

28 November 2025 - Autumn Term - Week 11

Principal's Blog

Please read Mr Wilding's latest blog: <u>"BBC Grierson Award 2025, Baftas,"</u> **Emmys and Oscars – the Parenting Effect"**

CLASS BULLETINS

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6



Awards

Responsibility: Willow 2W
Respect: Theo 5R
Loyalty: Archie 3H
Integrity: Ollie 2W

MESSAGE FROM TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

A reminder that the whole school photograph taken on Wednesday 30 April is still available to view and order via the <u>Tempest Orders website</u>.

For assistance, please call 01736 752411. Option 3 - Place an order. Option 5 - Customer services. If your order is intended as a Christmas gift, we recommend placing your order before **5 December** to give the best chance of receiving your photograph/s before the Christmas holidays. Thank you for your continued custom with Tempest Photography.

Trainer Donations

Claires Court Juniors are supporting **Maidenhead Nomads**, a community-focused sports club that uses our facilities. Committed to providing

inclusive access to sport, they are collecting all types of sports shoes, including trainers, football boots, rugby boots, and more, to be distributed to underprivileged children in UK primary and secondary schools.

Please donate any unwanted sports shoes in any size. Bring them into school and drop them in the labelled "**Trainer Donation**" box outside the Junior Sports Hall office. If your child is at a Senior school, please drop the trainers off at the front office so they can be transferred to the Juniors site. Thank you!

Chess Lessons

Looking to sharpen your strategy and level up your game? Mat Dydak, an expert player, offers 1:1 chess lessons every Friday to Year 2 to Year 6 pupils! Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, this is a fantastic opportunity to boost your skills and have fun while doing it. If you'd like more information, please contact the school office juniors@clairescourt.net.

Books of the Week

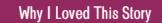
We're excited to launch our new *Book of the Week* feature, put together by **Miss Dockerill**, our Head of English, and **Miss Murphy**, our School Librarian. Each week, we'll be sharing two recommendations: one from a member of our Lower Juniors team and one from our Upper Juniors team.

Last week we had recommendations from Miss Dockerill and this week take a look at Miss Murphy's recommendations!



Our Books of the Week

It's lonely being the odd dog out. This dog is willing to go to the other side of the world to find her place in it! Come join her on a journey of discovery and finding out where she truly belongs



This is a wonderful story of discovering yourself, perfect for dog lovers and anyone who feels just a little different....





On the island of Arcosi, dragons and their riders used to rule the skies. But now they are only legends, found in bedtime stories, on beautiful murals and ancient jewellery. Then servant girl Milla witnesses a murder and finds herself caring for the last four dragon eggs. Forced to keep them secret amidst the growing tensions in the city, she begins to fear that the island's ruler, Duke Olvar, isn't all that he seems.

Why I Loved This Story

This book had action, adventure, plot twists that I did not expect and characters that you grow to love. This is a great book for readers who wish to dabble in the world of Fantasy. A real edge of your seat, page turner!

Christmas Tree Recycling

Riverside Tree Care is offering free local Christmas tree collections in exchange for a donation to Thames Hospice. It's a simple, sustainable way to clear out

your tree while supporting a great local cause. See the flyer to book your collection!



NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

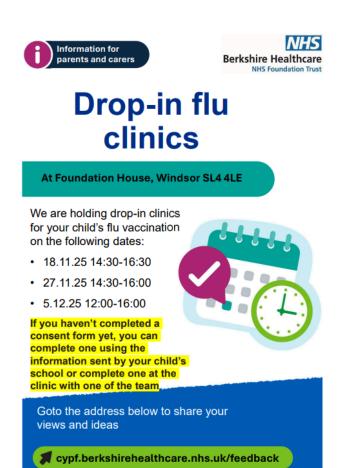
Non-Fiction November - JUNIOR COMPETITION - The closing date is Monday 1 December.

Create a piece of work based on a historical person, place or event. Competition is open to all year groups. For Reception to Y2, the maximum is 50 words. Years 3 - 6, the maximum is 100 words. Make sure you put your name and class entry. **Please hand your entries to Miss Murphy, our Librarian.**



NHS BERKSHIRE HEALTHCARE 'DROP-IN' FLU CLINICS - 5 December

NHS Berkshire Health will be holding drop-in flu clinics for those who missed the school immunisations at Foundation House, Windsor at the times shown below:



END OF TERM AND CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES INFORMATION



24 NOVEMBER - 15 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION

We are again collecting non-perishable foodstuffs for the Salvation Army, Maidenhead. The preferred list is available to view on their flyer below and, although the usual tinned food items and pasta are mentioned, they would welcome some 'luxury' items such as chocolate selection packs, festive biscuits, and Christmas puddings (please ensure the date exceeds December). In addition, they are collecting non-food items such as toiletries and hygiene products. The preferred list is available to view on their flyer here.

Can we suggest the following year groups donate: *Please remember we are a nut-free school.*

| Year R | Children's Chocolate Selection Packs, Boxes of Chocolates |
|-----------|--|
| Year 1 | Christmas Biscuits/Cakes/Mince Pies |
| Year 2 | Christmas Puddings (please ensure Best Before date exceeds |
| December) | |
| Year 3 | Tea, Coffee, UHT Milk |
| Year 4 | Canned Vegetables, Beans and Soup |
| Year 5 | Rice, Pasta, Cereal, Porridge |
| Year 6 | Non-food items such as toiletries and hygiene products |

The 'hampers' will be outside the dining hall for Upper Juniors and by the Lower Juniors entrance, for Lower Juniors, from **Monday 24 November up until Monday 15 December** and Captain Westwood-Payne - Commanding Officer,
Salvation Army is popping along on Tuesday 16 December to collect all items donated by our pupils and staff. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



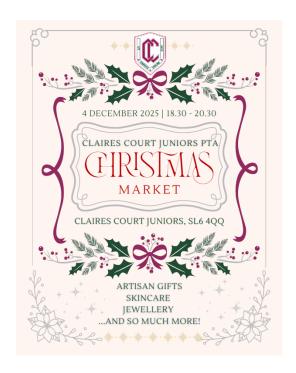
REMINDER: Tuesday 2 December - PTA Christmas Jumper Swap

We are still collecting jumpers for the PTA Christmas Jumper Swap. Please bring them in by Monday for your child to have the opportunity to swap an old jumper for something new! The PTA are excited to be running our Christmas Jumper Swap again this year, following its great success last Christmas! Children always enjoy choosing a different jumper to wear, and it's a wonderful way to celebrate sustainability and Christmas thriftiness together.

If your child has a Christmas jumper they would like to donate, please could they bring it in by **Friday 28 November**. In return, they will receive a token to use when selecting a jumper from those donated **Tuesday 2 December**. Please may we ask that all jumpers are clean and in good condition and if you have any larger or adult-size Christmas jumpers you're happy to donate, we would be very grateful. If, on the day, there isn't an appropriate jumper available for your child, they will still receive a small Christmas treat as a thank-you for taking part.

Wednesday 3 December - <u>CC Sailing Christmas Wreath Making</u> Evening

CC Sailing department and the PTA warmly invite you to a Christmas Wreath Making evening on Wednesday 3rd December at Senior Boys. Ticket price includes: drinks, nibbles, an oasis ring and small decorations. Bring your own foliage and clippers and any additional decorations that you would like to add to your wreath. Book here via the PTA website.



Thursday 4 December - PTA Christmas Market - 6.30pm - 8.30pmJoin us for our annual Christmas Market and enjoy some festive shopping!
Whether you're looking for that special, unique present or some perfect stocking fillers, there's something for everyone. All ages are welcome.



