

SwitchED₂

Christmas Newsletter

2019



Message from Andy

We are coming to the end of another term and I don't know where the time goes. The students have worked tremendously hard this term and we are very proud of them all. Keep up the hard work!

I hope this letter provides you with a glimpse of just some of the activities, both curricular and out of school, that the students have been engaging in.

Also included is a revised holiday schedule to take account of the Early May Day Bank Holiday which has moved from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, and a list of potential allergens which may be found in the meals and accompaniments we serve. If your child is likely to be affected by any of these, please inform me immediately.

I would like to say thank you to the staff for their hard work throughout the term, and indeed the support we receive from parents and carers in making a difference to so many young lives.

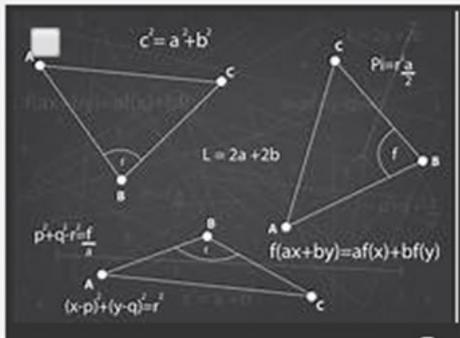
That just leaves me to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas.

Having worked hard all term, our pupils will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries.

The school will re-open for Spring Term on
Tuesday 7th January 2020



Maths



BODMAS
 () of ÷ × + -

This term in maths we have been working on a range of topics including:

- ◆ angles
- ◆ perimeter
- ◆ mean, mode and range
- ◆ averages
- ◆ multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000
- ◆ long division
- ◆ BODMAS
- ◆ probability
- ◆ ratios
- ◆ using timetables
- ◆ two step word problems.

Divide:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \overline{)75} \\ \underline{6} \\ 15 \end{array}$$

3 goes into 7
2 times...
with some extra!

Multiply:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \overline{)75} \\ \underline{6} \end{array}$$

2 × 3 = 6

Subtract:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \overline{)75} \\ \underline{-6} \\ 15 \end{array}$$

Bring Down:

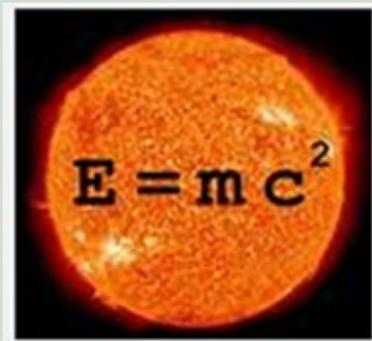
$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \overline{)75} \\ \underline{-6} \\ 15 \end{array}$$

Repeat:

$$\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ 3 \overline{)75} \\ \underline{-6} \\ 15 \\ \underline{-15} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

15 ÷ 3 = 5
5 × 3 = 15

$$E = mc^2$$



English

As a class we have been looking at various different aspects of English, students have used many different techniques to research and produce newspaper articles using their own interests in various subjects. This has led to some of the most creative writing; which, has been laced with each individual student's most passionate thoughts and ideas.

We have been doing an equal amount of reading within the sessions; each student improving their ability to extrapolate information conveyed within texts, gaining the skills necessary to label different types of writing styles and give evidence to prove their opinions.

In speaking and listening we have also been gaining the knowledge of relevant content, each student progressing confidently with sharing their ideas and delivering knowledge to their peers. All students have participated in Q&A sessions, giving concise, knowledgeable responses to a range of different topics.



Sport

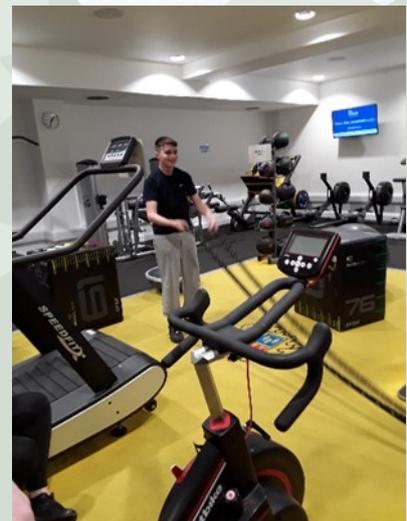
This term we have been increasing the range of activities that our learners can take part in, and introducing them to a number of different sports and hobbies. We have taken part in a couple of competitions, playing football against the Chadwick Centre (Lancaster) and a Boccia Tournament. We have also had the chance to go horse-riding some weeks and most learners have had the opportunity give it a go. More recently KS4 learners have completed their gym inductions at Kendal Rugby Club and have working towards personal fitness goals.

