

d'Auvergne Weekly Update 12.12.25



Dear Parents and Carers,

Head Teacher's Comments

We are right in the thick of our Christmas celebrations, having thoroughly enjoyed the EYFS and Year 3 performances this week and the PTA Fair last week (which made around £1000). All events have been joyous occasions, with fabulous support. Thank you to all involved – children, PTA, staff. Magnificent efforts all round!

Next week, on Monday evening at 5.30pm – 6.15pm we welcome all the community to our **'Carols Around the Tree'** sing-a-long. It's always great informal fun, an opportunity to enjoy a mince pie (or two) and a hot chocolate (thank you for your support, Will Knight and Waitrose!) I look forward to seeing you there.

Our **Key Stage One Nativities** are on Tuesday at 1.30pm and 5.30pm, with our final event being the **Year 4 – Year 6 Carol Service** on Wednesday at 6.00pm. Tickets for the Carol Service will be allocated (initially) as follows:

All families will receive 1 ticket, all Year 6 and 'Readers' will receive 2 tickets. Any spares will be allocated on Monday to older children in the choir. We have to limit tickets due to the fire regulations in the Church, thank you for your understanding.

Support at Christmas

I feel I am fairly aware of the circumstances of families in school and have offered financial assistance (in the form of vouchers) to many already this Christmas. If you need some extra support for your family at this time of year, and I haven't already reached out, **please do contact me**. I have immediate access to resources that are available for our school community.

Please, get in touch.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Cooper

Year Group Updates

Futures

Merry Christmas! (Too early?)

This week has been a whirlwind of Christmas activity. Each day we have explored Patch Moore's *'Going On An Elf Hunt'*, followed by a literal elf hunt! It is a Christmas miracle that almost every elf found their way home each day.

Our sound of the week has been 'S' - for SSSnake (made with everything from rice to clothes to chalks) and the number of the week has been 3!

You'll hopefully get a taste of the other countless activities when we send through the link to our Christmas film, next week. Don't forget, on Tuesday we are going to Tinto's Soft Play. As our session begins at 9.00am, we are asking all children to be in school by 8.45am on this day.

Season's Greetings & Festive Cheer

Mrs Mason, Mr Williams and The Futures Team

On a personal note:

Having made the decision to leave the island, I've consciously tried to not think about actually leaving - but now it's here! In Futures, I will miss the daily challenge of matching the needs, energy and interests of each child; I will miss having the chance to work with the most well-intentioned and helpful people - to build something nurturing and sustainable, as we really try to improve what we offer year-on-year; but mostly, I will miss teaching, playing and spending time with the children.

Each and every Futures child is both forthright and a mystery, and it has been my genuine pleasure to be given the opportunity to get to know them. You are all very lucky to have them in your lives. I believe we can all learn a lot from their refreshing honesty and individuality. I look at the support that you provide, and I am inspired by your love - it may not always be easy, but it is incredibly worthwhile. So, well done. You are doing a good job.



Thank you for your support over the past two and a half years, and the great thing about working in Futures is that it is more than the sum of its parts. I won't be here and I feel that's okay as I guarantee that the whole team will continue to care and support your children, Mrs Mason and the Senior Leadership Team will continue to advocate for your children, and your children themselves will continue to be happy and loved at school.

As it said in our social story, "Mr Williams still cares for me and he will often think of the good memories we have made. Good memories last forever."

Good Bye.

Mr Williams

Nursery

Next Wednesday the **17th December** we will be having a Nursery party. We appreciate that every day is a party day in Nursery but the penultimate day of your child's first term at d'Auvergne should be that little bit special.

Your little learner can dress up if they wish with whatever makes them feel festive.

In addition, we will invite the Dingos and the Elephants to bring in some savoury food and the Alligators and Reindeers to supply some sweet food. Please provide for **roughly 10 children** and we will merge the foods to create a banquet!

Dingos and Elephants	Alligators and Reindeers
<i>Savoury ideas</i>	<i>Sweet ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Sandwiches</i><i>Sausage rolls</i><i>Crisps</i><i>Vegetable sticks</i><i>Cocktail sausages</i><i>Pizza</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Cakes</i><i>Sweets</i><i>Chocolates</i><i>Chopped fruit or berries</i>
PLEASE: NO NUTS OR STRAWBERRIES	

Your child will not need lunch on the Wednesday. Well done families – a superb first term.
Have a super holiday – Mr du Feu & Team 😊

Reception

We've had a wonderfully festive week in Reception!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to watch the children sing their Christmas songs. The children worked incredibly hard, with lots of practise and enthusiasm, and they were so proud to share their performance with you. The confidence they showed on stage in front of such a huge audience was fabulous. 🎄

This week, the children completed an *unaided write* in the form of a letter to Santa. They thought about what they wanted to write and then had to independently sound out words before writing them down. It was a good opportunity for us to see their pencil grip, letter formation and any sounds they have learnt and retained this term. We have sent their marked letters home for you to look through so you can see their targets and support them at home.

