



Newsletter 2

Autumn half-term (2) December 2025

To do  
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we can

## Hey with Zion V.C. Primary

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exciting and productive half term, and the children and staff have worked incredibly hard. The celebrations have truly begun!

Our nativity performances were the best, and we hope you enjoyed them as much as the children enjoyed performing. The children have also been busy supporting the local community. The choir performed at St John's Christmas Fair, Xander won the Best Poster competition and received a book voucher, and our Christmas bunting is proudly displayed in local shops and businesses. Hetty and William were delighted to receive a bag full of treats from organisers Karen Jakeman and Claire Dunkerley of the LSG Business Hub.

Our infant children sang beautifully at Zion Methodist Church, and the readers who attended both Zion and St John's were exceptional. We are extremely proud of everyone involved. Mrs Dyson also took children to the local care home to deliver Christmas cards, spreading festive cheer. In addition, our Gardening and Eco Group, alongside our litter pickers, have been working hard to improve both the school grounds and the local area.

Forest School has restarted, and we will continue to offer a wide range of after-school clubs. Thank you so much for your support with the Book Fair. The funds raised, along with money from our next Book Fair next term, will be used to further enhance our school library. The Christmas Fair was another roaring success, raising over £1,000, with a further £400+ raised during the nativities. The School Council is currently deciding how best to spend this money.

School trips have been organised for all classes this year, and we are extremely grateful to our wonderful PTFA for subsidising the cost of coaches. Our PTFA is truly second to none, and their creativity and dedication to the children is greatly appreciated. The *Wicked* experience looked fantastic, and our Movie Night is set to become a firm favourite for years to come.

Our budding sports champions have also been very busy, taking part in local and Manchester competitions. Our chess team won the Oldham Schools Tournament with ease, and they will be playing on the Latics pitch on Saturday 20th. If you can attend and cheer them on, they would really appreciate the support. We will also be playing Rosehill Methodist School on January 14th in the first of many Epworth sporting events.

Finally, well done to all the children who received recognition at our end-of-term presentation evening. You are amazing and thoroughly deserve your awards.

## News from the classes

### Early Years

#### Oak Class - Miss Holt

We have had a very busy half term in Oak Class. We started with learning about Diwali. We made our own Diva lamps. We have been learning about our local area and have enjoyed a visit to the local shop and the post box. We even posted a special surprise to our families. We finished this half term by inviting our families in for a Christmas Stay and Play. A big thank you to all those parents and grandparents that came along to support. Next half term our topic will be 'Once upon a time...'. We have lots of exciting activities planned, including mystery readers.



#### Acorn Class - Mrs Westhead

This term we have been learning all about "Seasons and Celebrations." We have had a birthday party for our class mascot, looked at how the seasons are changing and we have been practising for our Nativity. Our focus text, "Saving Mr Hoot," led to some very good questions and discussions. We made predictions and found out some more information about owls. We really enjoyed our stay and play session where we started our Christmas crafts with our parents/carers.

Next term our topic is "Once upon a time." We will read a variety of fairy tales and thread the themes and characters through our play and learning.

## Infants Key Stage 1

### Birch Class - Miss Cochrane and Mrs Thompson Lloyd

Birch Class has had an exceptional half term filled with learning and creativity. In English, pupils explored the text 'Wild', developing their skills in character analysis and creative writing. In Mathematics, they strengthened their understanding of place value up to 100 and successfully completed a module on 2D and 3D shapes.

A highlight of the term was the nativity performance, 'The Inspectors'. The children demonstrated enthusiasm and teamwork, bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life through music and drama. Their dedication and effort were truly commendable, and we are very proud of their achievements.



### Pine Class - Miss Jackson

This term we have had a wonderful time exploring our new text Wild, beginning to learn all about shape in maths, and spending lots of time practising our nativity - everyone has worked so hard and should feel very proud. We have also spent lots of time getting to know each other and have developed some lovely friendships across our mixed class.

In the New Year, we have lots to look forward to as we dive into poetry, explore continents, and oceans in geography and continue expressing our creativity through music, art, and PE. It's going to be an exciting term ahead!

### Elm class - Miss Taylor

This term, we have explored our new text in English, 'Wild'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this text and have produced some amazing pieces of work about it! The children have really enjoyed practising and performing their Nativity this term! They have really gotten into their roles, and their drama skills are fantastic! They have shown tremendous support for each other and excellent teamwork to deliver a fantastic performance for their adults.

We are so excited for our next half term and all the amazing things we are going to be doing. We will continue with our art lessons, learning about different patterns and using paint brushes to explore a variety of techniques. We cannot wait to see what Spring term brings for us in Elm class



## Juniors Key Stage 2

### Beech Class - Miss Myers

This term we have enjoyed continuing our learning about circuits in Design and Technology. We made a nightlight for a sibling or a friend thinking about what our success criteria may be and what people may want in a nightlight. The children then use recycled materials to create their own nightlight.

