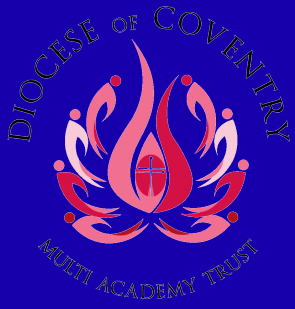


Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams

Church of England Academy

@RytonPWAcademy



Newsletter Monday 8th December 2025

"Let your light shine"

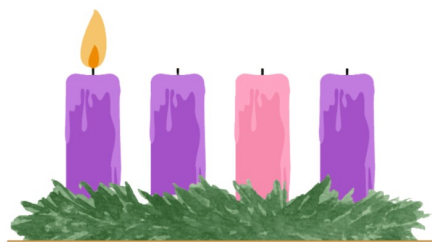


Last week, children from Year 5 and 6 took part in Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability. The courses, funded by the Department for Transport, teach children how to cycle safely, respond to risk and boost their confidence.

Head Teacher's Message

Each day at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, the smiles, waves, and laughter we share remind us of the strong community spirit that makes our school so special. Whether at the gates in the morning or in the playground during the day, it is clear that our school is filled with positivity, care, and togetherness.

My staff and I are always here to support you and your children. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to speak with us at the beginning or end of the school day, or contact us through the office. We are committed to listening, helping, and ensuring that every child feels valued and supported.



ADVENT

WEEK 1 – HOPE: PROPHECY CANDLE

Last week, in collective worship, the children learned about Advent, the season when Christians remember that God came to earth to be born as the Christ child, Jesus.

We lit the first advent candle and talked about Advent being a time of hope, expectation and "getting ready".

Christmas Activities

On Wednesday, our pantomime trip was a real treat. The performance, costumes and atmosphere was incredible and our children thoroughly enjoyed the audience participation!

Back at school rehearsals are underway for our own production, the Tiptoe Nativity. The Christmas Story will be told by our youngest children, supported by some of our Key Stage 2 children as narrators. The whole school is involved so don't forget to buy your tickets from the MCAS shop.

Don't forget the PTA Fair on Friday after-school. Huge thanks to our hard-working PTA, organising this sort of event is no small task. It's a super busy time for everyone and so special thanks to PTA for their support. Tokens are on sale on Wednesday after-school.



We will be using the token system again after the huge success at the summer fair. Tokens will be available before and during the fair

Our Traditional Christmas Day, 19th December

On the last day of term, we will hold our much-loved Christmas Day tradition:

- ⇒ Children are invited to arrive at school in their pyjamas.
- ⇒ Each class will share a small breakfast together.
- ⇒ Pupils will then receive a Christmas gift before changing into their own clothes.
- ⇒ Finally, the whole school will come together to enjoy a Christmas lunch as a community.

There will be no celebration assembly on the last day and school will finish as normal at 3.15pm.

Entrance Arrangements After Christmas

After the Christmas break, Nursery and Reception pupils will once again enter their classrooms via the side gate and past the Creative Hub. This change is designed to ease congestion and lessen the impact of the whole school entering through the main reception area.

For the time being, while the remainder of the roofers' compound is still in place, Year 1–6 pupils will continue to enter via the main reception.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we manage these arrangements, ensuring safe and smooth transitions for all pupils.

The Ark

Due to a Health and Safety issue, which we are working quickly to rectify, our before and after school provision will temporarily take place in the Shine Room. This arrangement will remain in place until further notice. When collecting your child, please continue to ring the bell as usual and collect directly from the Shine Room entrance.

Safeguarding

Evidence shows that children are often at greater risk from people they know, from other children, or online. However, abuse and dangerous situations can also occur outside the home, which is why it is so important to teach children how to stay safe.

Recognising Danger: Help your child learn how to identify and respond to threatening situations.

Understanding Strangers: Explain the difference between strangers who may cause harm and those who could help.

Trusted Adults: Make sure your child knows who they can turn to if they need help.

Speaking Up: Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they are approached by someone they don't know or if they ever feel uncomfortable.

Awareness: Remind your child to stay alert to their surroundings when walking or playing outside.

By reinforcing these messages, we can empower children to make safer choices and feel confident in seeking help when needed.

Smartphone-Free Childhood Pact

Smartphones and social media place adult-sized responsibilities on children long before they are ready. From managing constant notifications, to navigating online bullying, to resisting addictive algorithms and harmful content, children are being asked to carry more than they should.

