



Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, what a busy term! The children have had a wonderful time getting involved in all things Christmassy! I'm sure everyone will agree that Willow class did a fantastic job performing their nativity 'It's a baby!' and we all had such a lovely time spreading festive cheer at the Carol Concert at the church. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children.

Our journey with OPAL has continued going from strength to strength. The Scrap Shed is now well embedded and the children absolutely love playing with the large loose parts. They are also really good at tidying up and have been really respectful and careful with the new equipment. Our new area this half term was Lego. The gazebo is now a lego area, the models that have been made there have been so creative and the children have worked together and shared the lego really well. Thank you to those who have donated toys to school, we really appreciate your support and welcome any further donations for our playground.

Despite the absolutely freezing weather the Kanga Stay and Play morning was a great success, the children really enjoyed showing off their PE skills, thank you to everyone who attended.

The School council have been busy selling poppies for the poppy appeal and supported by selling books at the Scholastic Book Fair. They also delivered assemblies to their classes during parliament week and ran debates with their other classmates. They have lots of great ideas for the future, watch this space!



Here's what we have been getting up to in each class this term:

Willow Class (Reception, Year 1 and 2)

What a busy half term in Willow Class! The children in reception have had another great half-term and their confidence has grown over the weeks, which has been lovely to see. The children have really enjoyed using the outdoor provision to explore and have been creating some amazing large structures.

Willow class took part in a workshop and learnt about the importance of hand washing. They have practised a song with actions to help them remember how to wash their hands thoroughly.



The children have loved reading 'Owl Babies', 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and 'Meerkat Christmas' in their writing lessons. They have created some wonderful pieces of writing and have been working hard on their handwriting. It would be lovely if they continued to practise their letter formation at home. There are also lots of children who have received raffle tickets for reading 3 times a week at home. Just a reminder to keep reading and recording this in their reading record as they could win the termly reading raffle!

The children had an amazing time on their school trip to REPLAY. They let their imaginations run free, created impressive structures and told wonderful stories.



We had the best time on our 'PE stay and play' morning. We learnt how to use a bow and arrow and practised lots of different ball skills. The older children in school were great coaches too.



In Science, we have been learning about the properties of different materials and testing how stretchy, waterproof and strong different materials are. We measured and recorded our results in a table.



In art, we were very excited about using clay! We explored lots of different ways to make patterns in the clay and have designed and made our own clay tile houses.



Maple Class (Year 3 and 4)

We have had another wonderful half term in Maple class. The children have all worked so hard and have been enthusiastic in everything they have done. They have all had such a positive attitude to learning which has been brilliant to see.

Year 4 have enjoyed Forest Schools this half term and have taken on new challenges such as sawing and drilling wood. They have worked brilliantly as a team and have shown kindness to each other.



In Science this half term we have been learning about electricity. We have really enjoyed making circuits and testing circuits with buzzers and switches.

Year 4 participated in a Rewind to Christmas event run by CLIKS. We learnt about the Christmas story and created our own beautiful tealight holders.



Cherry Class (Year 5 and 6)

This has been a super busy half term where the children have excelled with their learning across all subjects. We have continued to be inspired by our love of reading and have written super recounts based on darker versions of popular fairy tales, such as Hansel and Gretel, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty. Our class text of Skellig has prompted some very thoughtful and compassionate discussions about caring for others and spirituality.

In Maths, we have focused on fractions and the whole class have worked on a secure written method for converting fractions, although incredibly tricky they have worked with enthusiasm and dedication. We have also proved ourselves to be brilliant electricians and have created and tested circuits and systems. The class have also enjoyed looking at census records and the information we can obtain from them - Queen Victoria and her household were a firm favourite source of information.



As leaders for the school, we have taken our responsibilities very seriously, every child in Cherry class has voluntarily given up one lunchtime a week for the duration of the term. They have been monitors and helped support the younger children.

We are finishing the term where we excel, in creativity, with plenty of carol singing, designing Christmas crafts! Enjoy the rest, Cherry class - you have definitely deserved it!



Friends of Laycock

Thank-you to the group of parents that attended our second Friends of Laycock meeting this half-term! The focus of the meeting was to plan events for the rest of the school year. There were so many fabulous ideas; we can't wait to get started planning them. Our first event will be a non-uniform day, followed by a chocolate tombola!

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 30th January** and it would be lovely to see some new faces!

We would also like to say a special thank you to our 'Christmas Elves' Kim and Emma for helping Santa to get all of his presents ready for the children of Laycock.

Our Learning Next Half Term

	Reception	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Book focus	Rainbow Bear Leo and the Octopus	Rainbow Bear Leo and the Octopus The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish (Y2)	The Boy Who Grew Dragons	The Good Thieves The Tiger's tale Last
Maths	Alive in 5 Mass and capacity Growing 6, 7, 8	Addition & Subtraction Multiplication & Division	Multiplication & Division B Length & Perimeter Fractions A	Multiplication & Division B Fractions B Decimals A
Art/ DT	Paint and Mixed Media Life in Colour		Painting and mixed media: Light and Dark	Painting: Artist Study
Science	People, Culture and Communities (Journeys - Hot or Cold?)	Habitats	How does the flow of liquids compare?	Light and Reflection
Geography/ History	The Natural World (Habitats)	Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?	Are all settlements the same?	Why do oceans matter?
The Story Project	Barbara Throws a Wobbler	The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes	Faruq and the Wiri Wiri	Pizza Face

Park Run

We would like to give a huge shoutout to all the children who came to the Park Run on Sunday 14th December. For some children it was their first ever time running 2km and for others they achieved a new PB. We can't wait to share with you the next Park Run event we will be joining and we would love to see some new faces. Just a reminder, this is an event for all abilities and it is not a race!



Key Dates for next half term:

Event	Date	Time	Year Group (s)	Parents Involved
School reopens	Tuesday 6th January	8.40am	All	
Waterstones Reading Reward Trip	Wednesday 7th January	Afternoon	Raffle winners	
NEESIE Literacy Leads	Tuesdays from 13th January	3.15 - 4.15pm	Y1-4	Yes if invited
Year 5 Girl Power Sports	Wednesday 14th January	1-4pm	Year 5	
Kanga After school club	Thursdays from 15th January	3.15-4.15	All	
Non Uniform - Bring a chocolate bar	Friday 16th January	All day	All	
Friends of Laycock Meeting	Friday 30th January	8.50am		Yes
Chocolate Tombola Friends of Laycock	Friday 4th February	3pm	All	Yes
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10th February	All day	All	
House Day	Wednesday 11th February	All day	All children	Yes Parents to join from 2.30pm
Last day of the half term	Friday 13th February	3.10pm	All children	

We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all the children back on Tuesday 6th January at 8.40am.

Kinds Regards



Mrs Stephanie Canning
Head of School