Federation of West Leigh Infant &
Backwell C of E Junior School

Newsletter 4- Term 2
Friday 20th December 2024

# Backwell Federation Newsletter
# Term 2 Federation Value – Challenge

**On our website - Links**

West Leigh - Letters to Parents

BJS - Letters to Parents

**Important Dates – Terms 2 and 3**

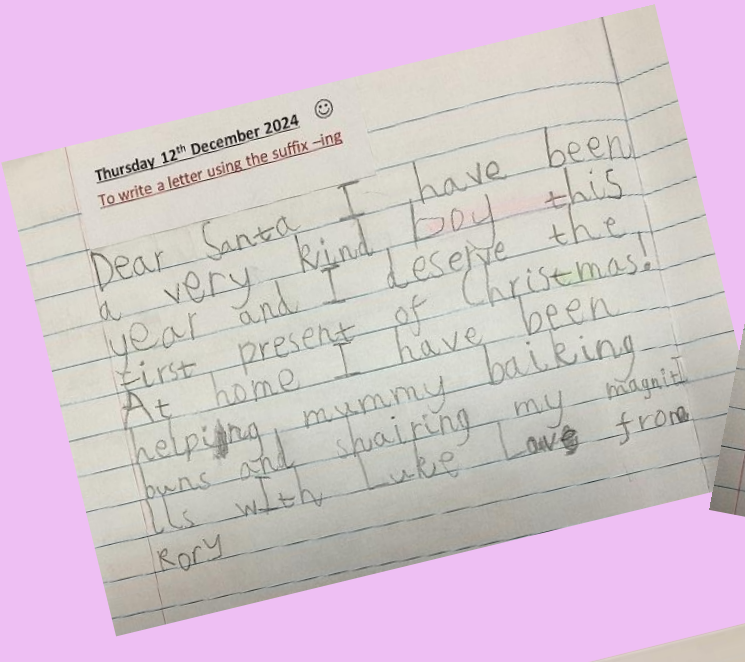
- Friday 20th December – WL Christmas Jumper Day and Party Food for lunch
- Friday 20th December – BJS Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term 2
- Monday 6th January – INSET Day
- Tuesday 7th January – Start of Term 3 for BJS and WL
- Wednesday 8th January – WL Maths Puzzle Day
- Thursday 9th January – BJS Maths Puzzle Day
- Thursday 9th January – WL National Child Measurements Reception Classes ONLY
- Friday 10th January – BJS Y3 Rainforest Dave
- Friday 17th January – BJS 5JR Cake Sale
- Tuesday 31st January to Tuesday 7th February – WL Travelling Book Fair
- Friday 7th February – 6S Fundraising Event
- Monday 10th February to Thursday 13th February – WL Art Week
- Friday 14th February – INSET Day and End of Term 3
- Monday 24th February – Return to School

**Our next INSET days will be on:**

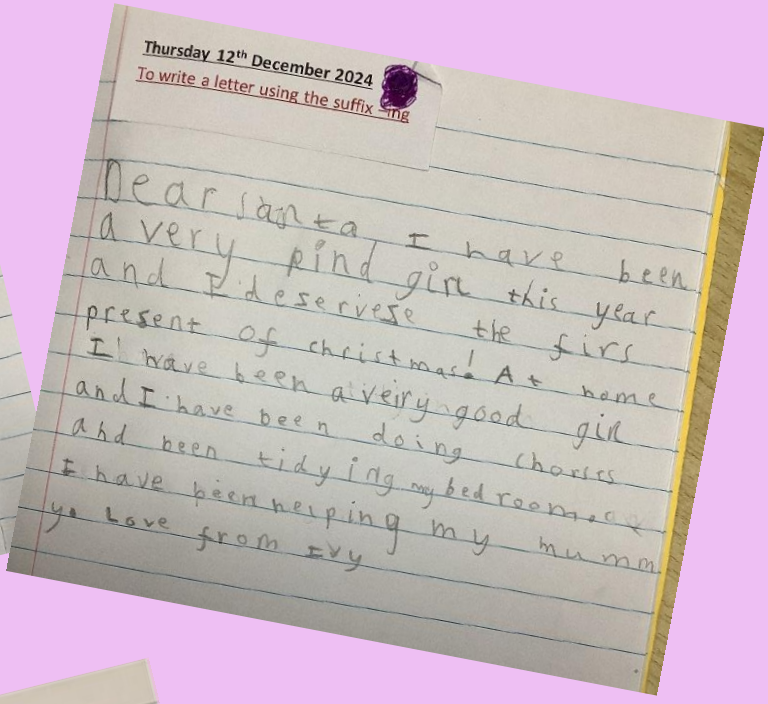
**Monday 6th January 2025 &**
**Friday 14th February 2025**

