

# “Together”

The John Rankin Schools' Newsletter

[www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk](http://www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk)

Inspired to learn—challenged to achieve



## This autumn term, although challenging in many ways, has really shown me the true spirit of John Rankin .

Everyone has been so supportive. All our amazing staff, all our parents and carers - there for each other in a time of need. It has been awe-inspiring. But as always, it is your children who have been the real stars. They have come back positive and ready to learn...and what learning they have achieved. Every week in Celebrate Assembly it is a privilege to see all their wonderful work and hear about all their kindness and teamwork. I am very proud.

And so, the Christmas holidays are nearly upon us. I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas - stay safe, stay happy and have lots of fun!

Mr Rayner

### Reminders

- Term ends on Friday 18th December, at usual pick up times.
  - Inset day 4th January.
- Year 3 Violin lessons commencing Thursday 7th January.
- Please be mindful when parking on the crescents, not to park on the grass verges.

### Christmas letters

All of the Reception children wrote their letters to Father Christmas and walked to the local post box to send them. Well done, Elm, Fir and Pine class, I am sure he will enjoy reading them and we hope that you receive everything that you wish for.



### Digital safety during the holidays

As children may spend more time on devices, Vodafone have a useful parent guide to help you keep your children safe online.

[www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting)



### After School Club projects

The children in after school club have been working hard to make some wonderful creative pieces. They have made a beautiful lantern to display in the window. This looks great when parents are picking up and lights their way as they arrive. The jolly snowman is also a stunning festive addition. Well done after school club.



### Staff Changes

We say goodbye to our Operations Manager Rebecca Brophy. She has made an outstanding contribution to our school and will be very much missed.

We are also welcoming two new members to the administration team, Amy Murray who is one of our TA's and Brian Evans, who will be taking over as Operations Manager.



# John Rankin Christmas Special



### Christmas Lunch

The children enjoyed a superb Christmas dinner on 9th December, adorning brilliant handmade hats which looked fantastic. It was lovely to see that even though this year wasn't the same, the Christmas spirit was very much here. A special thank you to our caterers, ISS, who did a sterling job providing an enormous number of very tasty hot dinners-well done kitchen team!



### Elf advent calendar

We have had a cheeky elf visiting in Fir class each day, popping up somewhere new every day.

### Cedar Class Map Reading Walk

Our Year 6 pupils have been learning about map reading and what better way to test their skills, than to go out into the wilderness of Newbury! Cedar class had lots of fun and a few got very muddy!



### Year 2 Tudor Houses

Our creative Year 2's have been busy making Tudor houses as part of their Great Fire of London topic. This week, with the help of Mr Jones our site manager, we recreated the fire, which started in Pudding Lane. The children were very excited to watch this display.

What a fantastic job, well done Year 2!



### September 2021 admissions

[The closing date for applications is 15th January](#)

This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, we have been unable to welcome families into the school for a visit.

To help parents get a feel for our school, we have put together a welcome video. This is available on our website and our Facebook page. Please do share this with anybody considering a place with us in September.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT37I9K1K4&feature=youtu.be>



# John Rankin Christmas Special





## December 2020

18<sup>th</sup> December—End of Term

## January 2021

4<sup>th</sup> January—Inset Day

5<sup>th</sup> January—Start of Term

# PTFA round-up

### What they have been up to this month:

- \* If you are Christmas shopping online you could help the school to raise money by shopping through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and searching John Rankin Schools. easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations. Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal from a choice of 4,063 retailers will then make a small donation to say “thank you”.
- \* Thank you for all you kind donations of Christmas clothing. This has now been sold via the PTFA Facebook page raising funds for our school.
- \* Our children's fabulous Christmas designs came home for ordering and have helped to raise more funds. Well done children, they are all brilliant.
- \* We are hoping to re schedule our Sibling photo session and will update you as soon as this can go ahead.
- \* Thank you for all the Bags2School donations, we received just under two tons! This raised a whopping £521.10
- \* All of the children were invited to a Pyjama day on Friday 11th to watch a movie in class and have a few treats. They all very much enjoyed themselves.
- \* We have received very generous donations for the Louise Purton Toy Appeal, thank you all so much for your kindness. We are sure this will bring many smiles to the children's faces this year.

### HOME-LED READING - CALL FOR FAMILIES



Do you want to find out more about how your child reads?



Can home-led reading and writing help close the COVID-19 learning gap that educators report especially for children with literacy difficulties or coming from diverse backgrounds?

At University of [Reading](http://reading.ac.uk) we are looking into it with an online study for parents/carers with children of primary-school age. We are interested in monolingual and multilingual (EAL) children of any reading level. The study will be open between Dec 2020-Jan2021.

Take part by the end of December 2020 to:

- Get individual feedback on your child's reading profile and expert advice with simple steps that you can do at home to help them improve.
- Enter the £50 voucher prize-draw at the end of data collection.

Learn more and participate at:

<https://reading.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/reading-activities-and-strategy-use-at-home-for-familiesc>

For queries, please contact the lead researcher Anna Tsakalaki at: [a.tsakalaki@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.tsakalaki@reading.ac.uk)



*Have a merry  
Christmas*