In the New Year we have the chance to do some Rugby coaching with Keith Robinson, a coach from Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club who will run a week course in Rugby training. On some occasions we have joined together with Cambian and Whinfall School in order to make up enough numbers for a team and give the learners the opportunity to play competitive sport against other school in and around the Cumbrian area.



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Trips and visits

Building on our increased sports offer, we have also been taking part in a number of off-site activities and visits, some of them as part of our PSHE, Careers and Employability curriculum. Since September, we have visited Animal Care in Lancaster, a charity that looks after and re-homes animals, mostly dogs; Greenland's Farm, which gives our learners a chance to hold and feed various farm animals; Barrow Escape Rooms where the learners have to work together in order to escape, which they did! We have visited Morecambe Superbowl and Nerfing at Regent Park Studios in Morecambe. We have also visited the Buddhist Centre in Ulverston, and had a chance to hear about the work that takes place there, as well as understand another religion. From the Buddhist Centre we continued to the beach and played some beach games and looked for crabs.



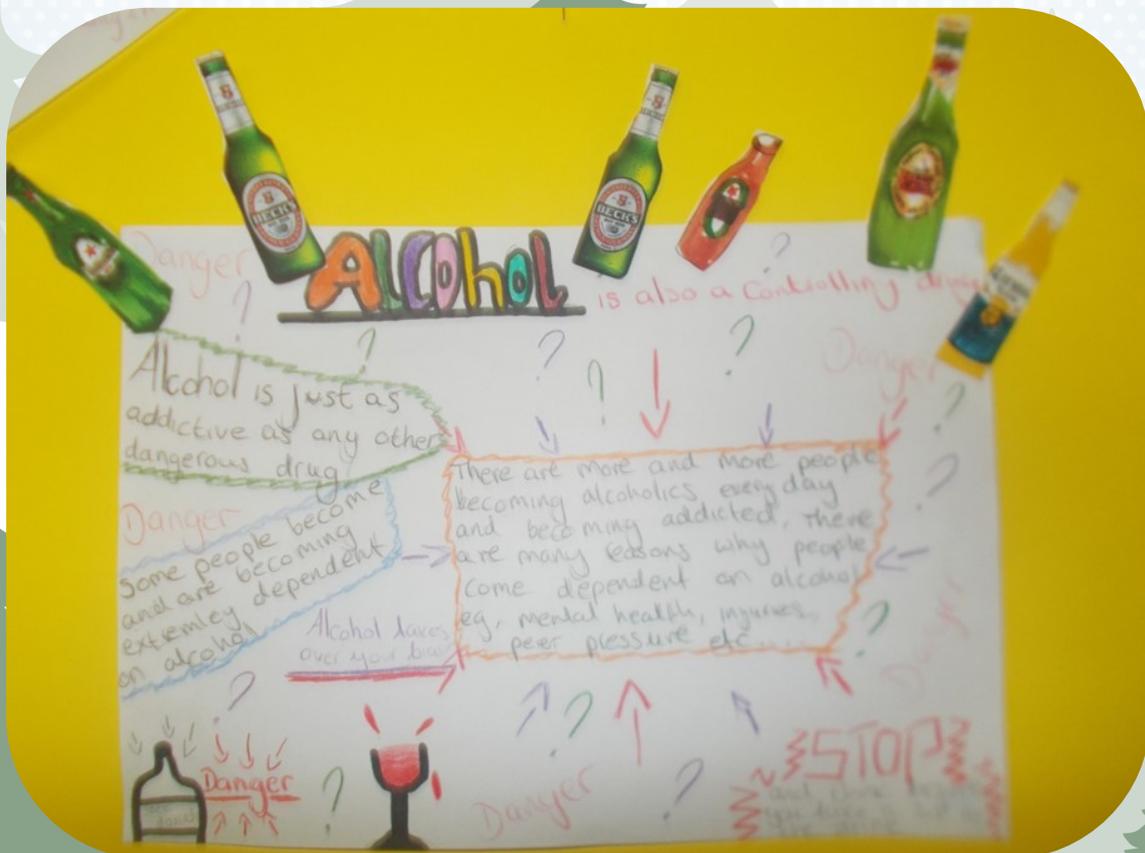
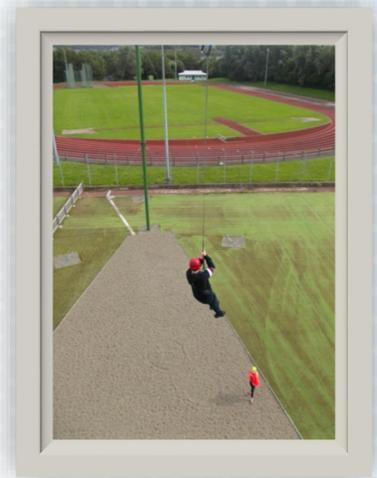
Trips and visits

