



### Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful half term we've had at Bracken Hill! The run-up to Christmas is always busy, and this year has been no exception! It has been wonderful to see the children get into the Christmas spirit and also to welcome so many parents and carers into school for the various craft sessions which have taken place.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas fair. The evening was a great success and it was so lovely to see past pupils and so many of our current ones having lots of fun within their friendship groups. Special thanks to Kelly Walker who sourced many Raffle prizes and to staff and parents for their donations. We had numerous businesses donating; McDonalds, Dunkin', Asda, Freestyle, i-Jump, Smyths, B&Q, Greggs, Everyone Active, Boyes, Nando's, The Jolly Fryer and Funbikes.

Together, we raised a total of £1,636.80. The proceeds will be used to purchase a space rocket playhouse in memory of our wonderful Riley.

We hope that many, many children go on adventures in Riley's rocket ship.



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back into school in 2025.

*Thank you*  
CASHAM





# What have we been up to



## Ants

In Ant's this half term, we have been doing lots of exciting activities. In English and Science, we have been learning about Seasonal Change, we visited the Science Garden to look for bugs. We lifted up rocks to look for bugs and insects. Also, we have loved visiting our school Café this half term, we enjoy choosing what we would like for our snack. We absolutely loved it when it snowed a few weeks ago, we had so much fun exploring and playing in the snow outside.



## Bestwood

As we approach the festive season, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic learning and activities we've enjoyed this term.

Our history topic on the Black Death certainly captured everyone's imagination! We explored how it spread, the gory symptoms, and even created some 'exploding buboes'—using doughnuts, no less! This hands-on (and slightly sticky) activity brought a lighter touch to a rather gruesome topic.

We've also been busy out and about in Kirkby, making the most of the community around us. Highlights included a trip to the cinema and a visit to the theatre to enjoy the magical pantomime Aladdin.

Our enterprise project showcased some brilliant teamwork. Pupils worked hard to design and produce a variety of Christmassy items, which we're sure will bring festive cheer to everyone who buys them.

It's been a busy and exciting term, and we're incredibly proud of what the students have achieved. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!



## Sherwood

Sherwood class grabbed the opportunity to sell their enterprise items in the Idlewells Centre in Sutton during December. They manned a stall outside the ATTFE shop, selling all the items which had been produced by classes during the Enterprise Week held in November. All the class interacted well with the customers and applied their money skills when calculating combined costs and change. This great experience gave them an insight into the world of retail.



## Kelham

Kelham have certainly had a busy half term. We have made a series of visits to West Notts College, looking at various departments and courses that interest our current students.

Enterprise has formed a big part of our learning with the Dragons Den competition which resulted in us winning best product.

We have also worked hard to develop our independent travel skills travelling to Nottingham by bus to see the Christmas market, and travelling to Mansfield museum.



## Newstead

We have been having an incredible time at Forest School! From exciting activities to moments of peaceful reflection, the forest has been a source of joy and discovery for everyone.

Some of our favourite activities have included making bird feeders to help our feathered friends through the colder months and toasting marshmallows over a crackling fire on chilly days. There's nothing quite like the warmth of the fire and the sweet taste of marshmallows to make outdoor learning extra special!

We've loved bundling up in our cosy winter gear and heading out to enjoy everything the forest has to offer. Whether swinging from trees, climbing to new heights, or simply soaking up the tranquillity of nature, everyone has found their own way to connect with the environment.

Forest School has been a wonderful opportunity to learn, play, and explore, and we have really enjoyed our time there!





## Rufford

Rufford class have had such a busy half term! We came up with our unique products during Enterprise Week and had to present our ideas to a panel of local business people in our Dragon's Den competition. As well as selling our products at the Christmas Fair, we had the opportunity to sell them at our pop-up shop in the Idlewells Centre.

Then it went straight into researching Christmas customs in other countries for our Festival of Christmas. We prepared biscuits, information and activities and invited families to celebrate with us.



## Caterpillars

What a wonderful term it has been in Caterpillars Class. Since starting school in September, the children have been busy learning the rules and routines of their new environment and have made fantastic progress transitioning into school life. This festive season has been especially enjoyable, with the children getting creative during Christmas crafts. A highlight of the term was welcoming so many of you to our Stay and Play afternoons—it was heart-warming to see the children sharing their learning experiences with their families. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers have had a busy half term in the build up to Christmas. They have completed a full term of forest school and have absolutely loved spending time in the outdoors.

We have enjoyed the books 'Elmer' and 'Hurry Santa' where we have been using symbols and words to create and write simple phrases and sentences. We have explored the characters and have made predictions of what we think will happen next.

In maths we have explored shapes, measurement and mass and capacity.

The explorers have loved finding out about our local area and using google maps and large-scale maps. They have matched photos of our school and places around us to symbols.

We look forward to seeing the Grasshoppers back in the new year!



# Bumblebees

We have certainly been busy in Bumblebees! We use attention autism as a tool to engage in new topics and vocabulary. This term the class have really shown great attention and we're now moving to stage 4 to incorporate more independent work! We have so much fun making lots of mess and anticipating what will be happening next. From identifying parts of the body, to number work and emotions, we have explored so much in our attention autism sessions.



## Butterflies

Butterflies have had a wonderful half term and are so excited for Christmas. For this half term we have been learning about our local area and what things we can find there. We have really enjoyed science. We loved looking at the different habitats that animals live in and exploring our local habitats, finding the creatures that live there. We even got to make our own micro habitat to put in our own garden. This week has been so much fun, we have been around the world looking at how other countries do Christmas and really enjoyed our own traditional Christmas dinner.



## Clumber

Clumber class has had a busy and exciting Autumn term! We've explored the causes, spread, and symptoms of the Black Death through our "Sneezes and Diseases" topic, and enjoyed reading and performing *Danny the Champion of the World*. Our non-fiction studies on the Black Death have helped us develop our reading and performance skills. We've also taken part in the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe project, showing maturity and sensitivity while discussing our feelings through the Zones of Regulation. To get into the festive spirit, we celebrated Christmas around the world, made delicious Christmas bark for the Christmas fayre, and enjoyed our Christmas dinner in festive jumpers! Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas break!





## Welbeck

We kicked things off with a special birthday celebration that included a delicious chocolate cake—definitely a sweet start to the term! 🍰 🎂

As part of our learning, we took time to reflect on Remembrance Day, understanding its significance and creating our own poppies as a symbol of remembrance. ✨ 🌺

Enterprise Week was another exciting highlight! The children worked together to brainstorm ideas, design products, and even create some tasty treats. We decided to make and sell hot chocolate reindeers—an absolute hit with everyone! 🍷 🌲 It's safe to say we have some budding entrepreneurs in the making!

We also had an amazing trip to Bonington Cinema to watch *Trolls 2*. The children had a blast, and it was a fantastic way to round off a busy few weeks. 🎬 🎁

As the term drew to a close, we started to get into the festive spirit. Together, we decorated our class Christmas tree, hosted a parent Christmas crafts session, and enjoyed our Christmas dinner as a class. 🌲 ✨

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday and a restful break! 🌟 🧑🏻‍🎄



Merry  
Christmas

