

DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope this term has treated you and your child well, and you have managed to enjoy some of the Christmas related offerings from one of the schools. It was a real pleasure to support the MASKS Christmas Fayre a couple of weeks ago. Whilst it is always great to be raising money for the Federation, the sense of community at the event is worth at least as much as the funds raised. Welcoming children and families into Booker Park for the day was lovely, and it was great to see our children and young people take part in activities, along with parents getting some great bargains from some of the stalls. Of particular note was the raffle, with a vast array of excellent prizes. Thank you so much to all those that sold raffle tickets to friends and family, this was the most successful year in my experience – fuelled by some great prizes. Thanks to everyone involved in leaning on partners to provide some amazing gifts. The follow up at Stocklake the following week was also a great event, and thanks to everyone who supported students to make the arts and crafts on sale, and to those who bought them. To top £6,000 is a massive achievement, so special thanks to the MASKS team who worked so hard to put it all together.

You may have read in the news that OFSTED has quite significantly changed its framework over the past term. There are a number of changes, perhaps the most significant of which is that there won't be a single judgement for a school anymore, but there will be a report card which will state whether the school meets the expected standard in a number of areas, many of which are the same or similar to previous frameworks. One notable, and welcome, addition, is that of Inclusion, and the focus on SEND through inspections is a marked shift that rightly emphasises how schools support children and their special educational needs. It will be interesting to see what this looks like for schools such as ours, but we welcome this renewed focus and hope this champions the rights of our children across the education landscape. Both schools are due to be inspected, and we expect to see OFSTED in at least one of our schools in the upcoming term – although of course we are not privy to any exact scheduling. We will of course make you aware as soon as we know, and there will be an opportunity to express your views when they do call. Thanks to those parents who completed our survey just around half term – we'll be feeding back the results and themes from this in the new year.

Wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas.

Bradley



**Bradley
Taylor**
Principal



Finance Department **Update:**

We are excited to announce that there will be new updates coming to the Arbor app soon, such as - easier absence reporting and school meals updates. See the poster below for more information:

Coming to your App soon

- Improved Communications
- Easier Absence Reporting
- School Meals updates

A smartphone screen displaying the Arbor Parent Portal app. The app has a logo consisting of four overlapping circles in orange, green, yellow, and light green. Below the logo, the text 'ARBOR Parent Portal' is visible. The app menu includes four items: 'Dashboard' with a grid icon, 'Attendance' with a checkmark icon, 'Payments' with a warning triangle icon, and 'Communications' with a speech bubble icon. Each item has a right-pointing chevron.

COMING SOON



Booker Park

Message from the Head of School

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate everything the children have achieved. December is always a special time in school, and this year has been no exception.

One of our highlights has been our Christmas production of The Wiggly Nativity. It was wonderful to see children taking part in their own way whether performing, joining in with songs, or simply sharing the excitement of the occasion. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and joy made it a truly heart-warming event, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

As we finish the term, we also say goodbye to two valued members of the teaching staff.

- We wish the very best to Sara Andreopoulos, who has been with us this term. We thank her for her work with the children during her time here and wish her well for the future.
- We also say a fond farewell to Mel Wood, who has been part of our school family for six years. Throughout that time, she has taught a wide range of children and has had a lasting impact on so many pupils, families, and colleagues. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and the difference she has made.

We thank them both for their contributions and wish them every success in their next steps.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Our school is at its best when we work in partnership, and we are so grateful for the trust you place in us every day.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Marianne



**Marianne
Murphy**
Head of School



Class Updates

Dove Class

Dove class have had a great time in the 'We are explorers' topic this term! We have enjoyed playing with small world animals and vehicles and created a car wash, which we quite liked to splash about in too! We have made messy marks with cars in paint, created an ocean in a bottle, made natural collages and tried to rescue small world animals from being frozen in the ice.

Dove Class Team





Class Updates

Raven Class

In Raven class we have had a busy term so far! We have had lots of fun with sensory stories, sensory cooking sessions, music storytelling, body awareness sessions and so much more! As our theme has been 'Let's explore!', we have had a sensory story about exploring space and about diving into the deep sea. We have also been exploring the seven seas while going on a treasure hunt with our treasure Island musical story on the resonance boards.

This is the term full of celebration and in Raven we have enjoyed making the most of these! From the Halloween/Autumn celebration to the 5th of November, Children in Need and recently the Winter/Christmas celebration – they have all brought lots of fun and sensory exploration. Everyone in Raven wishes you all a Merry Christmas if you are celebrating and a very happy new year to all. 2026 we are ready to take you on with all the great moments, memories and laughs you are sure to bring!

