



## December 2025

### Autumn Term 2 - December 2025


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## Family Christmas Crafts in our Early Years

This week, our Early Years classrooms were bursting with Christmas cheer as parents and grandparents dropped in for our festive craft sessions. It didn't take long for the glitter to start flying!

Families got stuck into making sparkly baubles, mixing up and bagging the all-important reindeer food, and creating beautifully festive Christmas cards. We loved seeing the children proudly showing their grown-ups how it's done- and the adults enjoying the crafts just as much as the kids!

The children in Duckling's also performed a 'sing and sign' version of Jingle Bells before heading to the hall for a hot dinner made by the lovely ladies in the kitchen- just what was needed after a busy morning of crafting!

We loved having everyone with us, and it was wonderful to see our early years children smiling and chatting with their grown-ups. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined in and helped make the sessions such a happy way to kick off the Christmas season. We really appreciate your support!











## The Rudolph Run

After the fantastic success of the last two year's Rudolph Run, we were excited to support St. Giles once again by taking part in this festive fundraiser. Once we signed up, a delivery of antlers arrived at school, and preparations quickly got underway! Our brilliant Sports Council and Leaders took the lead in helping to organise the event.

On Wednesday 3rd December, with Christmas music filling the air, every child completed their sponsored run. Pupils from Nursery all the way to Year 6 pulled on their Christmas jumpers, popped on their antlers, and set off to complete as many laps of the school grounds as they could in their allotted time. The enthusiasm was wonderful to see – together, the children ran well over 1000 laps!

Throughout the event, the Sports Leaders did a fantastic job guiding the younger children, offering encouragement, and keeping the run moving smoothly. Thanks to the amazing support from our families through sponsorship, we have so far raised an outstanding £1432 for St. Giles (at the time of writing).

A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved!





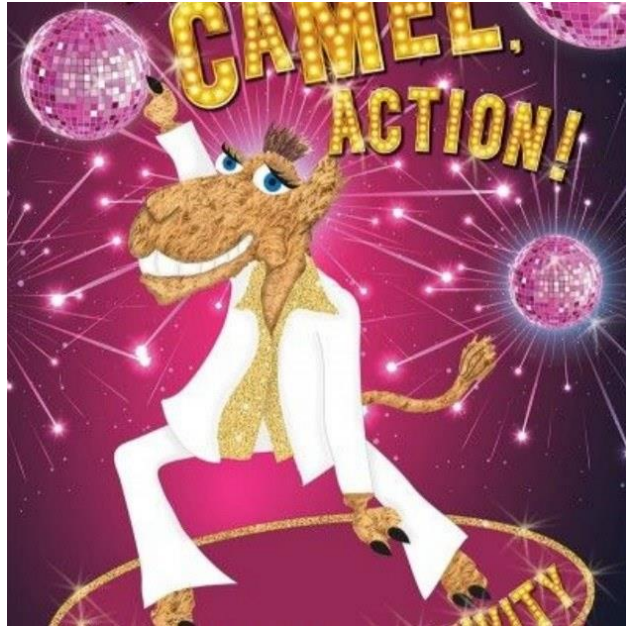
## Nativity - Year 1 & 2

What a truly amazing Christmas show from our Year 1 and 2 children! Their performance of *Lights, Camel, Action!* was a huge hit and filled the hall with laughter, music and festive cheer.

The story saw our brilliant judges – the Donkey, the Innkeeper’s Wife and Caesar – watching and judging a fantastic array of talent. From funky camels and disco stars to elegant angels, every child brought energy, confidence and joy to the stage.

The children shone brightly throughout the performance and should be incredibly proud of themselves. Thank you to all the staff and families for their support, and most of all, well done to our wonderful performers for spreading so much Christmas magic.

Merry Christmas to you all!



## Christmas in a Day - Year 3 & 4



The children in years 3 and 4 had a fantastic start to December working with the charity Brightfutures Un-Ltd.

The children worked with Rachel from the charity to make 'Christmas in a Day' where they learnt 3 pop Christmas songs during the mornings teaching them about the meaning of Christmas. In the afternoon the children recorded their songs with the help of Jim the sound engineer which will be available for the children and their parents to download.

At the end of the day the parents were treated to a festive concert showcasing the Christmas songs and the story of Christmas.

The children all had a fantastic day singing and learning the meaning of Christmas.







