

# BEECHWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**BPAC**  
NEWS

## Whole School Notices



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's official! As we approach the final weeks of the term, excitement is building as we count down to the much-anticipated winter holidays! This is always a special time at Beechwood, filled with festive activities, celebrations and opportunities to reflect on a wonderful term of learning and fun.

Here are some key dates and reminders to help you plan ahead:

- Christmas Carol Service: 11 December from 3.30- 4.30 pm- Join us for an afternoon of music and performances by our talented students.
- Christmas Jumper Day: 12 December – A fun way to spread holiday cheer while supporting a great cause.
- Last Day of Term: Friday, 13 December – The school day will conclude with a festive assembly and early dismissal at:
  - Preschool through KS2 - 12.30

Please take a moment to see the volunteer opportunities for the 'Beechwood Christmas Fair'. Click on the web link below to go to the signup sheet.

<https://volunteersignup.org/KC4X9>

Thank you for volunteering and helping us with our Christmas fundraising. It's greatly appreciated.

Yours festively,  
BPAC

**BREAKING NEWS**



Santa will be paying a visit to this year's Christmas fair 🎅. Booking slots went live yesterday, please see the link for more details and to secure tickets!

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/73160>

# Prep School News!

Dear Parents,

The Christmas spirit is shining brightly at Beechwood as the children embrace a special tradition—making their own ornaments and decorating the Christmas tree!

The room was filled with laughter and creativity as little hands shaped, cut and glued, and glittered their way to create unique decorations. Every ornament carried a special touch, from colourful stars to glittery angels and stunning pipe cleaner flowers. And then there was the very entertaining scene of getting the angel to the top of the tree! Mr J attached metre rulers together and a hanger at the end... if only I could share the video; it was hilarious! The children were proud to see their creations come together to make our tree truly one of a kind. This was far more than just about crafting—it was about creating memories, fostering teamwork and contributing to something bigger. Don't forget to have a look when you come to the Christmas Fair!

As we countdown, let me update the list!

- 🎄 Mon 02 Dec - Reception and KS1 Nativity at 2.15 pm
- 🎄 Tues 03 Dec - Year 5 Trip to the Natural History Museum
- 🎄 Year 6 Cake sale!
- 🎄 Thurs 5th Dec - KS1 Fearless Fox trip (pay via school money)
- 🎄 Fri 6th Dec - Beechwood Bop - Link below to purchase tickets if you haven't already <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/69951>
- 🎄 Sat 7th Dec - Christmas Fair (Raffle tickets for you to purchase were sent home with your children; pls send them back, or alternatively, tickets can be purchased at the fair, too. There are some great prizes up for grabs!)
- 🎄 Mon 9th Dec - Parents' Evening - The Parentmail booking link closes on the 8th!
- 🎄 Wed 11th Dec - Carol Service at 3.30 pm (compulsory for all pupils. See link below to complete if you or any relatives plan to attend <https://forms.office.com/e/4t27iPX3BQ>)
- 🎄 Thu 12th Dec - Xmas Jumper/lunch day. Please bring in a new toy for the Mayors Christmas toy appeal 🎁
- 🎄 Fri 13th Dec - term ends 12.30 (Prep)

Have a spectacular week!



# Preschool Nativity

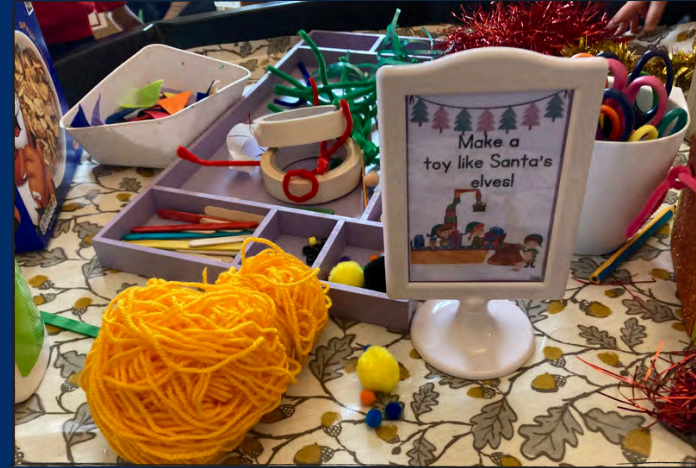
What a delight last Friday when Preschool put on a fantastic Nativity! The children knew every song and every line! I am incredibly proud of all the children in preschool for their performance and their ballet dancing too! Superb job Mrs Ireland, Mrs Conboy, Mrs Gager, Ms Emily and Mrs Tahir, for putting on a lovely afternoon.





