



Term 2 2025-2026



## Term 2 Newsletter

**Our vision is to be an exceptional school where children flourish**

Dear Families,

Term 2 is always a busy term, with many festive performances, but we have also taken part in a number of sporting competitions, and Year 5 also took part in the CLT minispeaks competition. We were incredibly impressed with the hard work that the children had put into their speeches, and the variety of topics too. A special well done to Lily in Poplar class who went on to represent Charlton at the final which took place at Larkmead School.

Our Head Pupils have also been incredibly busy, comparing the events in our KS2 Christmas celebrations, delivering the Christmas post and at the beginning of term, helping families locate classrooms during Discussion Evenings.

Thank you for joining us at our many celebrations this term, we love having the opportunity to welcome you to school, and look forward to more of these times throughout the year.

We would love you and the children to take part in our Winter Reading Bingo activity. A great chance to enjoy some different books together, and a chance to win some prizes too! Further details of this are shared in the newsletter.

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas break.

With very best wishes.

Sam Campbell and the Charlton Team

Follow us!



Charlton Primary School



Charlton\_Primary

*This term's attendance:*  
**95.7%**

*School and Trust target:*  
**96%**



### Worried about a child over Christmas?

**Immediate danger**

If you think a child is in immediate danger,  
call the police on 999.



**Immediate concern**

If you have a concern about a child, please  
call MASH on 01865 519800.



# Personal Development Opportunities across School

## Christmas Celebrations across the School



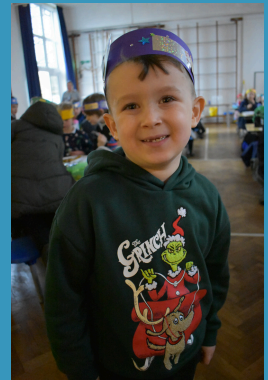
Sparkle Day



Year 1  
Performance



Y2 preparing to sing  
at Holy Trinity



Christmas Jumper Week

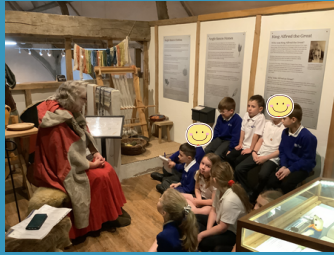


Christmas Lunch



## Y3 Vale & Downland Museum

This term, Year 3 visited the museum in town to supplement the children's learning of the Stone Age to the Iron Age in their history unit. They have wowed us and visitors to school with their knowledge and enthusiasm, sharing key facts about Alfred the Great.



## Cross Country Final

All 4 of our cross country teams that competed in September took part in the Area Final. All of our teams did incredibly well, but a special mention must go to Arlo in Y4 who came first out of 65 competitors!

## Y3 & Y4 TASS Boccia Competition

On 14th October, Mrs Clark took two teams of children to take part in a TA Sports Stars boccia competition. The children, eager and a little nervous to compete in their first ever boccia competition were amazing, and were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the end of the afternoon!

## Y5 & Y6 TASS Boccia Competition

The following week, Mrs Clark then took two teams of children from Year 5 and 6 to compete. Again, we were incredibly proud of their teamwork and eagerness to take part.

## Y6 Wantage Literary Festival

At the start of this term, Y6 were involved in the Wantage Literary Festival, and were lucky enough to hear A.F. Harold speak at The Beacon. We were gifted a number of books by the author and both classes have continued to enjoy these throughout the term.

## Y6 Injury Minimisation Programme (IMPs)

Each year, every Year 6 pupil at Charlton takes part in this event. It is led by a specialist team from local hospitals who provide the children with essential knowledge and skills to help them to reduce the risk of injury. During the morning, the team teach CPR to the children, and together they discuss a range of situations, discuss how to avoid injury and what to do in the event of an injury.