We have also been to the Motor Museum at Backbarrow, where learners were able to go back in time and view some of the classic cars, motorcycles, bicycles, pedal cars and motoring related items and memorabilia and an exhibition dedicated to the land and water speed record activities of Sir Malcolm Campbell and his son Donald.



PSHE

We started this term with a series of group work activities, including doing some that would help our learners gain self confidence and learn how to work together better – this has included visits to the Salt Ayre Xheight and Gravity Wall in Lancaster, Kendal Climbing Wall and our weekly trips to Water Park Adventure at Coniston. As well as these visits, we have been focussing on staying safe – and our learners had the chance to visit the Coastguard and RNLI in Arnside, even taking part in a Tug-of-War when we were there. We have also visited Kendal Fire Station and had chance to wear some of the equipment, including the breathing apparatus, using the hoses as well as a drive in the fire engine. This topic continued into the classroom, and we have looked at alcohol awareness, positives and negatives of risk-taking, as well as thinking about personal safety - next term we will also be thinking about online safety.



Careers and employability

Our other theme has been employability, we have had the opportunity for some learners to do classes in motor vehicles, whilst the whole group have also be writing their CVs and starting to think about what they will do after School. We had also planned a visit to a Toby Carvery, to see how the kitchens and restaurant are run, but instead we just enjoyed a roast dinner as the person showing us around wasn't available.





English

Through treasure hunts, riddles, games and cookery the pupils have demonstrated a good level with reading and comprehension skills. We have also enjoyed reading some favourite books both aloud and to ourselves. Writing has been encouraged through noting down ingredients for recipes and predictions for science investigations. Some pupils also enjoyed creating their own 'Foodimal' based on the film 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' which they described and enjoyed creating using fruit and vegetables.

Maths

Within the cabin we have enjoyed developing our mathematical knowledge through a lot of games, project based learning and real life activities. The pupils have completed inventories for the animal supplies, predicted the overall costs and been out and paid for the required items working out the change required. They have also looked at train timetables and identified the best train for a journey, worked out the cheapest rate and bought their own tickets. More recently the pupils have drawn templates, measured lengths of gingerbread pieces and worked out the area of each piece when designed their own gingerbread houses. The pupils have also looked at symmetry, decimals and roman numerals throughout the term.

Design Technology

We have enjoyed a variety of design and make activities throughout the first half term including wind up and wind powered boats, candle making, soap making and t-shirt design. The pupils were exceptionally proud of their soaps and t-shirts and although the candles had an interesting appearance, the pupils identified how they could overcome this next time. Throughout the second half term some of the pupils have improved their textile skills this half term by creating their own Christmas stocking. They have learnt to sew using three different stitches; back stitch, running stitch and overstitch. They have also shown then can sew on different decorative features such as beads.

Science

Throughout this term we have indulged in lots of practical 'WOW' science investigations including making our own rockets, made out own erupting volcanoes and explored the effects of mixing Mentos with different carbonated drinks. We have also looked at our solar system and created a scale model using fruit and used Oreo cookies to model the different phases of the moon. The pupils also had to use their detective skills when separating different mixtures of materials which needed filtering, sieving and evaporating.

Art

This term the pupils have looked at work produced by the artists Georges Seurat and Paul Signac. These artists developed the technique Pointillism which involves painting in small, distinct dots of colour to form an image or pattern. The pupils created some specular pieces of art ranging from beach scenes to Yin Yang symbols.

ICT

All members of the cabin have demonstrated a good level of skill when using computers and have competently used the internet to research various topics including sharks, Vikings, America and the Space Race. Some members of the cabin have spent the first half term learning how to use spreadsheets and they have used Excel to input data, reference cells, enter formulae and create bar charts. More recently we have investigated different photo editing software and have used Picasa 3 to create Pop art in the style of Andy Warhol.



History / Geography

Geography

This term has mainly had a history focus however the pupils have still enjoyed participating in some map work activities. The children have used 6 figure grid references, map symbols and contour lines to complete treasure hunts around the farm. They have also looked at America and identifies where in the world it is, investigated similarities and difference between language used in Britain and America, enjoyed some of food which the country offers and complete quizzes about the countries customs and traditions.

