



Together towards success!

Dear parents and carers,

Time has flown this term! We cannot believe it is already time for the Christmas break.

We are so proud of how the pupils have settled in this term and really got stuck into their learning.

We have had some fantastic achievements over the term such as a group of the children at Chaffinch Brook Lower competing in the Panathlon Challenge and coming second! What a great achievement!

There has also been some really fun end of terms trips such as bowling, wall climbing and the cinema which the pupils have really enjoyed.

We want to say a big thank you to you all for your ongoing support to help the children progress even further!

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas, and we will see all the pupils back in the New Year!

Kind regards,
Mr Andy, Mr Pat, Miss Illy, Mwamba and Miss Leona.

Christmas events around Croydon

- 30th December – Wild ‘N’ Us at MHA The Wilderness – outdoor festive fun!**
- 10th Dec – 31st Dec – Peter Panto at Fairfield Halls**
- 19th – 30th December – Holiday club at Legacy Youth Zone**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th December: 12.30pm finish

17th December – 3rd January: Christmas Holidays

4th January – Children back at school

22nd January – Chinese New Year
(Chinese lunch – date TBC)

10th February – Last day of half term

11th February – 19th February – Half term

20th February – Children back at school

Shout out!

A big thank you to Hazel at Chaffinch Brook Lower for organising a hot chocolate stand for all the children and adults on a very cold day. It was such a nice treat and a very kind thing to do!



Thank you and goodbyes!

We have two fantastic teaching assistants leaving Chaffinch Brook Lower and wanted to say a big thank you and good luck to them both! Miss Tina and Miss Deanna have been at Chaffinch Brook for a very long time and have made a huge impact on the children, families and staff they have worked with. We will miss you!



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Mount Everest Class

Mount Everest has had a fantastic half term. We are all so proud of how hard the children have worked this half term and how much they have achieved!

In English, Mount Everest have been learning about adjectives. We have read two books: 'Dear Zoo', and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' which the children really enjoyed.



In Science, we have been learning about plants. Mount Everest have learnt to identify the basic parts of a plant.

In Geography, we have been learning about the UK countries and capitals. Mount Everest have learnt to locate the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom using atlases and a compass.

In Art, Mount Everest have been learning about the four seasons of the year and have created lots of beautiful artworks for our displays.



The children have also been working hard to improve their maths skills. This term we have been focusing on shapes and subtraction skills.



We have also been developing our cooking skills and hope you have enjoyed tasting the delicious dishes the children have made!



We are really looking forward to more learning and fun in the next term.

Mount Everest wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





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Snowdon Class

Wow, what a term it has been. We have been superstars in Snowdon class. The boys have all worked very hard in all their lessons trying their absolute best.

In English, they have studied 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' and have learnt about the unique features in formal and informal letters. They have even produced their very own letters using the skills learnt. Impressive!



We have really enjoyed our maths lessons as we have been learning to tell the time on an analogue clock using o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. Additionally, the boys are all trying to master their times tables.

We definitely have some chefs in our class! Our focus in cooking this term has been 'Taking the biscuit.' They have all managed to follow instructions and take home some amazing biscuits for you to try. We hope you all enjoyed them as much as we did.

We have started our swimming lessons this term and the children have been making fantastic progress in their swimming technique! Well done Snowdon Class 😊



Snowdon Class have been taking part in lots of enrichment activities such as anti-bullying week. The theme was 'Reach Out' and we spoke about how we can reach out to others and see if they are okay!



We are looking forward to the term ahead and cannot wait to see lots more learning, progress and achievements.

We would like to wish you all a spectacular festive season and a happy New Year from us all in Snowdon class!





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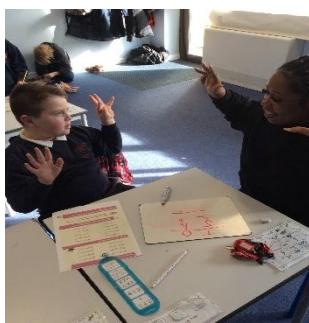
Olympus Class

It has been a busy half term in Olympus class!

We started off by learning all about the legend of Robin Hood in English, re-enacting some of our favourite scenes from the story, as well as creating our very own bows and arrows! We also created our own beautiful haiku poems all about nature. We finished off our half term by writing persuasive letters to Mr Andy and Miss Illy about how to care for our school environment.



