



BOCKING NEWS

Bocking Primary School Weekly Round Up
Friday 19th December 2025

WHAT'S COMING UP

December

**22nd - 5th Jan 2026 -
Christmas Holidays**

January

**6th- Spring Term
20th - O2 Young Voices
Choir Trip
27th - Y4 Colchester
Castle Trip - details to
follow**

February

**4th - Y3 Saffron Walden
Museum Trip - details to
follow
15th - 20th - Half Term
23rd - Non Pupil Day**

March

**13th - Y5 Bocking Arts
Centre Trip - details to
follow**

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we joyfully kicked off the festive season with our EYFS and Year 1 Nativity performances. The children in Year 1 spoke with remarkable confidence and delivered their lines with clarity, while our EYFS pupils dazzled everyone with their acting skills—and undeniable cuteness! A huge thank you to all the EYFS and Year 1 staff for their dedication and hard work in putting on such a memorable show.

Yesterday, we hosted our biggest (and wettest!) Carol Service yet, held in St. Mary's Church. We are incredibly proud of the children for singing so beautifully and demonstrating excellent behaviour and conduct both in the church and while walking to and from the venue through our community. Several members of the public commented on how well the children represented Bocking with pride and respect. Our Year 6 children told the Christmas story with confidence and pride, captivating everyone in the audience. The school choir performed "Once in Royal David's City," a challenging piece, with amazing harmony and poise. A special shout-out goes to Millie H, Olivia, Harper, and Ellie for their quartet performance—the first ever at our school! Many thanks to Mrs Reid and Miss Freeman for supporting our choir in their performance. We also extend our gratitude to Reverend Rod Reid for his smooth running of the service and his engaging speech, which entertained children and parents alike—the highlight being the parents joining in singing along (and the children's rating of them!).

Our Christmas dinner was a huge team effort this year, with many staff members involved, all overseen by our brilliant kitchen team, Miss Smoothy and Miss Fisher. We would like to thank them for their hard work in preparing a delicious meal. The joy was palpable as children pulled crackers and shared the festive feast with friends, their smiles lighting up the hall and making the occasion special.

The festive magic continued with our mischievous elves causing quite a stir around the school this week! This morning, they toilet-papered the school hall and even "borrowed" Blake's Xbox controller, Rocco's ticket to the North Pole, and Willow's hair bow. Watching what the elves get up to each day has quickly become a highlight for our children, bringing magic and excitement each morning. We hope the elves enjoy their time back at the North Pole and look forward to their return next year!

Today, we held our TOPS Time Celebration where children mixed across year groups to enjoy a variety of festive activities.. A big thank you goes to Mrs Aldous for her dedication and hard work in planning and resourcing this event for every child in the school.

Bringing more joy, our PTSA recently hosted a disco that the children absolutely loved! Their fundraising efforts, through events like this and many others, have enabled them to support the building of a new outdoor summer house. This space will be used for outdoor nurture sessions and forest school activities starting in the Spring term. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication. However, the PTSA is a team of committed parents who need more support. Please see the advert at the end of this newsletter if you are interested in joining or helping out—we warmly welcome new members!

We are pleased to announce that SCS will be hosting a multiskills camp day at Bocking Primary on 5th January, which is an INSET day for our school. Children brought flyers home last week, and we hope to see as many pupils as possible enjoying this fantastic opportunity.

And finally, as we close this term, we wish all our families a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We have lots of exciting plans for 2026, including school trips, music workshops, expert CPD for staff, outdoor nurture provision developments, the introduction of forest schools, and much more—all alongside the excellent provision already in place at Bocking Primary.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 6th January 2026!

Mrs Cagney

BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

**FRI - IROCK = RETURNING
AFTER XMAS**

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - NO CHOIR

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS

Fri - Taekwondo



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Freya

Year 1 - Anaiyah

Year 2 - Skylar

Year 3 - Olivia

Year 4 - Matilda

Year 5 - Millie C

Year 6 - Ezra

AR READERS

Year 3 - Ruby

Year 4 - Alfie

Now the weather has changed, please ensure you child has a water proof jacket.

