

DECEMBER 2024

Orchard Brae Newsletter

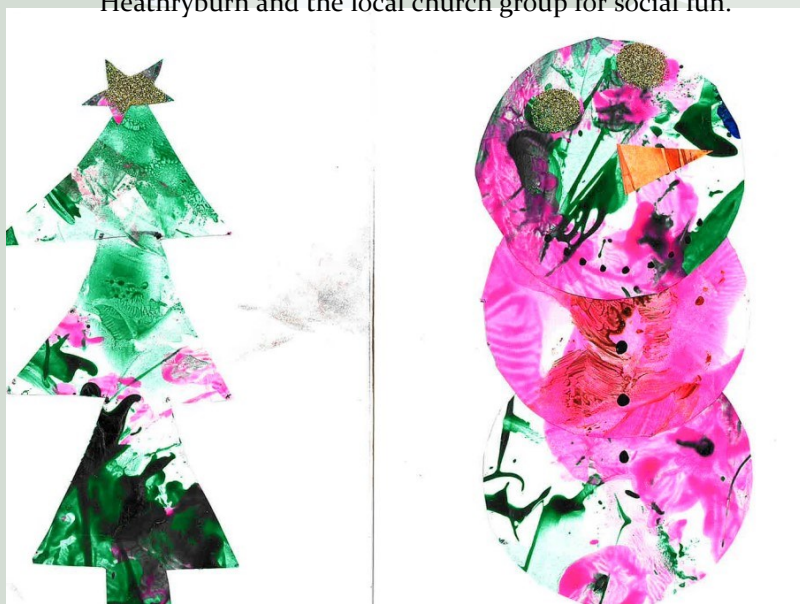
Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe it's been a term since we wished Mrs Thomson well in her secondment to Marsichal College Central Team as Quality Improvement Manager and I took up post. The time has certainly flown past!

It's been a busy term here in Orchard Brae with lots of things happening as always. We had our annual Futures Event in November with partners in school to share ideas to support our senior pupils and their families in planning transitions beyond school.

We've had a visit to school from Moonbeam Theatre, a group that provides sensory theatre experiences. This was very much enjoyed by those in attendance. We also enjoyed a pantomime with M & M productions and are very grateful to Happy Days for funding this for us.

Classes have all been busy as usual and we've seen Room 12 out at the Lemon Tree, and other trips out and about including some of our senior pupils swimming at Northfield Pool, and others teaming up with pupils from Heathryburn and the local church group for social fun.



Thanks to Room 3 for sharing their art work.

Dates for the Diary (2025):

Monday 6th Jan—new term starts

Monday 10th Feb—mid term holiday

Tuesday 11th Feb—INSET day

Wednesday 12th Feb - INSET day

Friday 28th March—last day of term

Monday 31st March—Friday 11 April
- Spring Holidays

Monday 14th April—new term starts

Friday 18th April—holiday (Good Friday)

Monday 5th May—May Day holiday

Tuesday 6th May—INSET day

Friday 4th July—end of term



Room 19 have continued with their sandwich enterprise and have fed us well each week. They have used some of their money from this fundraising to support global citizenship, twinning a toilet with one in Tanzania and linking with their SQA work on 'Life in another Country'.

I'm delighted to share that we've now been awarded our Silver Rights Respecting School Award (Rights Aware). This is a great achievement for us and we're delighted to have our practice in school recognised, especially given the hard work that our pupils and staff have put in throughout the year.

The Christmas Shows were wonderful and it was lovely to see many of you in attendance. It was also joyous to see the reactions of our children and young people in seeing you all there as families.

I'd like to thank the Friends of Orchard Brae for their efforts in fundraising and organising such a successful Christmas Fayre, and Orchard Brae Connect for their input this term. Please do remember that everyone is welcome to attend these groups so do get in touch if you'd like more information.

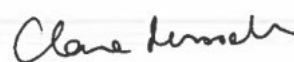
Finally, I'd like to say a huge thanks to the pupils and staff who have worked incredibly hard this term. It's lovely to see the progress that our children and young people are making.

Appreciating that Christmas is a very busy time and can sometimes be overwhelming, do take time to relax and do what's right for your children and family. If that means staying at home and sticking to your routine, go for it!

On behalf of all the pupils and staff in Orchard Brae, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope that you all have a safe and happy time over the festive season.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the forthcoming year.

Kindest wishes,



Clare Russell
Acting Head Teacher



Our beautiful quilt hanging in the main corridor celebrating the individuality and diversity of our school community. Thanks to Jude and our pupils for creating this!