History

During history this term the pupils have delved into some local history with a visit to Lancaster Castle. Our guided tour took us through tales of witchcraft and crime and punishment.

We have also looked back into the Viking period and create our very own Viking shields, written and read runes and created our own model longboats.

Outdoor Education

What a half term we have had at the YMCA! The pupils have shown bravery, perseverance, team work and listening skills amongst many others. Our first activity, the climbing wall, pushed some pupils to their limits but the encouragement and praise that the pupils offered each other was amazing! The obstacle course encouraged team work and although it was a challenge for some pupils however, they persevered and pushed themselves achieving more than even they believed was possible. Archery was a hit with all the pupils and we most definitely have some pupils with outstanding aim.

This term we have also had the opportunity to have a guided tour through the longest show cave in Britain, test our climbing skills at Xheight, improve our aim when bowling, nerfing and playing crazy golf and indulge in our love for animals at the Butterfly House and Sea life Center.

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Guitars

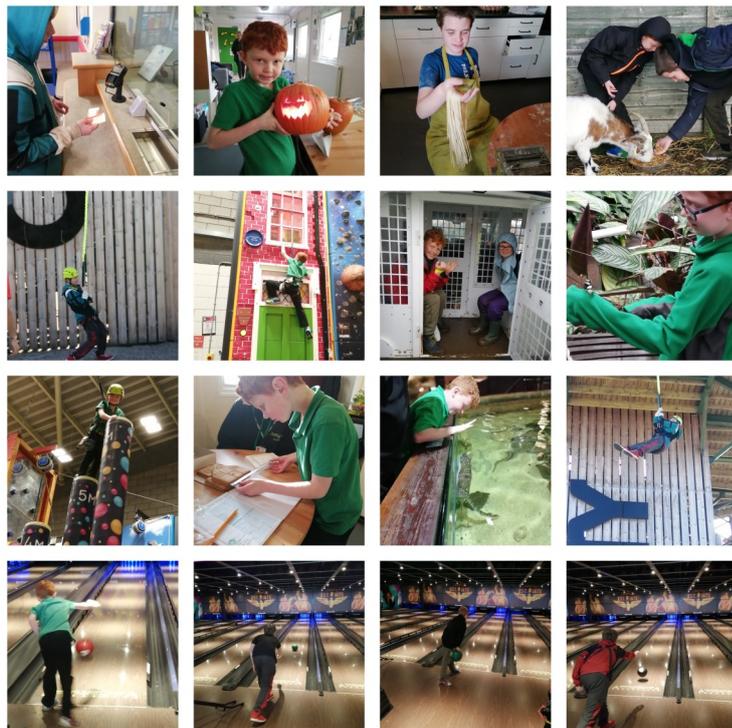
Rob is a very patient and encouraging teacher and he has taught some pupils several songs throughout the term. The enthusiasm and dedication to practice is really paying off as a real improvement and developed confidence can be seen. I look forward to listening to

Swimming

The pupils have been improving their technique when swimming front crawl and breast stroke. They have worked on how to swim long distance without getting tired by taking long strokes and tilting the head to the side to breath every three to five strokes.

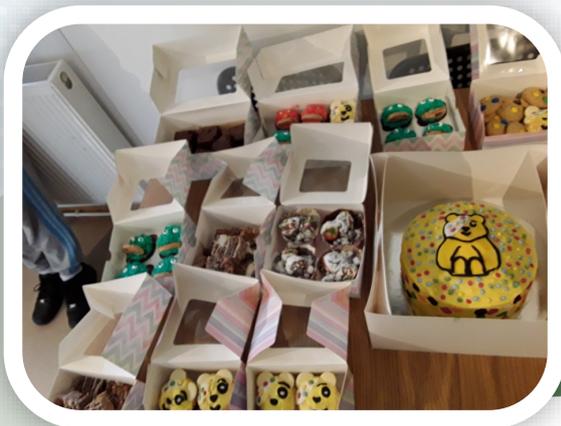
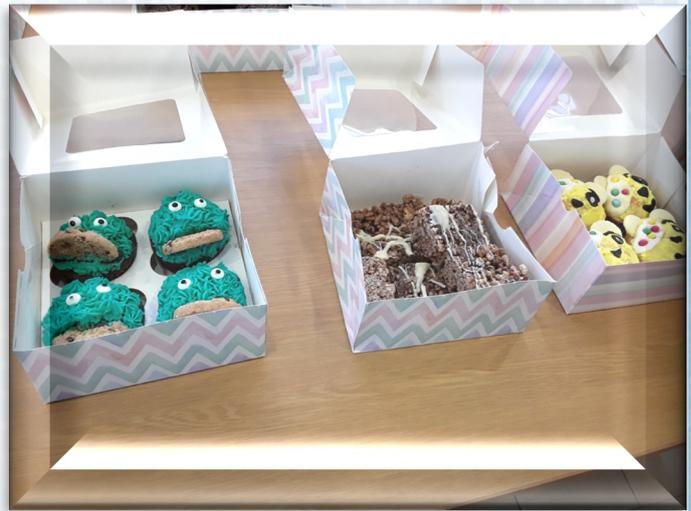
The pupils have also enjoyed increasing their speed by swimming with flippers and retrieved sinkers from the bottom of the pool.