We have been blown away by the class's hard work in Maths as well, as we've covered some tricky topics, such as division and fractions of amounts!



In History, we've been learning about the Stone Age, where we made some fantastic cave paintings and even some stone age

hunting weapons and in Science, class have been working hard exploring the different dangers to living things, creating fact files about endangered and extinct animals, as well as learning all about food chains and how different habitats can change over time.

Olympus class have been focusing on teamwork in their PE lessons with Miss Wendy, completing an assault course blindfolded with help from their friends! It was quite tricky but great fun!



We are extremely proud of everyone in Olympus class for all their hard work and effort this term and we're looking forward to all the fun we are going to have in the new year! Have a lovely break and happy holidays!





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K2 Class

Yet again, we have had another fantastic half term in K2 Class. The boys have been working incredibly hard and we are very proud of the progress they are all making.



Our English focus this half term has been report writing. The children chose endangered animals and researched facts to create their own non-chronological reports. In addition, we looked at riddles and how to write them. The children had a lot of fun coming up with and sharing their own riddles.



Our cooking theme this half term has been 'Italy.' The children have whipped up some delights including Spaghetti Bolognese, strudel and gnocchi. We have also been looking at food hygiene and the importance of good hygiene when handling and preparing food.

In our math lessons, we have been consolidating our knowledge of place value and using the knowledge to add, subtract, multiply and divide up to 4 digits. In addition, we have also been looking at rounding numbers and learning to convert fractions to decimals and vice versa.



In science, we have been investigating food chains and animal environments. The children used the knowledge they have gained throughout the topic to compile a PowerPoint and give a class presentation.

This half term was also K2 classes assembly. Everyone worked so hard to learn their parts and everyone sang so beautifully. It was a very proud moment!



K2 staff would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very enjoyable break.



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Fuji Class

This has been a busy half-term for Fuji Class.

Our Geography and Science topics have been very closely linked looking at 'Our Natural World' and 'Earth and Space.' We have learned about the different planets and their unique features. We have also learned about the climate and various natural disasters like tsunamis and tornadoes.

We have participated in many cooking lessons and particularly enjoyed making apple crumble with Miss Deanna. We have made many delicious meals this term!



Fuji class took part in the Jack Petchey Foundation Panathlon challenge at Archbishop Lanfranc School. We put our sporting skills to effective use whilst enjoying the activities and we came second overall, winning the silver medal. It was a fantastic achievement.



Following on from our learning about 'The Victorians,' the class visited Kensington Palace in London. We were shown round the palace and visited Queen Victoria's bedroom. We also had a turn at playing with some of the toys she may have played with as a child. It was an enjoyable day.



Fuji Class team wish the parents and children an enjoyable Christmas break and a happy New Year!



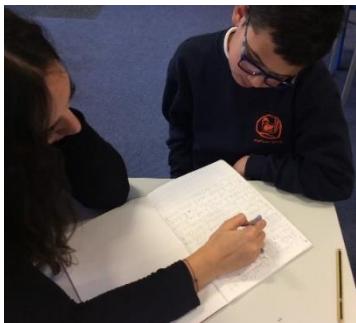


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Kilimanjaro Class

Kilimanjaro Class had great start to term.

We started off the term reading our new book in English, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. Through a combination of group reading and analysing different characters the children have explored the writing style and put themselves in the characters perspectives and wrote some fantastic pieces of writing. We have explored the dystopian conventions, made inferences and even plan, written and published our own dystopian fictional stories. I am so proud to see the effort the children put into their writing; their stories are amazing.



For geography we have looked at our Natural Planet. We have explored how climate change is changing our planets, learnt about different natural disasters and severe weather conditions. We have taken part in a few experiments and recreated tsunamis and thunderstorms.

In Maths this term Kilimanjaro class have extensively working through fractions. We have been multiplying, dividing, simplifying, adding and subtracting fractions. We have looked at improper fractions, proper fractions and mixed numbers.

In science we have continued leaning about Biology this term and have learnt about

human and plant reproduction. We have looked at how the human body is biologically built, in order to reproduce. The class were separated into two groups and were very mature and sensible in the lessons, using the correct scientific language and terminology.

Kilimanjaro Class have thoroughly enjoyed going to Chaffinch Upper every Wednesday and taking part in cooking and PE.



