

December 2024



And so we come to the end of another fun packed term and year across our nurseries which gives us the opportunity to share the magic in our company magazine. The children have been busy learning songs and rhymes, spreading tinsel, glitter and joy wherever they go and making beautiful gifts to treasure forever, all the while being immersed in the true spirit of Christmas by our amazing staff teams. This publication gives you ideas of activities to make and create with your children at home and celebrates each of our settings hard work.



The staff and Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a magical Merry Christmas and a healthy 2025.

There are so many beautiful Christmas illuminations around Wiltshire this year which can be enjoyed by all the family. Most run until the beginning of January and include lights, lasers and lanterns. Some on our doorsteps are;

Christmas at Stourhead.
Enchanted Gardens, Swindon.
Festival of Light, Longleat. From Darkness to Light, Salisbury Cathedral.
Festival Illuminations, Bristol. Winter Woodland Lights, Hawk Conservancy, Andover.



Taking a drive once its dark can also highlight families house lights in your local community. Some really do go all out with lights on their walls, roofs and gardens!

Alongside these, you will find lots of stunning Christmas lights in your local towns and cities and we are fortunate to also have Christmas markets in Winchester, Bath and Bristol.

Create a Christmas Bucket List with your family in the lead up to the big day. It's simple really—find some things that sound fun and



manageable to your family and add them to a list. It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate to be fun. A budget friendly Christmas bucket list is the way to go. Try to think of things you already have and how you can utilise them for the Christmas season while making your list. This could be having a movie night with home made popcorn, making hot chocolates, creating a Santa's grotto in your sitting room with sheets. The list could be endless!

The Reindeer Pokey (Tune: "The Hokey Cokey")

You put your right hoof in,
You put your right hoof out.
You put your right hoof in,
And you shake it all about!
You do the reindeer pokey,
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!

(Continue with left hoof, right
antle [hands on head], left
antler, tail, and red nose...)



Dance Like Snowflakes (Tune: "Frere Jacques")

Dance like snowflakes,
Dance like snowflakes,
In the air,
In the air,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Here and there,
Here and there.

Father Christmas (Tune: "Old McDonald had a farm")

Father Christmas had a tree.....Ho, ho ho ho ho!
And on that tree,
He had some lights
Ho ho ho ho ho
With a blink blink here, and a blink blink there
Here a blink, there a blink, everywhere a blink blink.

Father Christmas had a treeHo, ho ho ho ho!

(More ideas: candy canes – yum yum, bells – ring ring, stars –
twinkle twinkle, drums – boom boom, snowflakes- flutter
flutter...)

I'm a Little Santa (Tune: "I'm A Little Teapot")



I'm a little Santa,
Short and fat,
Here is my beard,
And here is my
sack,
On Christmas
Eve,
I hop in my sleigh,
With a "Ho ho
ho"
I'm on my way.

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing
loud for all to hear.

Christmas games to get the whole family involved with



Shake the Jingle Bells—This game is a fantastic way to add some excitement. To play, create two holes in the sides of a tissue box, allowing your belt or string to go around your waist. Then, fill the opening with jingle bells. Set a timer, and watch the family race to shake out all the bells in 60 seconds. Supplies needed: Large jingle bells, Tissue box, Strong string or thin belt (or something else to tie the box to the waist)

Wrap the Christmas Tree—Get ready for a wild and wacky game that everyone will absolutely love! The idea is simple—select one family member to be the “Christmas tree” and see how quickly they can decorate themselves with garland. But here’s the fun part: use Christmas stickers as ornaments and top it off with a star. Supplies: Garland/tinsel, Ribbon, Christmas Stickers, Star



Present Straw race—The race is on to see who can blow their mini present across the finish line the quickest.