Raven Class Team





Stocklake Park

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements of our students and the way they have truly embodied our school values:

Inspire, Enable, Achieve.

Our new curriculum has provided exciting opportunities for creativity and growth. Students have produced stunning art pieces inspired by the vibrant work of Yayoi Kusama, showcasing their imagination and individuality. They have also engaged in meaningful experiences during Parliament Week, casting their votes and learning about democracy in action.

Work-related learning has been a real highlight, with students creating beautiful items for our Christmas craft stalls, running our internal library, and managing the tuck shop - developing independence and practical skills along the way. Our new school-based library has been a hub of activity, with classes enjoying reading challenges and shared reading sessions that have sparked a love for books. These experiences are not only enjoyable but also vital steps in Preparation for Adulthood, fostering confidence, responsibility, and enterprise.

Beyond the classroom, students have accessed the community with confidence and enthusiasm. From celebrating the IntoFilm Festival at the cinema to visiting local cafés, parks, and shops, and even enjoying a festive Christmas lunch, these experiences have enriched their learning and strengthened life skills.

Most importantly, we have seen the power of strong relationships between staff and students. These connections are at the heart of everything we do, creating a supportive environment where every learner feels valued and empowered.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to building on these successes in the new year and continuing to inspire, enable, and achieve together.



Rhonda Gosney
Head of School

Rhonda



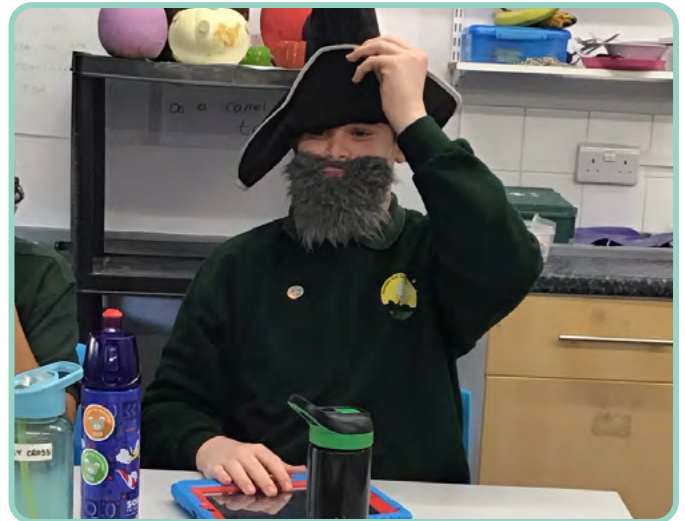
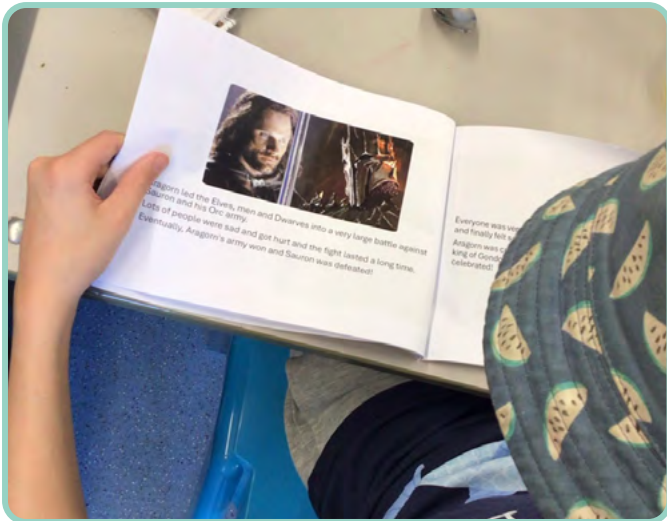
Class Updates

Bocelli Class

This term the topic in Bocelli class has been 'Adventures' and we have been focusing on an adapted version of the story - The Lord of the Rings. We have done lots of amazing learning centred around this theme such as making Hobbit doors in Art, dancing to different parts of the story in Write Dance, developing our independence when trying on dressing up in Life Skills, and making predictions about the story in English.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break filled with lots of fun.

Bocelli Class Team





Class Updates

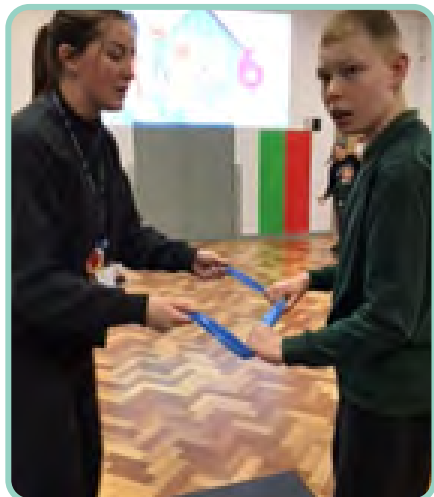
Wonder Class

What a wonderful autumn term we've had!