# Reception builds a Workshop

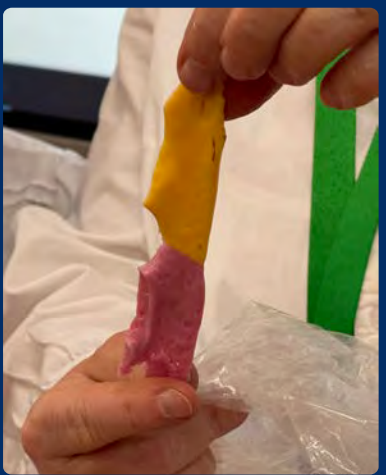
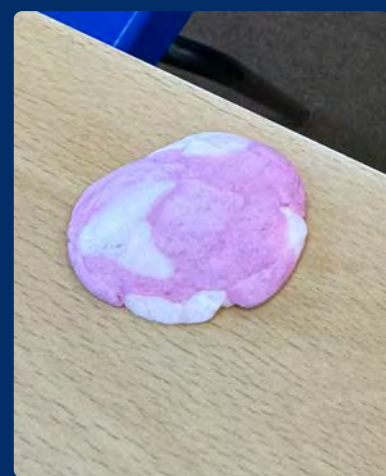
This week, the children in Reception have been busy in their Elves workshop, making delightful toys! They chose their favourite toy to create, then drew their designs and listed everything they needed. The children used various junk modelling supplies, putting their cutting and sticking skills to the test. The results are truly impressive! Here are a few examples of the fantastic toys that showcase their creativity and hard work. Well done, Reception!





# Year Three: A Rock Practical with Sweets!

Starburst sweets can be a fantastic way to model Igneous rocks in an edible rock cycle experiment. Chop it up and you get Sedimentary rock. Heat it up and roll it into a ball and we have metamorphic rock. Melt the metamorphic rock in the microwave until it becomes magma. Then, let it cool to form igneous rock. Very cool, Year Three! I bet it was quite tricky not to eat it! Superb, Mrs Michaelson!



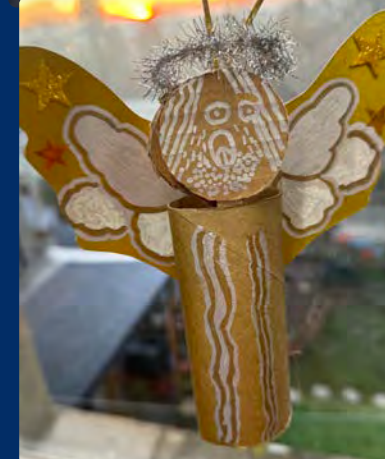


# Tis the Season To be Jolly

And don't these tree decorations fill your hearts with joy! Mrs Pollack you outshone yourself!







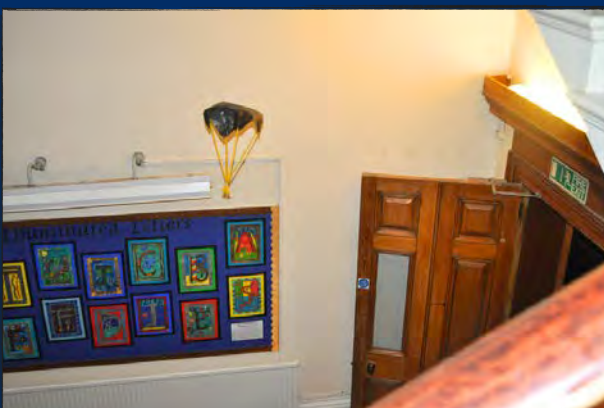






# Year Five Science

This term, Year Five have been looking at forces during our science lessons. On Friday 29th November, we carried out an experiment to test how surface area affects air resistance. The pupils worked in pairs to make three different sized parachutes. They then took great joy in dropping them and timing how long they took to reach the floor.