Snowman Shooters—This winter STEM activity will be enjoyed by all. Carefully cut off the bottom of a paper cup. Tie the balloon an cut the bottom off. Stretch it over the cup to make the snowman’s hat. Create a face on the cup and let the fun begin using marshmallows or cotton wool when you pull back the snowman’s hat

Christmas Obstacle Course—This easy Christmas game will provide tons of indoor obstacle fun. Just tape the garland to walls or tie between chairs, add in other skills such as crawling through or over objects too. Create a challenge where you have to navigate through it without touching or knocking into it such as crawling through a hoop without jingling the bells. You’ll be amazed at how much fun it is for the whole family – the perfect game with a Christmas twist! Supplies needed: Garland, tinsel, or ribbon, tape, bells, boxes, tunnels, hoops.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> ORNAMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> STAR TREE TOPPER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MISTLETOE | <input type="checkbox"/> REINDEER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GINGERBREAD MAN | <input type="checkbox"/> SWEATER |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> CANDY CANE | <input type="checkbox"/> SANTA |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> JINGLE BELLS | <input type="checkbox"/> RUDOLPH |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS COOKIE |

Try completing a scavenger hunt with your children, either around your home or out and about in the local community.

At Wilton, we have been busy in the preparations for Christmas. The children arrive each day eager to discover the new antics of our resident 'Elf' from the night before. We recently staged our Nativity play for the children from the dairy and barn, with a sizeable audience of parents and grandparents in attendance. The children sang with enthusiasm, and everyone did a splendid job of remembering their lines.



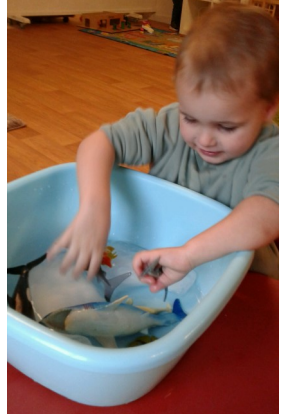
Parents were invited to a stay and play session, where they enthusiastically participated in helping the children make craft Christmas decorations. Children from all units have been busy creating delightful Christmas cards for their families. Featuring an array of handprints, paint, and glitter.

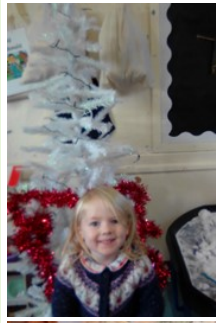


Meanwhile, the children in sunflower class, have made a splendid display of the nativity scene, with imaginative paintings of Mary, Joseph, and the angels. Our eagerly anticipated Christmas party is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to a special visit from Father Christmas, who will bring gifts for all the children.



This term has been busy in the preschool room, our kitchen is now in use and we've been enjoying making all sorts of delicious goodies, we've all been excited about the run up to Christmas making Christmas craft and decorating the room. Butterflies have enjoyed the Christmas sensory tray and practicing their skills on the soft play-rolling, jumping and sliding. All the children enjoyed a Christmas lunch and to finish off we took part in Mini Athletics completing some festive games. The Explorers have enjoyed an outing to see Paddington bear and to the park, they have also been busy making different Christmas craft and making Snowmen biscuits.

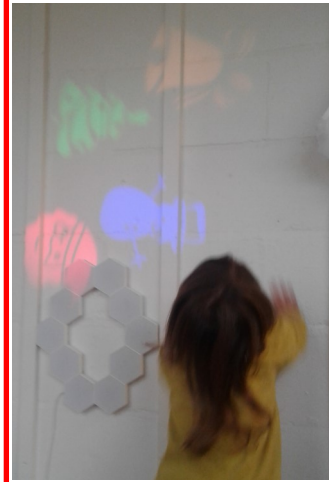




We have been celebrating many events such as Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance day, World nursery rhyme week and Children in need. We raised an astonishing £622 for Children in need by participating in a sponsored muddy puddle jump! Well done to all who participated and thank you to everyone who donated. We have been decorating the Nursery in red, green and gold, participating in lots of different Christmas sensory activities and reading Christmas stories. Some of the books were chosen by the children from the library bus that visits us regularly. We have been practicing our Christmas songs ready for our Christmas party next week. We have learnt the Makaton signs for one song in particular and we cannot wait to show our friends, families and the big man himself! We are fortunate to work in partnership with Holy Trinity C of E Primary Academy and last week, Anna Woodman (the Headteacher) came to visit us to read the Badger children a lovely story. They also invited us up to watch their Christmas Nativity dress rehearsal which we attended with some of our Badger children.



