



BARNHAM CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5th December 2025
Newsletter 13



We Inspire, Cherish and Believe
in each person that they might flourish
and fulfil their potential



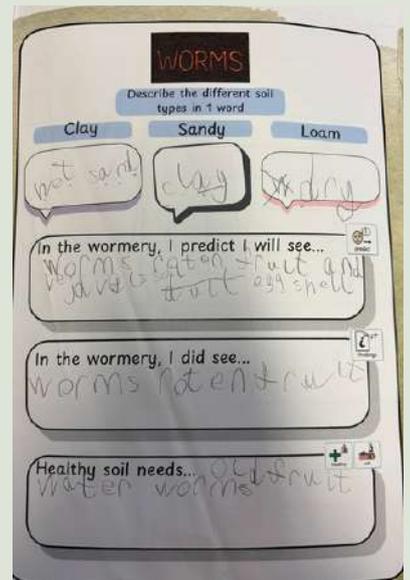
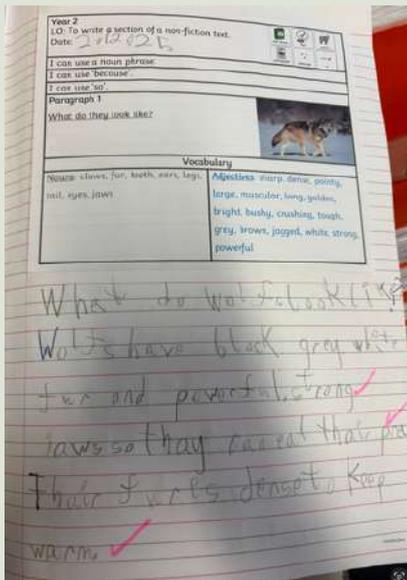
Christmas Story Cafe



Thank you so much to all the families for joining us for the Christmas Story Cafe on Monday. It was a wonderful afternoon of reading, christmas crafts and really getting us in the festive spirit to start the month of December in style. We hope you enjoyed it all as we know the children enjoyed having you in their classrooms. We hope you'll be able to join us for Christingle making as part of our Community Christingle on the afternoon of Monday 15th December from 2:15pm.



Mole Class News



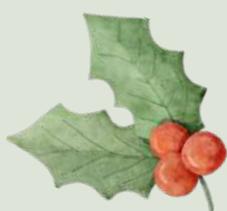
This term in Moles, we have been exploring 'Worms, Wolves and the World'. We discovered how important worms are for keeping our soil healthy, and Farmer Ollie even created a video to explain why they are vital for growing the food we eat.

In writing, we have been enjoying 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett. This book has lots of fascinating facts, and inspired the children to create their own nature documentaries in the style of Sir David Attenborough. The children planned, filmed and starred in their own documentaries, sharing facts such as how many teeth a wolf has, the size of a wolf pack, and the types of mammals wolves hunt.

We definitely have some budding TV presenters!

In Geography, we've been learning about our world. We began by exploring the seven continents and five oceans, locating each of them on a map. Then we 'zoomed in' to the United Kingdom to learn about its countries and capital cities.

All this brilliant learning has been taking place alongside our wonderful nativity rehearsals. We are very excited to share our performance with you next week. Please look out for tickets being sent home on Monday!





Staffing News



We would like to share that Catherine will be leaving us at Christmas. We are very grateful for her hard work and dedication during her time at our school, and we know she will bring the same enthusiasm and care to her exciting new venture working with early-years children.

We wish her every success in her next chapter.

Christmas Clothes

National Christmas Jumper Day is on Thursday 11th December, as it is our school nativity on this day we will postpone our Christmas Jumper day to **Friday 12th December!** There will be no charge for this but we'd love you to bring in donations for the homeless as part of our advent challenge.



We'd also love the children to wear Christmas clothes on Christmas Dinner Day, **Tuesday 16th December**, and for the last day of term -

Friday 19th December!

(No donations needed)

A Polite Reminder for Pick-Up and Drop-Off Times

As we welcome families onto the playground each morning and afternoon, we kindly ask all parents and carers to be mindful of the language used while waiting or chatting. With many young children nearby, we want to ensure the school environment remains warm, positive, and respectful for everyone. Thank you for helping us model the behaviour we hope to see in our pupils.

We would also like to remind families that the school car park is reserved for staff and for visitors or parents with mobility challenges. For everyone else, please continue to use the Village Hall car park for drop-off and pick-up. The staff car park has very limited space and becomes extremely busy at these times, so using the Village Hall helps keep children safe and the school site running smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming school community.