We have been lucky enough to take a trip to Kensington Palace to celebrate and learn about the life of Queen Victoria. The children took part in a workshop where we learnt about the day in the life of the young queen. We were also lucky enough to have a private tour of some of the palace. The children were all incredibly well behaved and represented the school exceptionally well.



We hope you all have a lovely and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



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7H

Hello from class 7H, the year 7 class based at the Chaffinch Brook Upper site! We have been having another fun-filled half term with lots learning in different subjects.

Let us begin with English we have been reading a story about the varmints. The story relates to the environment and how certain groups of people choose to build on previously safe land that provided homes to animals for years. Once we came to the end of the story, we had a chance to debate on what should happen to land by representing diverse groups of people. These included the varmints (creatures), the builders, the environment and the government. The debate became quite heated at one point, but we were all able to put our points across and come to an agreement! In the end, we decided to share the land! We think that was great for compromise!



In maths, we have been learning a lot about 3-D and 2-D shapes during our geometry lessons, and now we have been learning how to add and subtract fractions when we have a different denominator! This is all new information we are taking on, but we have been doing really well!



Our teacher also introduced us to TT Rockstars, a kind of maths game where we can earn coins to accessorise our rockstar avatar when answering timetable questions correctly. It is really addictive, and it can be played at home, too. In January, the whole school will be using it so we can compete against each other!



We have lots of activities planned for Christmas week, including going out on a trip. It has been a really fun term and we are looking forward to an even more fun-filled one when we return after Christmas.

So, it is bye for now, and Merry Christmas!





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8G

This term 8G has made real progress both academically and socially.



The students have gone from strength to strength with their class work, which is evident from their schoolbooks, they have really focused on ensuring that their handwriting is improving week by week.

In English the students have been studying Macbeth and we have been impressed with how they have grasped the language and their desire to not give up even when they may find the work difficult. Although the language that is used in Macbeth has been challenging for the children to grasp, they have persevered through the text and have been inquisitive throughout the subject to help their understanding.



The students have also been attending swimming lessons this term where they have all made significant improvements and have impressed their instructor with how mature and hardworking, they are. We wish the boys all the best in their journey of being confident swimmers outside of school.

Their social gains have been highlighted by the fact that the students were able to go bowling in Croydon and then go for something to eat at KFC in West Wickham. The Christmas trips were a remarkable success and the boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The boys were so polite to members of the public and it was great to see them behaving themselves out in the wider community.



We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

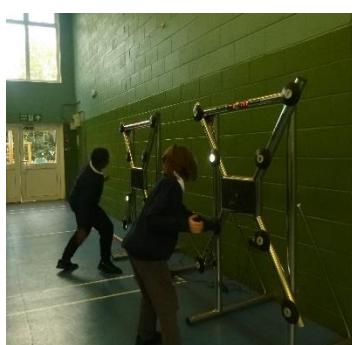


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8H

It has been a brilliant half term. In this lead up to Christmas there has been so much going on, especially with trips and activity days. We had a fun day out at the 'Into Film Festival' to see 'The Lost City.' All the students had a great time and really enjoyed the film.

The army also visited in November and the students had to complete activities focussing on resilience and teamwork. I know the students really enjoyed meeting the soldiers, asking them questions about their experiences and they got so much out of that day.



In English, the class have read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. We watched the two film versions and the class have just completed their book reviews. It has been a fantastic book to read as it gives so many opportunities for honing our drama skills, such as pretending to be Augustus Gloop's mum when she sees her son go up the pipe!

In Maths, the class has studied money, shapes and fractions. In science the class has studied the digestive system, drugs and plant life. In Humanities, the class has studied the First World War and the topic of Crime.

As the boys are now in year 8, we have also introduced weekly testing in spellings and maths. They have worked really hard and shown good progress in these.

In the last week of the term, 8H went to 'Flip Out' and we had so much fun which you can see from the photos below!



The class have also been preparing their entries for the talent contest, and we are all looking forward to seeing the performances after Christmas.

Overall, it has been a wonderful half term. The students have made us so proud, and they thoroughly deserve the upcoming break. Merry Christmas to all the students, parents and carers!





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9G

Year 9G have had a very active Autumn term and have presented themselves in a fantastic manner on trips and within the classroom.

