

Flying Bull Academy Newsletter
December 2025

Dear Families,

What an absolute pleasure it has been to part of The Flying Bull Academy this term!

It has been wonderful to share assemblies with the school, be part of the above and beyond awards and see so much amazing learning. The Flying bull Academy is such a special place and I truly cannot wait to be here full time as the new Head teacher in January.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and enjoy spending some quality time with each other.

Thank you for all your support and making me feel so welcome.

I can't wait for 2026 and beyond!

Mrs Brown

What did we get up to in December ...

In **Nursery**, the children have continued to explore the 'Celebrations' topic. Through role play the children have continued to explore different cultural celebrations to further develop their understanding of how different people celebrate special times.

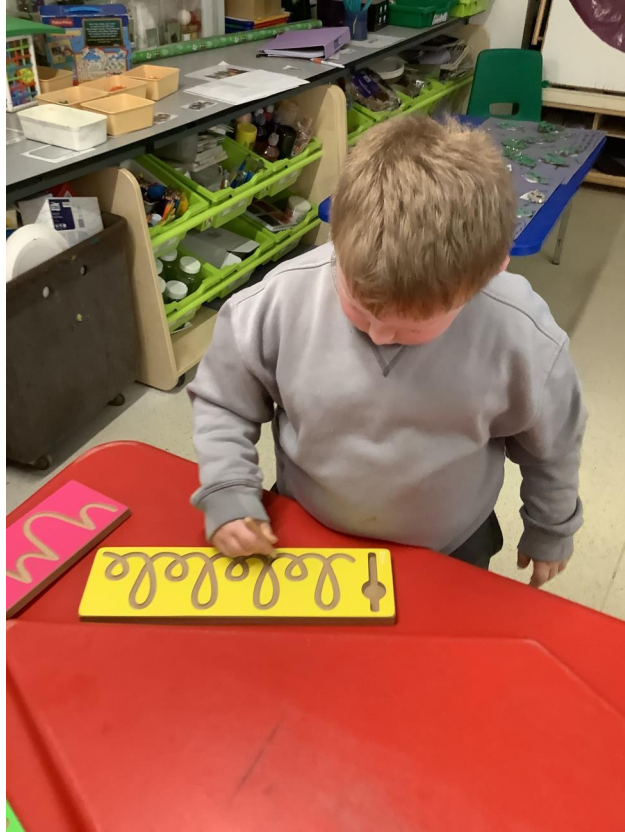
The children have been working hard to develop their fine motor skills.

One of the most important skills developed through art activities is fine motor development. During these art experiences, the children's small muscles in their fingers, hands, and wrists are exercised and strengthened, helping to make learning to write easier!

We would like to wish all our children, parents, carers and grandparents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!









Well done to all of our children who have performed in **Reception** Nativity. We are so proud of them and we hope you are too.

This half term children have been learning more phonemes in phonics. These are in their green books. Please re visit these with your children over the Christmas holiday.

In maths children have been practicing subitizing and counting. This week we have been using a part- part whole model to show amounts up to 5.

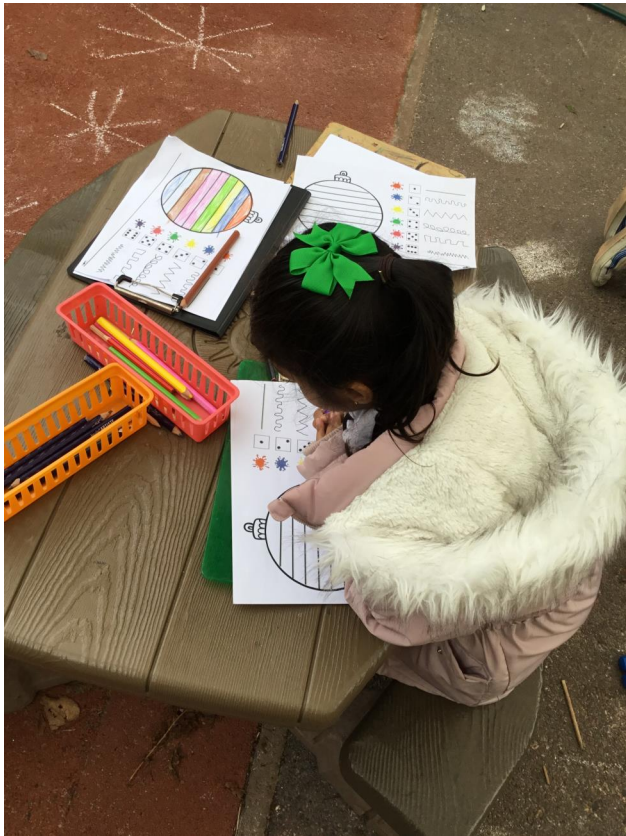
Reminders:

Our PE day is a Tuesday. Please make sure your child is wearing the correct PE kit and if their ears are pierced they are wearing earring tape or earrings are removed

Please bring the book bag to school each day.