Hedgehogs Plant Christmas Trees



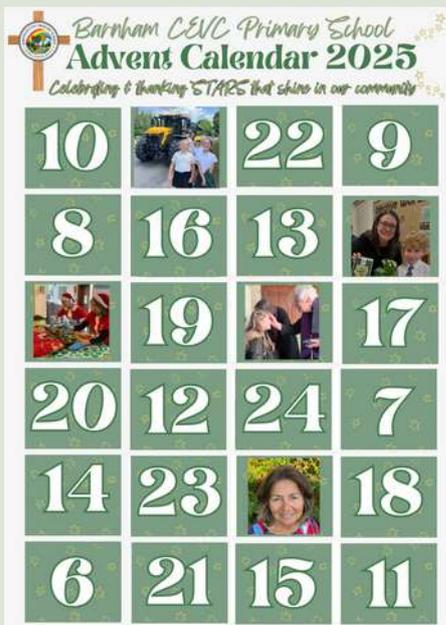
Hedgehog class enjoyed a wonderful trip to the woods this week to plant Christmas trees. After putting on puddle suits, we rode on the trailer through the farm and arrived in the woods. We sang songs around the fire, explored the trees and played games such as finding sticks that were longer or shorter. The children then planted their own Christmas trees whilst learning lots of rich vocabulary. When we returned to school, we used clippings from the woods to make our own muddy Christmas drinks in the mud kitchen and to weave our very own Christmas trees. It was a brilliant outdoor adventure for everyone!

We shared our festive outdoor learning experience with trainee teachers from the University of Cambridge
Thank you to our Curriculum Partner, Euston Farm for enabling us to have this wonderful experience!



'Shine Like Stars'

Shine with HOPE- Advent Week 1



We hope that you've been enjoying our Advent Calendar that we are sharing daily on our social media stories to celebrate and thank stars that shine brightly in our school community.

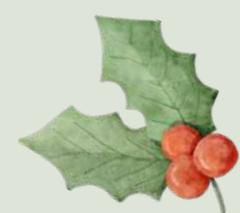
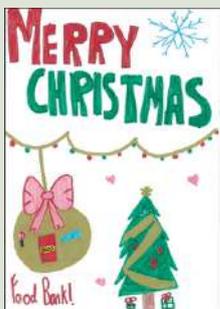
This week we have said thank you to:

Charlotte and Sandra- our school kitchen team, all of our teaching team, our curriculum partner- Euston Estate, our school governors and all that influence our pupils spiritually through church services and collective worship.

Our children took on the challenge of creating stars to share in the community this week and we were impressed with their thoughtfulness and creativity- these will be shared out over the coming days.

Christmas Cards for Thetford Foodbank

As you'll hopefully remember, we had a different Change Agent challenge from Steph this advent. She asked us if we could help make 50 Christmas Cards for her to say thank you to all the volunteers that work at and support her in running Thetford Foodbank. We took on this challenge for our first week of advent as we believe that our friends at the foodbank are true community stars who shine with hope and give hope to those that need it the most. We were thrilled to share our card designs with Steph and hope that all the volunteers love the cards. Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in this challenge. Keep shining with hope and making a difference Barnham Change Agents!



Messages from FOBS



Thursday 11th December is our Nativity Performances- we are desperately looking for some volunteers to help make teas and coffees! Please contact Mrs Arnold or Miss Bacon if you can help with this or any member of FOBS.

Advance Warning- FOBS will be hosting a special recruitment day in the new year and we'd love you to save the date and get involved if you can - Thursday 22nd January 2026, more details will follow soon.

Reporting Absences

This is a friendly reminder that all pupil absences should be reported through our school's designated absence line. Using this line helps us ensure that messages are received promptly and recorded accurately. You can also use ParentMail to report your child's absence.

Recently, our main office phone lines have become congested with absence reports. When main lines are tied up, it becomes difficult for families and staff to reach us for time-sensitive needs. By calling the absence line instead, you help keep our communication running smoothly and allow office staff to respond quickly to urgent situations.



Junior Headteachers



We'd like to say a huge well done to Sofia and Harper who were this term's Junior Headteachers. They spent time talking to children across the school about their experiences and learning in school and then they attended the governors meeting to feedback to them. All of the governors were impressed with their presentation and hard work. It was a great opportunity for them to practice speaking in a more formal setting and they handled this with confidence and enthusiasm- we couldn't have been prouder of them! They both told us that even though they felt nervous, they really enjoyed this experience.

We'll be looking for new Year 6 Junior Headteachers next term, so watch this space if you'd like to volunteer!





Christingles Coming Up...



**COME TO OUR
CHRISTINGLE
SERVICE**

St Gregory's Church, Barnham

**DECEMBER 7th
at 3pm**

**Followed by a
special tea
party**

Our school Community Christingle Afternoon will be on Monday 15th December from 2:15pm.

Please could each child bring in a large orange ready to make their Christingle and a packet of sweets to share with the class.

