

A Big Thank You, Photography Competition Entries Now on View: We were overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of submissions to our recent photography competition. It was a very difficult job for our judges to make their final decisions! A special thanks to Mr. Driver (Nature Photographer) and Ranger Pike (Nature School Lead) for taking on the challenging task. Their expertise was invaluable in sifting through such an impressive collection of work. We encourage everyone to come and view all the excellent entries—you'll see why the judges had such a tough time! A thank you also to Mrs Fuller for making the amazing runner-up crocheted mushrooms, each with their unique personality. Prizes will be awarded on Wednesday. The winners receive a £5 Waterstones voucher, and the runners-up will take home the beautiful mushroom prizes!

Friday 12 December 2025

Future Dates

Fri 19 Dec – Last Day of term and Teacher for the Day

Mon 29 Jan – **Deadline to order**
w/c 5 Jan 2025

Tues 6 Jan – First day of Spring term

	Winner	Runner up
Rec, Y1, Y2	Fred M, Rec	Fraser B, 2T
Y3, Y4	Finlay C, 4S	Georgie C 3S and Theo D 4BC
Y5, Y6	Renee R, 6NS	Morgan B, 6AA
Parent	Josie Mayes	Phil Doucas

School Menu – January 2026: We will be running the same menus for the Spring term and will start again on Week One when we come back on Tuesday 6 January. We will update the menus with the new term dates.

Nativity: a huge well done to our Reception children and our Year 2 children for their recent performances. It is always such a joy to watch the children on stage and hear their singing. We were so proud of every single child for their hard work, singing, excellent lines, and superb efforts. Thank you to the parents and carers who came to support the children and also bought raffle tickets, supporting our fundraising efforts. A thank you also to our staff who worked hard to put these together at a very busy time of the year.

Have your say: In response to ongoing financial pressures, Devon County Council has launched a consultation on potential reductions to library services across Devon. Adults and under-18s can take part, and all feedback will help shape the future of local provision. You can read the details and complete the consultation here:

<https://devonlibraries.commonplace.is/>

Thank you for helping us make sure families and young children have their voices heard.



Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore

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Teacher for the Day: It's that time again! Has your child always fancied being Teacher for the Day? Now is their chance. For £1 a go you can enter them as many times as you like via the MCAS store/shop. You have until **noon Thursday 18th December** to enter. Good Luck!

Thanks to our amazing kitchen staff: We had a really enjoyable Christmas dinner on Tuesday. The children really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit. Thanks to our wonderful team in the kitchen for pulling out all of the stops to make it such a success.

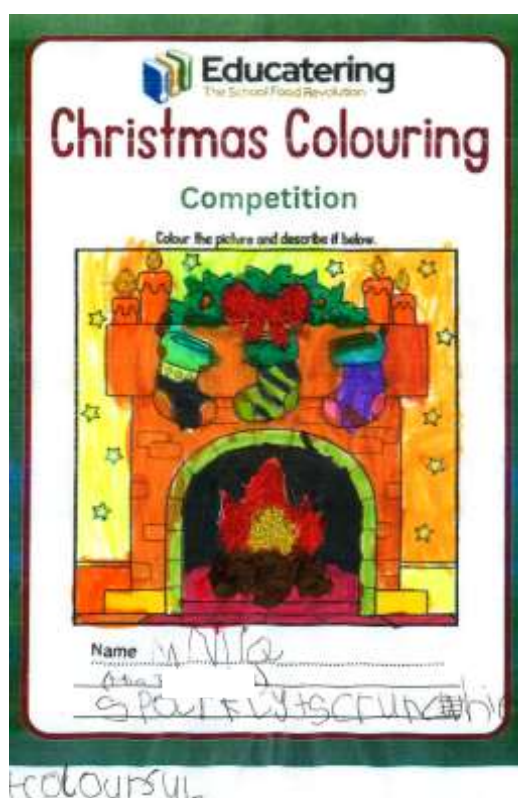
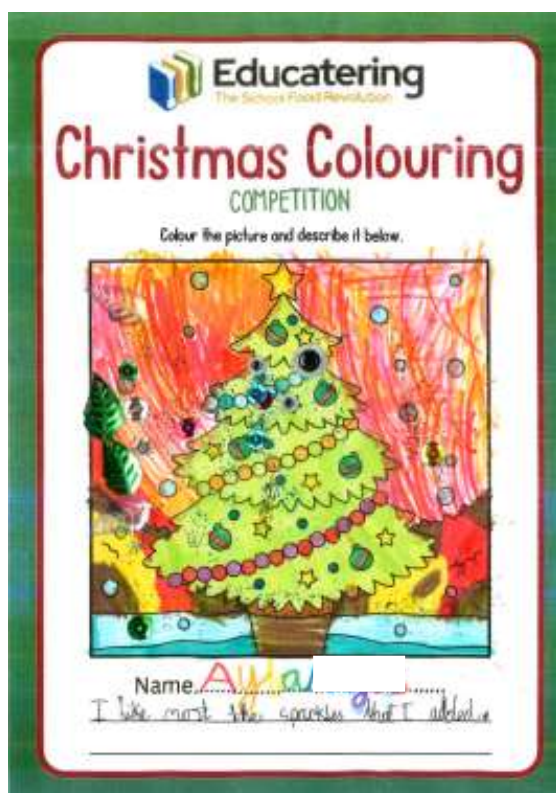
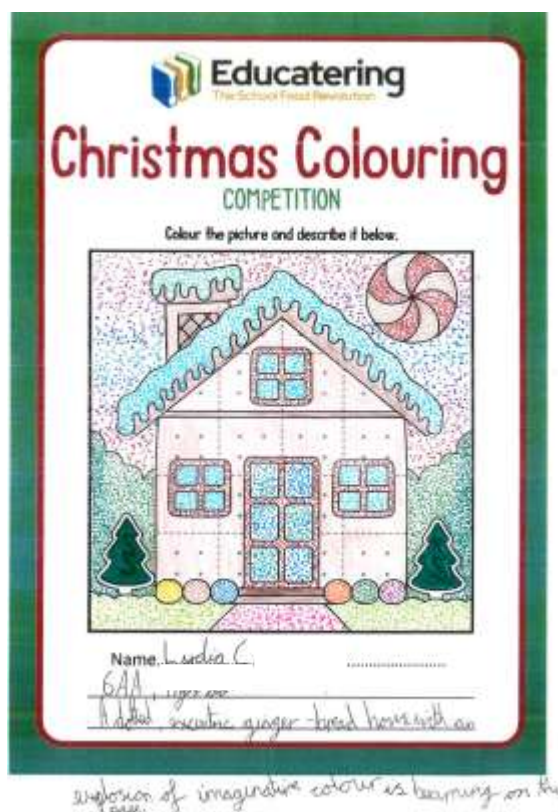


