

[13th December 2024](#)



The festive season is truly upon us, and it's been a magical week at BWA.

Thank You for Your Support

I am confident the Christmas Fair will be a resounding success today, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire school community for your generosity and participation. The PTA has done a phenomenal job organising this event, and it simply wouldn't be possible without your support.

Christmas Jumpers and Lunch

On Thursday, pupils and staff enjoyed a festive day, wearing their Christmas jumpers and sharing a delicious Christmas lunch. It was a heart-warming occasion, filled with laughter and holiday cheer.



I would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the importance of ensuring that pupils attend school right up until the end of term. We understand that some families may have travel plans for the holidays; however, it is vital that pupils remain in school to benefit fully from the valuable learning experiences we provide.

Regular attendance is key to maintaining progress and continuity in learning, and missing even a few days can disrupt a pupil's routine and academic development. We greatly appreciate your co-operation in prioritising attendance until the final day of term, ensuring that every pupil makes the most of their time at school. Thank you for your continued support.

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AMBITION

- the highest expectations of what all children can achieve
- expanding horizons through research and sharing of best practice

Specialist Teaching and Performances

We are fortunate to have a wide range of specialist teachers throughout the school week. This week, it was wonderful to see so many parents and family members at the Autumn Term Concerts for Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6. The pupils' singing was truly joyful and showcased their hard work and talent.



Sports Highlights Across the School

In Early Years, our youngest pupils have been mastering ball and object skills, building coordination, control, and confidence. KS1 pupils have been sharpening their attacking and defending skills through fun mini-sided football games, emphasizing teamwork and spatial awareness. Meanwhile, in KS2, pupils have been introduced to hockey, focusing on dribbling, passing, and positioning—sparking enthusiasm and skill development.

This week in Nursery, pupils have been embracing the Christmas spirit as part of their Celebrations topic. They worked on their counting skills by decorating Christmas trees, carefully hanging baubles using their fine motor skills before counting how many they had placed. It was a fun and festive way to combine holiday excitement with important developmental learning.

In Reception, our pupils have been diving into the winter season as part of their end-of-term topic on Christmas. The children enjoyed imaginative role-play with polar bears, penguins, and walruses—Eric the Elf even joined in the fun! They explored new vocabulary such as "temperature," "warmth," "warm-blooded," and "cold-blooded," enriching their understanding of the season and its fascinating creatures.

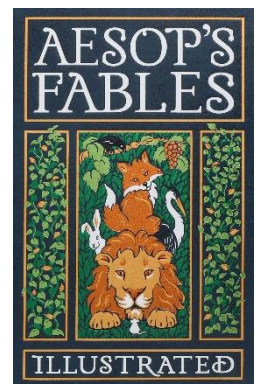
This week, the pupils in RB have been immersed in a festive theme as part of our *Light and Dark* topic. Alongside engaging in wonderful Christmas-themed activities, the children conducted an experiment using pipettes to drop water onto ink. They were fascinated by how the paper absorbed the water and how the ink spread to reveal an array of colours. This activity sparked their curiosity, leading them to ask thoughtful questions and make predictions—a brilliant example of developing their scientific understanding of the world. Additionally, squeezing the pipettes to release tiny drops helped refine their fine motor skills, an essential foundation for writing and other tasks.



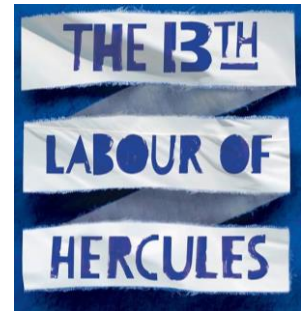
Our Year 1 pupils have had an exciting week filled with festive preparations. They enthusiastically practised for their upcoming Christmas concert, showcasing a lovely range of Christmas songs alongside other delightful pieces. The children are eager to share their fantastic singing with families next Monday afternoon. Adding to the festive cheer, they enjoyed decorating Christmas crowns for the Christmas lunch on

Thursday and transforming their classroom into a Christmas wonderland, complete with a sparkling tree and plenty of tinsel.

Year 2 have had a fantastic week diving into Aesop's fables. The pupils explored persuasive writing techniques, imagining how they would convince the lion not to eat them if they were the mouse! Meanwhile, in Geography, the children became city planners, designing their dream cities with creativity and vision. Their imaginative ideas sparked engaging discussions, making this a memorable and fun week of learning.



