

# FINCHALE FLYER



ISSUE 168

NOVEMBER 2025

We see the magic in every child... and help make them sparkle.

## Key Dates:

### DECEMBER

- 1st Y5/6 Basketball Competition
- 9th KS2 Swimming Gala  
Y4 Brass Concert (1.45pm)  
Y5/6 Brass Musicians Concert (2.30pm)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Y2 Christmas in a Box (All Saints Church)
- 11th Christmas Jumper Day  
Christmas Lunch
- 15th KS1 Christmas Concert (2pm & 6pm)
- 16th Festive Fun Run (am)  
KS2 Christmas Concert (2pm & 6pm)
- 17th Rec/Y1/Y2 Christmas Party (pm)
- 18th Y3/4 Christmas Party (am)  
Y5/6 Christmas Party (pm)
- 19th Christmas Family Sing-a-long (9.10am)  
School closes for Christmas holiday

### JANUARY

- 5th School Closed for Staff INSET Day
- 6th School Re-opens for Pupils
- 18th World Religion Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> Energy Saving Week

### FEBRUARY

- 6th NSPCC National Number Day
- 9th Children's Mental Health Week
- 11th Safer Internet Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Reception Chinese New Year Assembly (2.30pm)
- 21<sup>st</sup> School closes for February half term holiday

All dates are subject to change.



## Careers-Related Learning Visits

We have enjoyed visits from a range of people with different jobs in school, throughout November. Reception welcomed paramedics into class as part of their 'people who help us' topic and we had a visit from a Zookeeper for Rec, Y1 and Y3 to learn about how to look after the various animals in the zoo. More visitors are expected in December so watch this space!



## Y4 Nature Reserve Trip

Y4 really enjoyed their first trip to Low Newton Nature Reserve. As part of the science curriculum, they will visit the nature reserve in three different seasons to note the changes. In the Autumn, children found Hawthorn trees with bright red berries, mushrooms, thistles, heather and birch trees. We are looking forward to returning in the Spring!



## Year 2 & 3 Tennis Sessions



Years 2 and 3 have been enjoying a series of taster tennis lessons led by visiting coach, Stephen Harding-Gilbert. They learned some fundamentals such as how to stand, how to hold the racket and how to hit the ball with forehand and backhand stances. Jannik Sinner, watch out!



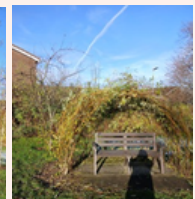
## Remembrance Day



Pupils across school observed a two-minute silence to commemorate the end of WW1 and remember those who have died in wars and conflicts. Pupils in Years 2 and 6 led an assembly for their Key Stage. In Year 6, pupils studied the poem *In Flanders Fields*, considering what the poem meant to them and what it symbolised. They then shared their thoughts in the assembly. This helped our pupils to understand the sacrifices that were made and the impact this had on those at war and the families they left behind.

## Thank You, Volunteers!

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who help us in school, this month. These 'before' and 'after' photographs of our willow arches are an example of how much of a difference Ron, Lisa, Helen and Steven made to our school environment with their weaving skills.



## Staffing News



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you from the whole of the school community to Miss Flanagan, for whom the final week of term will also be her final week at Finchale. Miss Flanagan has worked as a key member of the Finchale family for over 24 years. Her creativity can be witnessed throughout our school and she has always gone the extra mile to support our children and help them to shine. We know you will join us in wishing her every happiness for the future.

Congratulations to Mrs Saunders, who we are delighted to say is expecting her second child in May. We will keep you up-to-date regarding arrangements to ensure a smooth transition when Mrs Saunders begins her maternity leave.



## Spotlight on Safeguarding - Road & Rail Safety



This month, our assemblies have focused on our value of 'Trust' and ways to make sure we stay safe through our actions. We used Rail Safe Friendly resources to discuss how to make safe choices around railway lines and at stations, and we talked about the 'Clever Never Goes' rules so that we know what to do if a stranger asks us to go somewhere with them. More information can be found at <https://www.railsafefriendly.com/about/> and <https://clevernevergoes.org/parents-2/> if you wish to discuss these further with your child.

### Recommended Reads

#### Age 4-7

**The Giving Tree**  
Author: Shel Silverstein



#### Age 7+

**The Christmasaurus**  
Author: Tom Fletcher



Watch out for Twinkle, the Finchale Elf...



Twinkle loves to visit classes during December to set Christmas challenges and see if any children are working hard enough to open one of the reading advent doors...



### Fun in the Snow...

Children made the most of the brief spell of snow that fell in November. Our Y6s were particularly proud of their new friend - Michael the Snowman - built with teamwork and a few twigs!



### Wicked Movie Night

Our movie night was Wicked! On Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> November we prepared for the arrival of Wicked 2 in cinemas by watching the first film. We enjoyed some popcorn and a sing-along to our favourite tunes in the school hall. Thank you to staff and volunteers for making this possible.



### New Age Kurling

On Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, Reception up to Year 3 had the opportunity to learn an exciting new sport - New Age Kurling. Durham SSP taught us how to aim precisely at a target and we had lots of fun!



### Y2 Fundamental Movement

Children in Year 2 took part in a carousel of physical activities alongside other schools at Maiden Castle to further develop their movement skills. This included dance, games and lots of opportunity to hone their fundamental skills and develop their resilience.

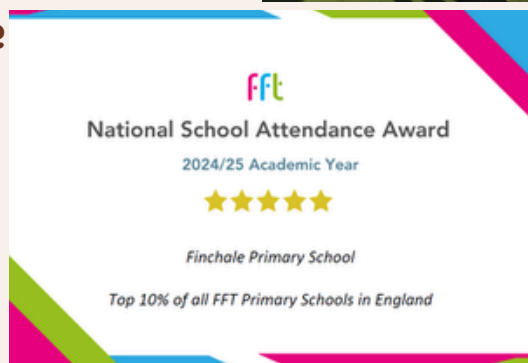
### Year 5 Basketball Festival

Year 5 children have been taking part in basketball lessons with Darren from the School Sports Partnership. They put their skills into practice at a festival at Maiden Castle on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, including playing matches. Their sportsmanship and teamwork really shone and we are so proud of them!



### Amazing Attendance

A huge congratulations to our whole Finchale community for achieving a Fisher Family Trust National Attendance Award for being in the top 10% of FFT Primary Schools for attendance in 2024/5.



### November Attendance

Reception	89.31%
Year 1	98.16%
Year 2	96.22%
Year 3	98.17%
Year 4	97.66%
Year 5	96.33%
Year 6	91.67%
Whole School	97.16%

### Musician of the Month

Hildegard of Bingen, also known as Saint Hildegard and the Sibyl of the Rhine, was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages.



Many thanks, as always, for your support.  
Miss Ward.