



# WELFORD-ON-AVON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NURSERY NEWS

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday, we were thrilled to welcome Reverend Grundy into school to talk to our Nursery and Reception classes about Advent. The children learned all about what Advent means and why it is such an important time in the Christian calendar.

They worked together to make five special candles for an Advent wreath which had been created with green cloth arranged into a circle. Each candle represented Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ.

To help explain the meaning of each candle, the children used props:

Hope – an Advent calendar

Peace – a crown

Love – a heart cushion

Joy – a flower with a happy face

Christ – a doll wrapped in a sheet

The children were so engaged and showed fantastic teamwork – true ambassadors for Welford School! Reverend Grundy praised their contributions and said how beautifully they captured the spirit of Advent.

Our creative workshop has also been in full swing this week! The children have been busy making decorations for our Christmas tree and creating their own St Nicholas figures. We have learned about the life of St Nicholas and how he helped many poor, sick, and needy people by secretly leaving them gifts of money and food.

We have explored what St Nicholas wears and introduced new vocabulary such as mitre (his special hat) and crosier (his staff). We also discovered that St Nicholas travels with a white horse, has a special helper called Piet, and on the eve of 5<sup>th</sup> December, he leaves small gifts in shoes left out for him! In fact, we've joined in the tradition ourselves – our wellingtons were tucked under the Christmas tree in the hope of finding some treats on Monday!






You may not know that some Christmas treats have special meanings too: the candy cane represents St Nicholas' crosier, gold coins remind us of the gifts of gold he gave, and an orange symbolizes the food he provided for the sick.



Our classroom is now in full Christmas mode as we begin to focus our learning around the festive season. It's wonderful to see the excitement building as we prepare for Christmas together!

### Phonics Focus: Introducing the Letter 'i'

In our daily phonics we have continued to learn about letters and their associated sounds.

We have revisited previous sounds 's', 'a', 't' and 'p' before introducing this week's sound, 'i'.

Grapheme and mnemonic	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase	Multisensory action
 i	Pull your lips back and make the 'i' sound at the back of your mouth i i i	Move head slowly from side to side	
 p	Bring your lips together and push them open and say <b>p p p</b>	Down the penguin's back, up and round its head.	Arms each side of body with hands sticking out, pretend to waddle like a penguin
 t	Open your lips; put the tip of your tongue behind your teeth and press <b>t t t</b>	From the tiger's nose to its tail, then follow the stripe across the tiger.	Make a claw with one hand and motion scratching

	a	Open your mouth wide and make the 'a' sound at the back of your mouth <b>a a a</b>	Around the astronaut's helmet, and down into space.	Use two hands to put on a helmet
	s	Show your teeth and let the s hiss out <b>ssssss</b> <b>ssssss</b>	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.	Motion the hand to look like a snake moving

### Shared Reading Book

The children have enjoyed talking about their shared reading book and selecting a new one! Books are such valuable tools for learning, and sharing them every day helps develop a love of reading while supporting language and early literacy skills.

Please take time to look at the book together, talk about the pictures, and share the story. These moments make a big difference in your child's learning journey!

### Christmas Fair

We have had a wonderful Winter Festival, made even more special when Father Christmas came to visit us! The children were all so excited to meet him; if only we could bottle such awe and wonder to treasure. Please check your TEAMS account to see photographs of the day.

### Christmas Play – Important Information

Not long to go now! Please continue to support your child if they have a speaking part, focusing on speaking in a loud, clear voice.

- **Dress Rehearsal: Thursday 11th December – We will perform to the school. This is a lovely opportunity for siblings to watch and helps prepare the children for the main performance.**
- **If your child does not normally attend Nursery on a Thursday, they will need to come in at 10:00am and be collected at 11:30am. Please ensure they are in full school uniform.**
- **Main Performance: Friday 12th December at 9.15am – All children need to arrive promptly by 8:45am so we have time to get everyone ready in costume. Children should wear full school uniform.**  
Children who do not usually attend on a Friday can go home after the performance.

### British Values

As part of our British Values, this term we are supporting children to develop good self-help skills and table manners within the setting.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to:

- Become more independent with taking off and putting on their shoes and coat.
- Sit at the table together and use a knife and fork correctly.
- Practice basic table manners to support everyday social interactions.

### Illness Guidelines

It is important that we all follow the correct guidelines for illness.

- If your child has a temperature they should not be in school.
- If your child has needed Calpol or similar during the night or before school, they are not fit to attend.
- If your child is ill, telephone the school office between 9.00am and 9.15am, giving a brief message about why they will not be attending.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must not return until 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs M Sims  
Nursery Class Teacher

*"I am not a teacher, but an awakener."*  
— Robert Frost