The children have also been exploring their creative sides through art work for their pen pals from Holy Trinity School. The children from the reception class/ year 1 will be visiting next week where we will all sing songs together and exchange the pen pal letters/pictures. This is a great way for us to maintain good links with the local primary school whilst also keeping in touch with the children who used to attend Old School Nursery.



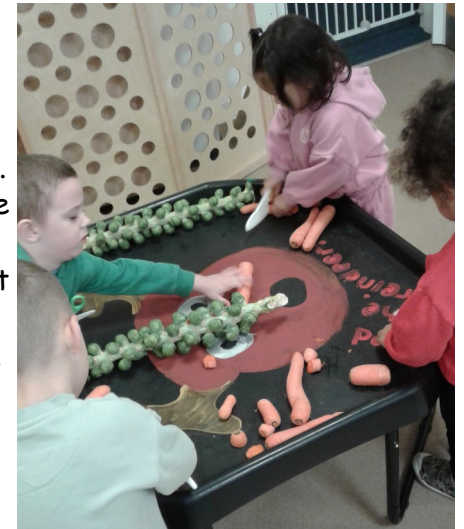
This term we have opened the glitter and embraced all things Christmas. The children have been developing their independent skills through feeding Rudolph, developing hand dexterity and muscle strength. Our exciting PE sessions in the

hall have helped the children to develop their balance and

coordination. We have also joined the reception class at Marden Vale to

undertake a joint Christmas craft afternoon. The children have been fascinated by cause and effect and how things work with the introduction of a range of sensory lights.

We are busy practising our Christmas songs ready for our Sing A-long later.



This past term at Bemerton has been brimming with enchantment and wonder and when a rare dusting of snow graced us, the Owl class eagerly ventured outdoors to witness the snowfall. The Owl and Squirrel classes embarked on a visit to town to admire the Christmas trees at St Thomas's Church. Parents from all three classes participated in a delightful craft morning, engaging in activities such as decorating biscuits, making reindeer food, crafting wreaths, and creating Christmas hanging mobiles. The children joyfully took part in Christmas Jumper Day and as a collective, the



nursery enjoyed a festive outing to the park, followed by popcorn and a Christmas film. We are all looking forward to our Christmas parties this week where we are hopeful for a visit from a very important man in a red suit!



We have been getting into the Christmas spirit by exploring a variety of winter and small world tuff trays. Creativity flows with different Christmas themed crafts including clay decorations, making their own Christmas



tree and helping to make props for their Christmas performance. The children worked really hard practicing their songs to put on an amazing show for their families to watch. We have been joined by the elves again this year, the children have enjoyed coming in to look for them and have been keen to share what their elves have been up to at home. We will be celebrating all the children's hard work and learning as well as capturing the excitement in our much anticipated Christmas party, which is only made possible with all of your generous contributions.



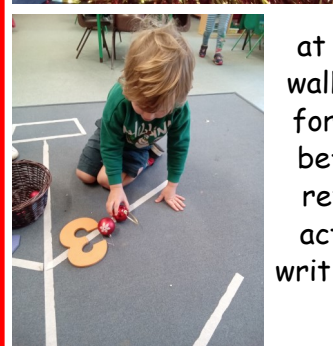


What a great finish to the

Christmas has arrived at Trinity, the children have enjoyed a variety of Christmassy craft using a large amount of glitter! The children were really involved in decorating the tree with so many baubles. We had a cake sale, which was a success, to raise funds for the children's Christmas lunch. The children invited their parents in for a great afternoon of more Christmas craft and a good time was had by all. For the end of term we are having a party with an entertainer and once again, all children and parents are invited. And for the grand finale of the term we will be enjoying a scrumptious Christmas lunch.



last term of the year.



