





Upcoming Events in January

1st – New Years Day

6th – Back to School

24th – International Day of Education

25th - Burns Night

27th - International Holocaust Remembrance Day











Upcoming Events in January

2025

JANUARY

MONDAY

Wild Weather



CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				
		BANK HOLIDAY				
	Veganuary	New Years Day				
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		PANTO at Salisbury for Residential - Coach arriving at 1pm Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Cafë - Meet at blue gates 13:30	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Cafe - Meet at blue gates 13:30	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	International Day of Education	Burns Night Shillingstone Station	
				TFS Cinema - Theatre	Cafē - Meet at blue gates 13:30	
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
International Holocaust Rememberance Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	Chinese New Year - Snake	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Cafe - Meet at blue gates 13:30	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09



The Forum Stars!

Shout out a staff member that has gone above and beyond for a young person, yourself, your team or the school.

Email Forum.Stars@cambiangroup.com with a sentence about why a colleague is amazing and they'll be entered into a draw. There will be 4 winners. 1 from Care, 1 from Education, 1 from nights and 1 from everyone else! The winners will receive a £10 Love2Shop voucher and Employee of the month for your department!

Upcoming Birthdays





Becky Howorth
Amanda Trowbridge
Jessica Hinds
Rachel Damon
Arun Sajeev
Khevlinn-Jo Goodall





Training Opportunities

We are eagerly looking for staff members across all departments to train in;

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

The teaching of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. All grant-aided schools are required to have an RSE policy that is based on consultation with parents and pupils.

Please let Melissa McCarthy know if you are interested, this can be booked as part of CPD.









SS

Money Skills - Recognising Coins (Unit 1)

KAM

Modelling with Air Hardening Clay Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

MJP

Remembrance Day Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

D.J

Remembrance Day

JT

Money Skills – Recognising Coins (Unit 1)

ΔΤ

Remembrance Day

DH

Remembrance Day

JC

Remembrance Day
Sensory Seasons: Autumn
Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

LMT

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

OH

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

BOC

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

RW

Creating Stories Using Table Top Games Using Teamwork to Create table top Games

KB

Using a Trampoline in a Sports Hall
Remembrance Day
Halloween Arts and Crafts
Sports and Wellbeing
English: Speaking, Listening and Communicating (Unit 1)

IV

Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring (Unit 3)

SSU

Food Chains

OL

Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

CN

Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring

KT

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

OH

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support

BOC

Making a Christmas Decoration with Support



Stable Management & Horse Riding

KAM has achieved his Stable and Yard Management Stage 9 and is doing really well helping out at the yard, understanding the animals and yard protocols.

Well done KAM, you are doing really well.

LMT has passed her Stage 4 Horse Riding and becoming more confident riding both Dusty and Erin. She is also leaning to play games whilst riding, and is having a fun time.

Well done LMT.













Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree...

The trees were decorated for Christmas by the Students in the indoor arena ready for Santa to visit. Many of the students made their own decorations to put on the trees, and they look amazing. Well done everyone for making the arena look very festive.







With the decorations made, several students achieved their AQA 'Making a Christmas Decoration with Support'. Certificates will be applied for in the New Year, however congratulations to:

They look great on their trees, a lovely addition to the decorations.

Thank you from the stables for all your help and support this year. To Mark 1 & 2 for keeping both the animals and us fed, to maintenance for keeping the stables and arena together, to the office staff for your hard work and support, being there for us at all times, SLT for being incredibly supportive, and lastly, but definitely not the least, to every single member of staff that has joined us on the yard and made some amazing memories alongside us with the students.

Everyone, have a lovely, Happy Christmas and New Year.

Here's to looking forward to an amazing 2025.

Renea and Sam.



Dragonfly Class

Exploring the wider world, having fun, spreading joy.









































The Wider World with The Nest

The Young People in the Swift Class have been learning about our senses. In this 'The Wider World', science session, they engaged in sensory play and exploration, focusing on the sense of touch. Through hands-on experiences, they explored a variety of textures and identified materials as spiky, bumpy, smooth, prickly, and rough.