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Winning entries Educating colouring competition: A big thank you to all of the children who took the time to enter the colouring competition.

We had an overwhelming response with so many fabulous creations which made it incredibly difficult for our judges to pick a winner.

Congratulations go to Mia B in RGS, Ayla M in 3S and Lydia C in 6AA with these winning entries.





Christmas tree: You may notice some new and different decorations on our Christmas tree in the school lounge. The Civic Award children and Mrs Nowell had the idea of putting small donations on each tag which can then go towards a food bank to help others.

If you would like to get involved:

1. Choose a tag and take it from the tree.
2. Purchase the item on the tag.
3. Bring the item back to the school lounge and place it in the food bank box.
4. Don't forget to write your name(s) on the tag and place it back on the tree.





Help Us Build Our School Board Game Library!

We are excited to announce a new initiative at the school: the creation of a Community Board Game Library!

We believe that board games are a fantastic way to encourage critical thinking, teamwork, strategic planning, and positive social interaction among our children. A dedicated library of games will be available for families to borrow.

We Need Your Help: Game Donations! To make this library a success, we are reaching out to our generous parent community for donations of appropriate board games.

Do you have any classic or modern games gathering dust on a shelf that your family no longer plays? If the game is suitable for a school environment and, most importantly, has all of its original pieces and parts, we would be incredibly grateful for your contribution!



What Makes a Game "Appropriate"? We are looking for games that are:

- Complete: Every single piece, card, die, and instruction booklet must be present.
- Ages 5 and Up: Suitable for primary school ages.
- Educational/Fun: Games that promote strategy, math skills, word recognition, or cooperative play.

Examples of ideal donations: *Chess, Connect 4, Scrabble, Monopoly (Junior), Jenga, Ticket to Ride (Kids), Qwirkle, or simple card games.*

How to Donate: It couldn't be easier to contribute!

- Where: Please drop off your donated game(s) at the School Office.
- When: Any time during regular school hours.

Your donations will directly benefit the students and enrich their school experience for years to come.

Mental Health update: my child has friendship issues

It is perfectly ordinary for children to have difficulties with friendships, which change naturally as they grow and develop. Here are three key strategies to encourage your child to solve these problems themselves:

1. Stop and Listen Before Stepping In

It's understandable to want to protect your child, but try not to jump in too quickly to fix things. Take a moment to manage your own strong emotions—especially if their troubles remind you of your own childhood. By managing your emotions, you can better support them as they find a solution.

2. Reassure Them That Falling Out is Natural

Let your child know that friendships often change and that being friends doesn't always mean agreeing or getting along all the time. Help your child move past the anger and hurt by listening and naming their emotions. Once they



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feel understood, they can better start to problem-solve. Encourage them to come up with their own ideas to deal with friendship issues.

3. Help Them Grow Confidence in Their Friendship Skills

If your child is struggling (perhaps due to shyness, a tendency to take control, or lack of confidence), you can help by talking about what makes a good friend. Practice skills like listening, sharing, compromising, and negotiating.

- Explore examples from everyday life, TV, and books to help them think about what makes a good friend.
- You can also encourage friendships beyond school by joining clubs or arranging play dates.

National Online Safety Guides: Please see attached this week's guide on starting a conversation about online content.

Video School Newsletter: Don't forget you can now listen/view our weekly newsletter on our website.

Premier Education: Holiday clubs will be running over the Christmas period. See attached leaflet for more information.

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