

## Butterflies Newsletter – End of Term Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of 2025, we are so proud of the children and all their achievements this term. Their confidence has grown, their personalities are shining through, and we truly enjoy their company every day. They are a credit to their families, and we thank you for all you do to support their learning at home. After Christmas we look forward to a few new children joining us as they move up from Bumblebees class. We know they will be warmly welcomed.

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### What We've Been Learning and Exploring

The children have been incredibly busy and creative over the past few weeks:

- **Messy Zone:**

They've carefully created beautiful Christmas calendars using marbling ink as gifts for their families. Alongside this, they've enjoyed decorating tree ornaments and making Christmas cards.

A big interest has been combining materials and exploring changes through simple science experiments—such as adding water to cornflour to make “gloop.” This is a favorite activity and easy to try at home for some fun sensory play!

*Fun fact:* When mixed in the right way, cornflour and water create a **non-Newtonian fluid**, which means it behaves like a solid when you press it quickly but flows like a liquid when you move slowly.

- **Movement Zone:**

Play has become much more complex! What started as simple towers has grown into elaborate structures—towns, castles, zoos, and farms—often accompanied by imaginative storylines. This is one of the great benefits of continuous provision: children can revisit familiar resources and extend their ideas over time.

- **Maker Space:**

Children are developing resourcefulness and fine motor skills—snipping with scissors, learning how tape and glue work, and enjoying mark-making activities. They've been cutting out magazines, writing letters to Santa, and making cards for teachers, friends, and family.

- **Home Zone:**

Playdough remains a favorite! Children have been making pretend chocolates and cookies to share with friends and teachers. Some budding entrepreneurs have even opened restaurants and cafés in their imaginative play.

- **Outdoor Adventures:**

Despite the chilly weather, we've embraced outdoor play—smashing ice, splashing in muddy puddles, rolling down hills, and enjoying sand, water, and the ever-popular mud kitchen.

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### Reminders

- **Label Clothing:** I know I'm always nagging on this one!! Please ensure all items are clearly labeled. This makes it much easier to reunite lost items with their owners. Unclaimed items will now be placed in the lost property box in reception.
  - **Spare Clothes:** We are always short of spare trousers/leggings and socks (ages 3–5). If you're clearing out over Christmas, donations are greatly appreciated! Also, please keep your child's bag topped up with spare clothes—even toilet-trained children can get wet or messy during play.
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### **Staffing Update**

Unfortunately, I suffered a shoulder injury (broken bone and dislocation) and will be out of action for a little while. Butterflies is in very capable hands with **Lana and Steph**, who will lead the class together. They bring many years of experience, and I trust them and the team completely.

I'll check emails when I can and support from home where possible. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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### **Fun Holiday Ideas for Home**

Looking for simple, engaging activities to enjoy over the festive break? Here are a few ideas:

- **Make Gloop:** Mix cornflour and water for a sensory experience. Try pressing it quickly and then slowly—notice the difference!
  - **DIY Christmas Crafts:** Use old magazines to make festive collages or create homemade cards for family and friends.
  - **Playdough Creations:** Make your own playdough and set up a pretend bakery or café.
  - **Outdoor Fun:** Wrap up warm and go on a winter nature walk—look for frosty leaves, splash in puddles, or collect sticks for craft projects.
  - **Story Time:** Cozy up with a blanket and read your child's favorite festive stories together.
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### **Thank You**

Thank you for being such wonderful advocates for your children. It has been fantastic to celebrate their progress during pupil progress meetings. If you'd like an update or have any questions, please speak to your child's key person. Thank you also for your thoughtful gifts. We really appreciate you thinking of us. It means a lot.

We wish you all a joyful festive season and look forward to an exciting new year with Butterflies!

Warm regards, Liz [e.marklew@lanterns.hants.sch.uk](mailto:e.marklew@lanterns.hants.sch.uk)

and all of the Butterflies Class team.