



# AUCKLAND COLLEGE EYFS NEWSLETTER



## Key Dates

- Holiday Club starts - Mon 18th Dec
- Christmas Day - Mon 25th Dec
- Boxing Day - Tues 26th Dec
- SHUTDOWN - Weds 27th Dec-Tues 2nd Jan
- Holiday Club restarts - Weds 3rd Jan
- INSET Day - Fri 5th Jan
- Term starts - Mon 8th Jan
- National Handwriting Day - Tues 23rd Jan
- Burns Night - Thurs 25th Jan
- Holocaust Memorial Day - Sat 27th Jan
- National Storytelling Week - 30th Jan-6th Feb
- Children's Mental Health Week - w/c 5th Feb
- Last day of term - Fri 9th Feb
- Chinese New Year - Sat 10th Feb

## Message from the EYFS Team

What a fantastic half term the EYFS Department has had; from Owl visits to Winter Performances, it has been lovely to see all the engaging activities happening around school, as well as seeing photographs on Class Dojo.

This half term, we have been informing parents all about Language Development and how this can be supported at home, as well as holding staff training to ensure we are providing quality opportunities for progression in this area for all children. I hope you have all found this information beneficial and if you require any further advice, please just ask.

Reflecting on our practice, we would like to offer a homework opportunity each week to develop Language Development. This will begin in January and will be called Talk Time; it will provide an opportunity for children and parents to engage in a topic of conversation set by the class teacher. The topic of conversations may reflect what is being learnt in school or just be a fun question to discuss.

I hope you will enjoy this new part within our homework, and it provides great opportunities for you to have fun with your child.

Thank You  
Mrs Collins  
Assistant Head of EYFS

# Things to do in Liverpool over the Christmas Holidays!

- *Lanterns & Lights, Chester Zoo, 17th November - 31st December*

<https://www.chesterzoo.org/lanterns-and-light/>

- *The Snow Queen: An Enchanted Experience, St. George's Hall, 16th - 24th December*

<https://www.visitliverpool.com/event/the-snow-queen%3a-an-enchanted-experience/58130101/>

- *The Scouse Dick Whittington, Royal Court Liverpool, 11th December - 27th January*

<https://liverpoolsroyalcourt.com/>

## Christmas Tree Decoration Cookies

### Ingredients

- 140g icing sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk
- 250g butter
- 375g plain flour



### Method

1. Mix the sugar, vanilla, egg yolk and butter together until combined. Add the flour and mix to a firm dough. Chill the dough for 20-30 mins. Preheat the oven to 190C or gas mark 5 and line two oven trays with baking paper.
2. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface, then cut out your desired shapes. Use cutters if you would like. Using the tip of a skewer, cut a small hole in the top of each cookie. Bake for 10-12 mins until lightly golden.
3. Put the biscuits onto the wire rack to cool. While they are cooling, mix 200g of icing sugar with a couple of drops of water. Add food colouring if you would like. Spread over the cooled biscuits, decorate with your favourite sprinkles, then thread with ribbon when dry.



## Important Messages

Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes in their bag every day. This should include at least two pairs of underwear and trousers/leggings, one top, one pair of socks and a pair of shoes (if there is room in your child's bag). This does not need to be uniform. Please do this even if your child is fully toilet trained, as they could still need changing if they fall in a puddle or spill something over themselves.

We encourage children to bring a morning snack to school. Please be aware that we have a 'nut free' policy and no nuts or products containing traces of nuts should be sent into school. Grapes should be cut in half length ways.





# Pre-Prep 1

Pre-Prep 1 have had a brilliant half term. We started with our topic all about Special Days, where we learnt about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Odd Sock Day and Children in Need!

We then moved onto the topic of Dinosaurs. The children loved pretending to be palaeontologists in the role play area and digging for dinosaur bones. They also enjoyed playing in the dino-swamp water tray!

Finally, we did all about Christmas! PP1 made us all so proud by doing fabulous singing in our Winter Performance, and they had so much fun making Christmas tree decorations and cards to take home. The children really enjoyed making toys in our Santa's Workshop role play area too.

