



## Red Kite Special Academy Newsletter

Friday 19th December

Dear Families,

It's been a joyous, purposeful and busy term 2. The pupils have enjoyed engaging in a variety of learning activities and experiences and these last two weeks we have all really enjoyed embracing all things Christmas!

### Careers Week

We held our first careers week the week beginning 8th December. We focused on the Health and Beauty sector.

Here is a note from Ania our Careers Lead:

*This year we invited the Air Ambulance service, the Red Cross to deliver First Aid Training for Teens and a hospital nurse. The pupils had a unique opportunity to learn about medical helicopter journeys, use a defibrillator, learn CPR and use medical equipment such as a blood pressure monitor, stats readers and a stethoscope.*

*For the beauty sector, the pupils had the opportunity to use hair styling practice heads, make up practice faces and nail painting hand kits.*

*All the sessions were very practical and engaging.*

*We received wonderful feedback from the Air Ambulance.*

'Good morning Ania, I just wanted to thank you for the warm welcome I received during my visit on Monday. It was a pleasure to be there, thank you for arranging the visit. We would love to continue our partnership with your school so hopefully we can be there for careers week again next year.

### Christmas Fayre

On Friday 12th December we welcomed families to our annual Christmas fayre. Our Secondary pupils had set up the most wonderful stalls with goods that they had made to sell. There were decorated lanterns, cakes and treats, handmade wrapping paper, cards, tree ornaments, Christmas decorations, a raffle and more! The students were really proud to sell their wares and the money made will support classes in their enrichment activities. A special thank you to the parents and staff who bought and made items to sell, and the helpers who were very busy on our ever popular chocolate tombola stall! It was lovely to see so many of our families enjoying this event together, and fantastic practice for our students in selling items they had designed, costed and then made.

### Pantomime

Our Secondary pupils enjoyed watching Peter Pan when we had a visiting pantomime on the 9th December. It was lovely to see pupils' joy and the confidence in the pupils who took a more active part.

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### Care Home Tour

A note from Jason

*On Monday 8th December, Poppies and Hedgehogs classes were treated to a wonderful mini tour of local care homes. We visited Seagrave Care Home and Glenmoor Care Home in Corby, where the pupils sang, played musical instruments, and spent time entertaining the residents.*

*We were welcomed with open arms at both homes, and the pupils were an absolute privilege to take. They made everyone at Red Kite incredibly proud. It was truly heart-warming to see the pupils not only performing, but also taking the time to meet and connect with the residents.*

*Everyone had an amazing time and it was a fantastic start to the festivities. Well done to all of the pupils — you were amazing! A huge thank you to the staff involved in the trip; without your support, this experience would not have been possible.*

### Musical Thursday!

Yesterday was just the most lovely, joyous day where we welcomed lots of families to join us for sing-a-longs for all departments across the day. This was enjoyed by the whole school community and a huge thank you to Jason who put this all together. Parents enjoyed coffee and delicious sweet treats too and a huge thank you to our amazing cook, Clare for baking these for everyone to enjoy. This event certainly made everyone feel in the Christmas spirit. Also a special thank you to MJN Entertainment for supplying equipment.

### Santa's Grotto

On Wednesday this week our Primary pupils had the most magical day visiting Father Christmas in his grotto. A huge thank you to our very own RK Santa, Alfe who both organised and set up the grotto and played the part magnificently bringing joy to our pupils and staff!

### Illness

There is some key guidance that is available to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep both our pupils and staff well.

We follow the NHS guidance - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

This website is also useful

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z#influenza>

### Goodbye

We say goodbye today to Rachel (DHT) and Lucy (LSA) in Ladybirds. We wish them both well in their next ventures and thank them for their time at Red Kite.

We have some new staff joining us in January and I will introduce them in the first newsletter after Christmas.

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## Feedback from Department Leads on Term 2

### **Meadows - Debbie**

*Pupils in the Meadows department have been so busy with their learning. The Early Years and KS1 classes have been reading Owl Babies. They have learned about light and dark and loved building dark dens. They have also learned about noises and sounds, making different musical instruments and exploring the sounds they make. They have also been learning about people who help us around the school and how we can keep ourselves safe, including keeping our hands clean to reduce germs.*

*In KS2 classes, pupils have been reading the story of Zog by Julia Donaldson. This has given lots of opportunities to explore rhyming words and pretend to be dragons, princes and princesses, as well as being Madame Dragon and being a Dragon teacher. Through the theme of 'Fire and Ice' pupils have been using their interoception skills to explore how hot and cold feel. They have also looked at dressing for different temperatures - which has been very beneficial with the ever changing weather we have experienced this term! Pupils in Butterflies class have also been learning about the Great Fire of London and the historical significance of the fire and how it shaped the fire service we have today.*

*As a department, we have explored the celebrations of Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Odd Socks Day. The highlight of the term has been this week with the visit of a very special gentleman and our very own Santa's Grotto. We were all very excited and had been writing letters in preparation for his visit!*

