



# ADDINGTON

## NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As I write this, we are coming to the end of the busiest term of the year and the Christmas celebrations are well under way. One of the notable activities has been our roaming choir who have sung Christmas songs and carols with gusto at the National Grid, Woodley Precinct and Wokingham Borough Council. The latter venue brought employees out of their offices on every floor to hear our pupils sing, and it was a truly heart-warming sight and sound!

We have also had concerts, a pantomime and, a highlight for many of our pupils, a day visit from two reindeer. Pupils learnt about the habitat and diet of reindeer whilst being able to stroke their magnificent antlers and fur coats – both a sensory and learning experience.

Thank you to all parents who attended our evening concert with the Woodley Concert Band. Our Addington Band gave them a run for their money and some of our pupils performed excellent solos.

The Association Christmas Coffee Morning also saw many parents arrive to support the school. Through contributions to the hamper, Christmas cake and other assorted raffles and the Association managed to make many hundreds of pounds for which we are extremely grateful. They are currently fundraising for better outdoor facilities for our pupils, and would be grateful for any contacts in businesses through our parent network. Please contact Yvonne Thrower and the association at [AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:AddingtonAssociation@gmail.com) if you can help in any way.

Finally, we have to say goodbye to Hazel Giacomet as she begins her retirement in January. Hazel has been at Addington over 23 years, and since 2004 has been our NVQ assessor, enabling many of our staff to gain higher qualifications and increase expertise in the classroom. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work Hazel has done over the years at Addington and wish her a long and happy retirement.

I hope you enjoy reading in more detail all the different activities that have been going on across the school in the rest of the newsletter and hope you all have a very happy Christmas. I look forward to welcoming the pupils back on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Sara Attra**  
**Headteacher**



Dear Parents/ Carers

It seems hard to believe, but we really are at the end of the Autumn term, with the Christmas holidays just around the corner and 2018 in sight! It has been lovely seeing so many of you in school, sharing the amazing and very special events that always take place in school and in class at this time of year.

My New Year's Resolutions include getting a programme of parent events up and running, as well as looking at new ways to increase contact between home and school in fun and interesting events. Please remember to have a look on my Parent Support Adviser page on the Addington website for details.

Although this is generally a lovely time of year, it is important to recognise that some families may need a bit of support round the festive season. Christmas can sometimes be a lonely or hard time of year for the families of children with additional needs. Please also look on my website for details of support agencies, who can give assistance or just a friendly ear over the holiday period.

Just a reminder, I no longer work on TUESDAYS. My work mobile, for when I cannot be reached at my desk during school hours, is 07521 744 852.

I wish you all a lovely holiday and, however you celebrate this time of year, a time filled with happiness and cheer!

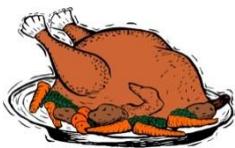
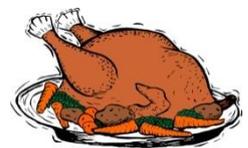
Best Wishes,

Lucy - Parent Support Adviser



## SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE LIST

Primary Pupils.....£2.00 per day  
Secondary/FE Pupils.....£2.20 per day



All monies should be paid in advance.

ONLINE PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE please ask for details

**Please remember that lunch MUST be paid for every day.**



# Our Senior Leadership Team



**Sara Attra**  
Headteacher



**Lynda Wood**  
Deputy Head



**Eirfron Watkinson**  
Assistant Headteacher



**David Maycock**  
Assistant Headteacher



**Sue Tod**  
School Business Manager

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# Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by  
Wokingham Bracknell & Districts Mencap

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm  
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the current term,  
come along and try a session.

Contact Wokingham Mencap on 0300 777 8539 for more information.

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## Parent Contact Information

We want to cut down on the amount of paper we send to parents and to get in touch more electronically via emails, texts and our school website ([www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk)).

Apart from the money saved on printing costs, electronic communication is instant. In order to do this we need to be kept up to date with your latest email address and mobile numbers.

If you need to update us please email: [office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@addington.wokingham.sch.uk)

We also now have a school app which you can download (see links on our website), enabling you to receive news updates and alerts on your phone or other mobile device. You can also view our newsletters and see photos of the students.

