

Carr Infant School Newsletter

18.12.25

End of Term

Dear Families,

As I come to the end of my time at Carr Infant School, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we have achieved together over the past eighteen months.

When I joined the school, it was clear that we were facing a number of significant challenges across teaching, behaviour, curriculum and finance. I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made. Our phonics and early reading provision is now stronger, more consistent, and giving children the very best start, with 30% more children reading to a good standard in 2025 than the year before. Writing has grown in both ambition and quality, supported by a clearer, more inclusive approach. Alongside this, we have rebuilt and strengthened the full foundation curriculum, giving every subject a clearer identity, progression and sense of purpose. Playtimes have been transformed into safer, happier and more purposeful experiences, with children now enjoying structured, positive environments that help them develop friendships and confidence. Behind the scenes, the school's financial position has stabilised, and we now have a balanced budget that protects the things that matter most for the children's education. Achieving this alongside improvements to provision, attendance, safeguarding, and inclusion has taken a great deal of teamwork, and I am grateful to the staff who have worked so hard throughout this time of change. I would also like to offer particular thanks to our Chair of Governors and the governing body for their support, challenge and commitment to the school's direction and values. Of course, as with all institutions, there is always more to improve, and I have every confidence that the school will continue to grow and flourish in the months and years ahead under the leadership of Matt Oxley.

Although I am excited to begin a new career outside of teaching, leaving this community will not be not easy. It has been a genuine privilege to work with such spirited, curious and endlessly entertaining children. Carr Infants really is a special place. I wish you, your children, and the school community every success and every happiness in the future.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Dr James Canniford - Headteacher



Our Learning

Nursery

As we come to the end of a successful term in Nursery, we are incredibly proud of the children and all they have achieved. We finished the term with our enrichment text Jesus' Christmas Party, which shares the message of kindness, inclusion and joy.

This has been a long term filled with progress and success. All children are now well settled into our routines and have developed positive friendships. They have learnt many songs and can confidently recite and retell familiar class stories. In Maths, we have seen great progress in number, shape and pattern.

The children have particularly enjoyed our Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle sessions, with physical skills developing well. Many children are keen to copy letters from their names and are beginning to create letter-like shapes, which is something we will continue to develop throughout the year.

One of the highlights of the term was our Christmas songs. The children sang and danced with confidence in front of their families, showing real pride and enjoyment. The performance was very well attended and warmly supported by families, which made the experience even more special for the children. They worked well collaboratively and were excited to perform together.

87%

87% of children in reception can now blend!

This means that children in Reception are having the best possible start in reading. We now need to get this to our goal of all children blending by Easter.



Reception

As we reach the end of our first term in Reception, we are delighted to celebrate the wonderful achievements and growth the children have made. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm for learning shine through each day.

One of our proudest areas of progress has been in Phase 2 phonics. The children have made remarkable strides in recognising sounds and blending them to read simple words. Even more impressively, they are beginning to apply their phonics independently in their play—choosing to write messages, labels, and stories with growing confidence and imagination. Their letter formation is improving beautifully, and many children are now taking great pride in presenting their work carefully.

In maths, the children have developed a strong understanding of numbers to five, exploring how smaller parts combine to make a whole. Through practical activities, games, and talk, they are becoming confident mathematicians who enjoy investigating number patterns and relationships.

We are equally pleased with the children's social and emotional development. Their ability to communicate with one another, manage their feelings, and offer support to their friends continues to blossom. They are becoming increasingly independent during daily routines and transitions, showing responsibility and resilience.

Well done, Reception—what a fantastic first term!



New Front Gates

I am pleased to share that we are having new maglock gates installed on the Ostman Road entrance over the holidays.

There will be a buzzer to allow entry to the front of the school.



Year 1


What a wonderfully positive and productive term we have had in Year 1! The children have settled in beautifully and made fantastic strides in their learning journey, not just academically, but also in growing as confident, resilient learners.

A major focus this term has been on working more collaboratively as a whole class, and the children have risen to this challenge with great enthusiasm. We have seen wonderful teamwork, improved listening skills, and a real sense of shared purpose in our daily routines and activities.

In Science, the children have become budding material scientists! We explored different materials, learning to identify them, describe their properties (such as soft, hard, waterproof, and absorbent), and understand why certain materials are chosen for specific purposes. This hands-on learning has been a great success.

Mathematics has seen us concentrate heavily on securing place value within 10. The children are now much more confident in understanding the value of digits and partitioning numbers up to 10, a critical foundation for future math concepts. Furthermore, we have worked hard on developing and securing reliable addition and subtraction strategies, using practical equipment and number lines to help solve problems.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term. They are embracing challenges and demonstrating excellent 'can-do' attitudes. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a restful and joyful holiday break, and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for the spring term!



Attendance

Whole School 92%

Saplings **91%**

Acorn **90%** **86%** Chestnut

Oak **90%** **97%** Birch

Alder **93%** **92%** Willow

We are aiming for 95% minimum attendance. Missing more than 10% throughout primary school is the same as missing over 6 months of school.

Year 2

What a tremendously successful first term in Year 2! The children have demonstrated remarkable growth across the curriculum, laying strong foundations for the year ahead.

In English, we cultivated strong communication skills by successfully writing three different text types: engaging narratives, factual recounts, and informative reports, alongside exploring the creativity of poetry. This demonstrates a significant achievement in their versatility as young writers.

Mathematicians revisited their essential place value knowledge and then moved on to master sophisticated strategies for the addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers. This represents a huge leap in their numerical confidence and problem-solving abilities.

Science was a term of hands-on discovery! Students achieved a deep understanding of habitats and micro-habitats, even designing and performing their own experiments to determine the environmental preferences of woodlice—a fantastic display of scientific inquiry.

We expanded our global perspective in Geography, achieving a comprehension of the Earth's climate zones by exploring the location and characteristics of hot and cold places. Following this, in Computing, students achieved the foundational understanding of what a computer is and successfully discovered how the essential processes of inputs and outputs function. Finally, in Art, students expressed their creativity by studying map artwork, culminating in the achievement of producing their very own abstract place-based art pieces.

Dates for the Diary

Dates in bold show parent/carers involvement

Red indicates changed dates

----- 2025 - 2026 -----

December

19th - Training Day - school closed to all pupils

January

5th - School re-opens to all pupils

12th - KS1 Choir after school club - 1st session

13th - Year 2 Lego after school club - 1st session

14th - Reception Mini-Makers after school club - 1st session

20th - KS1 Cookery after school club - 1st session

22nd - Reception trip to the local post office

February

4th - Reception Mini-Makers after school club - last session

9th - KS1 Choir after school club - last session

10th - Year 2 Lego after school club - last session

10th - KS1 Cookery after school club - last session

11th - Reception stay & play - 2.30pm

11th - Nursery stay & play

12th - School closes for February half term

13th - Training Day - school closed to all pupils

23rd - School re-opens to all pupils

March

5th - World Book Day

27th - School closes for the Easter holidays

Polite Reminder – Only 1 key ring on book bags please due to storage space.
Thank you.



Reception Christmas artwork



Year 2 Christmas artwork