## Christmas Carol Service at St Giles' Church - Year 5

On Wednesday 10th December, Year 5 delighted families and friends with a truly magical Christmas Carol Service at St Giles' Church. The atmosphere was warm and festive as the children filled the church with their beautiful singing. Our narrators spoke clearly and confidently, guiding everyone through the story of Christmas, while the soloists gave a superb performance of *Away in a Manger*. A special well done goes to Izzy and Lizzie, who practised very hard for their stunning performance of *Silent Night*—you were amazing, girls! Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the children. We are sure you all had a lovely time and will remember this special service for years to come.

## Football - Year 5 & Year 6



The Year 5 and Year 6 boys competed in the first round of the County Cup. Despite falling 3–0 behind, they showed outstanding character to fight back and level the score at 3–3, before going on to win on penalties. The boys should be extremely proud of their achievement. Well done to everyone involved.

## PTA Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre raised **£2,678.39** – thank you to everyone who attended! A special thank you to all those who helped out, including our wonderful Year 6 pupils. We had games, a grotto, festive fries, and lots of lovely stalls, making it a fantastic event for all.

Santa Visit











# Christmas Time in School

Before...



After



Christmas time in school is always a magical and memorable season, filled with excitement, celebration and a strong sense of community. As the term draws to a close, the school comes alive with festive decorations, cheerful music and the happy anticipation of special events that bring children, staff and families together.

One of the highlights of the season was the beautiful Carol Service performed by the Year 5 children at St Giles Church. Set in the peaceful and historic surroundings of the church, the children sang with confidence, filling the space with traditional carols, songs and festive readings. Their performance was both moving and joyful, reflecting the hard work they had put into rehearsals and the true spirit of Christmas. Parents and carers were incredibly proud, and the service provided a calm and reflective moment in an otherwise busy season.

Equally delightful was the Year 1 and 2 Nativity performance. The younger children retold the Christmas story from the modern-day perspective of a *Strictly Come dancing* production. From angels, stars and shepherds to Mary, Joseph and the innkeepers, every child played their part brilliantly. The songs were sung with great enthusiasm and there were lots of words to remember!

Another exciting festive highlight was the whole-school trip to the Lichfield Garrick Theatre to see the pantomime *Cinderella*. The children were captivated by the colourful costumes, lively music and plenty of laughter throughout the performance. Joining in with the traditional Panto cheers and boos added to the fun, and the outing was a fantastic shared experience that truly captured the magic of Christmas.

A very special part of the festive season was welcoming Nursery and Reception parents into school at lunchtime and for our Christmas craft activities. Parents and carers enjoyed sharing a meal with their children, experiencing school life together and celebrating the season in the classrooms. These activity sessions and lunches were a lovely opportunity to strengthen home-school relationships and created treasured memories for both children and families.

The festive fun continued with the PTA Christmas fayre, which was buzzing with activity. There were stalls, games, treats and gifts, all generously supported by families and staff. The fayre was not only a chance to enjoy the festive atmosphere but also an important opportunity to raise funds to support the school. Laughter, chatter and the smell of seasonal treats filled the air, making it a truly successful event. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA who work tirelessly to hold events like this throughout the year!

Perhaps one of the most exciting moments for the children was meeting Santa himself. Wide-eyed and full of excitement, the children had the chance to share their Christmas wishes and receive a class gift. Santa's visit brought huge smiles and added an extra sparkle to the day, creating memories that will be treasured long after the decorations are packed away.

Christmas time in school is about far more than celebrations; it is about togetherness, kindness and joy. From performances and festive events to shared lunches and special visitors, this Christmas season has once again been a truly special time for everyone involved.

## Math's Workshop Reception

During November Mrs Foster and the Reception team held our first Maths workshop for parents.

The afternoon began with Mrs Foster sharing her maths expertise to explain what early number sense was and Mrs Richardson shared how we help children to gain this.

After this talk parents were invited to the Reception classrooms to play and learn alongside their children on a range of maths themed activities. These ranged from exploring 3D shapes making clay animals, number games/crafts and sorting tasks.

The sessions were very well attended with over half the year group being represented. We would like to thank everyone who attended and made it such a success.









## Children in Need - Funds Raised



Thank you to everyone for their generous donations and support.