Christmas is coming and everyone has been as busy as Santa's elves! Toddlers and babies have been exploring Christmas through their senses - they have been playing with furry stockings, crunchy paper, prickly tinsel and cold snow. They have also been painting

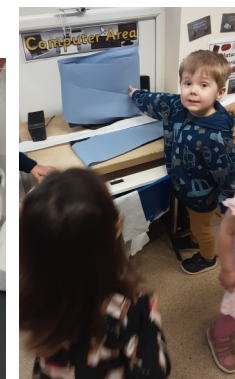
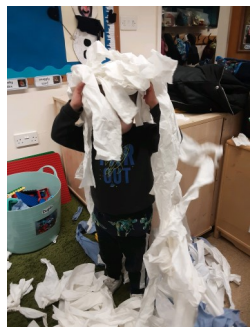
by rolling Christmas baubles around the messy tray. Lower Nursery have also been using Christmas as their theme. They have been throwing and catching snowballs and making cards and decorations. Upper Nursery have been looking

at Advent and Christmas. They have been on a group walk to the stables to see how cold and un-cosy it was for Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus to spend the night, before all performed the Nativity, singing songs and retelling the nativity story. Amongst lots of festive activities, they have been baking Christmas cookies, writing cards, wrapping presents and delivering them to fast asleep girls and boys!



The children have been really enjoying the Christmas activities and antics! We had a visit from the Christmas Elf, once the children had got over the shock of how the Elf had wrapped up the Blue room, the children soon found ways to extend their play through the remains of all the debris. On top of this the children

have enjoyed the book 'Aliens Love Panta Claus' resulting in decorating one of their trees with underpants alongside some hand made decorations. With a party and Nativity yet to come there has been lots of fun for everyone.



We have been very busy getting ready for Christmas. The children loved getting involved with decorating our Christmas tree and it has made our classroom feel very festive. There has been lots of glitter as the children made gifts to take home with them all completing the tasks individually and being able to use their own creative flare.

Every child dressed up as

Bethlem stars in the Nativity joined up with the School. After practicing the songs for the past few weeks, they sung with full voice in front of 2 big audiences. On our last week before Christmas, we have lots to look forward to—a Christmas disco with Disco Dion, dress up as an elf day, snow, presents and a Christmas dinner.





Ingredients; 200g Caster sugar, 175g plain flour: 175g/6oz plain flour, 50g cocoa powder, 1½ tsp baking powder, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda, pinch salt, 100ml sunflower oil, 2 large free-range eggs, 2 tbsp soured cream, 125ml boiling water, 200g unsalted butter, 400g icing sugar, 1–2 tbsp milk, 100g white ready-to-roll fondant icing, orange food colouring paste, red food colouring paste, 12 white marshmallows, black writing icing tube, 2 tsp desiccated coconut, 12 pretzel sticks, broken in half **Method;** Preheat oven to 170C/160C Fan/Gas 3½ and line muffin tin with paper cupcake cases. Sift sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a large bowl. Stir in sunflower oil, eggs and soured cream until smooth. Add boiling water and beat again until silky smooth. Pour evenly between the paper cupcake cases. Bake for 20–22 minutes until well risen. Leave to cool for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. To make the buttercream, beat the butter until pale and light, then gradually stir in icing sugar and milk until smooth. Make the snowman noses with 25g of the fondant icing. Add dots of orange food colouring paste using a wooden skewer and knead until completely orange. Roll into 12 carrot shapes about 1cm long. Leave to dry. Tint the remaining icing red using the food colouring paste. Dust work surface with icing sugar and roll into a rectangle. Slice into 12 strips to make the scarves. Use the black writing icing to draw eyes and a mouth onto each marshmallow and stick on the carrot. Spread buttercream on top of each cake and add marshmallow. Scatter desiccated coconut and push two pretzels in sides. Wrap the scarf around the neck of each marshmallow.