## **Middle School**

We have had a busy and exciting half term with lots of extra-curricular events going on in school. In November PSHE coordinator Danny Blatchford planned a programme of activities for Anti-Bullying week culminating in sharing the class sculptures we made on the theme of 'All different, All equal' with our friends during a Special Assembly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Children in Need day was on the same day and we chose a theme of 'Spots and Odd Socks' as the dress code for the day. Pupils had a free ice cream- generously donated by Pauls Ices. Staff and pupils' donations raised over £200 for the BBC Children in Need appeal.



In November Key Stage 2 classes used their creative talents to explore the theme of Ancient Greece during Arts Award week. Activities included arts and crafts, drama, music, a trip to Reading Museum hosting another class to share our work and a party to round it all off! Thank you to Shaun, our music Teacher, and the Class teams who worked hard to make the week a success.

In December pupils were also involved in Buddy Elections with candidates making posters and pupils voting on ballot papers in ballot boxes just like the real thing! We now have two new buddies in each key stage keen and ready to help their friends in the playground, and escort parents and visitors at school events amongst their other duties.

We have also had some rather special visitors at the start of December before they started their journey to the North Pole to pick up Santa's sleigh 😊 Riverways farm brought two lovely young reindeer who stood patiently in their enclosure while all students who wanted to, got to stroke or feed them as well as finding out some fascinating facts about their care from the handlers.



Christmas activities continue this week with carol singing in Woodley on Tuesday, Nativity Puppet show on Wednesday, Pantomime and Christmas lunch on Thursday and Christmas Jumper Day with a visit to EYFS and KS 2 classes from Santa himself on Friday. After all the festivities I know I will be looking forward to putting my feet up with a nice cup of tea and a mince pie!

Happy Christmas everyone!  
**Yvonne Edwards**  
Head of Middle School.

## UPPER SCHOOL

News of the high standard of produce that comes from Addington School has spread, and this term the teams were invited by the council to cater for two separate events. During preparations, students had opportunities to develop lots of work skills, including team-work, working quickly, presentation and soft-skills.



Making use of the skills from Food Technology lessons, classes throughout FE worked together to provide refreshments for the Children's Disability Team. The team thoroughly enjoyed the delicious cakes and tray-bakes that the team produced.

Meanwhile, the City and Guilds students catered for a VIP party for the Lord Mayor's annual Christmas Carol Service. They enjoyed meeting different mayors from neighbouring areas, as well as MPs who were attending the event. It is brilliant to be able to showcase and demonstrate the talents and skills of our students - well done to everyone involved in preparations!



The Winter Fayre at National Grid was another huge success this year. Over £600 has been raised for an Alzheimer charity this year. Students from Eagle class did a fantastic job of selling baked goods and Christmas cakes at the event and showed a real talent for selling ...watch out Alan Sugar!

## UPPER SCHOOL

It's that wonderful time of the year again....and upper school has been a bit like Father Christmas' workshop! Classrooms everywhere became transformed into production lines and Christmas craft factories, as students made and prepared decorations for the annual Christmas Fayre.

And what a successful Christmas Fayre this year! The standard and quality of gifts produced was so high this year, and many stalls completely sold out before the end of the morning. It is wonderful to have this event as an opportunity to put entrepreneurial skills to use, including merchandising, display and money skills.

Well done to all the Upper School teams!



The National Grid students have taken part in their first end of placement celebration. Through the 'EmployAbility' programme they have had opportunities to develop their work skills, and in particular their IT skills.

All of The interns have gained more responsibilities and new placements. They are looking forward to learning about their new roles, and meeting new colleagues in their next placement in January.

## UPPER SCHOOL

The annual 'Opportunity Evening' was very well attended by parents, carers and students. A large number of transition teams attended, and we look forward to welcoming back some of our contacts in the New Year.



Dates for upcoming transition 'coffee' mornings will be available in student diaries in the New Year.



Two classes in Upper School enjoyed very productive Work Ready Days. They met with managers and staff to learn about different job roles in industries, as well as finding out about 'soft skills' and work-place expectations of behaviour.



