December is finally here and we can officially say the word ‘Christmas’. The Christmas tree arrived over the weekend and will be being put up in school today. As usual, the teachers are starting their annual rivalry for the best decorated classroom, so it will be interesting to see what happens over the next few days around the school!

The Infants have started to rehearse their production of 'The Nativity' in the hall last week and it has been lovely to hear the fantastic singing coming from the hall. The foundation stage children are doing a good job of trying to stay still for a period of time, stand up when they are told and remember all the words and dance steps they have been learning! They are doing very well, especially as this is their first time. If your child has a speaking part, please do keep practising their lines with them, trying to encourage them to project their voices. Thank you to parents who have sent in costumes. If you have still got to send in costumes, we would appreciate them being in school as soon as possible.

This week, Squirrel, Otter and Heron classes held their first maths café of the year. The focus was multiplication and division. There was such a buzz in the hall with fantastic interaction from parents and children. We really hope that parents who attended left with some further ideas of how they could support the instant recall of these facts at home. Year 4 will be the first year to sit the government’s new ‘Multiplication Check’ in the summer term so we are working hard to ensure that children are well prepared for it. Mrs Loe will be holding an information session nearer the time to help provide further advice for parents.

The next three weeks are very busy in school, so please do keep an eye on the school diary, website and Parent Mail to double check events happening. The office worked very hard early in the term to ensure that dates were published well in advance, so hopefully nothing will come as a huge surprise.

Reminders and dates:

- KS1 Productions: 11th December 9.30am (Grandparents only), 12th December 6pm, 13th December 9.30am.
- Year 5/6 Open morning—12th December, 9.05a.m.
- Trip money for Norwich Castle is due by Friday please.
- KS1 Maths Café—16th December, 9.05 a.m.
- Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day—Tuesday 17th December
- Christmas Carol Service—Wednesday 18th December 6pm.
- After School Clubs finish this week.

Tweet of the Week

A fantastic buzz in the hall today at the first of our Maths Café @Meadow_Balsham
**Infants**

This week we have written our own information texts about castles. We now know so much about the defence of castles!

Maths has been a continuation of addition, this time exploring how to add two numbers together which bridge 10. The children really preserved with this tricky process.

The rehearsals are going well; please continue to practice lines at home.

Word of the week: narrow

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**Year 3/4**

This week Year 3 and 4 have written diaries imagining themselves as Roald Dahl. They are excited to present them next week.

In Maths they are continuing multiplication and division, particularly looking at how to multiply by 10. They loved completing the Nrich ‘Decatree’ challenge on Thursday.

Word of the day: Deca, deliberate

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**Year 5/6**

Year 6 have been focusing on finishing of their history unit, before they begin some self-initiated learning next week.

In Science they have started their learning about light. Children investigated the ‘incident ray’ and the ‘reflective ray’.

Word of the day: sluggish, frequent

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**Stars of the week—**

Butterfly Class: Amy; Hardy;  
Dragonfly Class: Anabelle; Hattie;  
Squirrel Class: Eli; Brennan;  
Kingfisher Class: Laila; Charlie;  
Spider Class: Florian; Georgie;  
Otter Class: Kayden; Henry;  
Kestrel Class: Luca; Maisie;