The Wider World with The Nest



To help and support their learning, exciting items, prompts, and visuals were used to engage our Young People, and they communicated their discoveries and learning in various ways—verbally, non-verbally, through smiles, gestures, and sounds. Everyone enjoyed expanding their vocabulary to describe different surfaces, making it a fun and enriching session for all!

















































On Thursday 5th December the whole school went to see the Christmas lights at Longleat. We went on a big coach and we all coped well with this different mode of transport. Once at Longleat we headed off to the boat. J tried very hard but decided he didn't want to go. Sea lions swam alongside the boat and the keepers threw fish for them. D laughed so much watching the sea lions diving and flying out of the water making very loud noises. Next, we headed off towards the train but this was all booked out. A coped very well at this stage. D and J headed off to the playpark. D and another young man from school shared the zip wire. Some of the group went in different directions but everyone walked around the light shows and seemed to enjoy themselves. Despite the weather being cold, we all had a good time. We had a quick snack and drinks in the covered picnic area before heading back on the big coach.

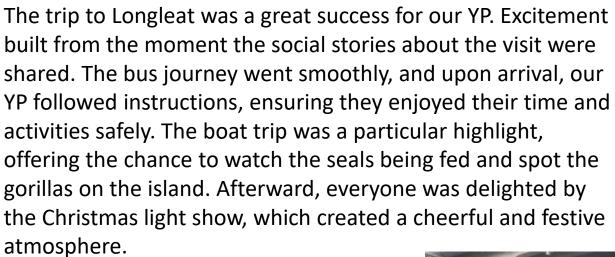
Unfortunately Laurels photos didn't come out...not sure what happened....but luckily there are a few blurry ones here.





















The group then took a break to enjoy hot chocolate and snacks. The students displayed excellent behaviour throughout, and it was clear that both students and adults were thoroughly enjoying the outing. Following the snack, the group explored more of the Christmas displays, soaking in the festive fun. Finally, it was time to prepare for the return journey to school. The day was a wonderful experience for all, filled with joy, learning, and memorable moments.

































































































































































































































































































TFS Term 1 Awards Ceremony











































TFS Term 1 Awards Ceremony & Family Meal



















































Go shorty it's ya birthday, we're gonna party like it's ya birthday!















Cake anyone?













Opening of the Cottage











Buddy the Elf has been very busy!















From the North Pole, I flew because Santa sent me to you.

I will watch and listen. Reporting back what Santa is missin'.

You must be good and obey And Santa will come on his sleigh.

Do your very best Santa and I will do the rest.







Every night through the snow, Back home I go.

I find a new spot to stay each and every day.

Please don't touch me, so my magic won't flee.

I'm here to stay until Christmas Eve Day.

Our Music Tree















With the help of students we have now updated the music tree, please do give it a visit and encourage the students to find sticks, twigs etc and have some fun making some noise.









KAM

Thank you so much for being so grown up this week and having a meeting with me. You have done so well. Also a very big thank you from me for my lovely art work. I have it in my office on my mantle piece to show off for all to see

BOC

I was very proud of how kind you were on Friday and organised all of the snacks for the Christmas movie for the whole school. You done an amazing job! Thank you 😥

NOMINEES FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Claire Legg

Hanan Stuart

Mark Speller

Bindhu John

Paula Audley-Dukes

Thomson Joseph

Vineesh Vincent

Adam Mabon

Julie Walker

Khevlinn Goodall

Hannah Everard

Mark Barnett

Mark Rogers

John Lane

Hannah Everard

Tim Hunt

Claire Legg

Ramya Mekala

Lynn Fox

Stanley Ogbedeleto

Sony Ignatious

Denise Fowler

Claire Dominy

Mark Speller

Kelly Foster

Kerry Byron

Amanda Wills

Steve Lee

Paul Kerby

Saba Gilani

Becky Howorth

Khevlinn-Jo Goodall

Amanda Wills

Verna Edward

Peter Partridge

Felix Olusegun

Amanda Wills

Mark Barnett

Emily McDonald

Melissa McCarthy

Pete Partridge

Julie Walker

Oliver Handibode

Kerrie Hutchings

Chelsea Noble

Thomson Joseph

Peter Piper

Maria Zacharias

Kerry Byron

Ramya Mekala

Mark Rogers

Jane Holloway

Mark Speller

Tim Hunt

Nigel Davis

Keep Up the ! Good Work!

Shout Out's!



