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Weekly Newsletter: wb 15th December 2025

So it is the last week before we break up for Christmas... It has been a very busy term and it has really flown. If I don't see you this week, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget that we return to school on Monday 5th January!

After-School Provision

I am aware that many parents are facing a potential challenge re. childcare after Christmas due to reduced capacity at Dragon Friends after-school club. We were hoping to have launched our own wraparound provision by this point but this has been delayed for reasons beyond our control. I am in communication with Jill, our Trust, Sheffield City Council and our preferred provider and hope to bring you some good news soon. I will keep you posted as soon as I know more. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Reception 2026 applications

If your child is due to start school in September 2026, you will need to apply by the **15th January 2026**. If you are yet to do this, you can do it online here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/how-apply-school-sheffield/apply-reception>. If you have any questions (or would like to look around the school), feel free get in touch via email on headteacher@wharcliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk. Please tell your friends too!

Term dates for 2026-27

It is during these cold, dark winter months when people often start planning holidays to give themselves something to look forward to. With that in mind, we thought it would be useful to share our term dates (and INSET days) for 2026-27 – please find them alongside this newsletter.

Parent Governor Vacancy – message from our Chair of Governors

The School Governing Board at Wharcliffe Side currently has a vacancy for an additional Parent Governor. I think we all want see our school develop in ways that offer the best experience and opportunity for the children. The views of parents and carers are critical to the work of the Governing Board. This role also offers an opportunity for you to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face. The only real requirement is an interest in helping to make the school even better for the children. We meet for two hours on a Monday night six times a year.

If you are interested I, or Lisa Almond (a current Parent Governor) would be happy to chat through the role and invite you to attend a meeting to get a feel for the work of the Board.

David Chinchin (Chair of Governors), chair@wharcliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk

Community News

- We raised £94.70 for **Save the Children** through last week's Christmas Jumper Day.
- Thank you to **The Wharcliffe Arms** who are raising money for us via their Christmas Raffle; which will take place on Wednesday 17th December. Good luck to all of those who have bought tickets!
- **Oughtibridge Parish Church** have very generously donated gift vouchers worth £25 to each of our families on Free School Meals. If you qualify for this, you will receive a separate message on ReachMore about how to claim.

Cleaning job at Nook Lane School

One of the schools in our Trust, Nook Lane Junior School, have a vacancy for a new cleaner. Please see advert sent alongside this newsletter for more information (note the closing date is 19th December).

Things to do

See attachments for the latest Children's University Newsletter, Yoga newsletter and information about a new 'Steel City Dodgeball Club'.

Mr Gaughan

Nurturing confidence, nurturing potential, nurturing success.



Celebrating Achievement



Well done to the following children:

- ★ **Bronze:** Oscar B (Ash); Joseph (Willow); Tori, Theo R (Sycamore); Poppy (Oak)
- ★ **Silver:** Lexxi, Theo F (Ash); Lacey, Astrid, Eser (Rowan); Joely, Caleb F (Sycamore); Eloise (Oak)
- ★ **Gold:** Alfie (Willow); Cameron (Rowan)
- ★ **Nursery Stars of the Week:** Chance & Atlantis (Seedlings); Nova & Leo (Saplings)
- ★ **Attendance winners:** Overall, attendance was a slightly improved 94.2% last week. The winning classes were Willow (KS1) with 98.8% and Sycamore (KS2) with 97.7%.
- ★ **House Point winners:** Europe won the house point trophy for the 3rd time this half-term!

This week's 'School Standard' is: Being confident in myself



This week's birthdays: Tori (10), Harriet (9), Elena (4), Ross (11)
 Birthdays over the Christmas period: Dolly-Grey (4), Kwontay (11),
 Nova (4), Theo P (4), Rory P (3), Ella (5), Xander (7), Charlie (11)

What's Happening?

Little Seedlings are doing stories for talking about Santa.

Saplings are doing helicopter stories.

Ash are working together to make an information book all about Captain Scott.

Meanwhile, the Y1s are doing a progress check on their phonics... hopefully they will be able to apply what they've been learning.

Willow have loved reading their class book: 'The Penguin who wanted to find out' by Jill Tomlinson

KS2 children in The Learning Zone are choosing which type of bear they'd like to write a factfile about.

Rowan are writing their own poems based on 'The Sound Collector'

Sycamore have been comparing different settlements in their history lessons.

Oak are writing newspaper reports about the Viking attacks on Lindisfarne.

Meanwhile, KS2 had an 'Assessment Week' last week to help the teachers measure progress and plan for next term. As always, we encourage the children to just try their best and not worry!