Friday is our book change day please make sure your child brings their book to

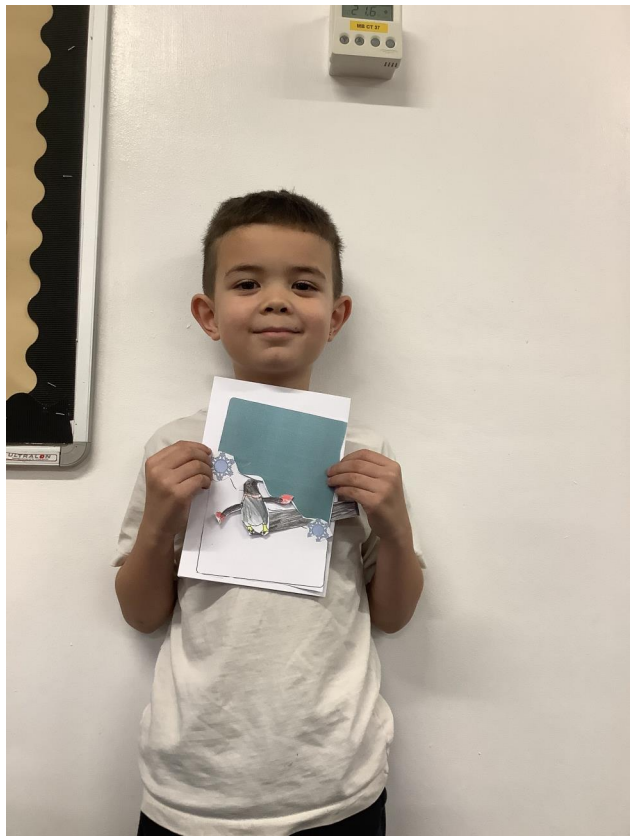
Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy new year !



What an amazing term **Year 1** has had! We have loved working with the children and seeing their fantastic progress. They have worked really hard and we are so proud of them. We loved being joined by so many of our families for our Christingle service. We hope you enjoyed being part of it! In our English lessons, we have been looking at the book *Stick Man*. The children have loved creating their own adventures for him to go on and sharing these with their friends. Thank you for all your support this term, we wish all our families a restful and peaceful Christmas.



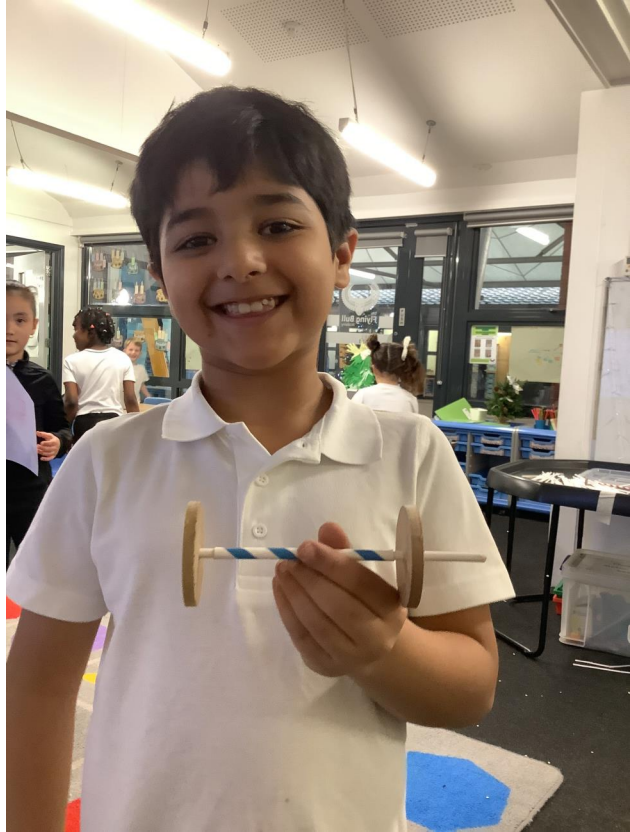




Year 2 have been so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and creativity throughout December. In Design and Technology, the children learned how to make wheels and axles turn smoothly and used these skills to design and create their own fire engines, linking closely to our *Fire! Fire!* topic on the Great Fire of London. We've also had a visit from Hampshire Fire Service who taught us all about what to do in an emergency and how to be safe around fire! In Art, the children explored mixed materials to create festive Christmas scenes in their sketchbooks, focusing on developing their shading skills to create smooth colour gradients in their backgrounds.