## Y5 & Y6 Maths Challenge

This term 18 children volunteered to take part in the UK Maths Challenge for their age group. They met a number of times to look over the types of problems which they might be solving and then competed on 12<sup>th</sup> November, answering 25 mathematical problems, which increased in difficulty.





# Winter Reading Bingo



To take part in our Winter Reading Bingo competition, print off a copy of the bingo sheet below, and write down the title of each book that you read that fulfils the criteria in each box. Bring your completed bingo sheet to school by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

## Winter Reading Bingo



Read a book  
set in a snowy  
winter forest.

Find a book  
with "snow" in  
the title

Read a book  
that someone  
has  
recommended  
to you.

Choose a book  
with a winter-  
themed cover.

Read a story  
with a winter  
or holiday feast  
scene.

Choose a  
mystery that  
takes place in  
winter

Read a book  
that features a  
winter sport.

Read a story  
that includes a  
blizzard.

Read a non-  
fiction book.

Read in your  
pjs.

Read a book  
that includes a  
winter  
celebration.

Read a story  
where  
characters  
exchange gifts.



# Term 2 Extra-Curricular Offer

## Something Crafty

Mondays and Tuesdays after school with Mrs Gillott



## Construction Club

Creating constructions, big and small with Mrs Wolton.



## Forest Maintenance

Helping to maintain the forest with Miss Biles so that Year 5 could enjoy the forest in their OAA sessions this term.



## Football Club

Mr Reeson's football club have been training this term in preparation for their match against Millbrook.

## Netball Club

Mrs Donnison and Miss Biles have expertly coached our netballers this term, meeting each Tuesday to perfect their skills and tactics!

## Board Games

Mrs Ramm has offered children the opportunity to join her at lunch time each week to play a variety of board games.

## TTRS

An opportunity to practice TTRS with the expertise of Miss Joyce!



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have some exciting news to share! Good Vibes Music Academy and Charlton Primary have been working together to offer students the opportunity to learn to play drums and keys. We have a limited number of lesson spaces that have become available for students who would like to take part and get making music.

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils who have been waiting to start lessons — or for those who have always wanted to learn an instrument but haven't had the chance...yet!

GVMA Lessons take place during the school day, making it easy to fit into the weekly routine. We currently have space for:

- a weekly, 30min solo guitar lesson
- a weekly, 20min solo keys lesson

Spaces are very limited, so if your child would like to start lessons, sign up as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

To find out more and to sign up, visit: <https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/charlton> or contact Good Vibes Music Academy directly on [hello@gvma.co.uk](mailto:hello@gvma.co.uk).

We're really excited to welcome more budding young musicians into the Good Vibes family and can't wait to help them begin their musical journey. But hurry as spaces are limited!

See you on the stage soon!

Steve Christmas  
**Good Vibes Music Academy**

Good Vibes Music Tuition



# Early Years

**Acorns:** This term on Friday mornings, we began Forest Fun, giving the children opportunity to enjoy the forest school environment and take part in some great, outdoor activities.

We began our Christmas celebrations by a morning of tree decorating, followed by a movie with hot chocolate and we have practiced singing our Christmas songs, which will be filmed for parents to enjoy via Tapestry next week.

Following the arrival of our new mud kitchen, we have spent lots of time outside. This has been hugely popular and has promoted independence in getting ready to go outside - we mastered the magic coat trick and have been working on doing up the zips!

**Reception:** We have focused on different kinds of celebrations this term, including Diwali, bonfire night and of course, Christmas! The children have thought about the special food, clothes and decorations and how light is often a feature of all of them. We have also learnt the words and actions to all of our Christmas songs and did us proud in our performance to parents!

