

December 2025

CLAYCOTS SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Spring Term

INSET DAY – 05/01/2026

Children Return to School – 06/01/2026 at 8:30am

Further dates will be released in the New Year.

We wish you all a lovely and restful break, and a Happy New Year from everyone at Claycots School.

[Read More on our website](#)

Hyperlinks

[Term Dates](#)

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Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy term at Claycots, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the many highlights that have brought our community together and showcased the very best of our pupils and staff. It has been a term full of exciting learning, teamwork, fundraising and festive spirit—everything we cherish about this time of year.

Our school council worked hard to raise money for Children in Need this term and the school are very proud to have achieved the total of £2,197.56 for this worthy cause. Our Christmas Fairs were a huge success, raising over £4000 in total for the school. These events were a fabulous team effort from the staff at both campuses, and I would like to thank all involved for their hard work leading up to, and on the day. Special thanks go to the Family Support Teams who took on most of the organisation ahead of the day. Thank you to all families who attended and supported the school.

The Christmas Nativity performances are always one of my favourite events of the year and this year has been no exception. Our Early Years children treated us to fantastic performances; They did an amazing job with singing and delivering their lines clearly and they certainly put a smile on everyone's faces.

This week you will have received an end of term progress report for your child(ren). For most children this is an overview of learning in reading, writing and maths which should give you information about areas of strength and areas to work on. We would appreciate any feedback that parents would like to give about these reports.

You can see more examples of what is going on in school on our X feed @ClaycotsSchool. We are also on Instagram and Facebook so please do follow us and take a look at all of the amazing learning that is happening in our wonderful school.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive families and, of course, our brilliant children. Their energy, resilience and kindness continue to make Claycots a very special place.

I wish you all a restful holiday and a very Happy Christmas to those families who are celebrating. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 6th January 2026 for the first day of the Spring Term.

Sarah Mijatovich
Headteacher

Parent Information

Gate Information

School Gates

AM Gates

Open: 8:20am - Close: 8:45am

PM Gates

Open: 15:00pm - Close: 15:30pm

Electronic Gates

Please do not push, pull or squeeze through the electronic gates. These gates are automated, and doing so can cause the gates to become damaged.

Breakfast Club

Timings

8:00am – 8:30am

TH Staff Car Park

Parents can use the staff car park to drop off children for breakfast club between 7:55am and 8:15am.

Parents will not be given entry to the staff car park after these times.

After School Clubs

The next round of After School Clubs will be released at the start of the Spring Term and will be available for booking via [Arbor](#). Parents/Carers will be notified by email once the clubs have gone live. Please note that spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

After School Clubs

We also work with an external company at our Town Hall campus, In2Care, which provides wrap-around care for parents. Bookings can be made via their website, and they offer both block bookings and same-day bookings before 12pm. Please see the link below to visit their website and book your sessions.

Eco News

We have established our Eco Council for 25/26 from Year 5 and 6 across both campuses. We have carried out our environmental review for our Eco School award this year. The review helps us decide on our focus topics for our reward submission.

We are fundraising for an environmental charity this year. We took a vote and the charity with the most votes was Young Climate Warriors, who raise awareness of climate change in schools. For our first fundraising activity we made some Xmas bouquets from donated flowers to sell at the Xmas Fayre and raised £109!

Next term we will be running an Eco afterschool club. This will run at the Town Hall Campus until February half term, then Britwell Campus until Easter. The club is open to all KS2 children, and we will be carrying out activities to improve our school environment and sustainability. Please check Arbor to book – there are limited places!



Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts are running a “12 Days Wild” campaign during the Xmas break to encourage getting outdoors in nature. When you sign up to take part, you will receive a digital pack containing resources and ideas for activities children can take part in and a wallchart where they can mark their progress. To sign up see this link: [12 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12-days-wild)

Attendance

A huge well done to all the children who achieved 100% attendance this term. They have each received a £5 Amazon gift voucher, and we hope they enjoy choosing something special over the Christmas break.