Kite class had a very informative day learning about job roles at the National Trust, as well as a guided tour of the facilities at Grey's Court. Robin class learned about how social sight vocabulary is used for Health and Safety at SubSea.

## London Irish Cup game

London Irish have received funding to come in to Addington to deliver tag rugby. They are currently running an after school tag rugby club which is well attended by 18 of our students.

Students were invited with their families to a cup game against Bath on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> November. They got to meet some players, do a Q & A session, visit the change rooms and be on pitch side for the guard of honour. They loved their afternoon out, with London Irish narrowly losing in the dying seconds of the game.



## Scooter Hockey Competition at Brookfields

We took 9 primary pupils to a scooter hockey competition at Brookfields School on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We split up into 5 mixed teams of Addington and Brookfields Schools and each team played each other. All the pupils had lots of fun and enjoyed playing with and getting to know pupils from another school. Well done to the players in the red team who won the competition.



## **Boccia Tournaments at Bulmershe and Chalfont**

We participated in two Boccia tournaments in November, one at Bulmershe Leisure Centre next door and the other one at Chalfont Community College in Buckinghamshire.

At Bulmershe we supplied a team of four primary players for the preliminary rounds of a competition against local schools. The children enjoyed the matches and won two of their five games. Unfortunately, it was not enough to progress to the next rounds. But well played everyone!



We took a team of four Primary students and a team of four Secondary students to Chalfont to take part in the first round of a national competition against other schools from the Home Counties.

We did not make it to the next round but both teams acquitted themselves well, winning one of their three matches. Each player received a medal and a certificate.



## **Tennis Fun Day**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 20 pupils from Addington attended a 'Tennis Fun Day' at Sonning Tennis Club. The Tennis coach called Sally has been coming into Addington to deliver lessons to these pupils. The committee kindly invited the pupils to the club to give them an opportunity to play on a full Tennis court. Every pupil received a medal at the end of the day.



### Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award

We are introducing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award accreditation to Addington this year. This is a very exciting opportunity for our upper key stage 3, 4 & 5 students to be involved in. Natasha Read, the operations manager from the D of E, came into school to do a presentation to the students. She also presented the school with a £1000 cheque to contribute to the D of E course. D of E students recently had an opportunity to visit the Blue Coat School to do shelter building activities and have a tour of the school.



### Swimming Competition at Brookfields School

We sent a team of four Primary school pupils to a swimming competition against Brookfields School in Tilehurst on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Brookfields hosted the fixture in their on-site swimming pool. There were nine events; lengths and widths, treasure hunt, push and glide, tower building and the raft race (below).

Addington won the fixture, gaining 16 points against 12 points. All the pupils enjoyed the morning and received certificates for their hard work and effort.



## Play Unified Basketball Tournament at JMA

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December some of our FE students participated in a Unified basketball competition at John Madejski Academy. Special schools from the area were paired up with mainstream schools to put a combined team into the competition. Addington was paired with JMA. There were 4 matches and players were substituted on and off throughout the 8 minute games.



The event was sponsored by the toy company Hasbro and between matches when players were not playing basketball, students were able to play an assortment of games. There were about 80 students taking part. At the end of the event one player from each school team was nominated by the volunteer organisers to win the 'Be Fearless, Be Kind' award. Well done!

## Inter-house Volleyball November 2017

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 72 Addington students competed in the Inter-house Volleyball competition. The Inter-house was thoroughly enjoyed by all and there was some brilliant skills and excellent sportspersonship on display.

Thank you to all the staff that helped to make it such a success, the atmosphere was amazing. Here are the final results:

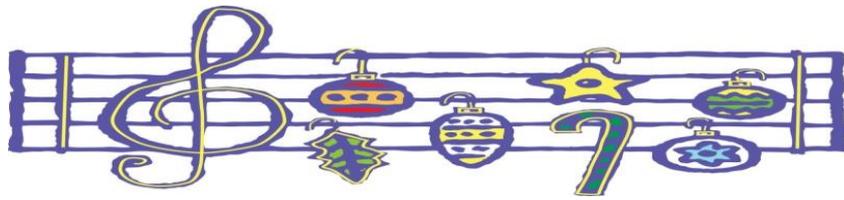
**1st - Blue Sharks – 24pts**  
**2nd – Green Crocodiles - 19 pts**  
**3rd – Red Eagles - 16 pts**  
**4th – Yellow Tigers - 14pts**



Everyone played brilliantly, but I asked each manager to nominate Most Valuable Player's from each house, these included:

**Blue** – Kashif Ahmed and Jake Gray.  
**Green** – Luka White, Sophia Gould-Seymour, Piers Heys and Johnny Delehanty.  
**Red** – Tony Su, Shaun Verney and Billy Sawyer.  
**Yellow** – Presley Shearer, William Kinge, Zoe Maunder, Lloyd Locke and Scott Denton.