## Key Stage 1

**Year 1:** This term in Year 1, the children have been very busy. In English, they wrote directional instructions using imperative verbs and time adverbials to help Little Red Riding Hood reach Granny's house safely. In maths, they explored addition and subtraction within 10 using concrete resources and pictures. Their art lessons focused on the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, inspiring the children to create their own natural sculptures. In history, they learned about memories and discussed who and what we remember on Remembrance Day. As Christmas approached, the children received a special letter from Frank the Elf and learned about the features of letters before writing impressive responses showing how they demonstrated the school values. In RE, the children explored Christian celebrations, especially the story of the First Christmas, which they retold beautifully in their Christmas performance.

**Year 2:** This term in Year 2, we have been busy developing our writing skills through letters and portal stories inspired by the book 'Journey'. In maths, we have focused on addition and subtraction, building confidence in using different strategies to solve problems. In science, our 'superhero' theme has kept us engaged as we explored forces and learned all about healthy lifestyles. We have also been developing some great hockey skills in PE. It's been an exciting and productive term full of creativity, discovery, and new skills!



## Key Stage 2

**Year 3:** This term in Year 3, we have been very busy! The children have been creating their Leonardo Da Vinci style art work and they are fantastic. In Maths, we have focused on addition and subtraction with exchanges and the hard work is paying off as they have done a superb job with this. Their stories and letters in our writing lessons have been very imaginative and there has been some really super writing skills on show which the children should be very proud of. Finally, the children have been showing us dance moves from robotic movements to flowing, organic ones. Well done everyone- a term full of hardwork!

**Year 4:** Year 4 have had a fantastic term. In science, the children have been exploring the digestive systems of different animals, including humans and carried out lots of fun experiments! They have also shown great focus and creativity in computing, using coding in Scratch to animate their names with loops and repeated commands. In French, we have been enjoying finding out about typical French towns and in geography we have been looking at maps and globes. We used satsumas to show how difficult it is to make a 2D map from a 3D globe (but once we had finished the task at least we got to have an extra tasty snack!) In PE, the classes have thoroughly enjoyed developing their skills in both hockey and netball. Well done Year 4 .We feel incredibly proud of your positive attitude towards learning.

**Year 5:** This term Year 5 have enjoyed reading "The Great Food Bank Heist" by Onjali Q Rauf. It's a brilliant, fast paced story which addresses the issues of food poverty and hunger in a sensitive, child friendly way and it has inspired us to collect donations for the Wantage and Grove Food Bank. The children have shown empathy and maturity during these lessons and we are very proud of them! In maths, we have finished our unit on multiplication and division and are now focusing on fractions. The children have explored forces in science: friction, water resistance and air resistance. We discovered that running across the playground with an open umbrella was much harder than running without one - a great way of showing how the greater the surface area, the greater the air resistance! In art, the children have been working on their painting skills whilst creating a piece inspired by the work of Bob Patterson. We are really looking forward to seeing their final pieces. In computing, the children have been exploring fact-file data bases and looking at the best way of sorting and organising information fields. In OAA, children worked on their map skills to locate items in and around the forest area. They have done a great job learning how to create a small fire using steel and flint, cotton, Vaseline and sticks. The children were thrilled when their fires were first lit. Last week, they learnt how to use knives to make sharp sticks and many children have been keen to dredge the small river of debris in order to allow the water to flow more easily.

**Year 6:** What a busy and brilliant Term 2 it has been for Year 6! The children have thrown themselves into every opportunity, from developing their confidence and water skills during swimming lessons to taking part in IMPS (Injury Minimization Programme for Schools), where they learned essential first-aid skills and how to make sensible, safe decisions in emergencies. They also enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Beacon, where they listened to author A.F. Harrold share his stories, ideas, and writing tips. Of course, a seasonal highlight was hearing them sing so beautifully at the church—an occasion that truly showcased their maturity and enthusiasm.

All of this has taken place alongside their continued hard work in the classroom. The children have deepened their understanding of World War II, showing thoughtful engagement and empathy as they explored this significant period of history. They have also been captivated by the incredible journeys of Ernest Shackleton, learning about his determination, leadership, and extraordinary expeditions to Antarctica. It has been a packed term full of learning, adventure, and growth, and we are incredibly proud of everything Year 6 has achieved.

