



Monday 1st December 2025

Dear families,

Last week was particularly special here at Winscombe School, as the eggs that Maple class have been carefully incubating finally hatched and we welcomed seven new lives into our school community! Children in year 5, along with many others across the school, have taken great care to make sure our newest arrivals are safe, comfortable, and very well looked after.

This week marks the official start to the festive season in school and today we will be taking time to reflect on the start of Advent. We are also very pleased to welcome MP Tessa Munt, to visit our school and we are looking forward to her spending time in classrooms and joining us for our whole-school assembly.

We hope she will help us begin our countdown to Christmas by opening the first door on our Kindness Calendar and sharing one of the first food bank contributions to our Reverse Advent. We are sure that you will agree, as much as we want everyone to enjoy this exciting time of year, we would also like to recognise and reinforce the important value of thinking of others

Kind regards

Mrs Baker

Come and take a sELFie!



Thank you to Mrs Moore and to Mrs Mistry, for the festive décor on the double doors leading into the school hall!

As you can imagine, the children have already enjoyed posing with friends, and we thought it only right to offer you the opportunity to come and capture your own sELFie after school.

To this end, this week and next, each year group will have the opportunity to come back into school, through reception, at the end of the day and strike a pose.

Silver Birch Class: Mon 1st Dec

Year 1: Wed 3rd Dec

Year 2: Thurs 4th Dec

Year 3: Fri 5th Dec

Year 4: Mon 8th Dec

Year 5: Tues 9th Dec

Year 6: Wed 10th Dec

We hope you will agree, we thought it appropriate to continue our fundraising for The Grand Appeal and so in return, we will have a collection tin and invite you to make a small donation.

We look forward to seeing you!

Meet Ronnie Barker!



We are pleased to share that, after Christmas, we will be welcoming Ronnie, a PAT (Pets As Therapy) dog into school for regular visits. Pets As Therapy dogs are specially trained, fully assessed, and insured to work safely with children. Their role is to offer calm, gentle companionship, which has been shown to support wellbeing, boost confidence, and encourage positive relationships.

Ronnie will always be accompanied by his trained handler, Andy, and all interactions will take place in a supervised environment. Children who do not wish to take part will not be expected to, and we will of course work closely with families of children who may have allergies or concerns. We know that many schools have found PAT dogs to be an incredibly positive addition to school life, although if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

School Christmas Card Competition

We look forward to seeing the entries to the school Christmas Card competition this week. If you haven't already done so, please take an entry form from Reception. All entries will be displayed for everyone to enjoy once the closing date has passed.

Parent Planner Autumn Term

Monday 1st December	'Reverse Advent' (details on separate letter)
Thursday 5th December	Year 1 and Year 5 Festive Cake Sale!
Saturday 6th December	Singing Club invited to perform at 'Carols by Candlelight', Brent Knoll.
Monday 8th December	Oak Class Nativity 9.30am
Tuesday 9th December	Silver Birch Class Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 11th December	Walnut Class Nativity 9.30am
Monday 15th December	Pantomime
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch PTFA Disco – Tickets on Sale this week!
Wednesday 17th December	Mince pies and thank you for school helpers – 1.15pm Community Carols – KS2 Playground 2pm – all welcome.
Thursday 18th December	KS2 Carol Service at St James' Church 1.15pm
Friday 19th December	End of Autumn Term
Monday 5th January	Spring Term begins



Congratulations to Max, from year 6, who has recently passed his grade 2 piano exam with Distinction. We feel very proud of Max's achievement as we know this must take a lot of hard work and dedication. Instead of our usual assembly music on Friday, Max played his exam pieces as the children entered the hall and I think I would be safe to say that everyone was captivated. Thank you Max - we look forward to hearing those Grade 3 pieces soon!

Food tasting in Ash Class



Year 4 children have enjoyed a hands-on DT session where they tasted and evaluated lots of different dips.

As part of their work, the children described the appearance, taste, smell and texture, like real food experts, in preparation for the next session where they will be planning and designing their very own dip.

Y1 and Y5 cake sale this Thursday 4th December

It's that time of term to bring your pennies after school and enjoy some treats from the PTFA bake sale. As usual, this will be in the KS2 playground, after school on Thursday. All funds raised will go directly back into Walnut and Maple class to provide extra resources and opportunities for the children.

School Choir performing at local concert this weekend

Good luck to all those who have been attending singing club and who, this Saturday, will be performing at a special Candlelit Concert, at St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll. This is going to be a beautiful evening, with lots of local musicians. Should anyone want to join us, it is a 6.30pm start and tickets can be bought either on the door or from the school office.
(Adults £5 / children – free)

Parent Feedback Surveys

Thankyou to everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent survey. This is an important part of our quality assurance and all views and opinions have been carefully considered. Please see the attached document, which summarises some of the main responses and the action we have taken, or will take as a result. This month, we will share a similar style survey with the children, so that their voices are also heard. Feedback will be shared with you in the same way.

We are still collecting cardboard tubes for our Christmas Crew Day

Our eco-warriors continue to work hard to prepare for our next Crew Day, when the children will make Christmas crackers and crowns ahead of our school Christmas dinner. In their bid to make the celebrations waste-free, they are busy collecting toilet roll tubes and would still be grateful for more. Thank you!

Too many different apps and forms of communication

We will endeavour to use iPCAS for all office related communication. (Thank you for bearing with us whilst we tamed the beast of a new system - we understand your comments and now we know the system better, we are able to adapt)

More pictures on Dojo

The Class teachers will be asked to keep you up to date with all of the lovely activities that happen in your child's class

Better communication about how parents can help within school

This will be added to our new parent inductions

Thank you very much for all of the responses made via the recent parent questionnaire. We value your views and we have taken time to read your comments carefully. We are proud of our school and we are pleased to see that out of 100 responses, 97% of families would recommend Winscombe Primary school to another parent and 96% of families said that their child felt safe at school. Additionally over 90% of families said their child was happy at school and that they do well. Please see below a more detailed response to some of your comments

**YOU SAID,
WE DID....**

My child is happy. The staff are helpful and supportive. Thank you for all of the opportunities and your hard work. Sports and Forest school are a huge positive. Great school and great learning for my child

Thank you!
We will always endeavour to do our very best to ensure that your children are nurtured, cared for, supported and challenged to be kind and respectful learners, who flourish both socially and academically and achieve their very best

It is sometimes hard to know what they are learning

You will be signposted to the curriculum area of our Website, where you can find overviews of learning for every year group and you can look out for our termly knowledge organisers, which are sent out via Dojo at the start of each term

Longer slots for parents' evenings

It is tricky to make parents' evenings longer because of the number of families to see. However, please always feel welcome to contact your child's teacher and request further meeting time if you feel you need it.

More playtime activities

We will continue to work to develop playtime activities. Teachers run a variety of opportunities throughout the week from 'cosy club' to board games' to playtime disco to 'art club'. We are also working alongside our super PTA to fund extra playtime seating spaces, more playground markings and additional equipment

More variety of clubs for KS2

We will look at our provision and review the range of clubs we are offering to all year groups (do feel welcome to feedback on the types of clubs, as we found that this term both basketball and football club were undersubscribed)

If you find that there has not been a response to a comment you have made, please do feel welcome to see Mrs Baker or Mrs Booth, who will try their very best to help.