



NEWSLETTER, December 2021

Dear all

We've enjoyed a busy and exciting end to the Autumn Term.

Thank you to everybody who attended our virtual Christmas productions this week, we hope that you enjoyed them. In addition, thank you to everybody who purchased items from our online Christmas fayre. The fayre is a really important part of the Employability strand of our TALENTS Curriculum.

Our lovely new Phi Pod arrived from Edinburgh this week. This space will be used to deliver therapies from our external partners, such as Youthline, Music Therapy and Play Therapy.

If you are a carer or parent of a Secondary aged learner, please ensure your young person takes a Lateral Flow test before returning to school. Ideally, tests will be taken on the evening of Monday 3rd January or the morning of Tuesday 4th January. Test kits have been sent home already.



On behalf of all of us here at Kennel Lane, I wish you all a restful break and a healthy New Year.

We look forward to seeing all of our young people back in school on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Kind regards

Jenny Baker
Headteacher

Reindeer Visit



Learners and staff alike were thrilled to welcome Blizzard, Iceberg, Hurricane and Glacier to school again this year. We learnt lots about reindeer including how they live in the wild, why their antlers are covered in velvet while they are growing and what they like to eat. Thank you to Melisa and Neil from Riverways Farm in Twyford for bringing these gorgeous animals to spend a couple of days with us.



Hall of Fame



We've received this exciting news from another Special School in Kent. This is their message and the links they have shared with us.

"Five Acre Wood Special School in Maidstone would like to share their wonderful news! A few weeks ago 25 of our fabulous students went off to Deevu recording studio, and along with our lovely friend Jack Rose, they recorded "Hall of Fame" originally released by The Script. A few days later, Deevu came to our school and made a video to go with the song involving a lot more of our students.

Our single is due to be released on Friday 17th December and we would really appreciate your help to get our students to that coveted Christmas Number One spot! Please see the links below – if you like what you hear, we would be very grateful of your support. Please feel free to share the link with family and friends."

<https://itunes.apple.com/album/hall-of-fame-feat-jack-rose-single/1599136951?&app=itunes>

<https://bfan.link/hall-of-fame-1>

ACE Update from SaLT



Following the visit from the Ace Centre (a charity specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication 'AAC' and Assistive Technology 'AT') at the start of the Autumn Term, three of our young people have received their own communication devices. Since then, four young people in Hedgehog class have been participating in a weekly 'AAC group', learning to navigate their devices and communicate with each other. Alexander, Christian, Elsie and Omar wish you all a very Happy Christmas!



Christmas in the Office

A big thank you to Carly in the office who turned Reception into a cosy Christmassy scene again this year, complete with Santa's sleigh and a reindeer!



Ruby's Ramblings



Ruby is learning tricks with Harrison. Harrison hides the treat in one hand, Ruby has to nudge the hand with the treat in to get it. She has also been enjoying showing off her Christmas jumper this week.



Transport



This is a reminder on behalf of the Transport teams that if you are collecting your young person early from school for any reason, **please** remember to call the transport team and let them know.

Likewise, if you bring your child to school late, please notify Transport that they will need to be collected at the end of the day as usual, as if they haven't collected your young person they may assume they are absent all day. Please note that it is always a parent/carer responsibility to do this, not the school. Thank you.

Parenting Smart from Place 2 Be

We've been asked to make you aware of a new, free, online resource featuring practical advice and tried-and-tested tips for parents and carers of primary age children. There are many topics already available and a handy search tool for specific concerns. Take a look at <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>.



Dates for the Diary

Friday 17 th December	End of term – see table below for Department finish times
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Start of Spring Term

Group	Department	Usual finish time	Finish time on Friday 17 th December
Group 1	Woodlands Hub	2.45 pm	12.45 pm
Group 2	Primary	2.45 pm	12.45 pm
Group 3	Secondary	3.00 pm	1.00 pm



Have a wonderful Christmas break!