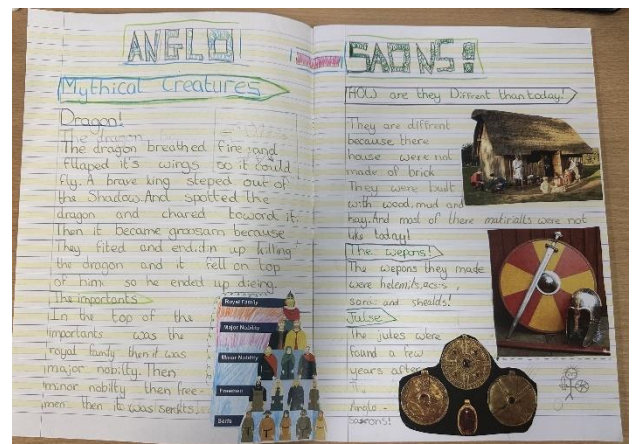
This week, pupils in 3B began an exciting writing project: creating Hercules' 13th Labour. They first explored the story arcs of his previous labours—defeating the Nemean Lion and the Hydra—before learning how to incorporate direct speech into their stories through a conversation between Hercules and King Eurystheus. Each pupil chose an ancient creature—Medusa, a Griffin, a Minotaur, or a Dragon—to star in their final labour.



Here's a sneak peek from one of the stories:
"Hercules flung his sturdy net over his shoulder and headed for Eritrea. Over the course of many days, Hercules travelled up steep rocky mountains and weaved through humid, dense jungles. At long last, he arrived at the mouth of the cave where the creature lived..."

Living in London we have a huge variety of resources on our doorstep to enhance learning. This week Year 3 enjoyed visiting the Science Museum, exploring lots of the exhibits and most excitingly, attending a forces workshop. They learnt a lot more about their Science topic and watched lots of exciting experiments taking place.

Pupils in Year 4 began creating their Double Page Spreads to summarise their learning from their History unit. This activity allowed them to reflect on their achievements throughout the unit of study on Anglo-Saxons and showcase their understanding creatively. By revisiting their work, pupils could see how much they've accomplished and how prepared they are to continue learning and exploring new topics. This is a superb double page spread.



You can see how well the pupils in our Year 5 class delved into the fascinating world of ancient Greece, focusing on its influence on modern society, particularly democracy. The pupils brought history to life by creating their own Athenian-style democracy, where they debated and voted on scenarios inspired by Ancient Greek practices. This hands-on approach not only enriched their historical understanding but also honed their critical thinking and teamwork skills.



This week, pupils in our Year 6 class had an exciting opportunity to engage in a Zoom Q&A session with an optometrist. Pupils posed a variety of questions about eyes, vision, light, and colour, making the session both engaging and informative. One particularly intriguing fact they learned was that while brown is the most common eye colour worldwide, blue is the most prevalent eye colour in the UK. The experience left our pupils inspired and eager to learn more about the science of vision.

Excellent learners

Excellent Learners Like a challenge			
Margarita	RA	Ines	3B
Arla	RB	Harvey Ray	Y4
Sienna	Y1	Jaxson	Y5
Zailah	Y2	Noa	5B
Armand	2B	Fynn	Y6
Willow	Y3		



Free intensive swimming for 5-7-year-olds at Wandsworth Leisure Centres and free drop-in sports activities for children eligible for benefit-based Free School Meals during school holidays, click [here](#).



Please do use this [NHS guidance](#) to help you make decisions when your child is ill about whether they should attend school, or stay at home.



Communication

Our [communication table](#) should signpost you to the right person to deal with any queries you have, no matter how small or trivial you think they may be.

Parent Forms

- If your pupil requires medication, you will need to complete a form online.
- If your pupil requires time out of school, you will need to complete a form online.
- If your pupil is allowed to go home alone, you will need to complete a form online.

These forms are available on the school website, under News, Parent Forms. A link is also [here](#).



Nut Free School

Please remember that we are a Nut Free site.

Birthday Treats

When it is a pupil's birthday during the school term, parents and carers can choose to celebrate this special occasion by bringing in food to share with the class if they wish. This food is given out at the end of the school day so that parents and carers can decide if their pupil consumes it. If you do choose to bring in food for the class, we would really appreciate it if, in addition to nut-free, consideration could be given to other allergies, religious and dietary preferences, so that all pupils can share in the class celebration.





Prepared for the Day

Please ensure your pupil has suitable clothing in school. Getting outside remains very important at BWA and we plan to have both PE and play outside in all weathers.



Dates to Remember

- **Last Day of Term – Friday 20th December.**
- Pupils in the English stream finish at 1:45pm.
- Pupils in the bilingual stream finish at the normal time.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Henry