Shout out to James Adams,

A member of the public was using our footpath through one of the fields, when they phoned to ask for a gate to be opened as an ambulance needed to attend.

James went to assist and kept the gentleman Chris calm while waiting for the ambulance.

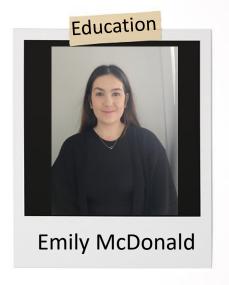
Jo, his friend phoned to say a huge THANK YOU to James, turned out Chris had a stroke and they were both very grateful and thankful for James supporting.

Not all hero's wear capes!

Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

CONGRATULATIONS – EMPLOYEE'S OF THE MONTH!













Outdoor Learning Dates for your diary

August term 1 – It's a bug's life

August term 2 – Forest Feast

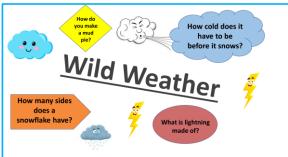
Spring term 1 – Wild Weather

Spring term 2 – Natures Nursery

Sumer term 1 – Field Folk

Summer term 2 - Treetastic

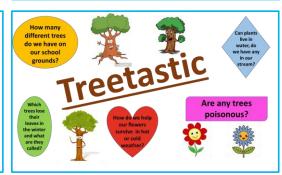




















The Forum Farm

Hi.

We are a very busy team of two at the Forum Farm that consists of myself - Renea, I am the animal lead and a qualified animal assisted therapist and Sam, who is my right hand woman and is the animal therapy assistant. I would like to introduce you to the many ways we work with the students here at the Forum School. We currently have two horses, eight guinea pigs, three rabbits and a bearded dragon and we are based on a 28 acre site.



We have a very busy timetable including student 1-1 sessions, outdoor learning, lunchtime club, after school activities, we also encourage drop in sessions at any time. We have our 'Guinea Pig gang' where students can sit with the guinea pigs. This has two bucket seat chairs, a bookcase and fairy lights. Our 'Warren' has our rabbits. There is a table for students to work at, as well as homemade rabbit games for them to play!









The Forum Farm... Continued

We have four different curriculum-based courses, all of these have 12 stages to complete and each stage is broken down into 10 bite sized achievable sections. When the students complete a stage, they are presented with a booklet and certificate acknowledging their achievements.

Horse Riding – This is for students to experience our horse-riding sessions which helps to improve their core muscle groups, coordination, balance and sense of wellbeing.

Yard Management – This is designed for our students who are not keen on riding the horses but enjoy the yard environment. They learn skills such as feeding, grooming and basic first aid for all of the animals in our care.

Equine Adventures – Some of our students enjoy being around the horses on the ground rather than riding them. This allows students to learn about care of equines and how to interact with them. This is the students first steps into horse care and leads onto Stable Management.

Stable Management – This is similar to Equine Adventures however it focuses more on the horse's health and wellbeing, including tack care, vet responsibilities etc.

Outdoor Learning

We believe that outdoor learning has a valuable impact on our students learning and there has been many studies that place a high importance on its many positive values including social skills, special awareness, ownership of work and overall mental wellbeing. We have designed a yearly planner that ties in with our curriculum, with myself and Sam working closely with the teachers and T.As. It has also enhanced our wider community ties with local businesses donating some of our supplies and creating a wider community spirit.



Drop in sessions

Some of our students from time to time need a place to reflect or relax. They are always encouraged to visit whenever they feel the need to and we have found that some of our students like to just pop in to say hello to either myself and Sam or the animals. It is always nice to see the students on the yard and we understand the importance of them being able to do so.

Lunchtime Club

This is our latest idea for the yard and we wanted to give our students a place to blow of some steam or be creative and make different art/crafts. It is held in the indoor arena every day and is for all students to drop in as they wish.

After School Activities

Our indoor arena is always accessible to our residential students. Mondays are our sensory play activities and Wednesdays are for arts and crafts, however, we are happy for any student to enjoy the facilities at any time.