We are delighted to share that our **Children in Need non-uniform day** raised a fantastic **£428**. Your kindness and enthusiasm helped make the day a great success and will make a real difference to children and young people in need.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

## What have MKC been up to?

### Mindful Crafts:

This term, the children have thrown themselves into a range of craft activities, and it's been lovely to see just how creative they are! At the very beginning of the term, they asked if we could do more wooden crafts — and they've absolutely loved them! They've had great fun decorating wooden puppets, keyrings, egg cups, mosaic tiles, and Halloween and Christmas hanging decorations, along with lots of other bits and pieces. It's been brilliant watching them get creative, chat together, and proudly show their creations to their friends.



#### Remembrance Day:

To mark Remembrance Day this year, our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended services at the Barracks and the village cenotaph. They were wonderfully polite and respectful, and made us all extremely proud. The children read 'In Flanders Fields' beautifully. Our Military Kids Club took part in special Remembrance activities, including creating some thoughtful handprint poppies. We also held a special school assembly to honour the day and reflect together. We read Hilary Robinson's *Where the Poppies Now Grow*, which tells a story of friendship as the world around the characters changes — from peaceful beginnings, through the impact of war



This year, we took our Year 3, 4 and 6 children to the church at to attend the Padre's Christmas Service. It was a truly lovely occasion and really helped us all get into the Christmas spirit. We especially enjoyed listening to the band and choir, singing along to some festive favorites, particularly The Twelve Days of Christmas, and watching the nursery children perform some of the songs they had been learning. It was a wonderful celebration to be part of. Some of our children also volunteered to read parts of a prayer, and they did so with great confidence; we were incredibly proud of them. Don't worry, KS1 and EYFS — there will be plenty more exciting events coming up in the spring and summer!

If you have any questions you would like to ask our Service Co-ordinator, Mrs Checkland will be holding a drop-in session on Friday 9th January from 3:25–4:15pm.

## The Nest



As Christmas approaches, The Nest has been buzzing with creativity and excitement! The children have been very busy trying some lovely festive crafts, from sparkling snowflakes to painted pinecones to decorating gingerbread men and icing biscuits. It's always a delight to watch their enthusiasm and see all their amazing ideas.

We also prepare to say goodbye to one of our beloved staff members Mrs Sleep. She has been an integral part of the Nest team and will be missed. Whilst we are sad to see her go, we are all equally excited for her too as she leaves us to enjoy many new travel adventures.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year from all the Nest Team!

## Thank You, Mrs Sleep!

After many, many years of dedicated service to our school, we are saying a fond farewell to the wonderful Mrs Sleep. Throughout her time here, Mrs Sleep has taken on many important roles, each one showing her commitment to our pupils and our school community. She began her journey as a Lunchtime Supervisor, before working at Jungle Club and then The Nest as Deputy Manager. Alongside this, she has also worked as a Teaching Assistant in classrooms, supporting a wide range of pupils with patience and care.

Mrs Sleep is known by everyone as kind, caring, and understanding. She always takes the time to listen and helps every child feel valued and understood. Her calm nature, warm smile, and willingness to help have made a huge difference to so many children and staff over the years. She has supported pupils through challenges, celebrated their successes, and made our school a happier place to be.

As Mrs Sleep now sets off on her travels around the world on a cruise ship, she leaves behind many happy memories and grateful hearts. She will be greatly missed by pupils, staff, and families alike. We would like to thank her for everything she has done for our school and wish her lots of happiness, adventure, and excitement in the future. Good luck, Mrs Sleep – and don't forget to visit us!

## Can you be the teacher who inspires the next generation?

Can you be the teacher who inspires the next generation?

Know someone interested in training to teach?

Due to graduate in 2026 and looking for an inspiring career that utilises your degree?

 – **9th December 2025: Train to Teach Information Event (In-Person)**

 – **15th December 2025: Train to Teach Information Event (Online)**

**Whittington Primary and Nursery School** is pleased to work in partnership with The John Taylor SCITT to offer local placements and valuable classroom experience to the teachers we need tomorrow, today!

The John Taylor SCITT is an accredited provider of Initial Teacher Training that offers;

- Experience of leading over 400 teachers through to Qualified Teacher Status since 2015.
- 40 Placement schools across the East and West Midlands, in your local area.
- Primary (3-7), Primary (5-11) and Primary (5-11 with SEND Enhancement) routes
- Secondary (11-16) routes in; Art, Biology, Chemistry, D&T, English, French, German, Geography, History, Maths, PE, Physics and Religious Studies.
- All routes can be offered on a PGCE with QTS or QTS Only basis.
- All routes can be studied either on a one-year full time or two-year part time basis. Discover more and sign up for an upcoming Train to Teach event at: <https://jtscitt.co.uk/>



## General Reminders



**FORGOTTEN ITEMS** We have noticed a significant number of items delivered to the office that have been forgotten in the mornings, e.g. book bags, water bottles, lunch boxes and instruments. Please ensure that your child comes to school with all of their belongings each day.