As we come to the end of the term, we have been carrying out our Read Write Inc. assessments. These help us check each child's progress in phonics so we can ensure they are in the right group and receiving the most effective support. Keep practising these at

home over the Christmas holidays and continue to oral blend words where you can e.g. Can you put on your s-o-ck -s? We are going to the sh-o-p.

We've been getting into the Christmas spirit with lots of glitter, crafts and festive activities. The children have been full of excitement, and our classrooms are now looking wonderfully sparkly and bright! It has been lovely to see their creativity shine. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make this such a magical time of year for the children.

Next week: On Wednesday 17th December, we have our Reception Christmas Party. The children can come to school wearing Christmas party clothes. Please ensure they still have a warm, waterproof coat and sensible shoes. They will have snack and lunch as normal.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Reception Dream Team 🧑🏻‍🎨🌟

Year 1

We've had a wonderfully busy and festive week in Year 1. The children have completed their independent writing task, which was a letter to the Grinch, and we were so impressed with their creativity. They worked very hard and should be proud of themselves. We are hoping to receive a response from The Grinch next week!

In maths, we continued learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been practising naming and describing different shapes, spotting them around the classroom, and sorting them in different ways. We also started learning about numbers to 20 and began thinking about addition and subtraction within 20.

We have been busy practising for our Nativity performance. The children are becoming more confident with their lines, songs and actions, and they are very excited to perform for you next Tuesday. Thank you for your support with costumes, please remember to bring these into school so that we can use them during our dress rehearsal.

This week we enjoyed our second and final Bikeability session. The children loved the experience and showed great enthusiasm as they developed their balance and cycling skills. The instructors were full of praise for their listening and effort.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

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Year 2

The children have had a great week of learning this week!

In Literacy, the children have been rewriting the story *Molly McDrew and the Great Fire of London*. They began by designing their own time-travel devices and writing descriptions of how they worked. We saw a fantastic range of imaginative ideas, including magic jetpacks, enchanted cars, and even enchanted compasses. As a class, we wrote the beginning of the story together, and the children then completed their own versions independently, incorporating the time-travel device they created. They thoroughly enjoyed this activity and produced some excellent work.

In Maths, the children have been continuing to develop their multiplication skills. We have focused on the 2-, 5-, and 10-times tables. It would be greatly beneficial if these could also be practised at home to support their learning.

Our Geography lessons this week have explored where we live and the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. Working in groups, the children completed an activity sheet, coloured the flags of each country, and added their work to our floor book.

In RE, we discussed the Christmas story and reflected on what the characters might have been grateful for. Together, we created a class paper chain where each child added something they are thankful for.

Reminders–

- A parent-mail went out on Tuesday 9th December explaining details about our upcoming Nativity performance next week, please ensure that you have read it as the information on there is important.
- We have our KS1 Christmas Party next week on Wednesday 17th December. The children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers over their school uniforms and bring in Christmas hats if they wish. Please could we ask that children in 2A bring in some savoury foods such as crisps, sandwiches, crackers etc. 2C could children please bring in some sweet treats such as popcorn, biscuits, cakes etc. Thank you in advance.

We are looking forward to our very festive week next week... it's almost that time!!!

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Aubert and Miss Crocker

Year 3

We have been busy this week with the final preparations and performances of the Year 3 showcase. We are very proud of the children for their efforts and resilience in learning the songs and their lines in order to make their time on stage magical and for getting us into the Christmas spirit.

This week has seen our final wellbeing and netball sessions. In wellbeing we have been exploring how we can create positive affirmations about ourselves and also how we can fill our own and other's jars with gratitude and why this is important. We have really enjoyed our sessions with Cat as they have allowed us to develop a wellbeing toolkit that we can go back to whenever we need it.

In netball, we have learnt a range of different warm up games, including PacMan which we have really enjoyed. We have also learnt the different passes and when to use these within a game as well the footwork required to be a successful netballer. We remember this using the phrase '1,2 sticky glue'.

We continue to work on our fictional writing skills in our English lessons. We have been planning our own warning myths based on Icarus and Daedalus and will be writing these independently before the end of term. We have really enjoyed working on the Greek myths and this has been reflected in our reading and writing to this point.

In maths we continue to work on multiplication and division with our current focus being on the 4 and 8 times tables in our lessons. We would ask that you continue to work on the division facts for the 3 times tables at home, TTRS would really help with this.

We are really focusing on reading for pleasure in Year 3 at the moment, this is all about children selecting the books that they want to read or have read to them both in school and at home. Please can you make sure that you are adding what has been read at home to the children's planners.

We have been working hard on our spellings this term too, focusing on practising these in morning work. This has seen a real improvement in our spelling scores.

Thank you for your ongoing support with reading, spellings and times tables practise at home.

And finally... should you wish to take a look at what we will be learning in the Spring Term take a little look at Google Classroom where you will be able to find the Curriculum poster and knowledge organisers for volcanoes and rocks and soils. Our over-arching topic title is What makes the Earth angry?

Mrs Davies and Miss Bolton.

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Year 4

In Maths, we continue to focus on multiplication. Please see attached this week's practise sheet.

In Writing, we are currently working on our independent pieces which are in the format of a letter to Alfie from the text we are reading, The Demon Dentist.