# Beechwood Prep Week in Sports

U10/11 Netball v Claremont

U11 Won 7-2

U10 Won 3-0

U10/11 Lost 5-2

The girls played their first netball match against Claremont on Wednesday. Due to the wet weather, we played in their sports hall, which was an experience for them. Overall, we were very pleased with how well they played together. Their passing had strength, shooting was more accurate, and they showed quick movement off the ball. It was evident that the morning netball sessions were making a difference. One area that we need to work on is the transition from attack to defence and ensuring close marking. Our game next week against Radnor will be a tough one but I am confident that the girls will rise to the challenge.

Star Players: Maisie, Jess & Phoebe



## This Week

- 02 Mo Reception & KS1 Nativity
- 03 Tu Year 5 to Natural History Museum  
Year 6 Cake Sale
- 04 We U10/11 Girls Netball v Radnor House (A)
- 05 Th Reception and KS1 Fearless Fox Trip
- 06 Fr Beechwood Bop!!!!

Saturday 07 December - Christmas Fair

## Next Week

- 09 Mo Parent's Evening
- 10 Tu
- 11 We Carol Service - 3.30 to 4.30 pm (all children involved)
- 12 Th Christmas Jumper Day and Lunch
- 13 Fr Early out and last day of the Autumn term (12.30 pick-up)

## Stars of the Week

- Year Six: **Oliver** - For pushing himself in maths and showing what he can really do!
- 5H: **Nemitha** - For demonstrating creativity, resilience and tenacity in the face of adversity.
- 5R: **Jasper** - For his beautiful singing in choir rehearsal, bringing the Christmas spirit to all around him!
- Year Four: **Diya** - For her lovely manners and being an excellent ambassador for the school.
- Year Three: **Devan** - For his good use of verbs and descriptions when recounting events from The Iron Man.
- Year Two: **Damir** - For working hard on his Phonics.
- Year One: **Jack** - For making great progress with his reading.
- Reception: **Max** - For his progress in handwriting and fine motor control. Well done, Max!



# BEECHWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As educators, we continually strive to prepare our pupils for the ever-evolving world they are growing into. One of the most transformative forces shaping their future is artificial intelligence (AI). This technology already impacts nearly every aspect of our lives, from the way we communicate and access information to the opportunities and challenges emerging in the job market. It is vital to foster thoughtful discussions about AI—particularly its impact on school life and beyond—to equip our pupils with the knowledge and critical thinking skills they need to navigate this landscape.

AI in schools presents incredible opportunities, such as personalised learning and advanced tools for research and creativity. However, these advancements come with significant pitfalls: the spread of misinformation, biases within AI systems, and the potential for diminished human agency. Understanding these complexities is essential for students and educators alike. A critical part of this conversation involves teaching our students how to use AI ethically and responsibly. They must learn to question the information AI delivers, understand its limitations and consider questions when using the information at their fingertips. As we integrate AI tools into our classrooms, we also bear the responsibility of emphasising the importance of preserving what makes us human—our creativity, empathy and critical thinking.

I have just finished reading a book that had a profound impact on the way I think of AI and has also offered much insight into these issues. *Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines* by Dr. Joy Buolamwini. Dr. Buolamwini, a renowned AI researcher and founder of the Algorithmic Justice League, uses her expertise and personal experiences to shed light on the biases embedded in AI systems and their impact on marginalised communities.

Her book highlights real-world examples of AI's shortcomings, such as facial recognition technologies that fail to accurately identify people of colour and the perpetuation of systemic inequalities through biased algorithms. More importantly, it challenges us to advocate for AI systems that uphold fairness and accountability. Dr Buolamwini's work underscores the need for vigilance in designing and deploying AI—a lesson we must instil in our pupils.