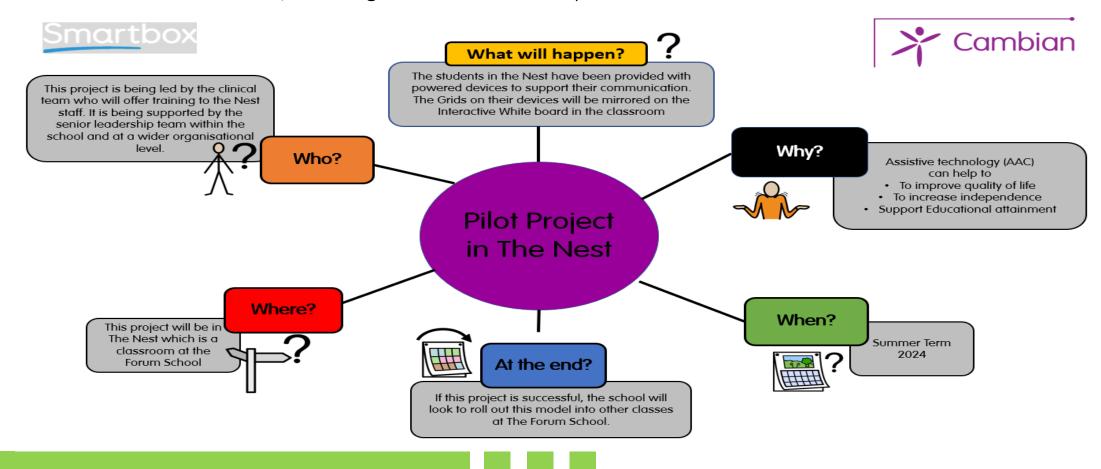
Thank you for allowing us to show what we do here at the Forum School Farm, we are always busy and exhausted but we do have a great time here. If you would like any more information please do contact us at any time. Renea and Sam xxxx

Renea.Gascoigne@cambiangroup.com

Samantha.fry@cambiangroup.com

The Nest Project:

The Smartbox Nest initiative is successfully operational, with devices distributed in May and already gathering positive responses from the class adults. Currently, the emphasis is on encouraging students and adults to get comfortable with the devices by engaging in playful exploration. This phase is crucial as it helps students form a connection with their device, fostering a sense of ownership.



Speech & Language Focus of the Month



This month we are focusing on AAC. **AAC** stands for 'Augmentative and Alternative Communication', which encompasses all forms of communication (other than oral speech) used to communicate thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. For example:

- Sign
- Gesture
- Body language
- Emails,
- Electronic device
- Texting
- Choosing boards
- Symbols
- Writing
- pictures



To support you, Smartbox offer free online mini courses which are very helpful to get you started or to refresh your skills. At Smartbox academy you can sign up and have the choice of online courses. I recommend:

- •Introduction to AAC (FC01)
- •Introduction to Grid for iPad (SC16)
- •Developing communication partner skills (FC09)
- •Short course Personalising Super Core in Grid for iPad (SC04)

Time for these courses range from 40 minutes to 2 hours, you can download a certificate of attendance at the end if you wish too.

Use this link to direct you to the academy sign up: Free online AAC training on Smartbox Academy (thinksmartbox.com)

Key things to remember:

- •Learning a new language takes time, it can take months to years.
- Allow time for exploring
- •SHOW before we can expect someone to use a symbol to communication (paper based or electronic) we have to show them how.
- MODEL, MODEL in all situations and environments
- •Be Interesting: follow a YP interests (films, books, songs, TV shows etc), sensory and play.

A study of young children who were learning to communicate showed that 20% of what they communicated was requests.....so what about the other 80% (Smartbox, Simple AAC, 2024)

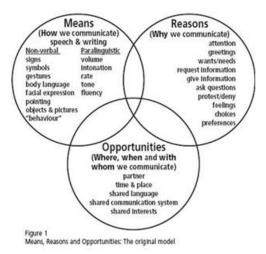
Speech & Language Focus of the Month

During the month of December, there are many festive activities taking place. Christmas also brings a change within our environment with decorations, busy environments, lights, different smells, and even different foods.

With the change of environment, change to schedules, and the thought and anticipation of the holidays, going home for the holidays and seeing family, it can also be an anxious and overwhelming time for some of our young people. It's important to provide them with support and understanding during this time, giving time to regulate with breaks and opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings. There needs to be opportunities for a conversation about the exciting and fun parts of Christmas and the festive activities, but also where some might struggle.

