



Coaley Church of England Academy

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17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the term and can I say, what a term it has been! It seems such a long time ago that we were basking in the late summer sun, enjoying those wonderfully warm evenings with some parents still wearing flip-flops to school. The Autumn term is always long and the build up to Christmas seems to start sooner and sooner every year.

I want to begin this week by giving a heart-felt thank you to all the amazing staff at Coaley. They have worked so hard to make sure that your children have a great time, achieve great things and get to play with their great friends. Despite the constantly changing COVID landscape, they've managed to keep us on track and make sure that all the children have learnt loads and had a good time. The Christmas Nativity play film has been a triumph of technology over adversity and the children's acting and singing was superb. I want all the staff to rest lots over the holidays and enjoy all that Christmas has to offer so they are refreshed and raring to go in January.

I also want to thank FOCS for putting together the amazing Christmas fair last Friday. It was brilliant to see us get together outside as a Coaley family. The stalls were a sell-out success and they managed to raise lots of money too. In total, they have managed to raise £354 which is a staggering amount of money given the ever-changing restrictions we have all had to manage this term. It has been wonderful to have offered two FOCS events since September: The Coaley fireworks and the Christmas Fair. In the new year, I'm sure we will see even more events and fundraising and I will keep you updated with any news on meetings and dates as soon as I know.

Finally, I want to thank all the children for being amazing. In particular, I want to thank the School Council for their part in the FOCS Christmas fair. Their Christmas fair cake stall was bulging with a myriad of confectionary delights and the School Council were very entrepreneurial, raising an amazing £86.50. They have decided to donate all their profits to Allsorts in Stroud. Allsorts is a charity in Stroud that supports families and children of all ages and abilities, including children with special needs and disabilities, by providing family support, extra-curricular activities and its infamous toy lending library. This really does show the Coaley spirit and school values of compassion and humility.

And very finally, can I say a MASSIVE thank you to all of you for continuing to support the school and your children's learning despite the COVID changes and disruption to our usual events. I know it has not been an easy term but you have all been so supportive and kept faith with us, despite our vigilance against rising infection rates. I will let you know by Tuesday 4th January (as long as nothing changes very late on 4th January) if there are any changes to our schooling offer for the Spring term but please assume that no news from me is good news and that nothing has changed.

I hope and wish for you all to have a calm and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday 5th January** at the usual times. Tuesday 4th January is an INSET day and the school will be closed all day.

Yours

Richard Lucas
Executive Headteacher

January 10th

There will be no after school club on January 10th as the staff have safeguarding training that they all need to attend.

Cake Sale

A big thank you to everyone who donated and bought cakes at the cake sale. We raised £86.50 which will be going to Allsorts charity in Stroud.

Christmas Fayre

Another big Thank you to all who came to the Christmas fayre. We raised £354 between the stalls and the raffle for the school.

Christmas Jumper Day

And another big thank you for the great response to Christmas jumper day. We will be donating £38.60 to Save the Children

Christmas lunch

Christmas lunch was great fun with everyone wearing their Christmas cracker hats and reading cracker jokes.

Christmas Play

The Christmas play was a great success and has been filmed for parent's. Due to technical difficulties this will be placed on a secure you tube video very soon. A class Dojo will be sent out with a link which will be private and we ask that you do not share on social media or make public and only share the link with trusted family members.

**It's been a busy term and we hope you all have a lovely Christmas
and look forward to seeing you all in 2022.**

A message from Forest school

We have certainly been busy this term during Coaley's Forest School afternoons. I am always so impressed with the children's resilience to whatever the weather throws at us during our Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

I wanted you know about one special project we have been working on with Starlings Class and Owls Class, as they have worked extremely hard to complete this to the best of their ability.

During COP 26, we have had lots of discussions and made lots of plans about how the children can make greener decisions in their daily lives at school. One idea that was making nature gifts for Secret Santa: Starling making gifts for the Owls Class and Owls making gifts for Starlings Class. After a session of planning of ideas and materials to use, the children launched themselves into their activity.





Using scrap wood or wood cut from felled branches from my woodland, liquid chalk pens and metal fittings both classes made some gorgeous, original and environmentally friendly gifts. I was so impressed with the care and persistence shown by everyone to make a special gift for their nominated person.

We then decided that we should make our own Christmas wrapping paper due to the high plastic content of commercial paper. Again, the children took great care when designing and decorating their sheet of recycled brown paper. Finally, the children wrapped their green gifts using masking tape – paper and gum – to seal their gifts ready to place under the school's

Christmas tree.

After such dedication and care taken, I hope everyone enjoys their original and 'green' Christmas gift! Robins have certainly been busy too.... Sawing and drilling their very own wooden Reindeer! Fabulous!

So.... wishing you a very merry and green Christmas. I look forward to working with the Coaley children in the new year! Watch this space for some more green ideas from the Coaley Crew!

Emma (Forest School)



Update from Gloucestershire children and families

Holiday Activities & Food programme (HAF) and Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) offers some exciting activities available for children and young people.

HAF/HAP Provision:

There is just one more week for families to book their HAF/HAP activities. For more information and to book, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf.

Here are a couple of the county-wide HAP offers that are available to all families, not just those whose children are eligible for free school meals. These include details of an online yoga video platform that promotes health and mental wellbeing which parents can access from now:

YogaBugs

Parents are now able to get free access to virtual healthy screen time until mid-February 2022. Taking less than 60 seconds to sign up, YogaBugs virtual is a digital yoga and wellbeing platform that includes hundreds of children's & adult's videos for families to take part in from the comfort of their own home!

Why sign up?

It is free and has tonnes of benefits including improving sleeping patterns, helping everyone feel calm and relaxed, improving confidence, and keeping everyone active over the cold winter months. It is suitable for children with SEND. To begin the process to claim access to the site and sign up, parents will need to visit: <https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120134>

STEM Activities for children and young people:

We also have 2 very exciting STEM based activities that families can reserve tickets for that involve engineering and computer science. Please see details below:

Educraft: 6-16 year olds can travel back in time to discover what coding was like 40 years ago by using the very same computers which were used back then! Children will be designing and animating their very own video game as well as having the opportunity to kick back and play some classic games. A great opportunity to learn and play for all the gamers out there! [Click here for more information and to book.](#) You can also view a trailer they have put together to advertise their offer this December by [clicking here.](#)

Bloodhound: 6-15 year olds will have the opportunity to see 'engineering in action'; learning about various science engineering technologies such as the Bloodhound Land Speed Record Car. Afterwards, children will have the opportunity to build and race their very own prototype car! At the end of the day, you will be leaving with a souvenir from the day and activity pack for the family to take part in back at home. [Click here for more information and to book.](#)

For any queries please contact HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Proud Cloud Certificates:

Robins: Eloise and Beatrix

Starlings: Stephie, Ellie and Jasmine

Owls: Reagan

Values Certificates:

Robins: Abi

Starlings: Elise

Owls: Poppy H

Growth Mindset Certificates:

Robins: Ellanore for excellent reasoning when completing missing number problems in maths

Starlings: Lucas for persevering when finding work difficult

Owls: Oscar C for not giving up during DT this week. Working hard on your design and adapting it

January Dates

Tuesday 4th January – Inset Day

Wednesday 5th January – Back to school

Monday 10th January – No After School club

Please note- Dates and times are subject to change, and depend on Covid restriction updates. We will advise you of any changes as soon as possible.

WE ARE COALEY - We Believe We Respect We Belong