DECEMBER



Children in Need

This year we had the chance to hold a cake sale at the Westmoreland Shopping Centre in Kendal, thanks to the cake baking skills of Katie's Nan (Julie) – the learners produced posters for the stall, and set it up so they could sell the lovely cakes. A couple of our learners should be on The Apprentice, they were so good at charming the customers and selling the cakes in order to raise money for Children in Need. So far we have raised over £50 and there is still a little more to come in – so thank you Julie and our learners for all your hard work.



Outdoor Education

Each week the group have been attending Waterpark Adventure at Coniston, most of the time we are out on the water and have had the chance to drive the powerboats, sail on the fun boats and use the catamaran, canoes and kayaks. Even though it has been cold, the group had the chance to swim across the lake and some even jumped from the jetty. But it wasn't all about the water, we have had the chance to work together on the low ropes course, tree-climbs and jumps, abseiling from cliff faces and indoor bouldering. All of our learners have done really well, gaining confidence and skills. These activities also need the group to work together effectively, and the learners are really good at supporting and encouraging each other.



Outdoor Education

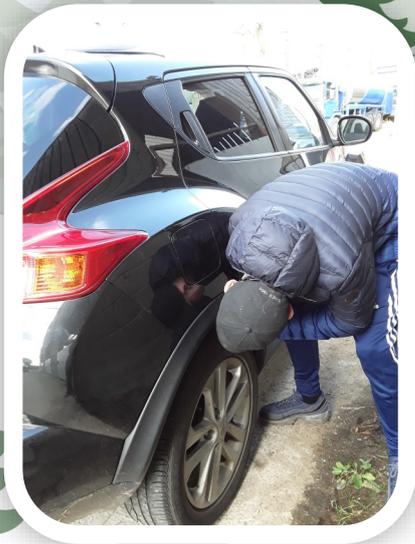


Motor Vehicle Maintenance

Over the Autumn term here at SwitchED2 Motor Vehicle, the students have been looking into safety within the Motor Vehicle Industry.

All students have gained the knowledge to keep themselves and others around them safe, we have looked into and gained a great deal of knowledge about maintaining a safe working environment; looking into hazards within the workshop and how to identify them and reduce them as much as possible. The students have been quick to identify the safe disposal procedures of hazardous substances and how to store them correctly.

We have then moved onto vehicle safety, why a vehicle needs a MOT and the many different aspects of the testing of vehicles for safe road use. Each student has carried out various parts of a pre-MOT, gaining the knowledge of what makes a car safe and the possible outcomes of not maintaining a safe working vehicle. From seatbelts to tyre wear each student is capable of ensuring a vehicle is fit for use on the roads of the UK.



Hospitality

Food Technology is such an important essential life skill as it promotes a healthy lifestyle (so important in the days of easy access to fast food outlets) as when they cook for themselves, they can work out the nutrient value not to mention the difference in cost.

Topics this term have included:

- ◆ Healthy eating
- ◆ Working out our very own version of KFC—a firm favourite with all
- ◆ Making fresh pasta—the best part of which is the ability to experiment. Where else can you buy a ginger and leek based pasta dish!
- ◆ Making lemon curd and Christmas biscuits for the hampers which we hope you will enjoy



