

A Note from Miss Cousin

As the autumn term comes to an end, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic start to the year it has been. Thank you all for making me and our new staff feel so welcome—we've truly felt the warmth and support of this wonderful school community.

This term has been a whirlwind of activity, with so many memorable moments to celebrate. In the just last two weeks, we have had the EYFS, KS1 nativities and and KS2 carol performances which have been a true highlight, showcasing the hard work and talent of our pupils – and staff! We've also enjoyed an amazing talent show, festive Christmas parties, and special trips like Year 3's visit to Creswell Craggs. Meanwhile, our choir and KS1 children spread Christmas cheer by singing beautifully at Springwater Lodge.

It's been a joy to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the children shine through in everything they do. I'm so proud of all they've achieved this term, and I'm incredibly grateful for the dedication of our staff and the support of families who make it all possible.

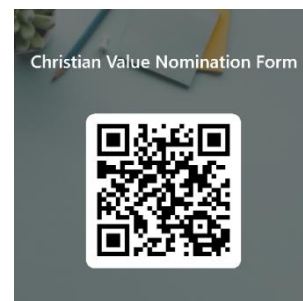
I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break filled with joy, relaxation, and time with loved ones. I look forward to an exciting 2025, where we'll continue building on this term's successes together.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Value Awards

We welcome your nominations for the children to receive any of our Christian Value Awards for living out the value in action: **translating the value into a virtue (kindness, love, respect, resilience, faith and joy)** through every day actions. Please use our Values Nomination Form, accessible through the QR code or [here](#), to submit your nominations. We will celebrate this once every two weeks on a Friday morning in our Golden Box Worship which you will be invited to attend. *This half term our focus value is 'love'.*



Feeling Proud



Huge well done to our Golden Box award winners.

Sofia received a silver trophy and 2 medals of excellence after taking part in a ballet exam. She showed confidence on the stage which we are all so proud of – well done Sofia.



Edward, Elsie and Wilfrid ran the festive family mile at Sherwood pines on Sunday 15th Dec, Edward shaved a whole 55 seconds off his time running his mile in 8 minutes, Elsie and Wilfrid completed the mile for the first time and ran the whole distance without stopping! An excellent effort by all of them, we are very proud!

100 Reads in 14 Weeks!

Wow! That's an incredible *7 reads a week*—one every single day! What an amazing achievement. We haven't checked all the diaries just yet, so if you think you've been missed, keep a look out in the next newsletter. Well done, everyone—let's keep up the fantastic effort!





Gedling Elf Trails have arrived for the festive season! The Elf Trails offer families a fun and engaging way to explore local shops over the Christmas period. For more information click [here](#).

### Christmas Jumper Swap



This festive season, why not give your Christmas jumper a second life? We're excited to announce our Christmas Jumper Swap—coming your way next year! ☀️ Instead of buying new, swap your jumper for a fresh-to-you festive look and save those pennies (and the planet).

🌟 Hold onto your jumpers from this year and stay tuned for the official date of our swap event in 2025. Let's make next Christmas both stylish and sustainable!

🎁 More details coming soon!

### Attendance Matters: Striving for 97%!

Our school aims for a 97% attendance rate - a target set to ensure students are getting the most from their education. While 96% attendance is roughly in line with the national average, anything below that means important learning time is being missed. Over the last two weeks, we will share how we've been doing, but remember, attendance makes a big difference. Let's work together to meet our goal and give every student the best chance to succeed!

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
Attendance	88.00%	90.67%	89.00%	96.00%	90.67%	85.81%	93.21%	90.43%

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
Attendance	95.00%	92.00%	96.00%	95.00%	91.67%	95.81%	97.14%	94.64%

Our goal is to promote a positive atmosphere for all students. The class certificate rewards are exciting for the children and encourage teamwork. When a class earns five certificates, they enjoy an extra break. Thank you for your support as we create a positive school environment.

### 🚫 Important Update: Medical Leave of Absence Forms 🚫

Starting in **January**, all parents/carers will be required to complete a **'Medical Appointment Leave of Absence' form** for any medical or dental appointments, as per our policy.

📄 These forms can be collected from the school office.

We strongly encourage parents/carers to arrange medical and dental appointments **outside of school hours** wherever possible. If an appointment must take place during school hours, we kindly ask that:

- Pupils are out of school for the **minimum time necessary**.
- Pupils attend school for registration in both the **morning and afternoon**, where applicable.

Your cooperation helps us minimise disruptions to learning and ensures accurate attendance records. Thank you for your understanding!



### Readers

We would welcome anyone who can commit to listening to children read. Please let Mrs McCoulough know the days and times you are available via the office.



## Calling All Bookworms! 📖



Looking for some brilliant new books to enjoy? Peter's Books has announced their Book of the Year 2025 Shortlist! These stories are packed with excitement, adventure, and fun—perfect for young readers like you. Stay tuned to find out which book will take the top prize. Why not start reading them now and pick your favourite? Let's get inspired and dive into some amazing stories! 🌟 You can find it [here](#).

## Photography Help Needed!

Over the Christmas break, I'll be working on our new school website, and I'd love to include some brilliant photos of the children—whether it's during classwork, activities, or just the day-to-day moments that make our school special.



Do we have any photography enthusiasts who'd be happy to come into school and help capture these moments for our website's front page? If so, I'd love to hear from you!

## Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)



We're thrilled to announce that our school is becoming more active on Instagram! To maintain our presence on Facebook, we've also created a **new page** to keep you updated with all the latest events, activities, and highlights. 🇬🇧  
As we explore fresh ways to connect with you on these platforms, we appreciate your patience as we fine-tune our posts and stories.



### 💎 Missed something?

Don't worry! You can catch up by checking out the Instagram **Highlights** section to see what we've been up to. Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for your continued support as we grow our online presence. 🙌

**Pupil Free School Meals and Milk:** If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, apply online [here](#).

Diary Dates	
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Break up for Christmas
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children return to school
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Resilience Workshop Y2 and Y5.
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y2 Class Worship at St Wilfrid's Church 9:45am
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Break up for half term
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Children return to school
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Cross Country Y2-Y6 (children TBC)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Self-esteem Workshop Y4 Time Travelling at Southwell Minster Y5
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Careers Week
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Comic Relief
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	David and Goliath Choir Dress Rehearsal time TBC
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> March	David and Goliath Choir Performance time TBC
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> March-2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Scholastic Book Fair
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y5 Easter Service at St Wilfrid's Church 9:45am
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Children return to school
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	School Photos
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception trip to Field Farm
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> - Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Week
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Y3 Class Worship at St Wilfrid's Church 9:45am
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Break up for half term
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Egyptians Partake Day

Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	CFS Induction Day
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> July/Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day