The children have also enjoyed forest school this term and have ended the term with making a fire, they got to look at how to be safe around them, if they are always safe and what happens to the wood after it has been in the fire.



### Rowan Class - Miss Morton

This half term children have enthusiastically been learning their times tables. Children have loved learning about the Victorians, and how the rich and poor lived. We have done some fabulous art, learning about Andy Warhol and Edvard Munch. In music we have been learning to use notation as we create little tunes on the glockenspiels.

As part of science and DT children created light up pictures.

On a Friday, with Mr Fletcher children have learned about volcanoes in geography.



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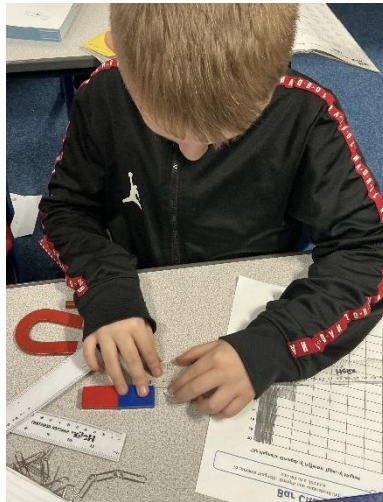
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## Chestnut Class - Miss Seton- Jones

In Geography the children have been learning about earthquakes and volcanos. They have learnt about tectonic plates and how their position affects the world. The children have loved taking part in practical investigations during our topics on electricity and forces and magnets. Our class book for English this half term has been Mary Poppins, the children enjoyed developing dialogue, writing descriptions and developing their vocabulary. New to Hey with Zion this year in music was learning to play the toot. I have been amazed at how much they have learnt in such a short period of time.



### Sycamore Class - Mr Phelan

Over this past half term, Sycamore class have a wonderful learning journey. We have explored online safety and how we can stay safe online. This was after completing our Online Safety questionnaire. The children worked together to make some posters about how to stay safe online.

In science we have been looking at Circuits and what makes a circuit work. The children have created their own circuits and looked at different insulators and conductors. The children then performed 'Classroom Court' where one side would defend the insulators and one would defend the conductors.

In Design and Technology, we have been looking at Structures. What makes a good structure, why structures can withstand such weight and different types of structures. The children then consolidated their learning by building their own structures from paper and card.

Sycamore class are looking forward to the wonderful lessons that they will be a part of after the Christmas holidays and are especially excited for their Geography lessons.

### Larch Class - Mrs Patterson

This half term in Larch Class we have been learning about circuits in our Electricity topic. We have created our own circuits looking at how to make a bulb brighter and made a circuit to make a light up Rudolph. In D&T children have been designing their own frame structures they began by creating a tent structure using straws and pipe cleaners. In spring they will use dowelling to make their own air raid shelters linked to our English topic.

The Year 6 children have visited Robinwood on their residential trip where they took part in lots of outdoor and adventurous activities. They had an amazing time, and many pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones.



