Coaley Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jen Thomas

As a family, we flourish.

Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12)

Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful and busy start to the new term it has been at Coaley!

The term began with a bang, quite literally, with our phenomenal annual Firework Display. Once again, this much-loved community event proved hugely popular and brought our school family together for a fantastic evening. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone involved in making the event such a success, from those who carried out risk assessments and planning, to the catering team, the firework igniters, our volunteers, and everyone who attended and supported the evening. Your generosity and commitment helped raise a significant amount of money for our school and we are incredibly grateful.





A huge well done must also go to all of the children who participated in the With the Ball 'Multisoccer' programme last term and represented Coaley so brilliantly. Our KS2 team achieved an outstanding Gold placing out of 16 teams, and I am delighted to share that Coaley has now earned three Festival Stars. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

I would like to give a special shout-out to Bea, who is tirelessly raising funds for the Cotswold Dogs & Cats Home. Thank you to everyone who has supported her fundraising efforts through the popular 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' competition and the forthcoming raffle. Bea is an outstanding role model and a courageous advocate, showing tremendous compassion and determination in making a difference for animals in need.

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Another huge congratulations goes to our KS2 football team, who participated in the District Sports football tournament last week. The team demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event and represented Coaley with pride. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements. A special thank you goes to Mrs Buckley for organising and leading the team.

I would also like to recognise Alice, who launched the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal last term. We are so grateful for all the donations that enabled us to fill four shoeboxes from Coaley. These boxes have already begun their journey, having reached their first checking point in Gloucester before moving on to Coventry. Thanks to Alice's nan having a tracking barcode, we will be able to find out which country our boxes are allocated to in the new year. Not only did Alice launch the appeal in school, but she also stood at the front of church and passionately shared her appeal with the congregation. Collectively, the church contributed an incredible 71 shoeboxes, which is absolutely phenomenal. Well done, Alice. This is another wonderful example of courageous advocacy in action.





Coaley C of E Primary Academy supported Operation Christmas Child by donating, filling and packing 4 shoeboxes to send to needy children in poor countries. November 2026.









We have certainly not been short of things to celebrate, and our busy start to the term continued with Enrichment Week last week. This term's theme, *'My Brain and Me'*, provided an exciting opportunity for children to explore how their brains work, how they learn, and how they can look after their mental wellbeing. Each class approached the theme in different ways, and you will be able to read more about their learning and experiences below.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Miss Thomas

Headteacher

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Enrichment Week
My brain and me!

Robins

During Enrichment Week, Robins enjoyed learning all about their amazing brains! They started the week by learning about the hand-brain model and how it can help us understand our 'emotional brain' and our 'thinking brain', and how, when we are calm, they work together effectively. They made a 'calm down toolkit', including their own glitter jars, and had the opportunity to visit the SCARF tent to learn about keeping their bodies and minds healthy. In PE, they worked in pairs, with one partner acting as the brain and telling their partner (the body) what to do. They also discussed how to look after their brains by eating healthy food and getting enough sleep. The children matched different parts of the brain to different animals. For example, the amygdala was represented by a guard dog because it acts as our alarm system and can trigger a fight, flight or freeze response when it senses danger. Finally, they explored how our brains help us to learn. Their brains were certainly tired by the end of the week!







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Starlings

During Enrichment Week, Starlings explored how our brains work and learned about the different parts of the brain and their important jobs. The children enjoyed making and labelling a brain hat, where they described the function of each part. They also challenged their brains with problem-solving activities and optical illusions and had great fun designing their own puzzles and sharing them with friends. As part of their learning, they revisited the story *The Magical Yet* and reflected on the importance of having a growth mindset. The children thought carefully about something they cannot do yet but would like to achieve and discussed the steps they can take to help themselves reach these goals. They also spent time exploring the Zones of Regulation, reflecting on their emotions and creating personal toolkits to support them when they are in different zones.