# Class News - Hedgehogs

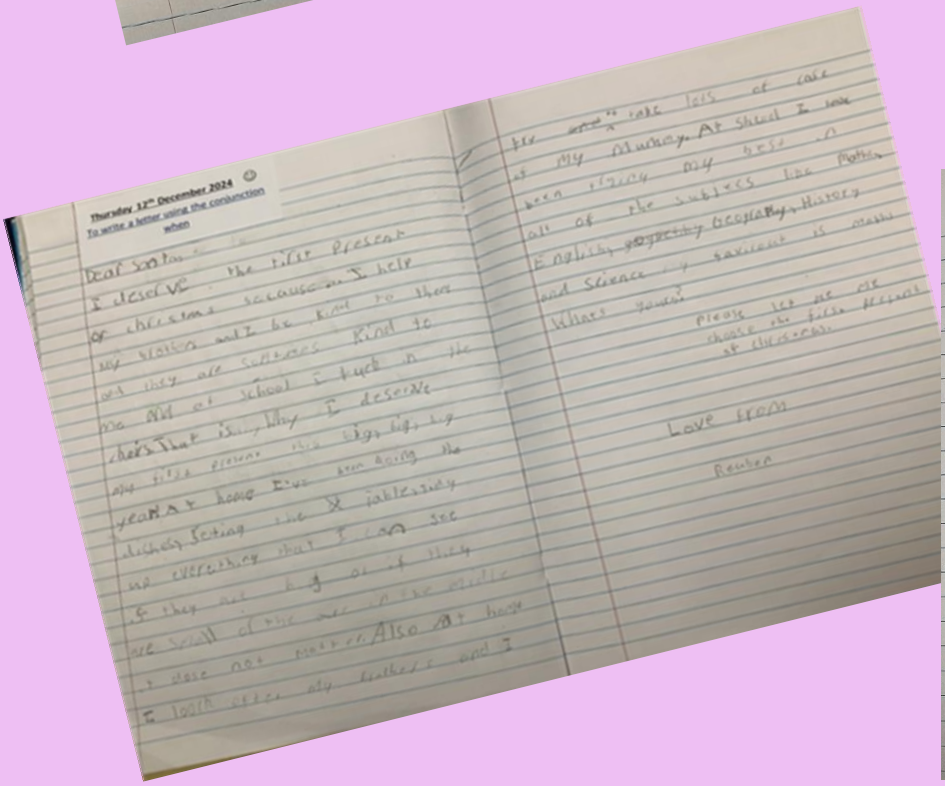
Hedgehogs have really enjoyed this term, particularly with the run up to Christmas. They have grown in confidence with the Nativity and we are all so proud of them! In writing, we have been focusing on the story 'The Polar Express' by Chris Van Allsburg. The children have really impressed us with their progress in writing, applying what they already know and beginning to use new learning. In the book, it talks about one child receiving the first gift of Christmas. To finish the term, they wrote a letter to Santa explaining what they have done well this year so that they can receive the first gift of Christmas. The letters they wrote were fabulous and really showed off their kindness! Well done Hedgehogs for a great term!