What the Research Shows:

Early access to smartphones and social media can lead to:

Increased anxiety and depression

Disrupted sleep

Fragmented and limited attention span

Exposure to harmful content

Underdeveloped social skills

A Different Path

There is another way. By delaying smartphones and social media, we give our children more time to:

Build real-life connections

Enjoy the simple joys of childhood

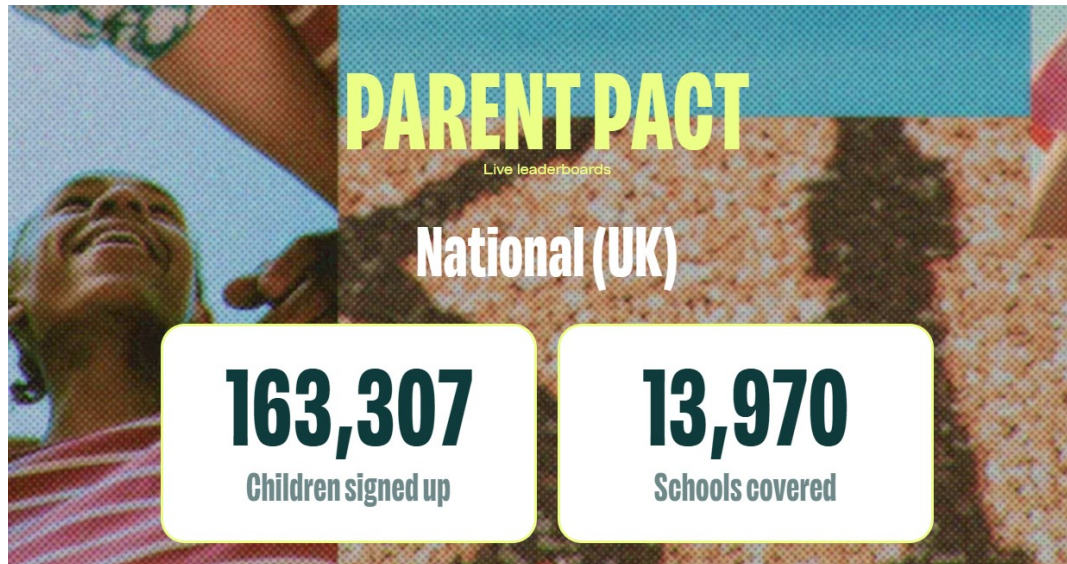
Develop focus, resilience and strong relationships

This choice protects childhood while laying the foundations for children to thrive as confident, balanced adults



At Ryton-on-Dunsmore, six parents have already signed up to the pact to delay giving their child a smartphone until Year 9. This growing commitment reflects our shared belief in protecting childhood and supporting children's wellbeing. You can view the Warwickshire Schools Leaderboard and see how our community compares by clicking the link:-

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>



Diary Dates

Wed 10th December	10.00am	Christingle Service at St Leonards Church
Tues 16th December		Attendance Reward Event
Wed 17th December	10am	Early Years/KS1 Nativity plus KS2 Carols
Thurs 18th December	10am	Early Years/KS1 Nativity plus KS2 Carols
Fri 19th December		Our Christmas Day at RODA, including Christmas Dinner

Menu change for last week of term, Friday Fish will be served on Wednesday.

		Break up
Mon 5th January		Back to School
Mon 26th January		Young Voices event in Birmingham
Wed 11th February		Years 1-6 to British Museum
Friday 13th February		Teacher Training Day

SPOTLIGHT ON DAHL CLASS

This week's "Spotlight" is on our Year 1 and 2 class "Dahl". There is never a moment when the children in Dahl Class are not fully occupied. Between Mrs Collins and Mrs McLaren the children are always focussed and aware of the expectations and learning focus.

The children have been working on:-

- ⇒ Drawing lines with a ruler
- ⇒ Reinforcing their cutting skills



- ⇒ We have been reading to a grown-up many times during the week. This is a combination of teaching staff and Mrs Barry, one of our volunteers. Regular reading develops fluency and accuracy.
- ⇒ We have been rehearsing our Christmas play, with children from Early Years.
- ⇒ We have been finding where "light" features in the Christmas story.
- ⇒ We have been re-telling the pantomime story "Sleeping Beauty"



As part of their Kindness Advent Calendar, Dahl Class has a Toy Swap.



VALUES AWARD

This is awarded to pupils who have shown our school values of:

Love

Honesty

Fairness

Respect

Hope

Forgiveness

The latest recipients of our
Values Award are:-

Layton (Year 1) and Grace (Year 1)