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Owls

During Enrichment Week, Owls Class explored the theme *My Brain and Me*. We began by creating identity shields, thinking carefully about who we are, the things we enjoy and what we are proud of. We also spent time learning about emotions, discussing how different feelings can affect our bodies and how to recognise these signs to help us manage our wellbeing. We then worked together to create a Calm Brain Toolkit filled with strategies we can use when we need help regulating our emotions. Finally, we explored the importance of belonging, learning that every member of Owls Class brings special strengths and qualities that help our community thrive. We shared these ideas through a collaborative belonging tree, where each child contributed one of their strengths and one thing that makes them unique.

Thank you to everyone who popped in to see the enrichment gallery in the hall at the end of the week!

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Diary dates

Week 3 Afterschool Clubs	16th Nov	17th Nov	18th Nov	19th Nov	20th Nov 9.00am- Coaley Open Day 3 for prospective 27-28 Reception children
Week 4 Afterschool Clubs	23rd Nov	24th Nov	25th Nov	26th Nov 9.00am- Maths parent workshop with Mrs Haines	27th Nov 2.00- Miss Thomas parent coffee morning 2.45- Celebration Worship
Week 5 Afterschool Clubs	30th Nov	1st Dec	2nd Dec	3rd Dec	4th Dec 2.30- Class learning parent drop in
Week 6 Afterschool Clubs	7th Dec	8th Dec	9th Dec 9.00am- Christingle Worship	10th Dec	11th Dec 2.45- Celebration Worship
Week 7	14th Dec	15th Dec 8.30am- Panto @ Everyman	16th Dec 2.00pm & 5.00pm- Carol Service in Church	17th Dec	18th Dec 1.30 End of school

Wraparound Care Recruitment

Unfortunately, we have not received any applications for the After School Club Leader position that was advertised to replace Mrs Walker. As a result, we have re-advertised the post and would be very grateful if you could share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested. Please share the link below which includes a job description and application form:

Coaley Church of England Primary Academy - Vacancies

We remain committed to providing high-quality wraparound care and will keep families updated on any developments. However, this does mean there is currently some uncertainty surrounding the future of our after-school club provision. We will continue to explore all possible options and will communicate any updates as soon as we are able.

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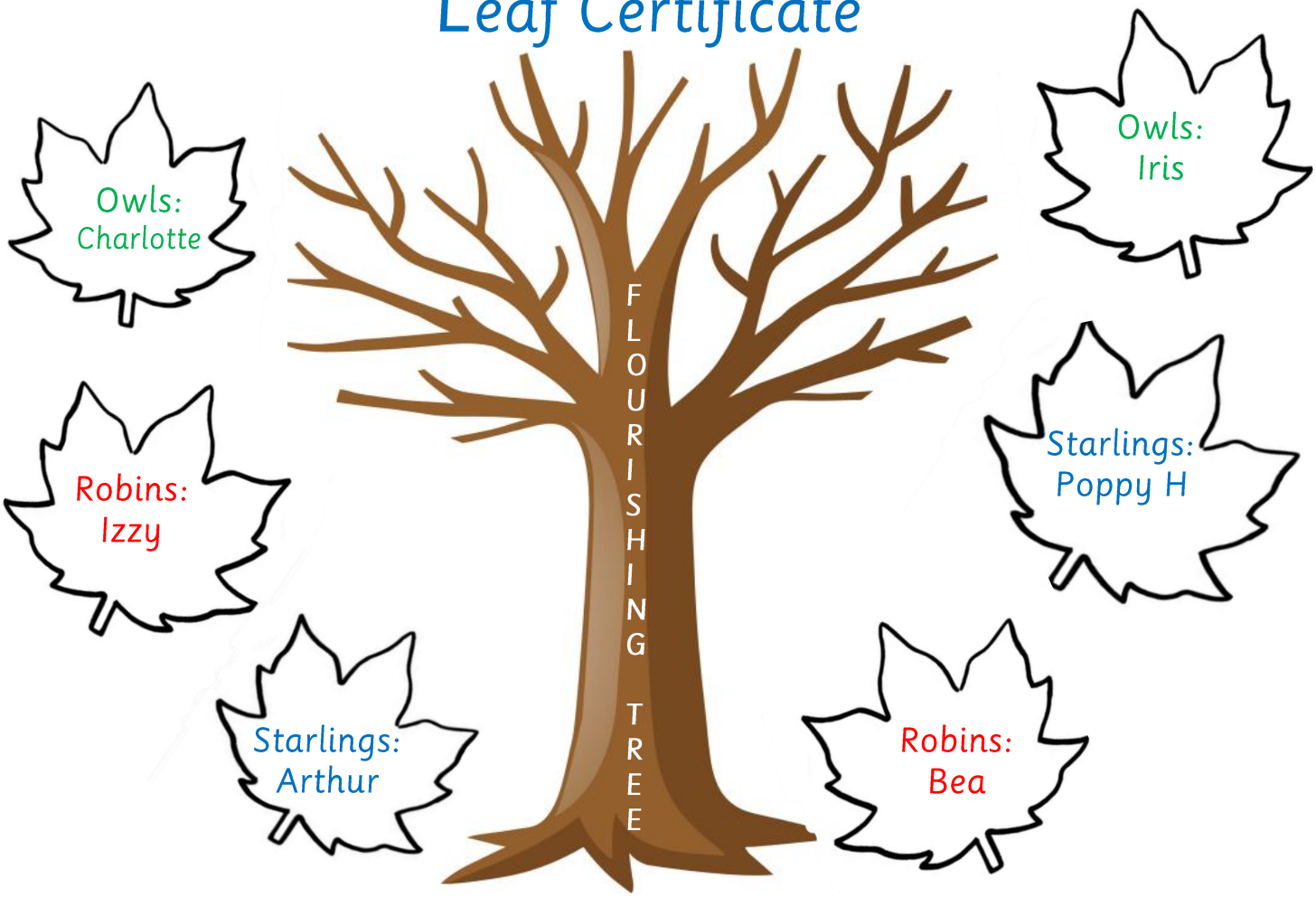
Leaf Certificate

