



Advent season of 'new light coming into the world'.

We have enjoyed a panoply of Advent services in the last few days, from senior school service on Sunday, and every group of primary pupils through the week. On Thursday evening we were treated to a superb Christingle service for parents and friends of Year 6 where the elements of the Christingle were identified to demonstrate the importance to Christians of this time of the year.



The orange represents the earth on which we all live alongside each other, the red bow the blood shed by Jesus for us all, the sweets are the fruit, food and resources that God has given us, the four cocktail stick to represent north, east, south and west and finally the candle is the light that God created to lift us all out of darkness. The pupils and congregation sang hymns and seasonal songs, and narrators explained the importance of the season and Christingle. It was moving and marvellous, well done everyone involved.




At the end of that service, we also took the time to reflect that it is sadly the final service that Mr Mark Mitchell, Head of the Royal Primary School will share with us before he leaves to take on a large primary school in Solihull. Mr Mitchell arrived at easter in 2016 at the time when we converted from a small independent school to now a thriving three form entry primary school that we have now. As he arrived, we had a great deal of scrutiny by the Department of Education and ESFA which Mark threw himself into and he helped ensure we had all 'green lights' as we opened in September 2016. I am indebted to Mr Mitchell for supporting me in those early days and being able to oversee the development of the primary phase so impressively.

That the primary school is the most oversubscribed primary in the West Midlands and part of our all-through school which is the most oversubscribed in England is in no small part due to Mr Mitchell's vision and dedication. We learned recently that official data indicates that the Key Stage 2 outcomes for pupils in the summer of 2022 were 'significantly above national figures' and in the top 20% of all schools nationally which is the highest grade possible. That is in all elements, reading, writing, maths, and SPAG which is incredible testament to our pupils, you as families, our teachers and teaching assistants and especially to Mr Mitchell's leadership throughout. I am delighted that our 'creative and exciting' curriculum of Cornerstones and our exceptional enrichment programme after school and within the curriculum has produced such impressive outcomes. The proportion of high attaining pupils who achieved the highest outcomes is significantly above national figures too and that rigour and depth is a direct result of teachers being well led, supported, and challenged to offer the very best opportunity for our pupils.

You will also be aware of Mr Mitchell whether you are in the primary or secondary school, boarding setting, or a parent as he has been an ever-present character during those 6 and half years. You will remember the drum solos at the Festival of Light in November, drumming in the primary hall and his encouragement of pupils to take an interest in music, the performing arts and wider school life. A new skill developed for Mr Mitchell during lockdown where he became a YouTube star with assemblies, weekly newsletters and continued to engage with all pupils, families, and staff during a difficult period for us all. We remained open as a school to vulnerable young people throughout the period with more than 250 children on site each day and Mr Mitchell contributed to positive attitudes to learning wherever people were during the pandemic.

We are all very sorry to see Mr Mitchell uproot and move back to Solihull where he came from to join us, and we all wish him well for the future. Those children who have been in the school during his stewardship of the primary phase will, in future years, look back on the time between 2016 and 2023 and consider it one of the 'golden phases' of life at the Royal. However, knowing Mark as I do, he will want that quality not only continue but continue to evolve, diversify and blossom under Mrs Jefferson's leadership which he has helped foster as a smooth transition and succession. That is the quality of the man who has ensured the legacy of excellence at the Royal Primary school is destined to continue into the future and our distinctive character that he understood from interview is likely to continue successfully. He will of course always remain part of the 'Royal School Family' and I am sure you will welcome him warmly on any visit.

**Mr. Mark Heywood**  
**Principal**



What a wonderful term it has been and what a finale! Reception and Year 1 led a wonderful nativity this week. Year 6 delivered a superb carol service and Christmas dinner was DELICIOUS!!

I want to express my deep gratitude for all the support you have given me as the Head Teacher of the primary school over the past almost 7 years. I leave feeling so proud of all that we have achieved together for the children. Times have been far from easy but you have joined us in living out the values of the school, which has enabled so much more to be possible. The staff team here are a remarkable group of talented, compassionate professionals and I know that, under the leadership of Mrs Jefferson, the school will go from strength to strength.