The ideal sweets for Christingles are ones that can go on a cocktail stick eg: dolly mixtures, jelly babies, mini marshmallows, jelly tots etc. Please remember no chocolate as they will melt! A healthy alternative of raisins/ glace cherries or other dried fruits will also work well. Please remember no nut products.

School will provide the rest of the equipment needed for this afternoon including: foil, cocktail sticks and candles as we aim for every child to Shine TOGETHER with their Christingle.

Our hope is that the weather will be kind and we can all gather on the playground to light our Christingles and have a special Collective Worship to end our school day.

FOBS will then be drawing the winners of the Christmas raffle following this.

We hope you'll be able to join us!

Our Christmas Services Thursday 18th December



We are delighted to share our plans for this year's Christmas celebrations! As our school community continues to grow, we now have more families than can comfortably fit into the church at once. To make sure everyone can join us for this special occasion, we will be holding two Christmas services at St Gregory's Church.

Morning Service - 9:30am

Held just after morning drop-off, this service will feature contributions from

Hedgehogs, Badgers and Squirrels.

Afternoon Service - 2:00pm

Timed to end in time for school pick-up, this service will include contributions from

Moles, Foxes and Otters.

Our wonderful Collective Worship Crew will attend and help lead both services.

The school choir will also sing at both services.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating together as a whole school community.

Families with children in different year groups are warmly welcome to attend both services if they wish.

We can't wait to share this special time with you!



Dodgeball Tournament



On Wednesday evening two teams of talented Year 5 and 6 boys and girls travelled to Thurston Community College for a dodgeball tournament. Both our teams were utterly amazing! We took on Great Barton, Norton, Walsham, Great Finborough and Freemans School and won every game. The throwing and catching, ducking and diving, bobbing and weaving was of the very highest standard as was our sportsmanship and behaviour. Well done to Jasper, Hattie, Aaron, Jack T and Jack R, Natty, Zia, Louie, Tobias, Owen and Josh for making yourselves and our school proud!



Christmas Cards

A huge thank you to Caitlin from The Garden Shed for loaning us this beautiful Christmas Postbox – it's ready and waiting for your Christmas cards!

You'll find the postbox in the office foyer.

Some children from Breakfast Club will be opening it on Tuesdays and Thursdays and sorting through the cards ready to deliver to classes for you.

Please ensure that cards have full names of children on them and their class name if possible.

Thank you so much.



Thank you for supporting our book fair!



What an amazing day on Thursday! Our school hall turned into a pop-up bookshop, giving every class the chance to browse and spend their pennies on new reads—parents may even have squeezed in some secret Christmas shopping! Huge congratulations to Audrey, our prize-draw winner, and a big thank-you to everyone who supported the event; over £1000 was spent, meaning even more books for our classrooms soon!





Our Celebration Collective Worship!



In Collective Worship we also said goodbye and good luck to Henrietta who is leaving our school today- we wish her all the very best in her new adventures- keep shining bright Henrietta!

Well Done Advent Stars - Fox Class!



Fox Class made over 250 stars this week as part of our Advent Challenges- we were so very impressed with this class team effort - they've won themselves an extra playtime next week. Thank you everyone for the stars, these will be shared with lots of people and in lots of places this Advent Season!

Thank You So Much



We've had some really kind gifts that are going to really enhance our indoor provision and Calm Club in the New Year! We truly appreciate every single gift and donation to our school.

The donations of games, puzzles, lego etc have also been very much appreciated.

**Has anyone got any old children's magazines?
We'd love some magazines for indoor provision!**

Thank you so much!

If you are able to give, here is our Amazon Wish List:

Our Amazon Wish List

Barnham Christmas Market

We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to FOBS for going along to Barnham Christmas Market to sell some things to raise money for our school, we really appreciate your hard work to get ready for this event and for giving up your time on a very busy Saturday close to Christmas, thank you!

We hope lots of you were able to attend the markets and saw the Barnham Christmas Tree which of course was starry themed to link to this year's advent theme.

Well done to all the children who had their work displayed at the church, it looked fabulous! Thank you to everyone that arranges this wonderful village event.





Childcare Savings



Attention working parents – you could be saving £££ on childcare. Did you know that many working parents may be eligible for a government-supported childcare savings scheme – but it remains underused? The scheme, called Tax-Free Childcare, offers a simple way to cut the cost of before-/after-school clubs, holiday playschemes, and other approved childcare.

How it works:

Parents set up an online “childcare account” for each eligible child and deposit money into it. The government automatically adds £2 for every £8 you put in.

This top-up continues until the account reaches up to £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 per child per year if the child is disabled).

Money in the account can be used to pay for approved childcare: childminders, nurseries, before/after-school clubs, holiday clubs and play schemes.

This means that – for many families – childcare costs can be effectively reduced by 20%, up to the scheme’s maximum each year.