In RE, the children learned about what Christians believe about Christmas and wrote their own thoughtful versions of the Nativity story. What a busy and festive end to the term the children have had! 🎄









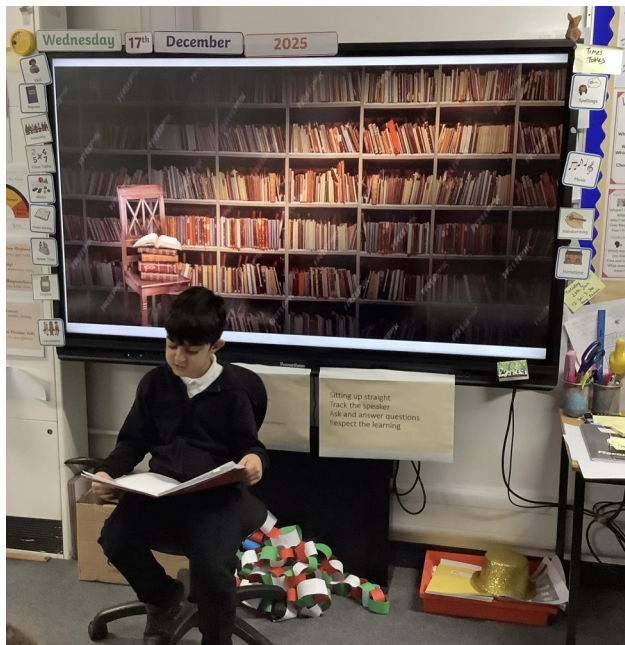
This month has been very exciting in **Year 3**. We have really enjoyed our writing based on Stone Age Boy, where we have been using our descriptive writing skills to write setting descriptions of the different places in the book. We have also really enjoyed the build up to Christmas! We have had some Christmas themed activities that we have taken part in, including some Christmas writing and crafts. We have even sketched and painted our own Christmas baubles which we sold at the Christmas fayre, and we are very proud of these! We cannot wait to begin our next topics in the new year!

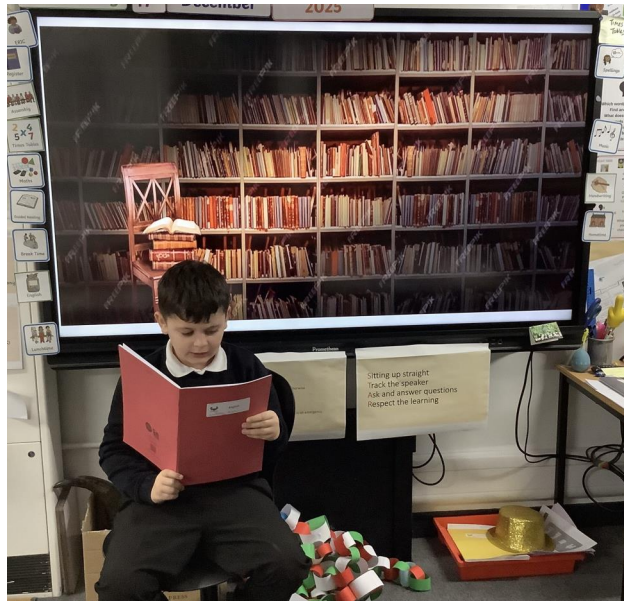




A **Year 4** classroom was thrown into chaos when a mighty Minotaur stormed in, even sweeping up Year 4 TA Mrs Collins in the attack! Thankfully, the goddess Hera set us a quest: to write the epic battle scene of Theseus and the Minotaur—and we believe we triumphed. Alongside our epic Greek adventures, we experimented with circuits and made light bulbs glow without any adult help.. To end the term on a joyful note, we've been practicing our beautiful singing for the upcoming Christingle service and festive carol singing. Happy holidays from year 4.





