

Weald News



End of Term Newsletter

Wow, what a term. As I sit here reflecting on the last week, it felt right to send out one final newsletter as we all head off for a well-deserved break. It has been a whirlwind of learning, celebration, community spirit, and festive joy — the perfect way to end the year.

Wakehurst Gardens

Last Friday (12th), our Year 4 and 5 class enjoyed a fantastic trip to Wakehurst Gardens. The children explored the world-leading seed bank, wandered through the stunning grounds, and took part in a creative festive workshop. This trip was also a brilliant reminder of how our school minibuses enrich learning — allowing us to travel further afield, affordably and flexibly, without the added cost of coach hire.

Christmas Nativity

On Monday, we welcomed families into a packed-out hall for the KS1 Nativity, and what a performance it was. The children were outstanding — their reading, singing, and acting showed such courage, confidence, and joy. A huge well done to every child involved, from rehearsals right through to the final show, and heartfelt thanks to the KS1 teaching team for their dedication and hard work.

Carol Service

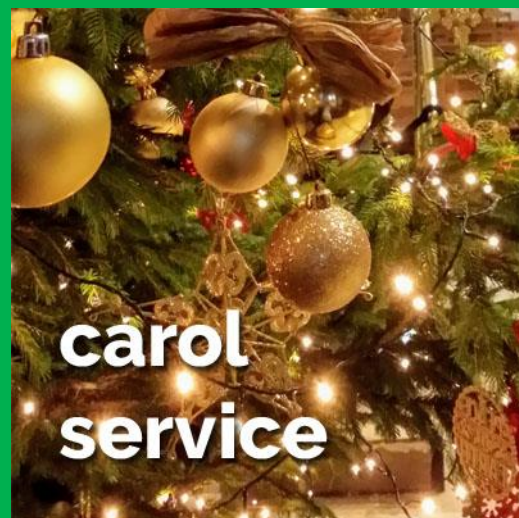
Thank you to all parents and carers who joined us for this year's Carol Service. It remains one of the most special events in our school calendar. The choir, our Year 6 readers, and the whole congregation created a truly uplifting celebration as we journeyed once again through the Nativity in words and song. A special thank you to Mrs Ashwell for her beautiful piano playing, which added so much warmth and atmosphere to the occasion.

Stickman Day

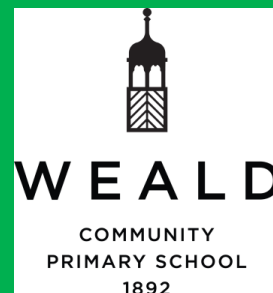
On Wednesday the children had a fantastic opportunity to work within their house groups all day, taking part in activities based on the well-known book 'Stickman'. Starting off the in the hall watching the BBC animation, the children then moved around 4 activities throughout the day where they drew the story, acted out the story, had a go at creating rhyme like Julia Donaldson and making Stickman out in forest school. It was certainly a huge success with both teachers and children, and we hope to do this again. Thank you to Mrs Banfield for organising.

Carols Around the Tree & Christmas Fayre

First and foremost — **THANK YOU**. Whether you attended, spent generously, volunteered your time, or helped behind the scenes, your support made both events possible.



Weald News



End of term newsletter - continued

Carols around the tree and Christmas Fayre - continued

Moving the fayre from a weekend was a risk, especially with reduced PTA capacity and the likelihood of lower community footfall, but thanks to the determination of our Parent and teacher team and the support of families, it proved to be the best option.

The weather certainly challenged us with the 'carols around the tree celebration', but with some quick thinking, a change of location, and a few brave parents holding down gazebos, the carols tradition lived on. As Rev Mandy reminded us on Tuesday, "singing helps us to feel happy" — and we certainly lifted spirits with our festive tunes.

The Christmas Fayre, coordinated by Nikki Towler and Cathrin Coffey and supported by a host of others, was a triumph. With an impressive range of stalls, games, food, drink, and raffles — and with your generous donations over the past month — it became a truly joyful school community event. I will leave it to the PTA to share the news later on with how much was raised, but all are vital funds in supporting the school.

Final Message

I would like to finish this newsletter with part of my address from the Carol Concert:

Over the past six months, I have learned the true importance of community in supporting my new role as head. Togetherness means the weight is never on one person's shoulders. We cannot work in isolation — we are stronger, wiser, and able to achieve so much more when we work together. Staff collaboration, pupil voice, parents as partners, and the wider community all play a vital role in improving outcomes for our young people. You are all examples of how we make a difference together.

So, this Christmas, as I sit with my family and you sit with yours, let us take time to feel the warmth of the season — not focusing on the socks, chocolates, or even the humorous head polish you might receive — but on what it means to have togetherness, to be part of a family, a community, something bigger than ourselves.

With deepest gratitude for all your contributions to our school this year, I would like to wish all our families and community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Have a wonderful, restful break.

Best wishes

Mr Taylor

