



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 28 November 2025

Dear Parents,

How have we got to the end of November so quickly? This autumn term, whilst always the longest, is just whizzing by! However, we are just about to start our festive activities and school is just a wonderful place to be at this time of year as the classrooms and corridors are filled with Christmas joy and magic.

It was really lovely to see so many of you at parents evening at the start of the month. The staff team enjoyed sharing how your child had settled in and appreciated you making the time to see them. For me, I was also pleased to see that the Arbor app worked and thank you for your patience with this we will be utilising this more in the new year when our school website is transferred to the new platform. We will obviously keep you updated when this will happen.

The children in school council did an amazing job being superb ambassadors of their school at the various remembrance events – as did the readers who attended the Dorchester Abbey Service of Remembrance for Service Pupils that we organised. If you are interested in watching this you can see it up for a limited period time on our Video resource centre here – it is truly beautiful:

<https://rafbenson.primarysite.media/media/service-pupil-service-of-remembrance>

We have been busy in school over the last few weeks with many activities and among those has been recruiting staff to our team who will be starting after the Christmas break. Many of you will know from our announcement before the summer that Miss Galvin is moving on to her own headship in the new year. We are very sad to see her go but know that she will be a brilliant headteacher and wish her all the best in as she embarks on her journey in the best job in the world...I may be biased!

In January we will be welcoming the following people to our team:

Mrs Marsh – Mrs Marsh will be taking over from Miss Galvin as the teacher of Chinook Class until the end of this academic year. The children have already met her during the interview process and she will be coming in to see the children when she is able over the next couple of weeks.

Mrs Watt – Mrs Watt will be taking over from Mrs Free when she goes on maternity leave in March however, she will be in school after January for one day a week to get to know the children and the 'RAF Benson' way of doing things before fully taking over in March.

Miss Hearmon – For those of you who have been connected with the school for a long time, this name may be familiar to you. Miss Hearmon will be re-joining our team for one morning a week in the capacity of SENDCo and working alongside Mrs Haythorne in supporting the magnificent work that is currently being done in school.

I am sure you will join us all in giving our new staff a lovely and warm RAF Benson welcome when you see them around school.

Finally, it was so lovely to see so many of you at the festive wreath making this week. A huge thank you to Nicky Haskins for organising and leading the session and to everyone who attended for making it such a fun and friendly event.

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you – please note the festive events we have coming up over the next few weeks and we look forward to seeing you there!

Dates and Events

Monday 1 December – Chocolate Non-uniform Day – Children to come in non-uniform in return for a bar of chocolate for the chocolate tombola – one of the most popular stalls at our Christmas fair! Thank you in advance for your donations.

Wednesday 3 December - Christmas Fair 4:00 – 5:30pm – We are looking forward to welcoming our community to this event in school where we will have the school choir singing carols, there will also be class stalls with high quality seasonal products, festive food, chocolate tombola, Christmas games and hopefully (with help from some wonderful volunteers) a Santa's grotto! If you can help us pull this magical event together, please do email the school office.

Wednesday 10 December – All raffle tickets and money to be sent back to the school office to be entered into the draw.

Thursday 11 December – KS1 Nativity – We are excited to say that we will be holding our nativity on 11 December in the Station Church, and this will involve all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We are asking parents to select a performance to attend from either 10am or 5pm on this day and allocate **only three places per family**. This is so that we can accommodate everyone who would like to attend. We are not doing physical tickets as we would like to trust that everyone will respect our request please. If there are siblings, please do bring them and we ask that they either sit on the floor/laps of parents where they can see or stand at the back. For the later performance, we keep the children in school at the end of the day, provide them with some snacks to keep their energy levels up and take them to the church for you to collect from the church at 5:45pm. More information has been issued about this event and please contact the office if you have missed it.

Additionally this year, there may be a special surprise waiting on a magical sleigh for the children when they leave the church....

Friday 12 December - Christmas Jumper Day – No money. No donations. Just for fun!

Friday 12 December – Christmas Raffle being drawn – please join us in the hall from 3pm for hot chocolate and with your fingers crossed that you may have won a prize!

Friday 19 December - Carols around the tree – come and join us at 2pm where we will be singing carols and festive songs to finish the term in a very Christmassy way. Classes will be singing their own songs and, to give you some advanced notice, 'some' audience participation will be required....

Monday 5 January 08:45 - We all return to school and look forward to hearing about the Christmas holidays

Notices

Car Park - Sadly, I do have to mention parking in this newsletter. It appears that some of our parents are not responding to our requests of not parking in the school car park at the start and end of the day and I need to insist that this request is respected please. There has been a near miss in this area over the last week and we have respectfully asked parents to park in the Station car park by the nursery at drop off and pick up times and walk across. Mr Haythorne will be out checking our request is being adhered to and we will look to ask the Station police for some help and guidance with this too. However, we do recognise that some parents are respecting our request and want to thank you in helping keep our children safe.

Attendance – We have noted that there has been a lot of absence and requests for absence over the last month. A letter regarding attendance and our policy will be sent to parents at a later date, however, please note that absence in school for holidays not only creates gaps in your child's learning it is also disruptive for our staff team and their planning of learning activities. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is in school as often as possible.

Reading – As a school, we really need your help in supporting your child to read. For your child to be successful in reading many aspects in the school curriculum, alongside all that we do in school, we expect all children to be heard read at home at least 5 times a week for a minimum of 5 minutes and for this to be recorded in the reading record book. We really can see a difference in attainment between those children where parents read with their child regularly and those who don't. We are having a big push towards the end of this term and into the new year to see if every child can achieve this and would very much appreciate your help with this. Should you need help knowing how to read with your child, please do speak with your child's class teacher.

School Facebook Page – Please do keep an eye on the school Facebook page as we post whole school events and activities that the children have been up to during the term – why not give the page a 'Like' too! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063451190152>

As always, should you have any questions, please do get in touch and I look forward to seeing you at our activities and events leading up to the Christmas break.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher