



## Headmistress' Newsletter

**Week Commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parents,

Last Friday, five Winterfold pupils were baptised at St. Ambrose's church, by Father Lamb. All of Year 3 were present, to support their peers in making this important Sacrament of initiation into the Catholic faith.

Parents presented their child to Fr. Lamb by name and the sign of the cross was made on their foreheads, as a symbol of being welcomed into the Christian church. They then listened to the story of Jesus' own Baptism from St. Mark's Gospel, read by the Head Girl. The children were then invited to receive the oil of Chrism on the crown of their heads, as a visible sign that the presence of the Holy Spirit had entered their lives. Following that, they went to the font and had the holy water poured onto their heads three times to represent the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). They then made promises and their Godfathers handed them their candle which was lit from the Paschal candle as a sign of Christ's light shining in their lives. Finally, they had a white garment wrapped around their shoulders as a symbol of purity. At the end of the ceremony, the Festival Choir sang the *Kyrie Eleison* beautifully and they filled the church with their signature sound.



The Baptism ceremony was a very special and memorable occasion for all of the children involved as well as their families and Godparents. We wish them our heartfelt congratulations and they remain in our prayers, as they continue in their journey of faith.

### ★ Stars of the Week ★

1G – Alyssa T; 1W – Taran G; 2C – Freya M; 2J – Noah H; 3B – Heidi H; 3W – Henry T; 4B – Florence N  
4W – Bobby M; 5F – Marnie S; 5L – Joesph W; 6L – Eva VW-R; 6S – Huw W; 7D – Cecilia G; 7M – Freddie A  
8B – Imogen W; 8S – Freya C

Congratulations to **Swifts** who are this week's winning Pack.

Radio Winterfold makes a welcome return to the airwaves in the form of the famous **Radio Winterfold** Podcast. Season 2 began this week with children from Year 5 committing themselves to the studio as part of their Pupil Voice contributions. On this first podcast, we hear about what is going on around the School and how our teams did in their recent sporting fixtures. We also hear an interview with our very own in-house author Mr Dieppe, and Ed G (Year 5) brings us the much requested "Winterfold's Weird and Wonderful World of Wow!" The children make every effort to make this Podcast a very real and relevant source of information about the School and are looking forward to expanding it to incorporate new ideas and features and showcase children's work from across the year groups. They are building the skills and confidence to take the show live on the air in a few weeks' time and would really appreciate your support and listenership. To hear the latest podcast and back issues from previous years, simply click the link [HERE](#) or scan the QR code which will take you straight to the Winterfold YouTube page where the podcast is hosted.



Last Friday children across the School chose the next group of entrepreneurs to support as part of our successful **Lend With Care** charity project. Every loan we have given out over the last 18 months has now been, or is in the process of, being successfully repaid. This time, children had to choose from six different entrepreneurs from around the world. After much discussion, they chose to support a group of farmers in Pakistan wanting a solar panel to power their irrigation pumps, a shopkeeper in the Philippines recovering from Typhoon Odette and a chicken farmer from Ecuador.

Our **OWLS** group have moved from their usual roost in the Drawing Room to the CDT room to explore some simple engineering concepts with Mr Jackson. They have examined the conversion of circular movement to linear movement through cam systems and have applied this knowledge to making their own automata. Next, they will be moving onto this year's OWL Dragon's Den, in which the children will need to develop an idea, build a business plan and present a case for an innovation or invention along a given theme. In the past, we have explored products and services aimed at protecting the environment and helping the elderly and people with disabilities. This year's theme will be announced in OWLS before half-term.

Now that our Year 8 have all completed their Drama Scholarship auditions, the **Drama Scholars** group has begun work on creating devised pieces. Devised performance work is a main component of GCSE Drama and with a number of our Year 8s opting to study this at their next schools, we took the opportunity to get a taster of what that course might be like. Working in mixed groups of Year 7 and 8, the pupils have responded to their given stimulus material and begun planning their pieces. Their final performance should incorporate both scripted and improvised work as well as using Physical Theatre and sound to enhance their performances. We hope to be able to share the results of this work, with parents, in the Summer Term.

In **Sports News**, our girls hosted Hallfield on Tuesday for two U9 and U8 netball matches and played very well, demonstrating some lovely, well-connected passes. Meanwhile, the U13 A girls participated in the Wyre Forest District Netball Tournament at Stourport Dome. They showcased a high level of skill throughout, working well as a team to win all of their matches and being named the District Champions for a sixth consecutive year. The girls will now go onto the County Finals in March. The Under 12 A, B and C netball teams showed great skill and teamwork on Wednesday dominating their matches at RGS Senior School. Their impressive play and determination were truly commendable. The Year 5 girls played The Downs Malvern and showed positive improvements throughout the game. The Year 4 boys had football fixtures at King's Hawford. They are improving their skills and teamwork each week and are starting to play more as a team. The Year 3 boys played at RGS the Grange with the A team enjoying a 4-1 win, whilst many of the B team enjoyed their first football match and displayed some good touches, learning a lot from the experience. The 1st XI team played very well in their match with The Downs Malvern, and the boys that stepped up into the first team fitted in seamlessly. The Colts A team had an excellent triangular fixture at The Elms along with King's St Albans, whilst the rest of the Colts teams played at home with The Downs Malvern.



Children in **Year 1** explored Christopher Columbus' journey to America, drawing parallels between life in his era and the present. In Mathematics, they extended their measuring skills using hand spans and leg strides and created decollaged frames to display their self-portraits in Art.

**Year 2** celebrated National Handwriting Day this week, by copying out 'Worm' by Ted Hughes in their best handwriting, to be judged by our Head of English, Mrs Miles. The children sang to Nursery parents in Choir, and in Forest School they made bird feeders.





In Early Years, **Reception** children spent a fun week doing work around the story 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', making troll masks and a wanted poster for the troll. In Maths, they looked at numbers 6, 7 and 8 and found out about sea creatures and the different places that they live.

**Kindergarten 2** children have been learning facts about the robin and enjoyed listening to the story 'Robins Winter Song'. They drew robin pictures, demonstrating some wonderful painting skills. In Forest School, the children created bird cakes and had a lovely time feeding the birds.

**Kindergarten 1** children have enjoyed their class book 'Rumble in the Jungle'. They rolled, shaped and decorated playdough snakes and learnt about jungle animals through simple yoga poses. They enjoyed music and movement to the song 'Down in the Jungle where Nobody Goes'.



In **Nursery**, the Ducklings have enjoyed socialising with their Gosling peers and taking part in a variety of mixed free play and activities. The Goslings made Arctic foxes and scarves and hats, using different collage materials, whilst the Cygnets listened to the story, 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. They made houses, paper plate animal faces and characters from the story.

**Lost Property** – Sophia I (Year 7) has misplaced her named School blazer – please check.

Finally, our two new **Gap Teachers**, Claudia Bowen and Jemma Brandon-Cooper have settled into Winterfold life beautifully since arriving two weeks ago. Both girls hail from Sydney and have enjoyed getting to know the staff and children. After their placement, Claudia plans to return to Australia to study a Bachelor of Law & International Studies degree, whilst Jemma plans to study Medical Science for a career in the medical industry.



Jemma



Claudia

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read 'Denise Toms'.

Denise Toms  
Headmistress

Click the [LINK](#) here for the January/February issue of Families magazine.