

Dates for Your

## DIARY

### Monday 5th January

8:40am—Academy opens to all children.

### Thursday 15th January

9.15am Parent Workshop—School Nursing—Toileting.

### Tuesday 20th January

3pm—Year 1 & 2 Parents invited to look at Creative Curriculum books.

### Wednesday 21st January

9am—National Numeracy Families Programme Workshop.

3pm—Year 5 & 6 Parents invited to look at Creative Curriculum books.

### Thursday 22nd January

Poetry Workshop for Year 4

3pm—Year 3 & 4 Parents invited to look at Creative Curriculum books.

### Tuesday 3rd February

Year 1 Trip to the Leather Museum.

### Friday 13th February

Reception Trip to Dudley Zoo.

# NEWSLETTER

## A message from the

# PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents ,

And just like that, the Autumn term comes to an end!

This term has been packed full of a range of diverse and wonderful opportunities for our children, both inside the academy and through a range of educational visits in Walsall and beyond. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the staff who have worked hard to make these trips, visits and events possible.

Our after school clubs began in September and despite a slow start, were massively oversubscribed this half term. If you have not yet booked for next half term, please do so as soon as possible as places are limited. All bookings must be made through MCAS.

Some of our after school clubs have been focused on providing additional support/intervention for children. The children who have attended these groups have made significant leaps in progress, so if your child is invited to one of these groups, please make sure they attend.

Spring term starts on January 5th for all children and we look forward to welcoming you back into the academy then. Next term will be just as exciting, with extra rewards for the best attendance in the first couple of weeks back.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Tom Garner*

*Principal*



We would like to thank both children and parents for working so closely with school to improve our whole school attendance this term. Our whole school attendance has ended the term on 95.4%. There is still a little work to get us over that magic 97% but with your co-operation this is something we can achieve.

Please make sure your child is in school for **every day** that school is open and to avoid taking holidays during term time.

Children must arrive on time everyday and the school day starts at 8.45am. We are seeing a rise in the number of children arriving late through the school office. We need to improve this as this does affect your child's attendance.

If your child is unwell you must ring the school office **each day** of your child's absence. For medical appointments evidence must be supplied to the school for this to be authorised.

Children return to school on **MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2026** where we will be running our attendance reward cards.

Each child will have a card and they will receive a stamp for attending school everyday and on time. If they fill their cards children will receive an attendance prize. Let's get collecting lots of stamps!

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Have a restful break and see you all in January.



# Safeguarding



This Month's Focus—  
Keeping safe at night

## Did you know?

New analysis of road casualty data by 'Brake' revealed that **every 19 days** the equivalent of a whole class of young children is killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads.

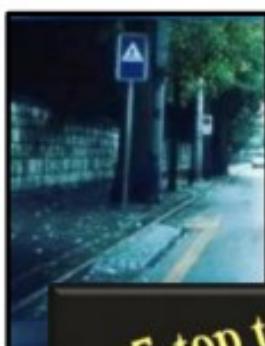


## BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN!

At this time of year, I always like to remind everyone about the vulnerability of children near our roads. With reduced visibility as evenings close in and the autumn / winter weather this becomes even more relevant. Below are my annual safety tips so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers.

If you're a driver, remember it will be more difficult for you to see pedestrians and cyclists when it's dark or raining / snowing. Unlike this image, not everyone will be dressed in bright colours or reflective clothing. Children and others often wear dark coloured school uniform, winter coats or blazers.



To illustrate the point, there's a child in the same position on both photos (left). Which one is easier to see?

For more information and activities to do around this topic with your child(ren) please visit:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>

## 5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN



- 1 Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2 If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3 Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4 If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5 Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at [www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad](http://www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad)

# Goodbye and Good Luck Mr Ballance



Today, we say goodbye to Mr Ballance who has worked at Caldmore Primary Academy for twenty-two years.

One of our longest serving members of staff, Mr Ballance will be taking up a teaching role at another school not too far away.

We would all like to thank Mr Ballance for his hard work, dedication and contributions to Caldmore over the years. He has taught many children over the years, now even teaching the children whose parents he taught in the past.

We wish Mr Ballance the very best of luck for the future and hope that he will be just as happy and successful in his new school.

# Goodbye and Good Luck Mrs Defreitas



Mrs Defreitas joined Caldmore Primary Academy, or Caldmore Village Primary School as it was then, in 2015.

