



Friday 5th December 2025

Headteachers report of the week

The Christmas spirit has truly come alive in our school thanks to our very own Christmas Fairy, Alison! All week long, she has been spreading joy and festive fun with laughter, creativity.

From sparkling decorations to exciting activities, the fairy's magical touch has made this week unforgettable. Learners have enjoyed pass the parcel, snowball dodgeball and sharing in the warmth of the season, creating memories that will last well beyond Christmas.

Learners have been going around the school making hot chocolate. The idea is simple but powerful: learners preparing hot chocolate for fellow learners creates a sense of community, kindness, and togetherness. It's more than just a drink; it's a gesture of care and friendship. As the rich aroma of chocolate filled the air, conversations flowed, laughter echoed, and bonds grew stronger.

Why hot chocolate? Hot chocolate is a symbol of comfort and celebration. It's easy to make, fun to share, and perfect for sparking festive cheer. Whether topped with marshmallows, whipped cream, or a sprinkle of cinnamon, each cup became a little gift of happiness. The spirit behind the activity isn't just about warming hands; it's about warming hearts. By taking time to make something for someone else, learners experience the joy of giving, teamwork, and spreading positivity during the holiday season.

So, let's raise our mugs to kindness, connection, and the magic of Christmas! Here's to learners making learners smile, one hot chocolate at a time.

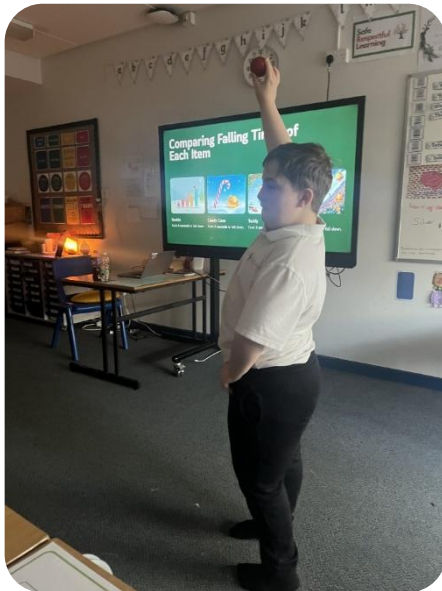
A huge thank you to our Christmas Fairy for bringing so much happiness and sparkle to our school community. What a wonderful way to start the countdown to Christmas!

Best wishes

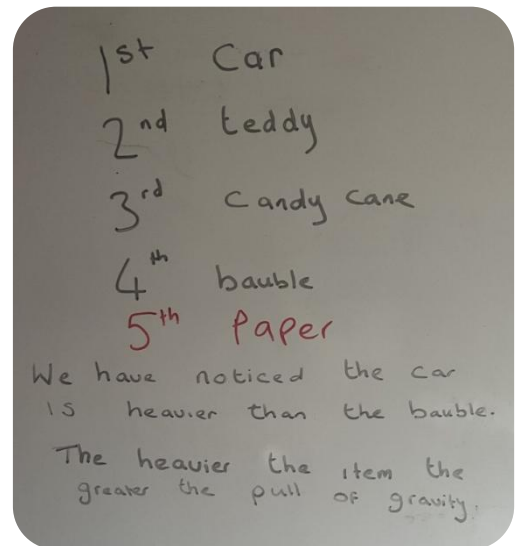
Jules



In science we have been learning about Gravity we tailored this session and made it Christmas themed by dropping baubles and candy canes. We compared the data and made our conclusion.

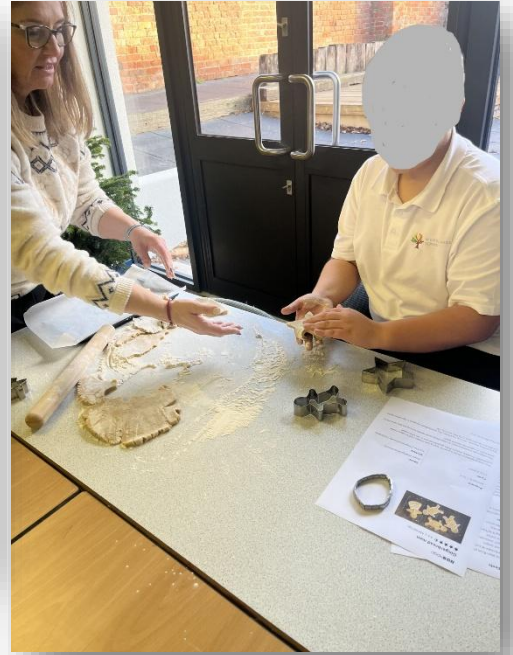


- Sian



In Olive for PSHE we discussed personal hygiene and ways to keep healthy and clean. We talked about different items available on the market and talked about the offences between body spray and Antiperspirants

- Helen



Sugar and spice and all things nice was definitely the theme for this cooking lesson. Bobby and Ethan loved baking and decorating gingerbread men, and we all loved the smell of the kitchen!