In Phonics this half term, we have continued to learn the Phase 2 sounds and tricky words, and working on our segmenting and blending skills.

In Maths, we have been learning how to subitise up to three and five, linking numerals to quantity up to 10 and comparing groups, using vocabulary such as 'more than' and 'fewer than'.

On behalf of myself, Miss Issy, Miss Claire and Miss Olivia, I just wanted to say thank you for your very generous gifts. Have a wonderful Christmas break and we will see you in the new year!

Best wishes,  
Miss Mott



# Pre-Prep 2

Pre-Prep 2 have been working very hard these past few weeks and we have seen their development come on so much. In this half-term we began by learning about 'Celebrations and Events' that were happening, such as Diwali, Remembrance Day and Children in Need.

We have been continuing to develop our knowledge of Level 2 Phonics by practising sounds such as 'm', 'd', 'g', and 'o' through the Twinkl scheme. The children are also showing some promising improvement when writing letters and even their own names with guidance when necessary.

All the children enjoyed our Transport topic and learning how transport has changed over time. We also were so pleased with how many families engaged with our junk-modelling task to make a robot out of recyclable materials. Throughout the last two weeks, we have been learning about our new topic 'Christmas'. We have been practising Christmas songs, making decorations, cards and even had a Winter Performance for our families. The children did so well and made us all very proud.

In Mathematics we have been using some initial problem-solving skills in practical play-based situations and comparing groups by using the language of more and fewer. In Expressive Arts and Design, we have been putting our arts and crafts skills to the test by using different materials and techniques to join pieces together. Finally, our PE lessons have given us great opportunities to have hopping and skipping races, as well as build up our gross motor muscles.

Best wishes,  
Miss Patterson





# Pre-Prep 3

PP3 have had an amazing half term, full of excitement and enjoyment learning about their chosen topic of Transport and Road Safety, and then taking part in the Winter Performance.

Firstly, the children have been working extremely hard in their Phonics lessons, and the progress the children have made is fantastic, which is also going to allow some of them to start learning Level 3 sounds when we return to school.

It has also been lovely to have already given out reading books from our new reading scheme this half term, for the children to practice their decoding skills at home.

In Maths the children have been working extra hard learning to find the total amount of a group/groups of objects. The children have worked so well that they have been able to use their counting skills to count groups of objects to 20 and beyond.

During Understanding of the World, the children have been learning about transport and road safety. PP3 were lucky to meet Super Cat, who helped the children learn a song to help them keep safe when crossing roads.

In Art the children created beautiful Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali, as well as making props for the Winter Performance. Finally, the Winter Performance was amazing, and I am very proud of all the children, as they practised their songs and actions for weeks, building up to the final show. All the children did brilliantly and made us all so proud.

Mrs Collins



# Reception

Reception have had such a fantastic half term. We have been learning all about celebrations such as Diwali and Bonfire Night; the children explored light and dark and we even did science experiments with glow sticks! We also had a wonderful community link and showed our respect and thanks to all soldiers by painting poppies on to rocks and creating poppy suncatchers. They were displayed for all to see outside the school, and our children were super proud of them!

We are also doing extremely well in Phonics, advancing through our knowledge of sounds and tricky words. Our teachers are super proud of our achievements!

Our main topic this term has been learning about nocturnal animals and their habitats and we had the pleasure of welcoming a special guest who brought lots of animals for us to observe and touch. We focused on owls and learned all about barn owls and tawny owls and were very fortunate to hold them with a special bird handler glove.

In our maths topic we have been looking at many different objectives including 2D and 3D shapes. The children were given a project to create 3D shape junk models which they presented to the class. We have also focused on our counting skills identifying one more and one less of numbers.

We put on a fantastic Winter Performance and filled our teachers and parents/carers with so much joy!

Keep up the fantastic work reception we are immensely proud of you all!

Miss Lloyd and Miss Scholfield