In September, we explored the theme of 'Africa'—sharing traditional and modern stories, and diving into the smells, tastes, sounds, and textures from across the continent. After half term, our adventures took us into 'Fantasy and Fairytale'. We've told magical tales of wizards and dragons, wandered through enchanted forests, mixed up potions, and even created our own Helicopter Stories featuring wizards, frogs, and trips to McDonald's in search of a cure! Alongside all this creativity, we've been busy with Phonics, Maths, plenty of Music, and of course Physio for those who need it, plus PE for everyone.

Our thoughts then turned to Christmas! We've enjoyed the festive decorations and crafts and are looking forward to celebrating together. Everyone has worked so hard this term - they truly deserve a fantastic break.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday too. Merry Christmas from all of us in Wonder Class!





Class Updates

Turing Class

This term in Turing class was filled with excitement, creativity, and lots of learning. Our wonderful students took part in the Christmas Fayre, proudly contributing to the celebrations and enjoying the festive atmosphere. Their smiles and enthusiasm truly brought the event to life. In our lessons, students explored Maths in a fun and interactive way by using props to understand numbers. They listened to engaging stories, experimented in the cooking area, and enjoyed various sensory activities that helped them learn through touch, sound, and movement. Each activity encouraged curiosity and supported their learning in a hands-on, meaningful way.

Throughout the term, the students showed fantastic participation, teamwork, and confidence. They worked beautifully with teachers and friends, helping one another and celebrating each other's efforts. It has been wonderful to see their growing independence, enthusiasm, and joy in every lesson. We are incredibly proud of all their achievements this term!

Turing Class Team





Class Updates

Thompson Class

We have had a good and busy term in Thompson class. We have been very busy from making lots of things to sell for the Christmas Fayre, cooking staff lunches, as well as at the charity shop, coffee morning and tuck shop for our work experience and independence. We also enjoyed our trip to Milton Keynes and our Xmas lunch at the pub.

Thompson Class Team





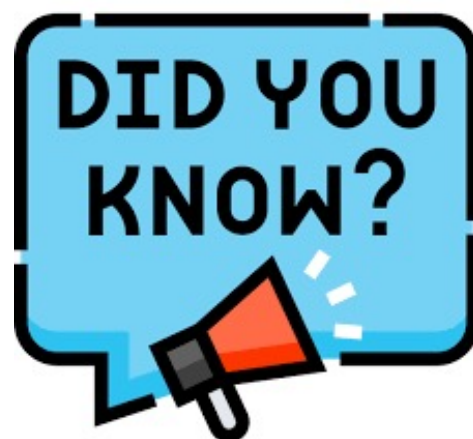
Class Updates

Webster Class

Webster class have had a great 2nd Autumn half term. We have been enjoying our regular work experience placements at Berko Hockey club and Scope in Aylesbury, as well as our regular community visits. Our young men are enjoying the independence we encourage in 6th form, and they have been making great choices when out and about. We all really enjoyed our trip to Milton Keynes to see the Christmas lights and our Christmas themed pub meal at 'The Weavers'. As can be expected at this time of the year, the classroom looked suitably festive.

Webster Class Team





We offer exclusive hire of our soft play centre!

Soft Play - 3 hour hire time

Mon- Fri £100 plus VAT - School holidays only

Sat - Sun £112.50 plus VAT

Additional hours on request

Capacity: up to 20, Maximum number of children on the equipment at one time is 5. No children over 8 years old

Includes: Exclusive Use/Toilets/Tables & Chairs

For further information please contact
facilitiesbookings@thevalefederation.com



Discounts

for young people with SEND



There are various schemes and charities which can help save money if your child has an additional or special need.

Max Card

[Max Card](#) is a national, local authority-commissioned discount initiative for looked after children and children with additional needs aged 0 to 19 years. The scheme enables families to visit hundreds of attractions across the UK at a free or discounted rate.

[Sign up](#) to the Disabled Children Register to receive a card for free.

Merlin's Magic Wand

[Merlin's Magic Wand](#) offers magical days out at Merlin Entertainments attractions such as Legoland, Sea Life Centres and Madame Tussauds. They welcome applications on behalf of children aged 2 to 18 years with a confirmed serious illness/long term illness, disability or disadvantage.