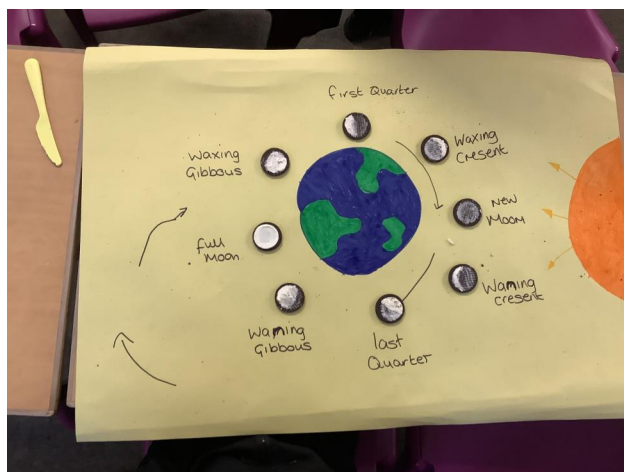


Year 5 have had a busy and exciting time this term! We have really enjoyed reading *Gangsta Granny*, which was a big hit with the children and sparked lots of great discussions. In English, we have been developing our non-chronological report writing skills by creating reports about Edgar the dragon, focusing on what we might see, hear, feel and smell.

In science, the children loved learning all about Earth and space. One of the highlights was recreating the phases of the Moon using Oreo biscuits – a fun (and tasty!) way to learn.

We also reached some important milestones outside the classroom. Year 5 completed their final swimming lessons, and finished Bikeability, where it was wonderful to see the children's confidence grow as they learned to ride independently or develop their road safety skills.

It has been a pleasure to watch the children's enthusiasm, confidence and enjoyment shine through in all areas of learning this term.



Year 6 have had a wonderfully festive and creative month! In English, the children have been honing their instructional writing skills by writing step-by-step guides in role as the Grinch, explaining *exactly* how to steal Christmas — with plenty of humour and imagination along the way. In preparation for the Christmas Fayre, they have also made and decorated beautiful salt dough decorations, which they are very proud to be selling. In our wider curriculum work, we have been researching different countries and learning about how Christmas is celebrated around the world, including discovering traditions and how to say “Merry Christmas” in a variety of different languages. It has been a busy, fun-filled month full of creativity and festive learning!





This half term **HDIC** have been working hard on writing instructions to catch a mystical creature of our choice. The children were super creative designing their monster and inventing different machines and snares to trap it. We have used the film "Inside Out" to explore our emotions. We have filled and dipped our buckets, complimenting each other and talking positively about ourselves. We have tried and tested lots of self-regulation techniques such as chewing, belly breathing and heavy pressure to find what works best for us when we are finding ourselves slipping into the red zone.



Above and Beyond Celebrations

Our Above and Beyond celebrations got off to a great start this year with our first round of awards. Just a reminder of how it works: our teachers nominate two children from their class each half term who go above and beyond in showing one or more of our school values of respect, aspiration, cooperation or resilience. These are values we expect all our children and adults to show in our school but we also want to recognise those children who really do excel in this. Well done to all our winners!

Our next above and beyond celebration will be held on Thursday 5th February 2025. We look forward to celebrating with the children and their families.



Above and Beyond Celebration

Congratulations to our Above and Beyond winner this half term. These awards recognise children who go above and beyond in showing one or more of our school values of respect, aspiration, cooperation and resilience. These are values we expect all our children and adults to show in our school but we also want to celebrate those children who consistently demonstrate them. Our next Above and Beyond celebration will be held on Thursday 5th February 2026. We look forward to celebrating with the children and their families.









Parent Governor vacancy

Would you like to help make our school the best it can be? We are looking for a new parent governor! As a parent governor, you would join a team that works together to make sure the school is developing in the right direction and is providing the best possible education for your children. We meet six times a year from 4-6pm, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday. I've included a short video here which tells you a little more about the role (it is from Brighton and Hove, but should be helpful for you) If you are interested, please contact the school. We would love to have you on board!



Could you be a School Governor?

University of Chichester Academy Trust

Want to make a difference **in your community** and develop your own professional skills?

Schools in your area are looking for governors with enthusiasm, time and flexibility to contribute effectively to the role. You do not need to be an expert in education - we would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education
- Has energy for the role
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

Contact us to find out more!


Please email Sarah Speller, Trust Governance and Compliance Manager:

unicat@chi.ac.uk

or visit:

www.chimat.uk/become-a-local-governor

Proud to be part of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST



School uniform

At the end of last year, we conducted our parent/carer survey. You said you wanted a more consistent and robust approach to children wearing school uniform. Many of you shared that this would make things easier at home and help foster a sense of pride in the children's appearance. We agree, and staff have also noted that when children wear their school uniform, they engage better in their learning and there are fewer behaviour-related issues.

