



STEEL RIVER
ACADEMY TRUST



Christmas Newsletter 2025



Congratulations!

We'd like to share the wonderful news that Miss Thompson gave birth to a healthy baby boy at the end of October. Both Mum and baby are doing well and we're all looking forward to meeting him.

We'd also like to share the exciting news that Mrs Smith is expecting her first child in January 2026 and will be taking her maternity leave soon. Her class will be in safe hands whilst she is on maternity leave as Mrs Murray will be stepping into her role for 3 days per week (Monday to Wednesday). She will be supported by Mr Davison, who was recently appointed, and will be teaching the class 2 days per week (Thursday and Friday). We would like to send Mrs Smith our best wishes and we can't wait to meet her new arrival soon!

As Mrs Murray will be moving up to Years 5 and 6 to cover Mrs Smith's maternity leave, Miss Quinn will be increasing her working hours and will be teaching her Year 4 class full time from January 2026.



Outdoor Play and Learning

At Bankfields Primary School, we believe that outdoor play is essential for our children's development. Our OPAL provision continues to grow from strength to strength with the children accessing and enjoying a range of activities every lunchtime. We are constantly looking at ways to improve this provision so that the children get the most out of their playtimes. During the winter months, we still try to use the full school site, so wellies are essential if your child would like to play on the field, including in the willow maze, den building and mud kitchen.

We are still looking for further donations of any loose parts (such as drain pipes, tyres, pallets and large planks of wood that can be used for balancing). If you have any items that could be donated to support our OPAL provision, please bring them to the school office. All loose parts that are donated are carefully checked by our Caretaker to ensure they are safe for use.

A Busy Autumn Term!

What a fantastic autumn term it has been at Bankfields Primary School! Our students have had the opportunity to engage in a variety of enriching experiences, from educational field trips to family learning events. These activities not only enhance the curriculum but also foster a strong sense of community involvement. We are grateful to all the parents who have supported our fundraising efforts, making these experiences possible.

Highlights from the term include trips to Eden Camp, Flatts Lane Woodland Centre, Captain Cook's Museum, Mima Art Gallery, Christchurch in Eston, local area learning walks around Eston, Robinwood Residential, lots of sports trips and more recently, our wonderful whole school trip to The Princess Alexandra Auditorium in Yarm to watch the pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk.



We have lots of other trips and visits planned for spring and summer term to enhance our curriculum offer, so please keep a close eye on Parent Mail as we will share this information with you.

Family learning events also continue to be a wonderful success with each session being over-subscribed. It is great to see family members coming into school and working alongside the children, focusing on a range of different curriculum areas from DT, science, art and design and many more. Thank you for your ongoing support with these sessions. Further sessions will be taking place for each year group next term and information will be shared regarding these in due course.

SEND Coffee Mornings

We are continuing to offer SEND Coffee Mornings at Bankfields Primary School, providing a supportive space for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These gatherings are designed to foster connections among parents and ensure they feel informed and supported. Led by our SENDCO, Mrs White, these informal sessions cover a range of topics that are important to our SEND community.

We warmly invite all parents to join us for these coffee mornings, where you can share experiences, ask questions, and gain valuable insights. Our next coffee morning is on Thursday 29th January at 9am. Please do come along - no booking required.



Christmas Fayre!

We were overwhelmed by your generosity with the donations we received and by the number of parents and carers who came along on the day of the fayre. We raised an incredible **£1042.32** which will all go towards enhancing the children's experiences in school and giving them further opportunities.

Merry Christmas from us all at Bankfields!

Finally, as this term draws to a close, I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing engagement and support with our school. Positive home-school relationships make such a difference to our pupils and the progress they make in school, and we thank you for your continued support with this.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers attending our recent Christmas performances from Nursery all the way up to Year 6. Each event was very well attended, and the children were delighted to share their performances with you. Seeing everyone enjoying the shows and the children thriving on the stage makes all of the hard work that our staff put into these shows worthwhile, so thank you.

We'd like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your families, and we look forward to welcoming all of the children back into school in the new year on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