STAR LEARNERS

Star Learner has been awarded to:-

Early Years

Zephaniah and Ewan

Year 1

Kylah and Layton

Year 2

Aleksandra and Ellie

Year 3

Ivy-Grace and Vinnie

Year 4

Ailisia and Cian

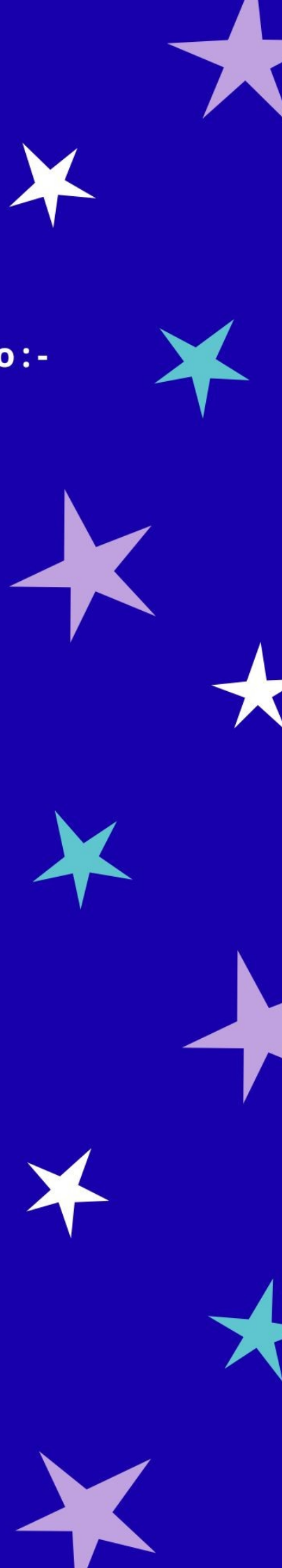
Year 5

James and Alex

Year 6

Sophie and Musaad

Well done superstars!



Let's celebrate together!

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

AT RYTON ON DUNSMORE ACADEMY

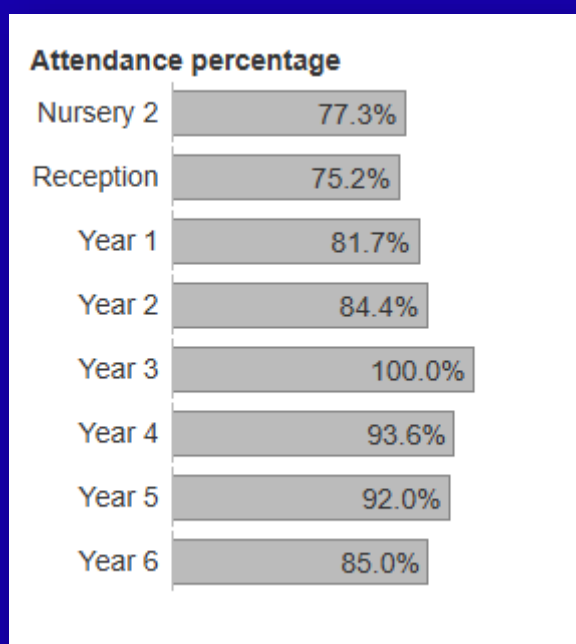
Date	Activity	Information for parents
Wednesday 10 th December	Christingle Service at St Leonard's Church.	Parents are welcome to attend the service which starts at 10am
Friday 12 th December	PTA Christmas Fair	The fair opens at 3.15pm with games, tombola, crafts, food and drinks and a Special Guest!
Tuesday 16 th December	Attendance reward	For those children who have 100% attendance this term
Wednesday 17 th December and Thursday 18 th December	Nativity and carols 10am	Tickets can be purchased on MCAS, maximum 2 per family for performance. This involves children from all classes. No swimming on Thursday.
Friday 19 th December	Ryton on Dunsmore Christmas Day!	Children can arrive in pyjamas and head straight to classrooms for a gift by the "fire". Bring clothes in a bag, Christmas jumpers/dresses/festive wear. Christmas dinner will be served, please ensure your MCAS account is in credit if you pay for meals. School will finish at normal time.





Attendance Update

Attendance % for last week was:-



Over recent weeks, we've experienced a higher level of illness across the school, which is something that does happen from time to time. We would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers who have kept us informed about their child's absence - your communication really helps us to manage things effectively.

We're hopeful that the worst is now behind us, and we look forward to everyone feeling well enough to take part in the festive activities we have planned for the coming weeks.

On 16th December, Miss Cullen will be congratulating the children who have managed 100% attendance for the term.

Also that week, we will be putting the names of all children who have achieved 95% or above into a prize draw.

In January, the first week back will be EARLY BIRD WEEK again, with a prize for the children who are in school and on time each day.

The perfect Christmas gift for children of all ages .

Hilarious seasonal adventure from king of comedy David Walliams. A fun, funny and heartwarming story for the whole family . It's the night of Christmas Eve. In the most famous toy shop in the world, a robbery is underway. The shop's Santa and his son are locked inside with the baddies.

Can our heroes stop them using just the toys in the shop as weapons? Pogo sticks! Bouncy balls! Remote-controlled helicopters! Bubble guns! Slime! Slinkies! Stink bombs!



Miss Cullen's Recommended Reads



A second picture-book *Christmasaurus* adventure from beloved children's author Tom Fletcher, full of festive magic. It's the night before Christmas and all Christmasaurus wants to do is help Santa and the elves get ready for the big day. But everything he does goes disastrously wrong.

Then, someone special shows him that things don't need to be perfect to wonderful. Because the true spirit of Christmas comes from the unique sparkle in each and every one of us. A new Christmasaurus story from bestselling author Tom Fletcher, told in brilliant read-aloud rhyme and with an uplifting message about finding your own special talents. Featuring magical illustrations from Shane Devries and two stunning pull-out gatefold spreads, this gorgeous book is the perfect Christmas gift.

BOOK WORM