**OPAL** Please remember that children will be outside playing in all weather, please ensure they have wellies and a rain coat, a small pack-a-mac/puddle suit to keep in their bag or locker would be ideal. Mountain Warehouse in Lichfield give 20% off waterproofs if you mention Whittington.

**LOST PROPERTY** We currently have lots of lost property in the two containers just outside the school reception area, please don't forget to come and claim any missing items.

**SCHOOL CROSSING** We have ONE crossing patrol stationed near/outside school and ask that *everybody* models good road safety by crossing with them whenever they are on duty. If we don't use them, they could be redistributed elsewhere.

**PARKING** Please note that the school car park is for *staff only* and not to be used by parents for dropping off, collection or for The Nest at any time. Please park considerately along Common Lane; leave the white lines clear for passing cars and do not block access to driveways.

**SCHOOL DINNERS** All school dinners must be paid for the day they are taken at the latest, via our cashless payment system, ParentPay. Please read the following advice to set up email or text reminders to alert you when your credit limit gets low: [Payer guidance – How to set up email and text alerts – ParentPay Group](#)

**SNACKS** Reception and Y1-2 children receive daily fruit and veg snacks funded by the Government. All children in Y3-6 should bring in a healthy snack (**nothing containing nuts**) from home to have at mid-morning break.

**DIARY DATES** Please refer to the calendar on our school website for all the latest news and events: [Whittington Primary School - Calendar \(whittington-school.co.uk\)](#)

**TERM DATES** Please check our school website for our term dates.

**KEEPING INHALERS ON SITE** In order to keep your child's inhaler on site we require a care plan, asthma plan and a medicine in school form to be completed, we appreciate that requirements can change regularly but please keep the office updated so that we can keep your child healthy and safe in school.

**INSTAGRAM** Our Instagram is now live! Please follow us:  
<https://www.instagram.com/whittingtonprimarylichfield> Many thanks!

## Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

*Let's keep our children learning and healthy!*

We know many children have been unwell recently, and some nasty viral infections have made school attendance difficult. Combined with a busy time of year, we understand the challenges families face. That said, regular attendance is very important for children's learning and routine.

Children with mild colds or coughs can usually still attend school.

If your child is too unwell to attend—especially if they have recurring coughs, colds, or asthma—please seek medical advice. Good hygiene is important to prevent the spread of illness. If your child is too poorly to attend, we completely understand; please notify the school office.

The school office is happy to support your child's attendance by giving medicine during the school day if required. **Please note that any medicine administered must be prescribed by your child's doctor.**

If your child's attendance drops below 90%, we will contact parents in the new year to work together and provide support.

Thank you for helping us balance children's health with the importance of regular school attendance.

**Important:** It's also really important that our office is kept up to date each day regarding absences. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please contact us as soon as possible. We will continue to get in touch with you if we haven't received an update — this is part of our duty of care to ensure all children are safe and accounted for.



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WHITTINGTON PHARMACY



## FREE NHS Service:

Pharmacy First is available without an appointment to treat the following conditions for your children:

- Ear Ache (Children Aged 1-17)
- Impetigo (Over 1s)
- Sore Throat (Over 5s)
- Infected Insect Bites (Over 1s)



- Safe and supportive environment
- Local and convenient
- Helping families where GP access may be difficult

📍 13B Main Street, Whittington, Lichfield, WS14 9JU



✉ whittingtonpharmacynhs@gmail.com ☎ +44 (0)1543 432 456

## School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

**Are you looking for a part-time job that gives you the chance to serve your local community?  
If so, we might have the ideal opportunity for you.**

Our School Crossing Patrol Service operates to assist school children and pedestrians on their journey to and from school.

We regularly have vacancies for School Crossing Patrols throughout the County and would be pleased to hear from you if you may be interested in doing this essential work.

If anyone would like more information, please email [scp@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:scp@staffordshire.gov.uk) or to have informal chat about the role, they can contact me directly: Claire Williams 07805 144878.

# School Crossing Patrol



For more information please call:  
0300 111 8049  
or Email: [scp@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:scp@staffordshire.gov.uk)