- Sian





It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Acorns 3 lots of festive fun has been had from a visit from some mischievous elves, creating Santa stop here signs, creating gingerbread tree decs and decorating primary's Christmas tree.

- Sian





Acorns 2 played
pass the parcel
with all of Primary
and won some
prizes!
- Natalie D



The festive season arrived a little early this year as Santa Claus paid a special trial visit to our school!

Saplings 4 made ginger and cinnamon biscuits and cut them into different Christmas shapes, after baking and cooling they decorated them to take home.

- Debbie J



Our Christmas Fairy Sprinkles Festive Magic!



Christmas tree with the special Christmas fairy
(Alison) doing the honours of the star.



Our learners from Nest are bringing warmth and joy in the simplest, sweetest way by making hot chocolate for each other! Nothing says Christmas spirit quite like sharing a comforting cup of cocoa on a chilly winter day.





The Christmas Quiz is here!
This cheerful challenge is the perfect way to
celebrate the season, test your festive
knowledge, and share a few laughs with friends.



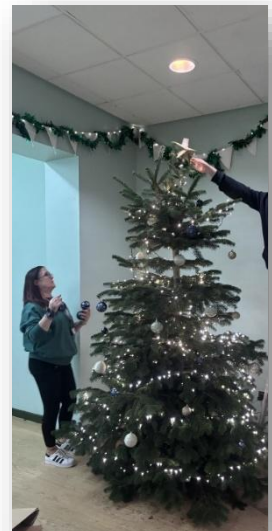
This Christmas, we're bringing back one of the most loved party traditions—**Pass the Parcel!** It's the perfect way to spread laughter, excitement, and a little holiday magic among friends.

How It Works

Players sit in a circle and pass a beautifully wrapped parcel while the music plays. When the music stops, the person holding the parcel unwraps a layer to reveal a surprise! The game continues until the final layer is opened and the grand prize is revealed.



There's something magical about the moment you find the perfect Christmas tree. It's not just about the tree, it's about the excitement, the laughter, and the memories made along the way. This year, we're encouraging everyone to embrace the joy of this festive tradition!





Olive Group added their own delicious twist to the festivities by making homemade pizzas! The smell of freshly baked dough and tasty toppings filled the air, and everyone agreed—they were absolutely scrumptious. It was a wonderful way to mix festive fun with culinary creativity.



Nothing says Christmas quite like meeting Santa's very own helpers, **the reindeers!** This season, our learners from Oaks had the wonderful opportunity to visit these gentle, majestic creatures and experience a little piece of festive magic up close.



Acorns 2 made honeycomb and topped it off with some chocolate to make their own crunchie chocolate.

- Natalie D



Olive group filled the kitchen with the sweet aroma of freshly baked cookies! A celebration of teamwork, creativity and festive fun!



Our learners from Saplings 2 took baking to the next level by creating **cookies with a gooey centre**, soft on the outside, rich and melty on the inside! These indulgent treats were the perfect way to celebrate the season and learn some fun baking skills.

The Secret to Gooey Goodness

The trick is simple: bake the cookies just long enough to set the edges while keeping the centre soft and warm. Some learners even added chocolate chunks or caramel for that extra festive surprise!

Why We Loved It

- Deliciously soft and chewy texture
- A fun, hands-on activity for everyone
- Perfect for sharing with friends and family



Morgan wanted to get out the bus to stroke the donkeys and horses. Leighton was encouraged by Morgan to stroke a donkey for the first time!!



Hasan taught Acorns 2 how to feed Willow, our Corn Snake and how to do it safely
- Natalie D



Our learners enjoyed an inspiring and thought-provoking trip, combining the beauty of nature with a powerful message of peace.

Learners explored the stunning grounds of Attingham Park, taking in the crisp winter air and the festive sights. From historic architecture to scenic walks, it was a chance to appreciate the outdoors, learn about local heritage, and share moments of joy together.