In PSHE, we continue to work on Zones of Regulation. We are discussing what could be a trigger to push us into the blue, yellow or red 'Zone'.

In PE, we enjoyed our last hockey session with Jamie. We will begin swimming lessons on Monday, 5th January, which is the first day of the Spring term. Please can you ensure that children come to school prepared with their swimming belongings.

Yesterday we watched Year 3's Christmas Performance, as unfortunately they are unable to join in with the Key Stage Two performance this year due to the capacity in the church. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance and can't wait for our own performance next week. On the morning of Wednesday, 17th December we will be walking to and from St Marks church to practise for our performance. Please can you ensure that children come to school in a water-proof coat on this day.

Date for the diary; Wednesday 17th December, Year 4-6 Christmas Carol Service at St Marks Church, details to follow.

Reminders

- Please can you return the permission slips for swimming. We would be very grateful for any helpers to walk the children to or from Haute Vallee.
- Please ensure laptops come into school each day and are fully charged at home.
- Your child will need to be signed up to Year 4 Google Classroom, as we be using this platform to support learning. Logins are in planners.
- Please ensure your child reads as often as possible, and planners are signed. As mentioned in our Meet the Teacher, Bug Club, TTRockstars and Spelling Shed are also available as additional extras.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs AB & Mrs Hyde

Year 5

Year 5 have been buzzing with excitement this week, mostly to do with Christmas being around the corner, but also that we have completed our swimming for the year! The children had a wonderful play in the pool, a suitable reward for all of their hard work.

Needless to say, we think the children are happy that we are no longer schooling like Victorians but have safely returned back to 2025! We wanted to give some additional and **huge** thanks to others who helped make our Victorian Week so special. PJ and Janet (Dr Daunting and The Governess) worked exceptionally hard to deliver an authentic and rich experience for the children. Without their advice and delivery, the week would not have been as successful as it was. The town market, additionally, were incredibly generous to allow us to visit the market and perform our carols. We know that many businesses and retailers are working tirelessly at this time of year to make ends meet, and we wanted to thank all of those businesses in the market. The market was looking especially festive and so we recommend taking a visit and supporting these local businesses. Lastly, we posted some letters to the postal service men and women who work flat out at Christmas and they sent us a wonderful response in return:

Good morning,

I'm writing to say a huge thank you for the lovely letters we received this morning for our posties from your year 5 students!

Our postal team is thrilled and very touched by the lovely words and pics. They are very hard at work at the moment as it's our busiest time of year. We've displayed the letters on a noticeboard in our sorting office for all the posties to see and read; and keep them going through the busy-ness.

Please pass on our huge thanks to the children! If they ever want to go behind the scenes and have a visit here, please do let me know. We'd be happy to host them!

In class, we have been writing an explanation text about Victorian Workhouses, an opportunity for the children to consolidate the astronomical knowledge they have absorbed since we started the topic in September.

We are noticing an increase in the number of children who are arriving to school after registration (8:30). Please may we remind parents that we ideally would like children in class at 8:15 so they can complete the morning task assigned to them. Some children arrive at 8:15 each day, and this 15 minutes is of immense benefit to them.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to all of the Christmas festivities next week. We think you will love Year 5's input into the church service - they have outdone themselves!

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Year 6

We have had a very busy final full week of term in Year 6. The children have been working hard in Reading, finishing off our book, 'The Secret of Platform 13'. In Writing, we have begun to have a focus on a range of SPAG techniques before starting our new writing topic of newspaper writing after the Christmas break. The children have been looking at a variety of fractional-based work in Maths and looking at a range of methods or compare and order them. We have had a focus on computing skills in Science this week as the children have used their results from our 'Finches Investigation' last week to create tables and graphs on Google sheets. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to watch the Year 3 Christmas performance this week on Thursday afternoon. Well done to them, we are really looking forward to our Christmas service in the church next week.

A few gentle reminders:

- Our PE days are **Monday and Wednesday** this term. The children will have an Orienteering session on Monday with their class teacher and their regular PE slot with Rob on Wednesday.
- Laptops need to be brought in to school every day fully charged.
- We are continuing to practice our Christmas performance poem and song. The Christmas service is next Wednesday (17th) 6pm at St Marks Church.

Home Learning:

- Reading: Daily for 20 minutes.
- Arithmetic Practice daily for 10 minutes (Google Classroom for supportive videos).
- Daily Spelling practice
- Poem / song practice for Christmas performance.

Achievers

6G: The achiever in 6G this week is Harry. This young man has had a fantastic attitude to his learning all week. He has been engaged, motivated and enthusiastic towards whatever has been thrown at him and has approached all challenges with a smile on his face. Keep up this fantastic attitude to your learning Harry, it is so great to see you with so much confidence. Well done!

6H: The achiever in 6H this week is Finn. Curiosity is a trait of a learner that is essential when learning new things. Finn has shown this, not just this week, but ever since he joined Year 6. He is absorbed in his learning and always asks 'Why?' or 'How?', never taking anything at face value. What a wonderful attribute to have, this will serve you well in years to come. Great job Finn!