I have attached a poster and a reflection sheet that you can use and model with the young people to open up conversations and break things down. This could be done at the beginning of the day, throughout the day and at the end of the day, adults can model and talk about their own reflection of the day too.

We all have a lot of reason to communicate, its about providing the means, reasons and opportunities 😉 – see below

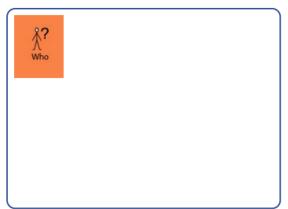


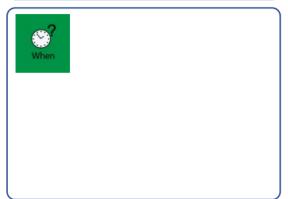
Speech & Language Focus of the Month

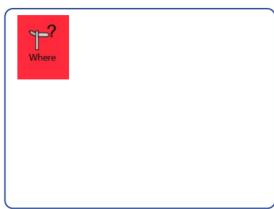


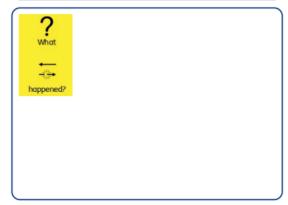
- Create opportunities
- MODEL, MODEL, MODEL
- Strive for natural two-way communication
- Take turns
- It is important to give the YP time to process their thoughts.
- In case you need to interpret the message, repeat it back to the YP to be sure you understand it correctly.
- Be aware of other ways young people communicate, such as body language and facial expressions



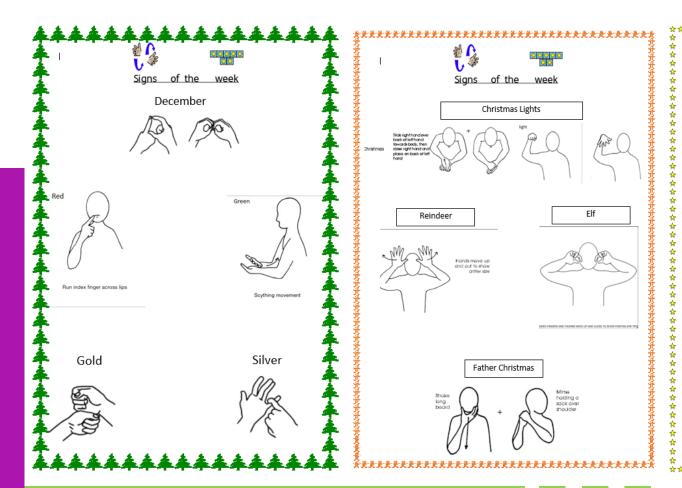


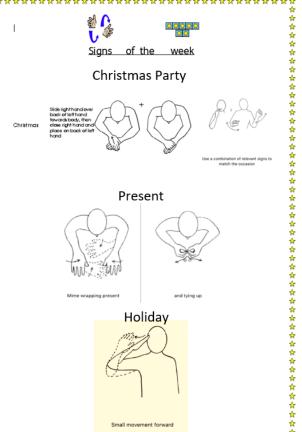






Speech & Language





Music Therapy

Hi everyone!

I just wanted to remind everyone that my work with the young people is different from the work that Emma provides.

Music Therapy with Jasmine on Mondays & Tuesdays

I am a HCPC Registered trained therapist and I use music, talking, art, play and other techniques in young people's Music Therapy sessions. I only see young people who are referred to Music Therapy. Music Therapy is particularly useful for people who struggle communicating their thoughts and feelings using words, as it does is not limited to talking. Music Therapy is a creative therapy and at times it can provide a fun space for self-expression. However, there are often many difficult, confusing and upsetting emotions and feelings which may arise in therapy sessions. This is why it may be inappropriate to say to a young person "have fun" or "have a good session". Music Therapy can provide the opportunity for a person to express themselves which may be particularly important if a young person is dysregulated, so it is important that a young person is still offered the choice if they would like to attend their Music Therapy session when they are feeling dysregulated. It is also important that the music room is accessible on Mondays and Tuesdays for their therapy sessions. I write weekly clinical therapy reports. I have included some more information to this email if you would like to have more of a read about Music Therapy.