The week continued with something truly impactful, the Knife Angel sculpture. Standing tall and striking, this national monument is made from thousands of surrendered knives and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of ending violence and promoting kindness. Learners reflected on its message and discussed how communities can work together for a safer future.





Fun for the whole family



Woodlands school
Part of the Marches Academy Trust



Christmas
BAZAAR



THURSDAY

DEC

18

12 PM - 2PM

FOOD STALL | GAMES | HANDMADE GIFTS | CRAFTS AND MORE

Woodlands
School





Marches Academy Trust

The Marches Academy Trust
Trust Central, c/o Grange Primary School,
Bainbridge Green, Shrewsbury, SY1 3QR
T. 01691 684415
E. trustadmin@mmat.co.uk
W. marchesacademytrust.co.uk
CEO: Sarah Finch BA, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

01/12/2025

Re: Westcliffe Federation Schools Join Marches Academy Trust

The Marches Academy Trust is delighted to announce that the Westcliffe Federation schools, St Andrew's CE Primary School, ~~Kninley~~ Kninley CE Primary School, West Felton CE Primary School and Weston ~~Lullingfields~~ Lullingfields CE Primary School officially joined the Trust on 1st December 2025.

This marks an exciting period of growth for the Trust, strengthening its commitment to delivering exceptional education and fostering collaboration across Shropshire. By joining the Marches Academy Trust, these schools will benefit from shared expertise, innovative curriculum development and enhanced opportunities for children, young people and staff alike.

Sarah Finch, CEO of the Marches Academy Trust, said "We are thrilled to welcome the Westcliffe Federation schools into our family. This partnership reflects our shared vision of Achievement Through Caring and our dedication to providing outstanding educational experiences for every child. Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate and create opportunities that inspire and empower our communities."

The integration of these schools will enable greater collaboration through enrichment activities, sporting events and shared resources, ensuring a dynamic and supportive learning environment for all.

For more information about the Trust, please visit <https://www.marchesacademytrust.co.uk>.



What's on in December Oswestry Early Help Coffee and Chat

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday 4 th December 2025 | Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help team • Health Visitor clinic • Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service • Star Housing • Jess from the Parenting Team | Look what's on today.... Stay and play. Join us for Christmas card making Jennifer from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support |
| Thursday 11 th December 2025 | Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Jess from the parenting team | Look what's on today.... Stay and play. Christmas tree finger painting & Christmas card making |
| Thursday 18 th December 2025 | Who can I talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help team • Health Visitor clinic • Neonatal Team Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership • Star Housing • Jess from the Parenting Team | Look what's on today.... Stay and play. Join us for some Christmas themed messy play & Junk Modelling Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support |

Free sessions
 You do not need a child to attend the session to access family help.
 Safe, comfortable, confidential and informal space to talk.
 Early Help Family support workers available to chat to every week.
We look forward to seeing you

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you peace, joy, and well-being during this festive season and as we welcome the new year.
 We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 8th January 2026.



Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry.
 SY11 1JN
 9.30 until 12.00



What's on in December at Market Drayton Early Help Coffee and Chat

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Tuesday 2 nd December 2025 | Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor • Stop Smoking | Look what's on today.... Stay and Play - Christmas Crafts |
| Tuesday 9 th December 2025 | Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 early help • Shropshire domestic abuse service • Early help team • Employment Advisor • Stop Smoking | Look what's on today.... Stay and Play - Christmas Crafts Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support |
| Tuesday 16 th December 2025 | Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor • Stop Smoking | Look what's on today.... Stay and Play Sensory Session |
| Tuesday 23 rd December 2025 | Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • 0-5 Early Help • Early Help team • Stop Smoking | Look what's on today.... Stay and Play Christmas Party Fiona from the 0-5 team will be on hand for any support |
| Tuesday 30 th December 2025 | Who can you talk to today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help Team • Employment advisor – Appointment only | Look what's on today.... Stay and Play - New Year Crafts |

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Raven House, 129 Cheshire Street, Market Drayton TF9 3AH
 9.30 until 12.30





THE POLAR EXPRESS

Saturday 20th December.

10:00am



Relaxed Screening



What to expect:

- Low lighting throughout the screening so you can move around if needed
- Reduced sound levels for a more comfortable experience
- No trailers—just the film!
- Trained Ushers available to support those with SEN needs
- Perfect for children, young people and families looking for a gentle, supportive environment to enjoy the magic of cinema.