Army Careers Day

The boys took part in many different activities and challenges. The skills learnt enhanced their knowledge on what is required to become military personnel. They also learnt about the different roles and opportunities that are on offer.



Maths

The topics studied this term were working with percentages, using ratios, using graphs to analyse data, prime factors (Finding the lowest common multiple & highest common factor).

English

The boys are reading the book 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton. This is a gripping read and the boys are beginning to look in depth at different character profiles. They are also learning about the creative elements of myths and legends. We are expecting colourful & creative stories, that the boys have written using the techniques they have learnt.

Science

Science has consisted of the boys researching the different variables in conducting experiments. They ended the term by learning about the periodic table, metals and non-metals.

PSHE

In PSHE, the focus has been looking into careers and what skills are needed to apply for an apprenticeship or college course. In addition to this they have gone through mock interviews.

School Trips

- Southbank Theatre
- Cinema (production of Much ado about Nothing)
- Royal Academy of Arts



Overall, the boys have settled in well. All the extended staff team have noticed a remarkable improvement in their maturity, independence and work ethic. With further encouragement, the boys should grow and be fully prepared for their first formal exams next year.





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10G

As this term draws to a close, the class team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all have an amazing and well-deserved break and look forward to seeing and speaking to you in the New Year.

This term has once again been a positive one. The boys are adjusting to KS4 really well. The increase in workload has been noticeable, nevertheless the boys have got to grips with things. They have produced some really good work this term, especially in English. They all have taken to GCSE English well and have produced some great short stories.

Science and Maths has also been particularly good, they are getting on just fine and are producing some great work in those subjects too. Dean is doing well in art, and the rest of the class who have taken up PE and are doing great.

This term the boys have taken up carpentry at the college. They are so engaged and really excited when they go to class. They are currently making phone holders, which they will be able to take home for you to see. Their teacher Brian has been extremely complimentary of their attitude and work they have produced.



Our class trip this term took us to the Science Museum. We felt comfortable taking the boys on public transport. They were all well behaved and we had no issues on the tube and train, there and back. The Science Museum had just opened a new section, all about technology and the boys seemed to enjoy the trip.



We would like to thank the boys for their effort this term, we have seen a real improvement in their work and behaviour. We hope this will continue into the New Year. Have a great Christmas break, and a Happy New Year.





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10H

Hello all, and what a brilliant half term we've all had in 10H!

In English we have been looking at Non-fiction and have attempted some GCSE style questions. In Maths we have been focused on angles and the diverse types you get and in science we have been looking at biology and preparing for our upcoming GCSE!

We had a visit from the army in which the pupils got to try some army-based activities and ask questions.



We also went to a career fair where there was lots of information about what the pupils might do when they are post 16.



We are immensely proud of the progress the pupils have made this term and the focus on learning has greatly improved and the pupils are starting to really get prepared for their final year next year.

Something that has really impressed the staff team has been the way the pupils are getting on inside the classroom. There is a mutual respect between us all in class and the classroom is a happy place to be. Well done guys, keep it up!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break; you all deserve it!





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11G

This term has been amazing for the 11G boys! The students have managed to maintain a great attitude towards their learning in both their academics and vocational skills and made fantastic progression.

In the process of 11G preparing for their final GCSE exams and focusing in on their individual Career prospects, the students been attending various catered workshops. These enriching workshops are tailored to both teaching the boys a multitude of skills focused on building their confidence and communication skills. As well as that they have provided them with the insight into the various pathways they can take when entering the workface.



11G have continually grown in their knowledge in Maths, English and Science. In maths, they have attained knowledge in solving simultaneous equations graphically, equations of a line & gradient, factorising quadratic functions and drawing quadratic curves. They are currently learning about Venn diagrams.

This growth extends to English, as the boys are analysing language and text both in a practical manner and creatively. As for Science, the students have been learning about forces and electricity and applying their knowledge to real world scenarios.



Finally, attending Beckmead College is always an exciting time for the boys! They were introduced to making joints and fundamentals of health and safety management skills within the construction industry. This different working environment has allowed the boys to demonstrate great practical and teamwork skills in an alternative learning platform. It has been a delight to see them using tools and equipment for its purpose and form the knowledge and attitude needed for this work in the industry.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Hope you have a joyful and relaxing holiday!



Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



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