We would like to thank all parents and carers who have worked hard to ensure their children are coming to school in the correct uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To help everyone stay on the same page, here is a reminder of our school uniform expectations:

School uniform

White T-Shirt

Black jumper or cardigan

Black trousers, shorts or skirt

Plain socks or tights

Black shoes or trainers

Green gingham dresses can be worn in the summer months.

PE kit

White T-Shirt

Black PE shorts, cycling shorts or joggers

Black jumper

Plain socks

Trainers or plimsoles

If your child arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, we will take the following steps to address the issue:

- The class teacher will remind you of the correct uniform at drop-off/pick-up.
- A member of the LAPS team may phone you if you are not available at drop off/pick up or if your child is consistently not in uniform.
- If needed, a spare jumper or T-shirt will be available in class, and your child will be expected to wear it for the day.

If you need help with school uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact a member of the LAPS team, who will be happy to help.

We offer a range of uniform items for sale. Please contact the office for more information.

Children are not permitted to wear smartwatches during the day; they will be kept safely in a locked cupboard in the classroom.





Attendance



Ensuring that your child is in school, on time, every day is the most important commitment we ask of all parents and carers. As a school we are aiming for at least 96% attendance and as of this week our total for this current year is **93%**. Thank you to everyone working hard to get to school on time every day.

Current Attendance

Year R 99%

Year 1 92%

Year 2 93%

Year 3 92%

Year 4 89%

Year 5 94%

Year 6 94%

Children arriving late

Just a reminder to parents if your child has arrived late for school, we ask parents/carers to form a queue and register late arrivals with **Mrs. Beauchamp**, who will be positioned at the back of the reception area. Mrs. Beauchamp will also be happy to assist with any concerns you may have about your child's punctuality. This system will be in place until **9:10 am** each morning. After this time, any child arriving will receive an unauthorised late mark, which, under the new penalty system, will count as one unauthorised session. Please be aware that 10 unauthorised sessions in a ten-week period could result in a fine.

Absences

Please be mindful when your child is absent from school during term time that this will be classed as unauthorised. Absences cannot be authorised during term time without exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences are automatically reported to the local authority and you could be considered for a fixed penalty notice.

We are here to help

If you need support with persistent absence or lateness, please contact Amanda Beauchamp (Attendance Officer) in the school office.

Respect to all staff



Our staff work incredibly hard to support the children and families of Flying Bull. When you are interacting or speaking with staff members, please remember to use kindness and respect.

Don't miss out- check us out...

Follow us on Facebook for updates and information about news and events, by searching The Flying Bull Academy. Don't forget, you can also keep up to date with our school website <https://www.fbacademy.co.uk/>



Dates for your diary...



- **Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January** - Christmas Holidays
- **Monday 5th January** - Inset Day

The Community Notice Board

WHAT'S ON September
December 2025




Christmas

Dress for mess at all our workshops

Holidays



Table Decorations for all ages with Victoria Goss
 Saturday 21 December | 10.30am - 12.30pm
 or 1pm - 3pm | SeaCity | £18

Art School Plus: Paint, Draw (and Breathe!) 
 (11 - 16 yrs)
 Monday 22 December | 10.30am - 3.30pm |
 Art Gallery | £26

Art for All: Gonk O'Clock (5+)
 Tuesday 23 December | 10am, 11.30am or 1pm |
 Art Gallery | £6.50

Christmas at Hogwarts (7+) 
 Tuesday 23 December | 10am - 12 noon or
 1pm - 3pm | Tudor House | £12

**Art for All: Penguin Print Thank You Cards
 and More** (4+)
 Friday 2 January | 10.30am, 12.30pm
 or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Discover Titanic
 Friday 2 January | 10.30am, 12.30pm or
 2.30pm | SeaCity | £8

Christmas at Tudor House
 Sat 6, Sun 7, Sat 13, Sun 14, Sat 20, Sun 21 and Mon 22
 December | 10am - 5pm | Tudor House | £25

Join us in Southampton's oldest building for a special visit with Father Christmas in the Banqueting Hall. This festive experience includes getting creative with a fun craft activity, then unwinding with a sweet treat in our café.

**Culture Club for Kids:
 Christmas Holiday Activity Days** 
 (6½ - 12 yrs)

Week Theme - Polar Bears and Penguins
 Mon 22, Tues 23 December

9am - 4pm (drop off from 8.45am) |
 SeaCity. | £35 per day £60 for both days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days!





 Drop off your young people +

See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