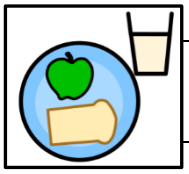


Values Certificate

Respect Humility Compassion Forgiveness Courage Truth

Robins	Isabelle	Scarlett
Starlings	Martha	Josh
Owls	Abi	Alice

Lunchtime Certificate



Cleo

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December 2026 Services

St Bart's, Lower Cam • St John's, Slimbridge • St Bartholomew's, Coaley

Wednesday 2 December	Mid-week Communion — Lower Cam, 10am
Sunday 6 December	Morning Service — Coaley, 9:30am Holy Communion — Slimbridge, 10am Morning Service — Lower Cam, 11am
Wednesday 9 December	Mid-week Communion — Lower Cam, 10am
Thursday 10 December	Slimbridge School Concert, 6pm
Saturday 12 December	Slimbridge Singers Concert, 4pm
Sunday 13 December	Holy Communion — Coaley, 9:30am Morning Service — Slimbridge, 10am Holy Communion — Lower Cam, 11am
Wednesday 16 December	Mid-week Communion — Lower Cam, 10am Coaley School Service, 2pm & 5pm
Saturday 19 December	Carols at Tesco, Cam
Sunday 20 December	Holy Communion — Coaley, 9:30am Morning Service — Slimbridge, 10am Holy Communion — Lower Cam, 11am **Community Carols — Slimbridge, 3pm** **Carols by Candlelight - Coaley, 4pm** **Carols by Candlelight - Lower Cam, 6pm**
Wednesday 23 December	Mid-week Communion — Lower Cam, 10am
Thursday 24 December	**Christingle + Crib — All Churches, 4pm** **Midnight Communion led by Bishop Robert** **Lower Cam, 8pm / Coaley, 9:30pm**
Friday 25 December	Christmas Communion — Slimbridge, 10am Morning Service — Coaley, 10am
Sunday 27 December	Together Service — Coaley, 10:30am
Wednesday 30 December	Mid-week Communion — Lower Cam, 10am

We warmly invite you to join us and share in the joy, peace and love of Christ this Christmas.

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