Who qualifies:

You may be eligible if all the following apply:

You (and your partner, if you have one) are working (employed, self-employed, or on certain types of leave).

Each parent earns no more than £100,000 per year.

Your child is aged 11 or under. If the child is disabled, the benefit can extend until age 16.

The childcare provider is registered/approved under the scheme.

Eligibility isn’t limited to “standard” employment: self-employed parents, or parents returning from maternity/paternity/adoption leave, may also qualify.

What you can use it for:

The money isn’t just for nursery fees – it can pay for a variety of childcare and wraparound care options that many of our families use:

After-school clubs, breakfast clubs or other wraparound care.

Holiday playschemes and holiday clubs.

Childminders, nurseries, nannies – as long as they’re registered with the scheme.

This could make a real difference in managing the cost of after-school clubs (like our school’s own wrap-around care), holiday clubs, and other childcare provision.

A few important things to know:

The scheme cannot be used at the same time as certain other support: you cannot combine it with childcare vouchers, working tax credit, child tax credit or Universal Credit.

You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months via the online account.

Each eligible child requires a separate account.

Why we’re telling you this:

The latest official figures show that by March 2025, around 580,000 UK families used Tax-Free Childcare – but many more remain unaware.

Given how popular after-school clubs and holiday provision are – especially for working families – it’s likely that a number of parents in our school community could benefit.

We believe this scheme deserves wider recognition, because it could reduce childcare costs significantly and make after-school or holiday care much more affordable.

If you think you might be eligible – or simply want to find out more – head to the government website (search “Tax-Free Childcare”) and check your eligibility. It only takes a few minutes to apply or register.



Our Value is Resilience

This week in Collective Worship, we were fortunate to welcome a new visitor to Collective Worship, Ruth Winterton from Brandon Baptist Church, we loved listening to her talk to us about the shepherds in the nativity and their amazing resilience using her two teddy bears! Thank you so much Ruth!

You'll also notice that the cross on our Collective Worship table is now purple, the colour for preparation seasons like Advent and Lent.

Our big question to discuss this week is:

Why do you think Jesus is called the Prince of Peace?



Week 2 - Christmas Challenge Agents Missions

Barnham CEVC Primary School
Advent Project 2025
Shine Like Stars!

Shine with hope Shine with kindness

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing... Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"
Philippians 2 v 14-15

Week 2 Monday 8th - Friday 12th December
SHINE WITH KINDNESS
Kindness helps us bounce back and feel stronger inside - when we focus on helping others, our own worries feel lighter

Events -
Thursday 11th December - KS1 Nativity
Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Here is your week 2 challenge - SHINE WITH KINDNESS

We are partnering with 'Chapter 15' - a charity in Thetford that work to support the homeless.

We'd love you to bring in donations for them of:

Thermals, hats, gloves, hand warmers, scarves, new socks, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body sprays, small gas containers, gift cards for supermarkets/ coffee places/ greggs etc, , shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, hot water bottles

Each class will have a box in their classroom to collect the items and we'll see how much we can share with them at the end of the week.

Shine with KINDNESS!

Our RESILIENCE Bible Verse -

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength."

Philippians 4 v 13

Lunch Menu for Next Week

Monday 8 th December	Tuesday 9 th December	Wednesday 10 th December	Thursday 11 th December	Friday 12 th December
Loaded Jacket Potatoes Choice	Fish Finger Wrap, rice and salad OR Vegi Finger Wrap	Pasta Bolognese, garlic bread and veg OR Tomato Pasta Bake	Chicken Roast OR Quorn Fillet	Beef Burgers & chips OR Vegi Sausage Bap
Shortbread Biscuits	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Flapjack	Jelly & Fruit	Iced Tray Bake

Please note, our menu is subject to changes and these will be communicated via ParentMail

Diary Dates

Thursday 11th December - KS1 Nativity Performances (more details to follow)

Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 15th December - Christingle Celebrations (more details to follow)

Monday 15th December - The FOBS Christmas Raffle will be drawn after school in the playground

Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Lunch (children can wear Christmas Jumpers today)

**Thursday 18th December - Christmas Church Services
(9:30am Service- Hedgehogs, Badgers and Squirrels &
2pm Service- Moles, Foxes and Otters)
more information to follow)**

Friday 19th December - Last day of term

Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January - PD Day (no children in school)

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school for
Kings Day / Epiphany Celebrations

(please could each child make and wear a crown to wear for this day)

Thursday 8th January - Badger Class Families - Meet Mrs Shepperson 2:55pm

Thursday 22nd January - FOBS Recruitment Day

OUR SCHOOL BIBLE VERSES:

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Jesus said 'I am the vine; you
are the branches.
Those who abide in my and I in
them, will bear much fruit.'
John 15:5

