

Newsletter December 2025



Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

It's been a fabulous end to 2025 and an amazing first term gone, at Netherton - your children do us proud.

We have just finished the term with pupil progress meetings, whole school performances, dance, sports and an array of internal school events. You can see what the school has to offer your children, and our ultimate aim is to continue fostering talent.

We have seen talent on display in abundance, over the last few weeks, and I personally, want to thank you for your love and support.

Thanks for supporting our Christmas Fayre, all the money we raise will support the pupils directly and allow us to provide more resources/equipment to help them thrive. The whole day was full of community spirit, from the carols on the playground to the crowds waiting to get their hands on a filled jar.... or a samosa...thankyou.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all seasons greetings and a happy new year. We will see you on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Mrs K Harvey

A Christmas Wish



As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the light of Christ shines upon us, bringing peace, hope, and joy to our hearts. May the love of our Netherton Family, and your own family, bless you and your loved ones, filling your homes with warmth, faith and happiness over the Christmas season. To all families, friends, members of our local parish, we extend our heartfelt prayers for a blessed and joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with God's abundant grace.

Merry Christmas and God Bless you all - Netherton C of E Family

Inset Days

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5th January 2026

20th July 2026

Christmas Break

Mon 23rd Dec - Fri 3rd Jan 26

February Half Term

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb 26

Easter Break

Mon 30th March - Fri 10th Apr 26

Whitsun Break

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May 26

Summer Holidays

Tues 21st July - Mon 31st Aug 26

Spring Term Dates

Mon 5th Jan 26 - INSET - School closed to pupils

Tues 6th Jan 26 - school reopens

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb 26 - Half term

Fri 10th April 26 - break up for Easter

Christmas Celebrations

Of course, Christmas is an important time for many, and particularly in our Church of England school.

We ensure that the pupils have lots of opportunity to enjoy the festivities but also of course, we ensure that the children know the true meaning of Christmas.

Well-being Ambassadors - Thinking of others

On Tuesday 2nd December, our Well-being Ambassadors and some children from Year 6, attended the Ebenezer Baptist Church . The children sang a few songs, gave out cards and the generous gifts kindly donated by parents.

It was a wonderful afternoon showcasing the 'give' strand from the 5 ways to Wellbeing. The Ebenezer community thoroughly enjoyed it and have invited us back in the New Year



The Hive—Christmas Craft Afternoon

On Thursday 4th December, the parents of the children in The Hive joined them for a Christmas Craft afternoon.

They enjoyed Christmas cookies and Christmas themed crafts.



EYFS Nativity

On Wednesday 10th December, our youngest pupils performed **Baa-my Bethlehem**.

We were very proud of our EYFS children who performed the Nativity so confidently and sang so beautifully.

It's quite daunting performing in front of lots of people but the children were FAB.U.LOUS!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 12th December, the children were invited to donate £1 to wear their Christmas jumper, raising money for Save the Children.



Carols in the Playground & Christmas Fair

It was wonderful that so many parents joined us for Carols in the Playground on Friday 12th December, and then afterwards at the Christmas Fair.

Despite the miserable weather, the dance team treated us to a great performance to begin with and then we had some great singing of Christmas songs including the Black Country 12 Days of Christmas!

The Christmas Fair was a great success—many thanks for your donations and a special thank you to Mrs Gallear who donated hand-made crafts for us to sell.

Christmas Dinner

On Monday 15th December, the whole school had the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner if they wanted to.

Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for such a lovely lunch.



Christingle Making

On Tuesday 16th December, every child went to Ebenezer Church to make Christingles.

Different year groups paired up, so for example, Year 6 went with year 1, and it was lovely to see the older children supporting their younger partners.

The children came back to school with so much joy and gratitude. Thank you to Mr Willets and the team of wonderful helpers at Ebenezer Church, for organizing this lovely event and their generosity providing every child with hot chocolate and the resources to make a Christingle to take home.

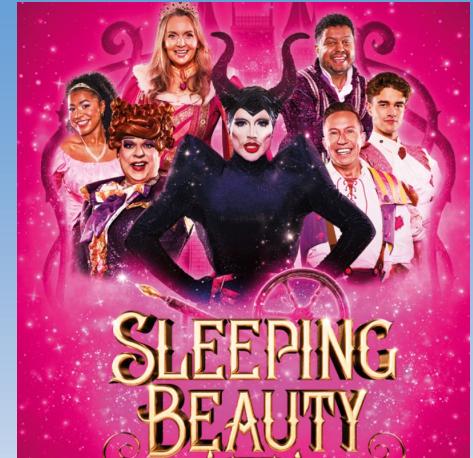


We received some lovely messages from the volunteers, this being just one of them...

*The children were so polite and some also told how they love coming to Ebenezer & doing the activities. The way they all sing is just beautiful and with the actions it melts my heart ❤
The staff are wonderful too. It must be a blessing to be part of Netherton C of E. From Kaye*

Pantomime Trip

On Wednesday 17th December, some pupils went to The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton to see *Sleeping Beauty*.