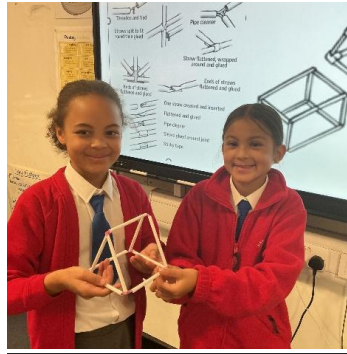


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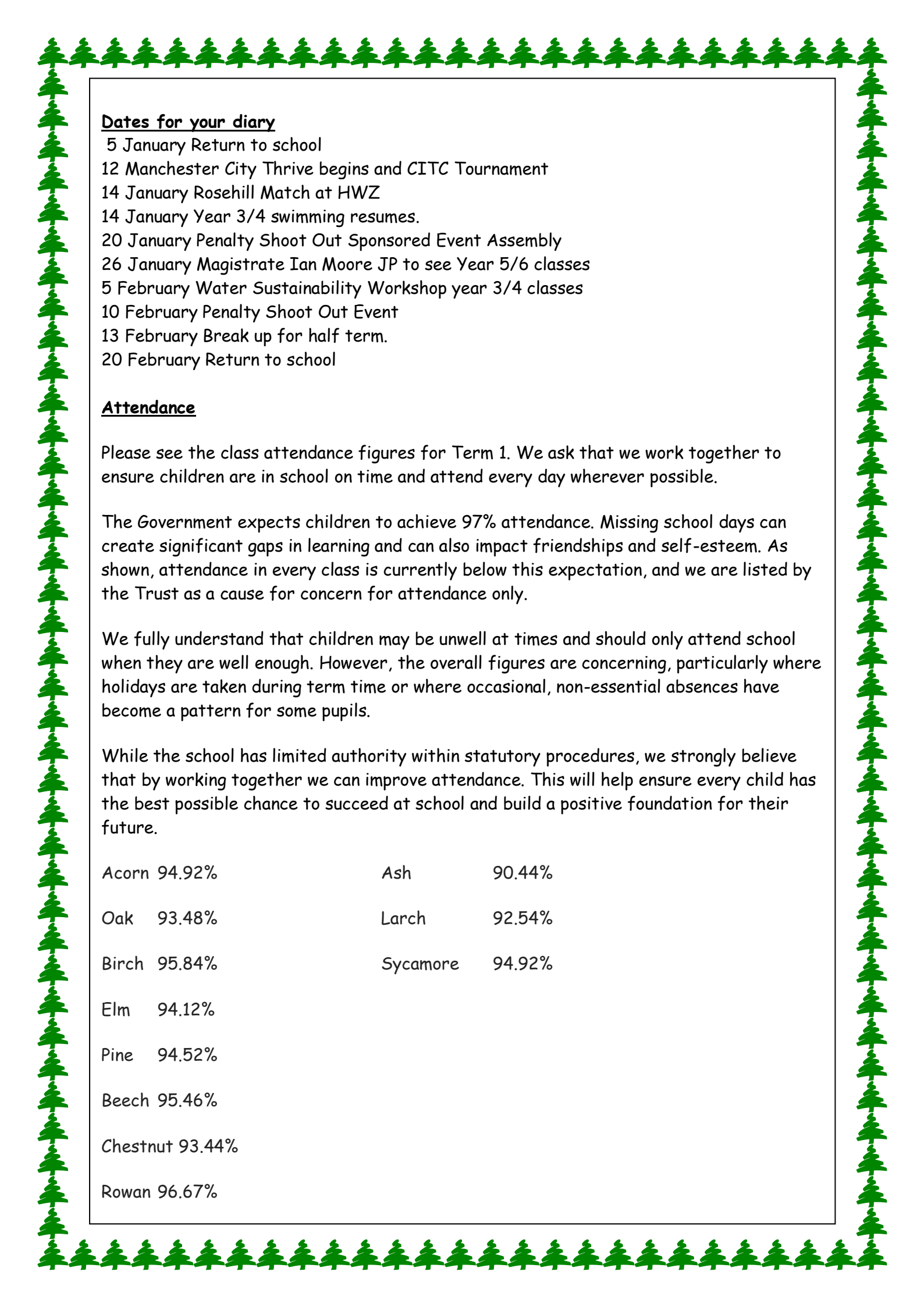
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## Ash Class - Mrs Soanes

In Ash Class, we have had a very busy first term. The Year Six have been on their residential trip to Robin Wood. It was amazing to see them all work together in their groups and support each other. Year Five have been involved in Play in Day producing a play on the Second World War in a day. All the children had lots of fun and performed their play to the rest of KS2. For our class Collective Worship, the children wrote and performed poetry to the parents and the rest of the school. In Science the children have been looking at creating electrical circuits, circuit diagrams and fixed issues with circuits. Next half term we will have a visit from a serving magistrate who will discuss his job with the children





**Dates for your diary**

- 5 January Return to school
- 12 Manchester City Thrive begins and CITC Tournament
- 14 January Rosehill Match at HWZ
- 14 January Year 3/4 swimming resumes.
- 20 January Penalty Shoot Out Sponsored Event Assembly
- 26 January Magistrate Ian Moore JP to see Year 5/6 classes
- 5 February Water Sustainability Workshop year 3/4 classes
- 10 February Penalty Shoot Out Event
- 13 February Break up for half term.
- 20 February Return to school

**Attendance**

Please see the class attendance figures for Term 1. We ask that we work together to ensure children are in school on time and attend every day wherever possible.

The Government expects children to achieve 97% attendance. Missing school days can create significant gaps in learning and can also impact friendships and self-esteem. As shown, attendance in every class is currently below this expectation, and we are listed by the Trust as a cause for concern for attendance only.

We fully understand that children may be unwell at times and should only attend school when they are well enough. However, the overall figures are concerning, particularly where holidays are taken during term time or where occasional, non-essential absences have become a pattern for some pupils.

While the school has limited authority within statutory procedures, we strongly believe that by working together we can improve attendance. This will help ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed at school and build a positive foundation for their future.

Acorn 94.92%	Ash 90.44%
Oak 93.48%	Larch 92.54%
Birch 95.84%	Sycamore 94.92%
Elm 94.12%	
Pine 94.52%	
Beech 95.46%	
Chestnut 93.44%	
Rowan 96.67%	



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## Other news

Collective worship will take place from 5 January each morning from 9am - 9:30am - please note class assemblies and Good Work/Student of the Week sessions will also be in the morning.

We formally welcome new members of staff - Miss Jenkinson who is a new teaching assistant and Mrs Smith a midday supervisor. We also welcome Mr Redfearn who will be teaching across the school. Welcome!

Finally, from all the team at Hey with Zion - have a wonderful Christmas and many blessings for the new year.

See you on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Mrs Machin