Music with Emma on Thursdays

Emma is a professional musician and uses music as a way to have fun with young people and adults, often these are group sessions she provides and anyone is welcome to join. Emma's music sessions provide a session full of energy and interaction. Emma is not currently a registered therapist and is not providing therapy here.

Hope this clarifies the difference. I'm always happy to answer questions you may have and thank you for being a great team to work with. 🔞

Many thanks

Jasmine Keats

The Therapy Room has had a facelift...

If you would like to use this room regularly please let me know (bridget.townsend@cambiangroup.com)

I will add you to the timetable



You are welcome and encouraged to use the sensory room during times of quiet: i.e. times not allocated for other students

Below are reserved times for students and are not suitable for a drop in.

	9.30-	10.00-	10.30-	11.00-	11.30-	12.00-	12.30-	1.00-	1.30-	2.00-	2.30-3.00pm
	10.00am	10.30am	11.00am	11.30am	12.00pm	12.30pm	1.00pm	1.30pm	2.00pm	2.30pm	
Monday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly					Meadow
					Diagonity	Diagoning					(Badger)
Tuesday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly					Meadow
					Diagonity	Diagoning					(Badger)
Wednesday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly			Kite Class		Meadow
					Dragonfly	Diagoning			Kite Class		(Badger)
Thursday	Kite class				Dragonfly	Dragonfly					Meadow
	NITE CIASS				Dragonfly	Dragonfly					(Badger)
					Dragonfly	Dragonfly		Vito class			Meadow
Friday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly		Kite class			(Badger)



The new Head of Education has been reviewing the wellbeing policy for the school.

On the last Wednesday of each term we are having a Wednesday well being session for the education team. We also played a game and had a good laugh



Staff Discounts







Staff Discounts

https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/

Discount service for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces - £4.99 for 2 years

Members of the Blue Light community can register for access to more than 15,000 discounts from large national retailers to local businesses across categories such as holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones, and many more.

https://discountsforcarers.com/

Carer & Care Worker Discounts – sign up for free

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Carers & Care Workers.

For care assistants, live-in carers, those that care for loved ones, and everyone in between.

https://www.discountsforteachers.co.uk/

Teacher & Education Staff Discounts – sign up for free

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Teachers & Education Staff.

For teaching assistants, headteachers, administrators, and everyone in between.

https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/discounts-for-carers

Your carer ID card unlocks access to a wide range of online discounts, savings, benefits, perks and offers, for carers. - £8 for 2 years

Our team constantly work on creating partnerships with big name brands so that we can provide carers with discounts on all aspects of life, from food to fashion, fitness to electrical, technology to travel, home utilities to entertainment and much more

Staff Discounts Continued

https://carers.org/grants-and-discounts/carersmart-discount-club

Joining is simple and <u>free</u>. And once you're a member, you'll be able to benefit from a wide range of offers, including:

Cash back on shopping from numerous high street retailers Reductions on insurance renewals Discounts on holidays and travel arrangements Reduced price lifestyle activities Free and discounted legal advice services

https://www.frontlinestaffdiscounts.co.uk/

Frontline Staff Discounts is FREE to all Members, we charge no fees to join & never will

We aim to save you and all of our members as much money as possible on all of your purchases online.

https://www.teacherperks.co.uk/

Free membership for school staff and schools to access incredible perks from high street brands and edu-suppliers.

A message from Mel

Wow wow wow!

The pictures definitely show all the fun that has been had throughout December and all the hard work of each and every adult at The forum school. Thank you to you all for making extraordinary days and the most magical memories!!!!

I am so proud to see all the qualifications that have been gained this month. The awards ceremony was so very special and families were also invited to celebrate their children with a festive meal afterwards.

The wider world theme has been truly embraced this month with magical trips to Longleat and exploring the festival of lights. The amazing carol service at the local church, Santa's grotto and his elves. Even Buddy the elf was on top form!

The Christmas meal for all was a little different this month and we had the Mayor of Blanford as an extra special helper. The Mayor also officially opened our newly renovated home the cottage.

Its so pleasing to reflect on 2024 and think back on all the wonderful memories and achievements made.

Thank you all

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