All these awards were for a combination of excellent play but also great teamwork and spirit. We look forward to the next inter-house, which is Polybat.



# The Music Pages

*This term has been full of music and music events and as the term draws to a close the music team is busy singing festive songs in the school and the wider community.*

## *Royal Philharmonic Visit*

*We were very fortunate to be able to welcome a group of musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a morning of concerts. They were led by Tim Steiner and our students really enjoyed their interactive concerts, featuring a wide selection of classical music and modern hits, plus some requests from the audience.*



## *Key Stage 2 Arts Award Week*

*This term students in Key Stage 2 took part in an arts week working towards their Discover Arts Award. They explored a Greek themed week where they made models, clay pots, dressed up and visited Reading Museum.*



## Addington Concert Series



Throughout the year we give opportunities for students who are having instrumental lessons to share some of their work with their friends. This term we enjoyed concerts from our guitar students and drum students and DJ students. They all showed some excellent progress throughout the term.



## Gamelan

Earlier this half term several of our middle and upper school classes went to Wellington College to take part in a Gamelan workshop. Gamelan is a style of music from Indonesia that uses bells, gongs and metallophones and has a very unique sound. Students learned about the instruments used and the different cycles of notes used and worked as a group to perform a piece of gamelan.



Carol singing

Once again this year we have been out and about in the community carol singing. Groups have been to Twyford Age Concern, The National Grid, Shute End and many of the school came along to Woodley Precinct for a carol singing afternoon. Students have really enjoyed sharing their Christmas cheer in the wider community!



The music team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy and musical New Year!

Rhona, Sean, Jules and Martin

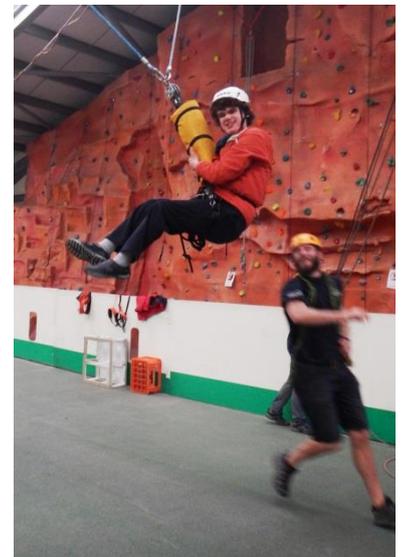
## Access students Residential Trip (2017) to Calvert Trust

This year's Calvert Trust residential trip to Barnstaple in Exmoor was, understandably, received with mixed feelings and some trepidation, particularly by the parents of first timers.

The week at Calvert Trust is now a memory of good times had by all. It was one where pupils, with support, were given the opportunity of facing and overcoming new challenges, and fears, by experiencing and enjoying enriching activities. Some of the demanding challenges each day involved abseiling, archery, cycling, canoeing, crate-stacking, horse riding, the giant swing and the zip wire. The evening activities offered students the chance to see and interact with animals and reptiles from the local zoo, and enjoy a disco.

The old adage "all good things must come to an end" was proved true on the Friday, which seemed to come around far sooner than expected and a tired but happy group left Calvert Trust around 10:00 a.m. and were back at school around 2:00 p.m.

Justine, Casey, Eleanor, Annah, Ian and Jordan must be commended and thanked for their dedication and time to make this trip happen. A big thank you also goes to the talented instructors, catering and administrative staff at Calvert Trust for making the trip the enjoyable, memorable and enriching one that it was.