*Unmasking AI* serves as a powerful tool for sparking discussions around how we can build a future where AI serves humanity rather than undermining it. By exploring the ethical dilemmas and unintended consequences of AI through this lens, young people can better appreciate their role as informed citizens and future decision-makers.

Another crucial topic to address is the question of honesty in how we use the information at our fingertips. With AI tools enabling instant access to vast amounts of data and even generating content, pupils must grapple with ethical questions around originality, plagiarism and the responsible use of AI in their work. By fostering a culture of integrity and encouraging transparency about how AI is used, we can help pupils develop the skills and values necessary to navigate this complex aspect of the digital age.

I am certain this will not be the last time I share my thoughts on this subject and I would welcome receiving your comments.

Have a wonderful week,

Dani Saffer



# BOARDERS OUT IN LONDON TOWN

A magical trip to Winter Wonderland had by all! The students were really well behaved, and all enjoyed various fairground rides, perusing the Christmas market stalls, eating delicious food and they were all obsessed with winning cuddly toys on the classic game stalls! Poor Olivia spent all her money on such games and came away empty-handed, but as you can see from the photos, many of the pupils won very large cuddly friends (lucky we have enough spare seats on the minibuses home!!) Look closely at the middle picture to see who the girls bumped into. Regardless of your political persuasion, that was pretty cool!





# YEAR 12 COOKERY

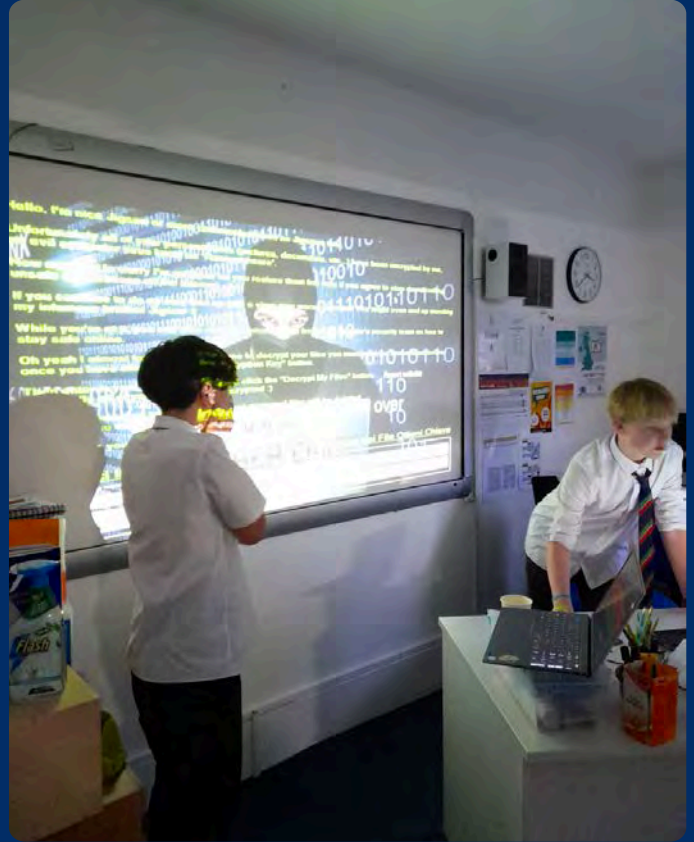
To get everyone in the Christmas spirit, Year 12 made choux Christmas Wreaths! Those look amazing- Milo/Emily, your parents will be expecting you to produce the holiday dessert this year!





# 9B MALWARE PRESENTATIONS

9B have been focusing on Online Safety and deciphering the intricate world of cybersecurity. As part of their research, they produced and gave a presentation on Malware! Great stuff!





# GUYS & DOLLS REHEARSALS

It won't be long now until production day! In the meantime, a few photos of their Sunday rehearsals! I'm really impressed by your commitment!