We have also noticed a rise in Withdrawal from Learning requests for extended holidays during the Christmas period. We completely understand that family time is important, but we do need to remind parents of the legal guidance around term-time absence:

First Offence - The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence - Within 3 years of the first offence, the second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for early payment.

Third Offence onwards - Within 3 years of the first offence, the third time an offence is committed for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Fines can be around £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found to be guilty in Magistrates' Court can show as a criminal record and also on the parent's future DBS certificates due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.

We really appreciate your support in helping us maintain good attendance so that children can make the most of their learning.

Family Support

Visit from Lego

Last week, Claycots Town Hall welcomed our neighbours from Lego as part of their 'Build to Give' campaign. Year 4 and 5 students had an amazing opportunity to unleash their creativity using hundreds of Lego bricks. They built thoughtful gifts and enjoyed fun games throughout the session. Our students represented Claycots brilliantly, and Lego praised their excellent behaviour. Lego expressed enthusiasm about continuing this fantastic partnership with us!

Town Hall Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 29th November, the Town Hall Campus held its annual Christmas Fayre. This year's event was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by many. It was lovely to see the children using their creative flare and making Christmas crackers, Christmas bags and decorating biscuits to name just a few! We greatly valued the positive feedback from parents, who highlighted their appreciation for both the event and its organisation. Congratulations to Ali in Year 3, who won the star raffle prize which was a brand-new bike! We are proud to announce that we raised a fantastic total of just over £2,000. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the fayre such a memorable occasion!

Christmas Movie Night

This year's Christmas movie was *Stick Man*, a delightful film by Julia Donaldson. Students joined the Family Support Team to enjoy a snack and watch the film alongside families and friends.

A big thank you from Mrs Varley and Miss Speed, your Family Support Team for all your wonderful support! We love creating sessions and workshops that truly matter to our families. If there's a topic, you'd like us to cover, please come and chat with us—we'd love to hear your ideas!

Head over to our social media platforms to see some pictures of the above events.

Family Support Town Hall Campus Regular Events

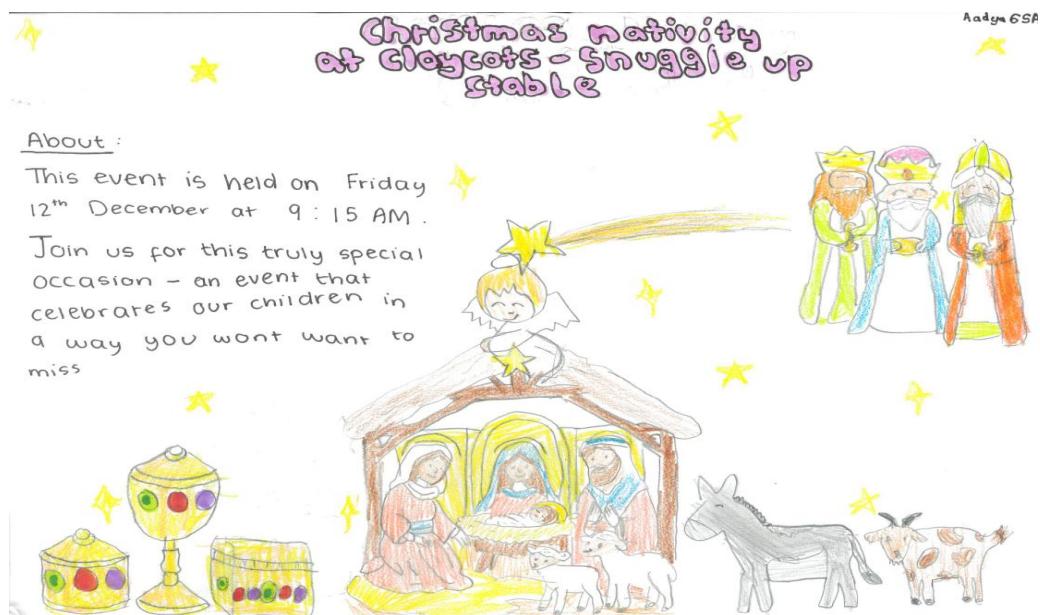
Monday	08:45-09.30	School Uniform Drop In
Tuesday	09:00-10:00	Admin Support for parents/carers
Thursday	08:45-09:45	Stay and Play Hour (Booking is required)
Friday	08:45-09.30	Drop in Coffee Morning