Friday 5 December - PTA Nearly New Uniform Sale

All Nearly New Sales are on a **Friday morning from 8.15am to 8.45am** and take place in the PTA Nearly New Uniform shop in the Stable block, upper Juniors playground. Payment is by card only and **NOT** cash. Our next sale is **Friday 5**

December. If you have any good quality branded uniform you wish to donate to the PTA please drop off at the school office. Thank you.

Friday 5 - Saturday 6 December - CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP



Thank you so much to everyone who ordered their Christmas tree via the PTA website to support the boat club. Please collect your tree from Claires Court Senior Boys (SL6 8TE) at the following times:

Friday 5 December: 4.45pm-5.45pmSaturday 6 December: 10am-12pm



Friday 5 to Sunday 7 December - ST LUKE's CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Please pop along to St Luke's (St Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead SL6 7AX) to view all the decorated trees on display. You will also find four Claires Court trees from Juniors, Senior Boys, Senior Girls and Sixth Form. Buy a token and vote for your favourite decorated tree, and help raise funds for St Luke's chosen charity this year, Alzheimer Dementia Support.





Wednesday 10 December - YR-6 Christmas Shopping Event

Following the success of last year's Christmas Present Project, the Junior PTA is delighted to offer pupils the chance to purchase a 'surprise' gift for their family again this year. The shopping event will take place **during the school day on Wednesday 10 December**. Each gift costs £6 and will be **gift-wrapped** ready to take home.





Friday 12 December - Claires Court Santa Fun Run

Start your morning with festive fitness! Open to all pupils, parents & staff and led by Mr. Jost and Mr Richards.

• Where: Senior Boys' Reception

• When: Meet 7:20 am | Run 7:30 am (Sharp!) | Back 8:00 am

Routes:

o 3.5km: Walk or Run.

5km: Runners only (must finish within 30 mins).

Dress: Festive gear essential—Santa hats, tinsel, & antlers!

PUPILS: You must complete the consent form to participate.



Friday 12 December - Christmas Jumper Day

Pupils are invited to wear their festive jumper on Christmas lunch day for a £2 donation for Save the Children - payment is via the Payment Portal or cash to the Form Tutor. Christmas Lunch - OPT OUT by 28 November. Christmas Lunch will be served at Juniors on Friday 12 December and all boys/girls are automatically booked in for Christmas Lunch and the £5.25 payment will be charged to your cashless catering account UNLESS you opt out using this Juniors Christmas Lunch Opt Out Form by Friday 28 November. There will be no other meal options available that day, so if your son/daughter is opting out, he/she will need to bring a packed lunch. Please also use this form to tell us of any dietary requirements he/she may have.



Tuesday 16 December - SEN Coffee Morning

Join us for an informal meet-and-greet with the Learning Development Department (LDD). It's a great opportunity to connect with our team as well as other parents of children with SEN in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Please use this <u>link</u> to let us know if you will be attending.



W/C Monday 15 December

Study/Guided Play will be available between 4-5pm and After School Care between 5-6pm Monday-Tuesday. There is no after-school provision at all on Wednesday 17 December. *Early buses only* from Monday-Wednesday leaving Juniors at 4pm.



Tuesday 16 December - Juniors Carol Service

2.30pm - 3.30pm at All Saints Church, Maidenhead, SL6 4HE

All parents are welcome to attend. We would appreciate an indication of how your son/daughter will be travelling home after the service, so that we can book the right transport. Parents are welcome to pick up from the church, or pupils can travel back to school. Please complete the form here by Wednesday 3 December.

Wednesday 17 December

End of Autumn Term with a full day of lessons, early bus only leaving Juniors at 4pm. There is no after-school provision at all on Wednesday 17 December. Parents 'end of term letters will be emailed home.

W/C Monday 22 December - Wednesday 24 December

The school will be closed during the Christmas Holidays and the office will not be staffed until Monday 5 January 2026. If you require assistance, please telephone 01628 327700 where all calls are monitored during holiday periods

RESPONSIBILITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ LOYALTY ♦ INTEGRITY