During her time at Caldmore, Mrs Defreitas has taught many children, working in Year 2, 3 and 4. She has also led Reading, most recently introducing Fonetti.

Today we say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Defreitas as she leaves us for pastures new, taking up a promoted post.

We know that Caldmore will always have a big place in Mrs Defreitas' heart.

# Nursery



We have had another busy half term in Nursery and it is a pleasure to watch your children as they grow in confidence and independence .

As well as lots of fun, through our topic a 'Starry Night,' we have learnt a great deal too. We know that at night time it goes dark and that nocturnal animals are those who come out at night and that during Winter some animals choose to hibernate.

The last two weeks we have acted out the Nativity story, listened and danced to Christmas songs, drank hot chocolate, played with bubbles and balloons and have been super busy making Christmas crafts for our friends and family to enjoy.

# Reception

This half term we started off learning about festivals of light. We had our own fire where we toasted marshmallows.

We have had many visitors including a school nurse teaching us about oral hygiene and PC Tim talking about stranger danger.

We visited Walsall Leather Museum where we were little elves making shoes for the shoemaker.



# Year 1

This half term we stepped back in time to experience life as a Victorian pupil. We role played what a Victorian classroom was like and looked at artefacts from the past. We went to the Black Country Living Museum and discovered what old buildings, factories, shops, clothes, transport and toys looked like. Our journey into the past brought history to life in the most exciting way.



# Year 2

**This half term has been a busy one! In literacy we have been working hard to improve our descriptive writing, using adjectives and adverbs to write effective narratives. In topic, we have completed a DT project called “Push and Pull”. During the project, we looked at different types of mechanisms such as slider and lever mechanisms.**

**All of our hard work paid off when we created our own moving greetings card!**

# Year 3

This half term in our topic 'Through the Ages', we have learnt about the Roman invasion of Britain. We learnt about the important changes to housing and diets that occurred during this period. As part of our DT project we designed, made and evaluated brooches. We had a lot of fun in this topic finishing with Roman art work and mosaics.



# Year 4

**In our topic this half term we have been learning about Vikings and invasion, we went on a trip to Tamworth Castle and learnt all about how Vikings dressed, what they ate and how they lived.**

**In literacy we have been working hard and wrote a non-chronological report on anglerfish! In guided reading we have finished reading Harry Potter and learnt all about J.K Rowling!**



# Year 5

In Year 5 this half term, we have had great fun learning about all sorts of forces in Science. We made parachutes to test air resistance and designed submarines to test water resistance. Finally, we built our own pneumatic systems using balloons, plastic tubing and syringes. We put these into Christmas boxes and had great fun decorating them!



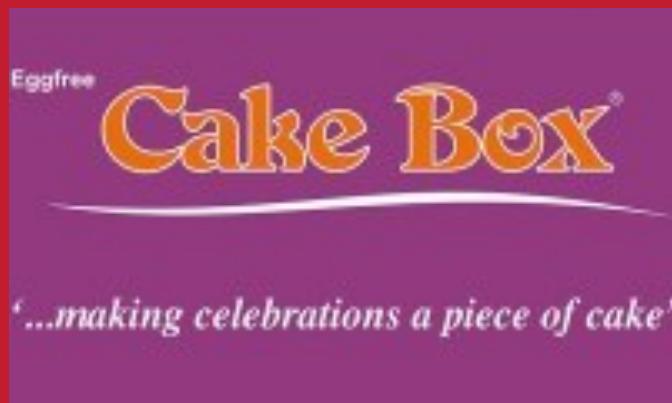
# Year 6

This half term, Y6 have continued to learn about the Victorian period of history. This included learning about the many inventions and scientific breakthroughs that occurred during that period. We also learnt about the lives of rich and poor children at that time, including what school life was like for those children who were lucky enough to get an education at all. This included learning to sew and unlike in Victorian times both boys and girls joined in. We learnt running stitch, back stitch and cross stitch. Then we designed and sewed our own simple designs (see below).



# Thank You to Our Sponsors

We would like to thank the local businesses in Caldmore who supported us and our Christmas Fayre.



# Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct items of uniform each and every day.

**Caldmore Primary Academy**

White polo shirt

Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore

Red jumper or cardigan

Smart black shoes

Plain red, white or black headscarf

**NO hoop earrings, big hair accessories or extreme haircuts**



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