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Competition Winner

Congratulations to **Aadya** from 6SA who has won the Nativity poster competition.



Congratulations

We are thrilled to congratulate Nyraa from 2JS, whose face was chosen to be featured in a mural at Langley Pavilion!

Click the link below to check it out.

<https://vivaslough.org/artscape/langley-pavilion/>



Sing Newsletter



Sing Education Newsletter

Music so far at Claycots

A message from your music teacher

Very well done to our new Reception students who have settled in so well to their music classes. I am hearing lots of talented little voices and cannot wait to see what the rest of the year holds!

Mr Mann



EYFS were looking at Moving and Clapping

Reception sang songs and rhymes, moving in time to the beat. We listened to different styles of music, shared how they made us feel, and played instruments to a steady pulse.

In KS1 we were focussing on Pulse

In **Year 1** We explored pulse and tempo and learnt to feel the beat. We joined in call and response songs following a leader and practised pitch-matching.

Year 2 sang, played instruments and moved to music to develop their skills as musicians. We focused on pulse and tempo, finding strong beats and noticing changes in music.



Singing Assembly Song of the Term:

No Such Thing As Normal



Sing Newsletter

The KS2 focus area was Performing: Reading Notation - Rhythm

Year 3 focussed on reading musical notation and they learnt more about rhythm and tempo. We practised reading, writing and playing rhythms and improved our singing skills.

In **Year 4**, we explored music in 2, 3 and 4 time, listening to a variety of recorded music and singing songs and rounds from around the world. We worked on a rhythm ensemble that used the rhythm "syncopa". Some key words we learnt were bar, bar lines, metre, minim and rest.



Year 5 studied music in 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4. We sang rounds, analysed recorded music, read and performed rhythmic phrases, and learnt technical rhythm names crotchet rest, paired quavers and semiquavers.

In **Year 6**, we developed rhythm reading and ensemble skills. We sang in parts, explored music from different genres, performed as a 4 part rhythm ensemble, and refined our ability to read and write rhythms.

Coming up this half term!

What's happening in Extra-curricular?

Our Young Voices are practicing diligently in preparation for our performance at Wembley Arena in February - we have opened up more spaces in our after school choir. Come and join us for an unmissable opportunity to perform in one of the UK's most famous venues!

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
EYFS Focus Areas	Moving and Clapping	Recalling Patterns, Actions and Rhythms
Nursery	Move to the Music: Stopping and Starting	Follow the Leader: Copy Me
Reception	Move to the Music: Skip, Hop and Jump	Follow the Leader: Tap with Me
KS1 Focus Areas	Pulse	Rhythm
Year 1	Exploring Pulse and Tempo 1: Feel the Beat	Exploring Rhythm 1: Playing and Copying
Year 2	Exploring Pulse and Tempo 2: Find the Strong Beat	Exploring Rhythm 2: Stick Notation
KS2 Focus Areas	Performing: Reading Notation - Rhythm	Performing: Reading Notation - Pitch
Year 3	Reading Notation 1: Rhythm and Tempo	Exploring Staff Notation 1: High and Low (Glockenspiel)
Year 4	Reading Notation 2: 2, 3 and 4 Time	Exploring Staff Notation 2: Follow the Score (Glockenspiel)
Year 5	Reading Notation 3: Time Signatures	Developing Sight Reading Skills 1: Melodies (Glockenspiel)
Year 6	Reading Notation 4: Rhythm Ensemble	Developing Sight Reading Skills 2: Note Names and Durations (Glockenspiel)

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Local Activities



The season to shine with Slough Libraries

Follow the trail of the magical comet to a sparkling line-up of free Family activities in libraries this December.

