Western
Primary School
CREATING SUCCESS STORIES

RED KITE
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Christmas Celebrations in Early Years

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to share some information about how we will be celebrating Christmas across our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) this year, including a change to our traditional Nativity performances.

Why are we doing things differently?

As a school, we have made the decision not to hold a traditional Nativity performance for our Nursery and Reception children. This decision has been carefully considered and is rooted in our understanding of child development and our commitment to providing experiences that are appropriate, inclusive and enjoyable for our youngest learners. Sometimes, this means reflecting on long-standing traditions and considering whether there might be a better way of doing things.

Research suggests that traditional performances can place considerable demands on young children, as highlighted by Early Years specialist Alistair Bryce-Clegg. Learning songs, remembering lines, following unfamiliar routines and performing in front of a large audience all require skills in communication, memory, confidence and emotional regulation that our youngest children are still developing. Whilst some children may thoroughly enjoy performing, for many others, the experience can feel overwhelming. Lengthy rehearsals can also take valuable time away from the purposeful play, exploration and everyday learning that are so important at this age.

This doesn't mean there will be any less Christmas magic! Quite the opposite. We want our youngest children to enjoy the excitement of the festive season through experiences that allow them to sing, celebrate, build confidence and make special memories, without the added pressure of preparing for a performance. We completely recognise that, for many families, watching their little one dressed as a shepherd, angel or star is one of those treasured moments of primary school life; we certainly don't underestimate the sentimental value of these traditions.

With that being said… The Nativity isn't disappearing!

We want to reassure you that children will still take part in a traditional primary school Nativity during their time at Western - creating those special memories that so many of us still hold fondly from our own school days, I'm sure!

Our school approach is to hold the Nativity at the end of Key Stage 1, when children are in Year 2. By this stage, children have had considerably more time to develop their communication and language skills, confidence, independence, ability to remember and follow sequences and understanding of working together as a group.

This means they are much better equipped to enjoy and participate in a performance, understand the story they are telling and experience the pride and achievement that comes from sharing something they have worked hard to create.

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Headteacher: Mrs J Slack

Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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Rather than asking our youngest children to rehearse towards a final performance, we want to build the foundations that will allow them to flourish when that opportunity comes.

So, what will Christmas look like in Nursery and Reception?

We are planning a range of festive experiences that will allow children to celebrate Christmas in ways that are meaningful, enjoyable and appropriate for their age. We also want to create opportunities for you to share in some of these special moments.

Along with the festivities in class, please see below an overview of our specific planned Christmas events for Reception. Nursery events pending!

Reception		
Event	Date	Details
Elf Workshop (Parents/Carers INVITED)	Thursday 10th December 2026 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	An elevated, festive version of the Marvelous Me Workshop… Expect Christmas crafts, jolly excitement, festive decorations, a handful of staff in costume and even a sing-along! On this day, the children can come to school dressed in non-uniform, as long as it is rooted in festive spirit! This could simply be a Christmas novelty headband or sparkly tights. *No costumes.*
Christmas Special Bedtime Stories (No expectation for Parents/Carers to stay but you are more than welcome)	Wednesday 16th December 2026 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Children will be collected/attend Hive as normal and return to school at 5:30 in the evening, in their PJs or something comfortable. They can bring their favourite teddy, a cosy blanket and even their own pillow. The children will be offered cookies and milk (alternative options offered for dietary requirements) whilst enjoying a calming twilight session of Christmas themed bedtime stories.
Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Day SANTA COMES TO WESTERN! (No Parents/Carers)	Friday 11th December 2026 During the school day	A jam-packed festive day – need we say more!

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As always, we recognise and celebrate the different religions, cultures and traditions represented within our school community. Christmas is an important part of our school calendar, and throughout the period, we will continue to explore its meaning and traditions in age-appropriate ways, whilst ensuring that all children feel included and that the beliefs and celebrations of all our families are respected and valued.

We look forward to celebrating a wonderfully festive few weeks with our children and families and making plenty of Christmas memories together!

Warm wishes,

Miss Ward

EYFS Lead

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