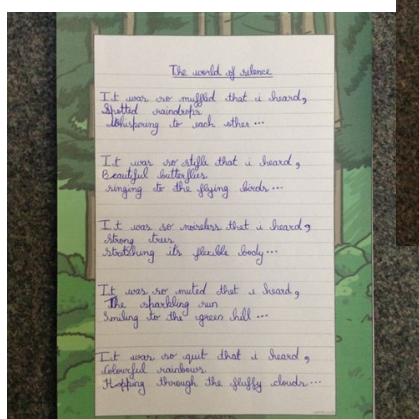
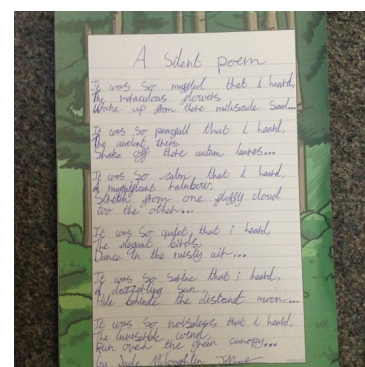


## Year 5

Oak Class have been making Christmas decorations this half term during their woodland activities. They have carefully used saws and hammers to create beautiful and creative decorations for their homes. Well Done!



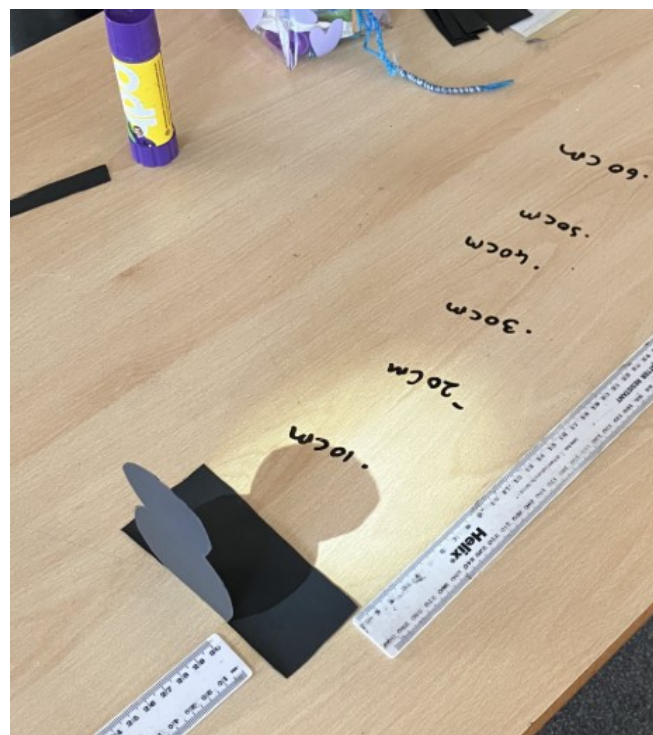
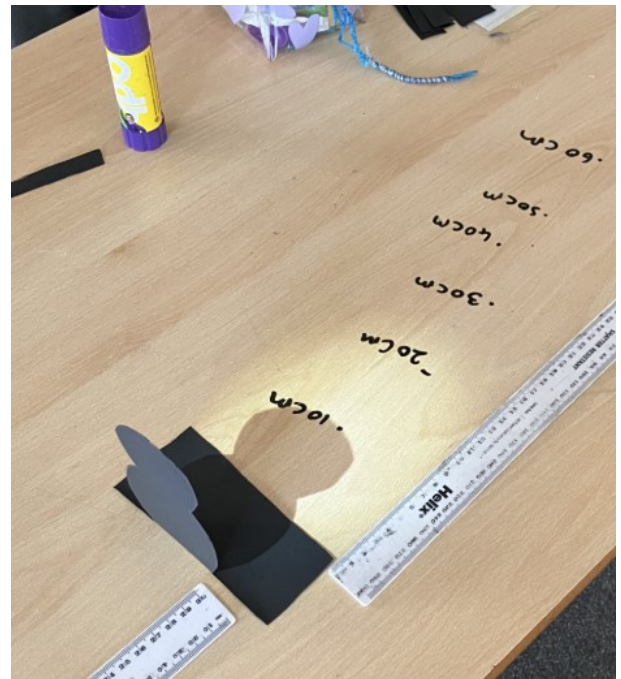
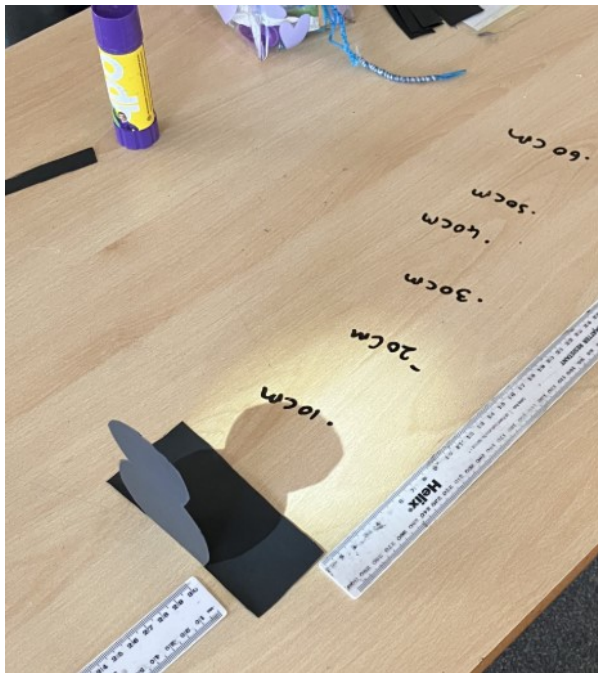
Year 5 have been writing poems about Silence. We have used repetition, personification and punctuation for effect. I think you will agree that these poems are fantastic!



## Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been working scientifically, studying shadows. Learners worked in groups to explore the connection between distance from light source and length of the shadow cast. We learnt how important it is to work scientifically and only change one variable at a time. We measured and recorded and then tried to spot patterns before making our conclusions.

We discovered that the further away the light source, the more elongated the shadow.



| December 2025             |                                                                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15th                      | KS2 (Yrs 3-6) Carol Service—St. Swithun's Church                                        |
| 18th                      | Rocksteady Concert—9.00am—9.30am<br>Chartwells Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day |
| <b>22nd - 2nd January</b> | <b>Christmas Holidays—School closed to children</b>                                     |

| January 2026 |                                                                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5th</b>   | <b>INSET Day—School closed to children</b>                                    |
| <b>6th</b>   | <b>Children return to school</b>                                              |
| 7th          | Hedgehog charity visiting Squirrels class                                     |
| 13th         | Ash class assembly 9.00am—parents invited                                     |
| 14th         | Parents' Forum—8.50am—9.50am                                                  |
| 20th         | Robins class assembly 9.00am—parents invited                                  |
| 21st         | Parenting workshop—9.00am—10.00am                                             |
| 22nd         | Year 6 Parents and Carers SATs meeting 6.00pm—7.00pm (more details to follow) |
| 27th         | Hares class assembly 9.00am parents invited                                   |

| February 2026    |                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 11th             | Animazing in for Squirrels class—more details to follow |
| <b>16th—20th</b> | <b>Half term—School closed to children</b>              |
| <b>23rd</b>      | <b>INSET Day—School closed to children</b>              |
| <b>24th</b>      | <b>Children return to school</b>                        |

| March 2026                             |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3rd                                    | Cedar class assembly 9.00am—parents invited                  |
| 4th                                    | Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am                                 |
| 10th                                   | Rabbits class assembly 9.00am—parents invited                |
| 11th                                   | Parenting Workshop                                           |
| 12th                                   | Year 6 Ashdown Forest—9.00am—3.00pm (more details to follow) |
| 16th-20th                              | Year 6 Bikeability (more details to follow)                  |
| 17th                                   | Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited                |
| 19th                                   | Year 3 & 4 Amberley Museum trip (more details to follow)     |
| 24th                                   | Ladybirds class assembly 9.00am parents invited              |
| 26th                                   | Rocksteady Concert—9.00am—9.30am parents invited             |
| <b>30th March<br/>—<br/>10th April</b> | <b>Easter Holidays —School closed to children</b>            |

| April 2026 |                                                                         |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13th       | Children return to school                                               |
| 21st       | Goldfinches class assembly 9.00am—parents invited                       |
| 22nd       | Squirrels class trip to Herstmonceux Observatory—more details to follow |