And one of our pupils even took to the stage!! Oh no they didn't - oh yes they did!! Akorede was chosen as one of four children from the audience to go on stage and hold up a sign during a song! Well done Akorede.



Party Day

On Thursday 18th December, it was party afternoon and we had a very special visitor in school.

The staff all dressed as elves, ready for their special role as Santa's helpers.

Year 1 & 2 Nativity at the Church

On Friday 20th December, Years 1 & 2 rounded off the Christmas celebrations (and the term) reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas, by performing the Nativity, at St Andrew's Church.

It is always so special to see our children perform, made even more poignant by performing in church, and they were brilliant.





Dodgeball

On Wednesday 3rd December, our Y6 team finished 1st and 3rd in an inter-school's competition.

Well done team!

HAF

The HAF programme will run on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th December. Led by Miss Harrold, it will run from 9:45 am til 3pm
If your child is pupil premium, the link to book is on dojo
If not, you will need to book on Arbor and it will cost £20 for one day or £30 for the 2 days.

1 D.Tking



Amazing Miss Harrold!!

Our Miss Harrold is a little pocket rocket! We know that she lives and breathes Netherton CofE so it is fantastic that her hard work and dedication is being recognised further afield.

Connecting Community Award

In November, Miss Harrold was invited to an awards ceremony at New Road, home of Worcestershire County Cricket. She was nominated for the Connecting Community Award, for making links between schools and their local cricket club. This has now extended to connecting The Link with the cricket club too, through the Chance to Shine Cricket Programme she runs on Monday evenings. This is open to anyone aged 5 up, and runs on a Monday evening from 6-7pm. They are currently training at The Link, but train on the cricket pitch in the summer.

Dudley Community Awards.

On 4th December, Miss Harrold was invited to attend an awards evening at the Copthorne Hotel, Dudley, as she had been nominated as Teacher of the Year in the Dudley Community Awards. Miss Harrold was the primary teacher finalist and was runner up in the overall category.



Safeguarding Spotlight

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

<https://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

Advice and help you can get at Christmas

While Christmas is often considered a time for celebration and family fun, it can also be a struggle for some people

If you're struggling with your mental health this Christmas, the NHS has shared important contacts you can use for support. No matter how big or small your worries feel, reaching out for help can be a powerful step to feeling better.

The charity [Mind](#) has shared some useful guidance to help anyone who might be struggling with their mental health during the Christmas period. [Christmas coping tips - Mind](#)

Lots of resources are available to use on your local children's mental health and [Talking Therapies](#) websites – these help support different mental health symptoms.

“For some children and parents, school holidays can be a stressful time and changes to usual routines can be unsettling. Families and young people can find Christmas and New Year difficult for lots of reasons and it can highlight feelings of loneliness and isolation, or lead to people becoming anxious or depressed. It is important to look after our emotional, mental health and wellbeing,” says Dr Katie Powell, Associate Medical Director for Children, Young People and Families.

[CAMHS website](#) has a range of support available

[Kooth](#) is a free, safe and anonymous online emotional wellbeing community, for young people aged 11 – 25, that is accessible 24/7, 365 days of the year and provides access to chat sessions with accredited counsellors and qualified emotional wellbeing practitioners.

[Young Minds](#) provides online information, advice and signposting through its website.

If you just want to talk, listening services are also provided by charities such as [Samaritans](#) or [Shout Crisis Helpline](#). They are free to access and available 365 days a year.

111 - People of all ages, including children, who are in crisis or concerned family and loved ones can call 111, select the mental health option and speak to a trained mental health professional. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including Christmas and Boxing Day.

999 - If yours or someone's life is at risk, you should phone 999 or visit your nearest emergency department.

Help & Support this Christmas



Christmas meal - The Lifecentral Church

The Life Central Church are hosting a fun family friendly Church service at 10:30am followed by a 2 course Christmas meal at 12:00pm (3:00pm finish).

If you know anyone who will be on their own or is on low income please sign up [here](#).

[Christmas Day Meal \(25-Dec-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Money Saving Central website, have again updated their information if you are looking for somewhere where kids can eat for free or at a reduced cost this winter. [Visit their website to find out more](#).

[Kids Eat Free \(or for £1\) List in Half Terms 2025](#)



Cost of living—if you are struggling, Dudley Council might be able to help, they have a page dedicated to support— go to Council and Community and then click Cost of Living.

They may be able to help with... National Initiatives, Household Costs, Everyday Essentials, Community Support, Struggling with Debts, Child Related, Transport Support, Keeping Warm in Winter, Getting a Good Job, Risk of Losing my Home, Mental Health & Well-being & Care Costs.

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Each Wednesday, on Dojo, we share **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format. A new one is published each Wednesday on Dojo. Recent ones have focused on Online Slang.

There will be a variety of advice leaflets available regarding setting up controls on new devices, gaming etc, for those lucky enough to receive new devices or games, this Christmas.



Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 5550050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.