Revised Holiday Dates 2020

Term 3 - Spring 2020

Development Day: Monday 6th January 2020

Term Dates: Tuesday 7th January - Friday 14th February

February Break: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February



Term 4

Development Day: Monday 24th February 2020

Term Dates: Tuesday 25th February – Friday 27th March

Spring Break (inc Easter) : Monday 30th March - Monday 13th April

Term 5 - Summer 2020

Term Dates: Tuesday 14th April - Friday 22nd May

May Day Friday 8th May

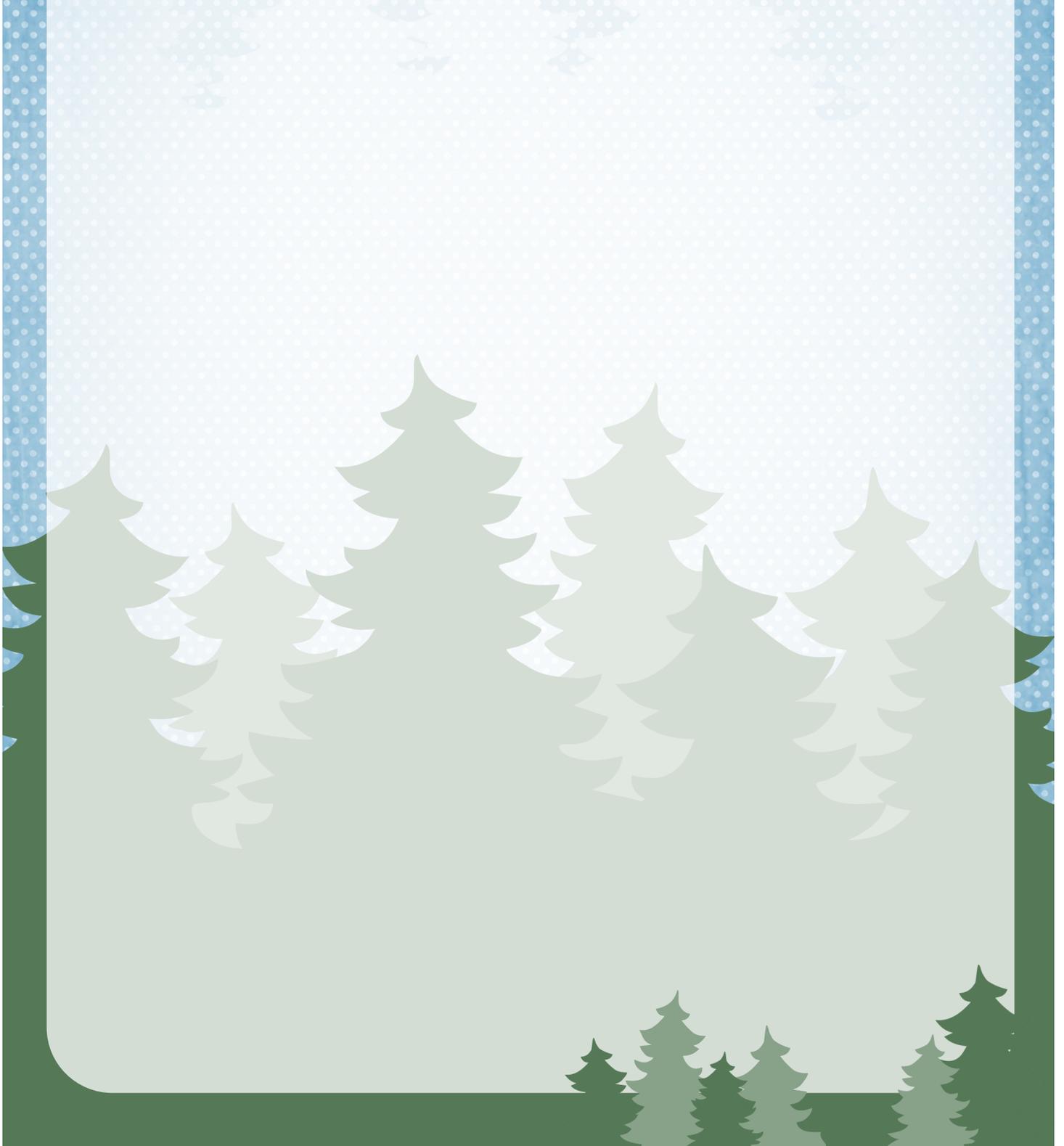
May Break: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Term 6

Term Dates: Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Development Day: Monday 20th July

Potential allergens which may be found in the meals and accompaniments we serve. If your child is likely to be affected by any of these, please inform the office immediately.



A Christmas Cracker!



Who hides in
the bakery at
Christmas?



A mince spy!

How does Good King Wenceslas
like his pizzas?



Deep and crisp and even!

Why do birds fly
south in winter?

Because it's too
far to walk!