Sponsored by



WICKED FOR GOOD

Saturday 20th December.

1:30 pm



Relaxed Screening

What to expect:

- Low lighting throughout the screening so you can move around if needed
- Reduced sound levels for a more comfortable experience
- No trailers—just the film!
- Trained Ushers available to support those with SEN needs
- Perfect for children, young people and families looking for a gentle, supportive environment to enjoy the magic of cinema.



AUTUMN TERM

SEND MEET & CHAT FAMILY DROP-IN

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help









Do you care for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?

These sessions are open to anyone supporting a child with SEND — whether you're a parent carer, family member, or professional.

Come along to ask questions, get practical advice, and connect with professionals who understand your journey

Speak with experts in:

-  EHCPs
-  School support
-  Health and wellbeing
-  Social care
-  Mental health
-  Navigating SEND challenges

Each session will have different professionals available, so come along, have a chat, and find the help you need.

RAVEN HOUSE

Tuesday 23rd September 2025
2:00pm-4:00pm

Raven House,
129 Cheshire Street,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AH

BRIDGNORTH LIBRARY

Tuesday 14th October 2025
1:00pm-3:00pm

Bridgnorth Library,
Listley Street, Town Centre,
Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW

THE LANTERN

Thursday 13th November 2025
10:00am-12:00pm

The Lantern,
Meadow Farm drive,
Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

OSWESTRY LIBRARY

Thursday 4th December 2025
1:00pm-3:00pm

Oswestry Library,
Arthur Street,
Oswestry, SY11 1JN



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Scan the QR code to suggest topics and activities for future drop-in sessions.

Does your child struggle with their sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

Sleep Tight Group Monday 12th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Thursday 15th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

Sleep Tight SEND Group Monday 23rd February 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Tuesday 24th February 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Crowmoor Primary School

The groups run for 5 weeks excluding the school holidays

SEND groups are for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 250950

Find out more here



Understanding your child

From toddler to teen

- Would you like to know more about your child's development?
- Do you need help and support to understand your child's behaviour?
- Would you like a chance to meet with other parents and carers with children of a similar age?

Join us for one of our free virtual or face to face groups, our next groups start:

Understanding Your Child Group 12th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am St Giles Primary, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 13th January 2026 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm Little Explorers, Ditton Priors

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 14th January 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm Severdale Academy

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm St Lawrence Primary, Church Stretton

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 9.00am to 11.00am Clee Hill Community Academy

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 16th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

SEND groups are for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email
Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at:
inourplace.co.uk/shropshire





Headteacher Awards



- **Ethan** – Being a valued member of Acorns 3 and transitioning well into Woodlands
- **Kiara-Leigh** – Settling into school seamlessly
- **Leo Gi** – A very focussed and productive week



Woodlands Shout Outs



- **Charlie** has engaged well with his maths this week –
Well done Charlie!
- **Shout out to Lexi** who has settled well in her new group
– Well done Lexi!
- **McKenzie** took responsibility and apologised to staff –
Fantastic McKenzie! Well done!
- **Leighton and Morgan** had a fantastic time at Attingham
– Brilliant engagement boys!

- **Zane made a good choice to move away from a dysregulated learner – Superstar Zane!**
- **Lincoln gave Chloe a cookie as a way of an apology – Amazing Lincoln, well done!**
- **Lincoln offered me some of his cooking – Really kind Lincoln well done!!**
- **Leo gave Simon some cookies – And we know they would have tasted amazing! – Well done Leo that was really kind!**
- **Eliza, Leo's and Tyler ST did a fantastic job choosing the Woodlands Christmas tree**
- **Morgan completed his Functional Skills English Level 2 – Great work Morgan!**
- **Sophie has been fantastic in Art – Superstar Sophie!! Well done!**
- **Shout out to Rhys for finding our first elf! And receiving a prize!**
- **Morgan, Corey, Leighton & Tyler were great at Haughmond hill this morning – Amazing boys and in the rain!**
- **Josh and Noah were very thoughtful and kind towards Frankie – checking in that he was ok – Amazing friends!! – We're very proud of you!**
- **Tyler ST and Riley showed their trampoline skills in Activities on Friday – Well done boys, you've obviously been working hard!**

Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk

- **If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.**
- **Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.**

Why not follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsShropshire/>

Or

Take a look at our website!

www.woodlands.school

Or

Join the conversation - We love hearing from you! Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions with us.

rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk

If you need to contact us out of normal school hours, please either email on the above address

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>