All items of clothing should be named.

Water only in bottles please.

Polite Reminder:
The school toilets are closed for cleaning from 3:20.

CLASSROOM NEWS...

YEAR 3

In English, we have been learning about kenning and quatrain poems. We have written our own ones about Campania which has been great. In maths we have been finishing off addition and subtraction. We have enjoyed this unit and now know how to use column method. In geography, we learnt about environmental issues in Campania and Essex. We are going to make sure we throw our rubbish in the bin and recycle more. In science, we have finished our wormeries; the worms are now settled into their new home and are eating lots of organic matter. Mr Wood has very kindly offered to take them home for Christmas dinner! Next term, we are looking forward to maths (learning multiplication and division) and English. Have a wonderful Christmas!. *Written by Poppy and Bobbi*

YEAR 4

For the last week of term, we have been finishing up lots of our learning. In topic, we answered our enquiry question 'Is the Greek Legacy worth remembering?' - we had very interesting views on this and ultimately decided that a lot of what we have today is really from the Ancient Greeks! We finished our pottery by painting in red-figure and black-figure styles, and they look amazing and much like the ones we have been researching and exploring in Art. In maths, we have been starting to understand multiplying 2-digit and 2-digit numbers and dividing. We have really persevered with this, and our times tables have helped. In English, we wrote some free verse poetry about darkness and performed them to the class. Finally, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

YEAR 5

Year 5 have been persevering brilliantly in their maths lessons and are now confidently finding equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and improper fractions. This week, they have applied these skills to adding fractions with improving success. In English, they have really impressed us with some thought-provoking narrative writing focused on the Christmas Truce. Their elegant word choices made their pieces moving and helped readers to understand the meaning of Christmas and the symbolism of hope during the truce. In Design Technology, the children have learned how to use cams to make their own Viking longboats move across the high seas. We were very impressed with their thorough research, thoughtful designs, and prototype making, as they solved problems along the way. They used the equipment with great maturity, producing high-quality products. This term, Year 5 have shown great improvement in their learning behaviour. Every day, they are working harder, doing more, and presenting their work with greater neatness—truly embodying our class mantra. Well done, Year 5, and Merry Christmas!

YEAR 6

We have been working really hard in our maths lessons where we have had to persevered to ensure that we understand fractions well. In English, we have been ambitious when writing our Christmas poems: we have used more adventurous and precise vocabulary to create imagery. For our science learning, we have been designing and creating Christmas cards with an electrical circuit. In geography we have been practising our research and presentation skills as we each presented our findings on a continent to the class. This week we also visited EYFS and performed our song- You To Me Are Everything- that we have been working on during our music lessons. *By Year 6 Learning Ambassadors, Stanley and Ann-Mary*



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

88% - EYFS
91% - Year 1
93% - Year 2
90% - Year 3
92% - Year 4
95% - Year 5
94% - Year 6
Attendance target 95%

Please be aware that the gates open at 8:35, and your child is marked late, affecting their attendance from 8:50am. Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill. Late arrival affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. Where a pupil arrives after the registers close, with no justifiable reason, a U code will be entered into the register. The U code amounts to an unauthorised absence for the whole session. We must warn you, a penalty notice may be issued where there have been at least ten sessions of unauthorised absence during a rolling 10 school week period.

PTSA MESSAGE....

We are seeking committee members and volunteers to support our events, including the annual May Day Fayre.

To make planning easier this year, the event will be broken down into smaller projects, each allocated to a volunteer or small team. Current roles include:

- PTSA Games Stall
- Donation Lead
- PTSA Food Stall
- 3rd Party Stalls Coordinator
- Entertainment Coordinator
- Event Communications Lead

We will be holding a kick-off meeting in January. Following this face-to-face meeting, all further communication will be managed via group chat rather than additional meetings, to make volunteering as flexible and manageable as possible.

If you are interested in supporting any of these roles or would like more information, please get in touch. Any level of help is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU...

Thank you so much for all of the generous donations for the Braintree Food Bank. The company were thrilled collecting all the items today.