I hope you have a Christmas filled with peace and joy and that the new year brings many blessings for you and your families.

Mr Mark Mitchell  
Head Teacher

### House points

Balmoral	Buckingham	Sandringham	Windsor
3508	3624	3526	3158

### Dates for the diary

- 9<sup>th</sup> December – School Closes for Christmas
- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – School re-opens

**Just a  
reminder...**



- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check - Parent Meeting (4:00pm in Chapel)
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Year 3 Real Life Hero Day
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Forensic Science workshop
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Height & Weight
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Year 2 Beat, band, boogie workshop
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – PTA Meeting 7:00pm Victoria Hall
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January - 4HE Viking Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January - 4CC Viking Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Height & Weight
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January - 4LD Viking Day



Year 4 have been working incredibly hard over the last two weeks! To celebrate their learning throughout the topic of 'Blue Abyss', they have created their very own fish pillow. They have shown a high level of resilience sewing their pillow together. It has been difficult at times, but they never gave up. I'm sure you agree that their projects look fantastic.





Year 6 continued their great work for the fantastic cause 'Young at Hearts' and filled another stall with their wonderfully hand-crafted items at The Royal Christmas Fayre last week. Special thanks to our two year 6 boys who manned the stall to help raise a final total of £240.



**\*\*Active\*\*** Number of students who have travelled to school walking, park and stride, cycling, public transport NOT travelled in a car.

This week's Year Group winners are YEAR 3  
Individual class winners are 4CC & 4HE @ 83%

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Active	N/A	64%	74%	78%	69%	68%	75%

# Christmas Fayre 2022

A massive thank you to the PTA for this year's Christmas Fayre. Great fun was had by all! An incredible £1500.00 was raised on the night.







# Share a Book Competition

DO YOU LIKE...

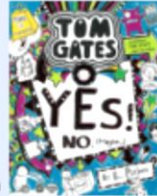


Mystery?



Sci-fi?

Humour



Ha ha  
Ha  
Ha

Well it doesn't matter what you are into because you can share ANY book! Share a book for a chance for ANY BOOK FROM THE BOOK FAIR.

Send/email a photo to your class teacher and choose a category to enter...

Most people sharing a book.

Cutest photo.

Cosiest photo.

Cutest animal read to.

The most toys read with.

Send your pictures in by Friday 4th January!!

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## Playground Committee

### Primary Dance Festival

On Monday 5th December, Year 4, 5 and 6 girls participated in a dance festival held at The Royal School. We hosted 9 other schools. Each group performed their dance and then taught the other children elements of their routine. Everybody had a fun morning! Well done girls!

### Dancers of the festival:

Year 4 (Thousand Years) - Sofia S and Imogen H

Year 5 (Low) - Milan C

Year 6 (Santa Tell Me) - Amreet N

Special mention to Jiya P for choreography of Santa Tell Me!



Thank you to all of the Year 3 & 4 students who took the time to write applications to become a member of the playground committee. It was fantastic to see so many children applying the school values in their letters.

Congratulations to; Lewis 4CC, Hena 4CC, Sara 4LD, Laila 4LD, Zana 4HE, Ruby 4HE, Roop 3AC, Yuvraj 4RC and Lexi 3OH who will be playground committee members in the New Year.

All children who applied will have opportunity throughout the academic year to contribute to playground committee decisions.



Ashaan & Cole 3AC for their amazing homework projects

In Year 3 we have explored conversational poetry. We have based our writing on 'Overheard on a saltmarsh'. The children really loved creating metaphors and similes to describe Pegasus and wrote a conversational poem based on Pegasus. Here are Ellie and Aakylo from 3AC reading their conversational poems.



Year 4 took part in a problem-solving workshop on Thursday. This allowed them to work as a team to evolve their communication and cooperation skills. The children took part in a range of activities that challenged and stimulated their mind. Great fun was had by all!







Christmas lunch was a great success. The food was delicious thanks to Mrs Kaur and the catering team. Mrs Jefferson helped the staff to serve the children who each pulled crackers with one another.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at  
The Royal see you in 2023!!