Ingredients; 50g light muscovado sugar, 50g dark muscovado sugar, 50g golden syrup, 150g butter, roughly chopped, 1 medium free-range egg, 300g plain flour, 1 tbsp ground ginger, 1 tbsp ground mixed spice: , 50g coloured hard boiled sweets, 20 strawberry laces, 15g dark/milk chocolate chopped, 10 mini peanut butter cups. **Method;** Put all sugar, golden syrup and butter in a saucepan. Set it over a medium heat and warm, stirring occasionally, until butter has melted and sugars have dissolved. Transfer to a large bowl and leave to cool for about 5 minutes before beating in egg. Sift over flour and then spices, mixing gently after each addition, to make a soft dough. Wrap dough in cling film and chill for several hours, preferably overnight. Remove dough from fridge 15–30 minutes before rolling. Split dough in half and roll out each piece between two sheets of baking parchment to the thickness of a £1 coin. Using a variety of round cutters, cut out discs. Use the end of a thin paintbrush handle, straw or cocktail stick to make a hole near the top. Make sure there is space between the baubles, then lift them (on their sheets of parchment), on to baking trays and refrigerate for 15 minutes. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4 while the biscuits are chilling. Meanwhile, crush the boiled sweets into small pieces. Remove the baubles from the fridge and use the star cutter to stamp out from the centre of each. Carefully remove stars and put on separate baking tray. Carefully put the crushed-up sweets inside the cut-out star shapes. Bake biscuits for 8–12 minutes or until the sweets have melted and the biscuits are deep golden-brown. Bake cut-out stars separately for about 5 minutes. Leave the biscuits to firm up on their trays until the melted sweets have set before transferring, on the parchment, to a wire rack to cool. Thread a strawberry lace through the hole in each bauble. Melt the chocolate in a microwave, dab a small amount on top of the biscuit and stick on peanut cup.

FESTIVE BAKES





Pom-pom pine cone Christmas tree decorations

You will need: fir cones, PVA glue, paintbrush, mini pom-poms, natural string. Use your paintbrush to add dabs of glue to your pine cone where you want the pom-poms to be. Once your glue is in position, add your mini pom-poms. Push each one gently into the glue, to give it a good chance of sticking. The shape of the pine cone should help to hold them in. Once the glue has dried, cut a length of string and tie it around the top of each pine cone. Aim to have the top of the pine cone in the middle of the length of string. Then tie both ends together to make a large loop.

Saltdough Christmas spice ornaments

You will need: 1 cup salt, 2 cups flour, 1 cup room temperature water, spices of your choice. Put all ingredients in a bowl and thread together until you have made a dough. Roll it out until roughly 1 cm thick. Using a round cookie cutter, cut out the shapes and using the end of a paintbrush, push a hole in the top to enable you to hang the decoration. Decorate your ornament with spices. Leave to dry. It will take about 3 days for your ornament to fully dry. After a day flip it over so it can also dry the underside. Once it is dry, add the string or twine and hang it onto the tree!



Stick star ornaments

You will need: Sticks of varying sizes, natural twine, ribbon, wooden beads. Use 5 fairly equal in length sticks. Fashion them in the shape of a star and glue edges together. Regular glue works ok, but has a longer dry time. Hot glue works best. Once dry wrap string, twine, or ribbon around the star. Wrap just the points of the star, wrap the individual twigs or wrap the whole thing. A fun variation would be to make tassels and attach them to the end of the points. If you don't have string or ribbon just paint that star or cover it in glitter (if you're brave). You could also paint the sticks/twine or add sequins to make them more colourful.



Printed tree Christmas cards

You will need: Large conifer branch, paper or card, paintbrush or sponge, green paint, PVA glue, decorations of your choosing. Once you have found your selected branch, cover one side of it with the paint by either brushing or sponging it on. Turn it over and squash it onto your chosen paper or card. Carefully peel it back and leave it to dry fully. Once dried, use sequins, wooden stars or whatever you and your child have selected to use. Dab the glue over the dried paint and spread it across the page to where you want the decorations to be. These gorgeous trees can be made into Christmas cards or framed and given as presents for family and friends.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS TO
MAKE AND DO**