The Curve

The Comet story time
Saturday 4 December, 11-11.30am. A special edition story time, featuring the magical story of The Comet.

LEGO® Brick Events
Saturday 11 December, 1-4pm. Join Museums Partnership Reading to explore Slough's comet connection. Celebrate the achievements of Canadian space scientist, Dr. Nancy Atkinson, as she takes over Slough through a giant telescope. Create your own comet to impress your friends. Drop in, when with other families. Drop in, Age 3+.

LEGO® Brick Events
Tuesday 14 December, 4-5pm. Children can give the gift of knowledge by building a LEGO® model of a comet. Drop in, Age 3+. **LEGO®** and the LEGO logo are trademarks of the LEGO Group. © 2015 The LEGO Group.

Paperrafts
Saturday 20 December, 3-4pm. Transform your paper into dragon gliders or Christmas wreaths. Drop in, Age 4+

Do you want to be like Santa?
Monday 22 December, 2-3pm. Turn paper plates into a friendly reindeer or a shiny evergreen mistletoe. Drop in, Age 3+.

Regular drop in events
LEGO® (Age 3+)
Tuesdays 11-12pm
Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm

Borrow up to 30 books with your library membership and take the magic of stories home. Access thousands of books, magazines and newspapers digitally, through our e-reading services, so you can always have something to read without venturing out in the cold. Ask staff for details or visit www.slough.gov.uk/libraries

Parents/carers should stay on site. Please note the age guidance for each activity.

Cippenham Library

Pop-up play featuring The Comet story time
Saturday 4 December, 1.30-2.15pm. Enjoy a magical tale, then visit to play. Board games and puzzles available after your story.

Carolines' comet
Saturday 11 December, 1.30-2.30pm. Create your own comet and celebrate Slough's connection to space, with themed activities from Museums Partnership Reading. Drop in, Age 3+.

Pop-up play
Saturday 18 December, 1.30-2.15pm. A moon full of puzzles and board games for an hour of family fun.

Do you want to make a snowman?
Tuesday 22 December, 2-3pm. Turn plain paper plates into a friendly snowman who never melts! Drop in, Age 3+.

Britwell Library

Lynch Hill School chair
Sunday 19 December, 10am. Enjoy a selection of seasonal songs from the young singers of Lynch Hill School.

Langley Library

Monday 15 December, 11.30-12.30pm. Create your own comet and celebrate Slough's connection to space, with themed activities from Museums Partnership Reading. Drop in, Age 5+.

English Bell Ringers
Wednesday 23 December, 3.30-4.30pm. Turn old pots into festive lanterns to create that really wild the way! Add your own colourful touches to create a delightful decoration for home. Drop in, Age 3+.

More comet adventures await at Cippenham Library this December. The Comet. See www.slough.gov.uk/libraries for details. Please note: ticket charges apply for this production.

**A VERY
Britwell
CHRISTMAS**

bring your lights and lanterns

Light Switch On - from 4.30pm

Singing Together around the Tree

Stalls - Childrens' Activities

Arts and Crafts - Refreshments

Music and Entertainment

Santa Photo Booth - Raffle - Tombola

Meet the Mayor and Mayoress of Slough

Britwell Centre and Library

Wentworth Avenue

Tuesday 23rd December 4-8pm

Everyone is welcome. Something for all the family

For Stalls and other enquiries:
britwellcommunityforum@gmail.com

Tel/mssg: 07717 554118

**Kindly Supported by
Britwell Parish
Council**

Raising money for the Mayor's Charities