# Newsletter Snippets from Hornbeam Class

This term as part of our Character & Citizenship Awards, Hornbeam class have put together some news and information we think you would like to know as well as some fun facts and hilarious jokes! We hope you enjoy our "Snippets from year 6!"



## School News

This term at Charlton, a wonderful visitor came in to speak to us about World War II and how she was a nurse during this time. She brought in lots of great things for us to look at which we enjoyed. Reception and Year 1 have both put on spectacular Christmas performances in the school hall whilst all other year groups visited the church for a festive sing song with families. We went swimming and even got to go in our pyjamas – IT WAS SO MUCH FUN!!! On the last week of term, we all made Christmas hats to wear whilst eating our delicious Christmas dinner – it was yum!



## Learning highlights

This term, Charlton has been getting ready for Christmas! The festive season means celebration and church. KS2 have been keeping the community's spirits up by singing Christmas Carols to all of our loved ones. Year 5 have been thinking about Christmas in another way by giving to the local foodbanks – this helps families all across Oxfordshire have a nicer time at Christmas. In addition to this, Year 6 have had some special guests into school to teach them what to do in an emergency as well as learning about water safety in our swimming lesson. Year 2 had an adventurous trip to the panto and Year 5 and Reception have had lots of forest fun, oh, and Year 3 went to the museum! WOW! there has been lots of exciting things happening at Charlton this term.



## Amazing achievements

Reading: Across KS2, all children have been reading a lot! Not only that, but they have become quizzing super stars too. Between the 8 classes (Y3-6) we have read a total of 18,858,740 words since September – that's crazy. Our top quizzers in each year group are: Elizabeth (Y6), Harry (Y5), Berni (Y4) and Joseph (Y3) who have quizzed on over 100 books between them – Well done! We also have three children who have become word Millionaires this term: Elizabeth, Harry, and William (Y4)

TTRS: We have all been working really hard on our times tables as well. Our top rockers this term are Joseph (Y3) and Darryn and Mason (Y5) – Well done boys!

We have also had lots of sporting success this term from football to boccia and trampolining!



## Community news

As well as news from the school, we wanted to share some other exciting things from the community that we think you need to know about. Every Wednesday and Saturday, there is an amazing market in Wantage selling all sorts of yummy treats and nice gifts. You might have noticed in the supermarkets you can donate to foodbanks and after Year 5 explained how important they are, we have been suggesting that our families make small donations if they can. This month also had a very wet a soggy Dickensian Evening in the town square. Despite the weather, lots of people and stall holders raised money, selling Christmassy things. The main event of the month, the year, the century though is that Wantage and Grove final have a Lidl!! At the grand opening last week, they were lots of super cheap things and free berries. The Mayor of Wantage was there too!



## Upcoming events

Next term will be just as jam packed as this one. The long anticipate Year 6 football clash against Millbrook, swimming and a range of trips- all sorts of things! Year 5 have a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in the first week back to school, where they will learn about Ancient Egypt, and Year 4 will start their OAA sessions in the school forest.

World book Day will be approaching but not until March so still time to get thinking of a costume! The main event at Charlton next term is the whole school science fair. We will all be working hard to be the best scientists we can be and are very much looking forward to showing you all our amazing investigations.



## Fun Facts of the Term

Did you know that if you could fart non-stop for 6 years and 9 months, you would produce the same amount of energy as an atomic bomb!

Did you know that in Latin, Tyrannosaurus Rex means <sup>ha ha</sup> Lizard King! ROAR!

Did you know that a Giraffe only has 7 vertebrae in its <sup>ha ha</sup> neck – the same as you and me!

## Time for a joke

What do you call a deer with no eyes? ----- no idea!