*The Meadows department would like to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and hope you all have a peaceful festive season! Debbie*

### **Woods - Michael**

*Snowdrops:*

*This term we have been enjoying a theme of Fire and Ice. Within this we have learned about the Great Fire of London and the Ice Age. In the run up to Christmas we have also been learning about the Christmas story and Christmas traditions. In maths we have been learning our times tables and in English we have developed our writing skills using the book 'Zog' as our inspiration.*

*Foxes:*

*This term in Foxes we have been reading the non-fiction book 'Africa is not a country'. Pupils have enjoyed learning about different countries in Africa and how different lifestyles are in the different countries. Pupils have also made excellent progress in multiplication and division. We have also seen a massive increase in confidence with times tables.*

*Foxes have also been on two class trips. The first trip was to Gates Garden Centre to see the Christmas displays and pupils have gone to Tesco to Secret their Santa gifts.*

*Owls:*

*We have had a very busy term in Owls! The class completed two more Maths assessments on Fractions, and Money! In English they completed their first spoken and written assessment on Charities for Step-Up English. We have now moved onto the topic of Style, where they have been looking at different fashions throughout the last 100 years, and even designed their own outfits! In PFA the class have been on three trips to the local community, which included a walk around the local area, a walk to Morrisons, and a trip to the Sizzler Cafe for some breakfast. Owls even started their*

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*own Enterprise business this term, where they have been helping cook breakfast baps for staff on a Wednesday morning. Business is booming!*

*Owls have done brilliantly this term and are all looking forward to Christmas and New Year!*

### **Woods - Kim**

*Term two has been full of excitement and surprises for the Woods Department!*

*This term, our English sessions have been focused on the story of Zoo by Anthony Browne. Pupils have been fully immersed in learning through zoo-themed activities, exploring a range of animals and developing their language skills through this context.*

*Cookery sessions this term had us developing rolling skills. We have created different pizza, pastries and cookies. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring the individual ingredients, having a little tasters and practising their rolling techniques with different dough mixtures.*

*It's Showtime was our theme this term, and the woods department were fortunate to experience two live performances as part of our learning. The first performance was delivered by Embracing Arts Company performing Crimblesense. The actors engaged exceptionally well with each of our learners, resulting in a highly enjoyable experience for all pupils. The second performance was the Beauty and the Beast pantomime, which again captivated the children and kept them engaged throughout.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our young people and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 for Term 3.*

### **Lookout - Jess**

*The Lookout have had a busy term, enjoying our cookery of 'Roasts' and 'Using the oven', we had lots of comments from visitors saying how nice the cookery smelt when it was Yorkshire Puddings and pigs in blankets! Learners have been working hard on their AQA English and Maths 'Engaging with texts' and 'Life Skills: Number'. Students had fun counting different items on the snack cart and working out which groups of items had the most, and some learners were 'Encountering Order' and exploring repeated sequences of musical instruments! Classes have had successful trips in the community such as visiting the Sizzler café, visiting McDonalds and visiting various places in the town centre! The department enjoyed the pantomime of Peter Pan and we had a lovely department trip to Beckworth Emporium to meet Santa which was wonderful! Classes had a successful fayre and hopefully classes will decide how to spend any profits they have made in the Spring term.*

*Thank you all for your support during term two and the changes that have occurred in the department. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and make lovely memories! See you all in January!*

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Term 3 starts back on Monday 5th January and we look forward to welcoming everyone back then.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warmest wishes

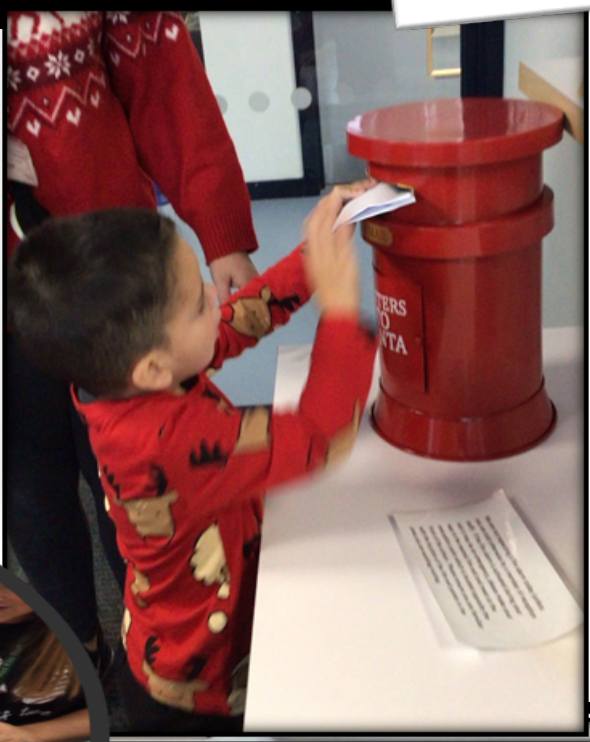
*Karen*

Karen Smith

Headteacher



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