# Headteacher's Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students who achieved awards for the Autumn Term:

## Foundation

Amelia Nobes  
Brayden Caston

## Key Stage 1

Sulaiman Muhammad

## Access

Brigitte Muzeen  
Fatimah Mughal  
Finlay Bennett  
Sofia De Mesquita

## Key Stage 2

George Matthews  
Jeremy Eitokpah  
Kris Dziaduch  
Lloyd Locke

## Key Stage 3

Charlie Manning  
Nathan Hunter  
Presley Shearer  
Usma Jamil

## Key Stage 4

Alistair Slocombe  
Chanique Watson  
Duncan Stonehouse  
Johnny Delehanty  
Mary Ellen Lally

## Key Stage 5

Daniel Thrower  
Ned Taylor-Clague

## Overall Pupil Award for the Term

Levi Barnes

Well done everyone...keep up the great work!

## Housepoints

The house point totals for the Autumn Term are as follows:

<b>RED Eagles</b>	<b>YELLOW Tigers</b>	<b>BLUE Sharks</b>	<b>GREEN Crocodiles</b>
1454	1201	1395	1320

Well done to all the teams for such a fantastic term, as you can see the totals are all extremely close with the Red Eagles just taking the lead!  
Fantastic!



We were very lucky to have been joined by Digger, the London Irish mascot - he greeted the children as they enjoyed their school Christmas lunch!





ADDINGTON SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last Addington School Association update of 2017! Since the last update we've been very busy with lots of pre-Christmas activities and would like to say thank you to many people for their support and efforts in the last few months!

But before we update you on our activities, you will notice that we have a brand-new Association logo! Thanks goes to Jason Thrower for his efforts in agreeing what we think is a fantastic design! This will be the logo we use moving forward on all our correspondence and promotional material.

So, in the run up to Christmas we've held many events and activities, and all have been supported really well. A massive thank you to Barbi (as always!) for her continued support in organising the Christmas draw, which once again was very well supported. For the first time this year, the Association had a stall at both the Wokingham and Woodley Christmas Extravaganzas. Many thanks to all the helpers who manned the stalls on what were cold but very busy days. There were some lovely moments at both events and it was wonderful to say hello to many ex-pupils, staff and friends of Addington throughout both days. Another big thank you must go to Yvonne Thrower who put together all the gift bags – over 200 in total, in her 'spare' time!

We've also organised the Christmas card and mug fundraising activity. The children produced some lovely artwork which many of you have decided to purchase in the form of Christmas cards and other items. We thought they were all wonderful and hope you enjoy sending your children's artwork to friends and family this Christmas!

Finally, we hosted the Christmas Coffee morning, which was really well attended. It was lovely to see so many parents/carers at the morning. Thanks again to Barbi and Yvonne and our other helpers for giving up their time to run the event.

So, as you can see, we've been busy fundraising and we were delighted to be able to provide the funding needed to bring reindeer to the school for the children to experience and enjoy.

Finally, thanks to all of you that have supported the Association by donating items to use in the gift bags, purchasing Christmas items and also Christmas draw tickets. Your generous support helps so much!



We are very pleased to announce that an Addington School parent Knara Makhtumoua; mother to Andrey has agreed to run next year's Reading Half Marathon on March 18th to raise funds for the school. Knara's son Andrey has been at Addington since foundation, his twin sister Sophia is a pupil at Highwood and Knara who has only been running for a couple years wants to show her appreciation for all the school does for Andrey by helping raise some money for school projects. We will keep you posted on how Knara's training is going.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

**Dawn Adams and all the Association Committee Members.**

P.S. If you receive any Christmas items that you decide you don't want/need then please think of us. We will begin our collecting again right after Christmas!



**ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES**  
**2018 - 2019**

**Autumn Term 2018**

Staff Training - Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 September  
(school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 5 September - Wednesday 19 December

Half Term: Monday 22 October - Monday 29 October (inclusive)

**Spring Term 2019**

Thursday 3 January - Friday 5 April

Half Term: Monday 18 February - Friday 22 February (inclusive)

**Summer Term 2019**

Staff Training - Tuesday 23 April (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 24 April - Tuesday 23 July

May Day Holiday - Monday 6 May

Half Term: Friday 24 May - Friday 31 May (inclusive)

190 days for pupils