What do you call a deer with no eyes or legs? ----- Still no idea

Why did the cow go to the cinema? ----- to watch the mooovies



## Christmas Hamper Raffle

Thank you for supporting our Christmas fundraising event through donations to our hampers, by buying tickets to our draw or by purchasing Christmas cards and tea towels. Every purchase raises more money for our wonderful school and the opportunities the PTA can fund. We are delighted to share that we raised over £1900 for the PTA fund pot through our raffle which the PTA committee will be allocating these funds at our next termly meeting



### Funding



## Acorns Mud Kitchen

The PTA have been able to source external funding to help purchase additional items around the school. Thanks to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Harwell, we have been able to replace the mud kitchen in Acorns. Since its implementation, it has been extremely popular with the children and will be very well used!

## Enrichment Opportunities

Next term, we will be funding a visit from a poet, James Carter. James will visit school for two consecutive days, providing motivational assemblies and follow up work shops to help the children create their own poetry. Please do look at his website to get a real flavour of his work in schools and also his poetry.

Click this image to visit his website



## Upcoming Events



Spring Disco  
Friday 6th February 2026



Spring Non-Uniform Day  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
2026



# Cambrian Learning Trust News

As many parents will be aware, Ofsted have published a new inspection framework for schools which has begun implementation this month. Schools will be graded in the following 8 areas:

safeguarding  
inclusion  
curriculum and teaching  
achievement  
attendance and behaviour  
personal development and well-being  
early years in schools (where applicable)  
sixth form in schools (where applicable)  
leadership and governance

The possible gradings are: exceptional, strong standard, expected standard, needs attention and urgent improvement.

Currently all schools in our Trust are graded Good or Outstanding under the previous Ofsted Framework. However, it is important to note that there is no correlation from the old framework gradings to the new. All of our schools are striving to meet the expected standard (which will be the new norm for the vast majority of schools in England). Some of our schools have elements of both strong standard practice as well as areas that need attention.

The expectation is that schools will have a varied profile according to their context, strengths and areas for development. A school report card will be published following a school's inspection showing how the school has been graded in each area. This will confirm to parents where the school is at on its journey of continuous improvement. There will be no overall grade for a school. A school can expect to be inspected every 4 years and as part of this process, parents will be asked for their feedback on their child's school.

School leaders have evaluated their schools using the new framework and will be ready to share their unique successes and challenges with inspectors when their opportunity comes.

We look forward to continuing to support each other across the Trust as we move forwards in supporting all of our learners to flourish and achieve their very best.

# Community news & support



👧⚽ GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE GOALS! ⚽👧

☀️ WILDCATS is back at Alfredian Park! ☀️👧

Ages 5–11 📅 Fridays 5-6pm 📍 Wantage Town FC- Alfredian Park ⚡

Fun, friendly, football sessions made just for girls! No pressure, no experience needed — just energy, smiles, and a love of having fun with friends! 🌈

💪 ⚽ Learn new skills 📖 Make new friends 🎉

Build confidence 📖 Score goals & have a blast!  
<https://book.englandfootball.com/Wildcats/wantagetownfc0/Summary/310401dd-9d7f-43bc-aeac-a37cfd034e2>

## TENNIS LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 – 13

Introduce them to the exciting world of tennis in a fun, safe, and engaging environment!

- No experience needed
- Focus on coordination, teamwork & confidence
- Fun games + age-appropriate equipment
- Led by friendly, certified coaches

**Join us for a FREE Tennis lesson in HANNEY:**

4 - 7 years olds:

- Tuesdays 4:15pm - 5:00pm
- Wednesdays 4:45pm - 5:45pm

8 - 10 years olds:

- Tuesdays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

11 - 13 years olds:

- Tuesdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**First  
Session  
FREE**

READY TO GET STARTED? BOOK A FREE TRIAL SESSION TODAY  
[info@exceltennis.co.uk](mailto:info@exceltennis.co.uk) [www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk](http://www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk)