CEA Card

[CEA Card](#) enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

Access Card

The [Access Card](#) translates your disability/impairment into symbols that highlight the barriers you face and the reasonable adjustments you might need. It then informs providers quickly and discreetly about the support you need and may gain you access to things like concessionary ticket prices and complex reasonable adjustments without having to go into loads of personal detail.

It costs £15 for three years.

For more local and national discount schemes visit the [Discounted sport, entertainment and travel page](#).



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BILLS

2 Kids Eat Free on Boxing day 2025

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat FREE from Fri 19th Dec – Sun 6th Jan 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARSTONS PUBS

from 29th Dec - Jan 9th 2026 in selected locations

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

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Foodbanks

and food sharing

Here is a list of Foodbanks in Buckinghamshire. To get a foodbank referral and vouchers speak to your Family Centre, Health Visitor or Social Worker or local Citizens Advice office.

You can also use the [Trussell Trust's website](#) to find its 400-strong network of Foodbanks.

Aylesbury - Store House

[Storehouse](#) helps anyone in need by providing food and other items like furniture and clothing to people on low incomes, benefits or who are in temporary hardship.

Areas covered: Aylesbury Vale area.

Referral or voucher needed.

Aylesbury Foodbank

[Aylesbury Foodbank](#) provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to people with a voucher or referral.

Areas covered: Aylesbury.

Referral or voucher needed.

FoodCycle Aylesbury

[FoodCycle](#) Aylesbury welcomes anyone to attend as a guest and enjoy a FREE hot meal. No need to book. Just turn up on the day!

Come and enjoy company and conversation with others from your local area over a delicious meal, prepared with care by FoodCycle volunteers.

Areas covered: Aylesbury and the surrounding areas.

No Referral or voucher needed.

Berryfields Community Store

Berryfields Community Store is open each Thursday morning from 10.30am for anyone in a financial crisis. For a £5 donation, you can choose 25 items of food including fresh meat, vegetables and household items (depending on available stock).

The address is Roman Park, Sir Henry Lee Crescent, HP18 0YT. For further information please contact help@romanparktrust.org.uk.

Areas covered: Aylesbury

No referral or voucher needed

Beaconsfield - Hope Community Drop-in

[Hope Community Drop-in](#) is a drop-in service where local people referred by doctors or social services can receive an emergency food package. The drop-in runs every Friday at the Holts spur Youth Club building from 8:45 am to midday.

Areas covered: Beaconsfield and neighbouring villages.

Referral or voucher needed.

Burnham - Care and Share Food Distribution Project

Burnham Health Promotion Trust (BHPT) [Care and Share food distribution project](#) is a collaborative community initiative which offers pre-filled food bags and a voucher to buy fresh fruit and vegetables.

Voucher needed.



Foodbanks

and food sharing

Chiltern - Chiltern Foodbank

Chiltern Foodbank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to people with a voucher or referral.

Areas covered: *The Chiltern District and nearby surrounding areas such as Wendover.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Chesham Community Fridge

Chesham Community Fridge distributes free surplus food that is good to eat to anyone who comes to the Fridge. There is no referral or voucher needed. Chesham Community Fridge is open Wednesday and Saturday mornings in the yard behind Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham.

Areas covered: *Chesham.*
No referral or voucher needed.

High Wycombe - One Can

One Can provide free, nutritious food parcels to those deemed 'in crisis' by their partner organisations.

Areas served: *High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Wycombe Community Fridge

Wycombe Community Fridge shares food locally with anyone and everyone regardless of income or means. No referrals are needed.

No referral or voucher needed.

Wycombe Food Hub

Wycombe Food Hub collects crates of unsold food like bread, fruit, vegetables, chilled and frozen foods every week from supermarkets, farms and shops. The products are then made available to people unable to buy food.

No referral or voucher needed but food is available for a small donation.

Milton Keynes - The MK Foodbank

The MK Foodbank provide food parcels that can be picked up from one of their serving sessions located around the city. Clients can receive a food parcel 5 times within a rolling 12-month period.

Areas served: *Milton Keynes.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Thame Food Bank

Thame foodbank provides emergency supplies of essential food items to those in the community who are struggling financially.

Areas covered: *Thame.*
Referral needed.

Wendover

- Wendover Free Church Foodbank

Wendover Free Church Foodbank provides food parcels for the local area.

Areas served: *Wendover and neighbouring villages.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Wing Foodbank

Areas covered: *Wing*
No referral needed.

Not in Buckinghamshire but nearby

Rickmansworth Foodbank

Rickmansworth Foodbank provides food parcels for the local area.

Areas served: *Rickmansworth and nearby towns and villages.*
Referral or voucher needed.