Thursday 12th December 2024
To write a letter using the suffix –ing

Dear Santa I have been a very kind boy this year and I deserve the first present of Christmas! At home I have been helping mummy baiking buns and shairing my magnitl lls with Luke Love from Rory

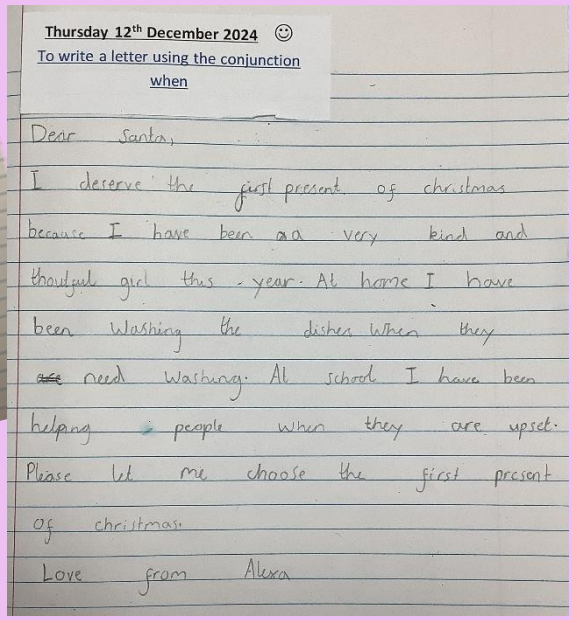

Thursday 12th December 2024
To write a letter using the suffix –ing

Dear santa I have been a very pind girl this year and I deserivese the firs present of christmas! At home I have been a veiry good girl and I have been doing chorses and been tidying my bedroom. I have been helping my mummy. Love from Ivy


Thursday 12th December 2024
To write a letter using the conjunction when

Love from

Reuben


Thursday 12th December 2024
To write a letter using the conjunction when

Dear Santa,

I deserve the first present of christmas because I have been a very kind and thoutful girl this year. At home I have been washing the dishes when they need washing. At school I have been helping people when they are upset. Please let me choose the first present of christmas.

Love from Alexa

# WL Superstars

***Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars***

**Thursday 5th December**

**Badger - Oscar**
**Hedgehogs - Lucas**
**Owls - Frankie**
**Rabbits - Charlie**
**Squirrels - Oscar**

**Thursday 19th December**

**Badgers - Phoenix**
**Hedgehogs - Billy**
**Owls - Connie**
**Rabbits - Evangeline**
**Squirrels - Lucas**

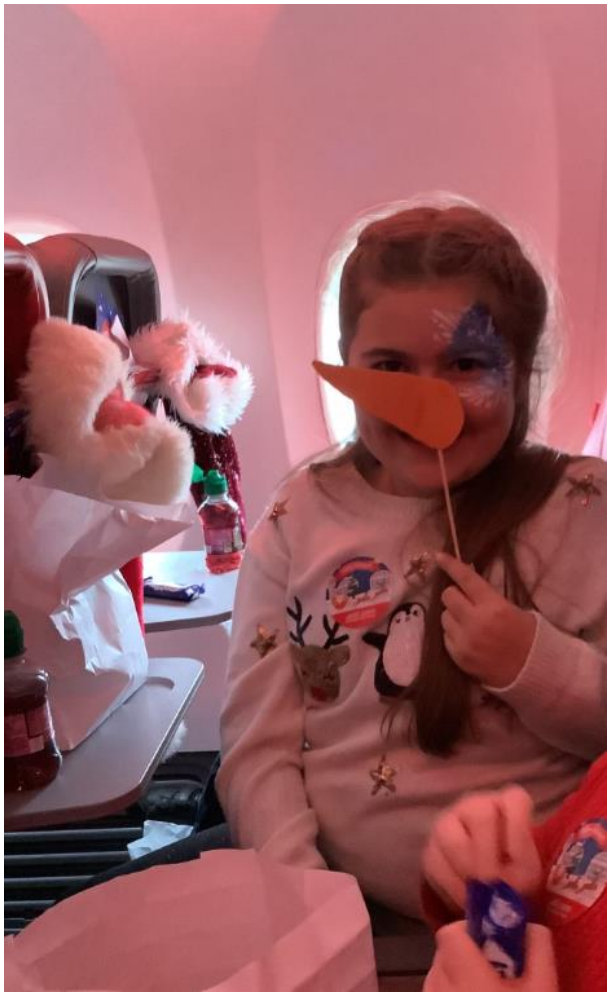
# Bristol Airport/Jet 2 Santa Flight

On Wednesday 11th December, 7 children and 2 teachers from West Leigh and BJS were lucky enough to board the charity Santa flight from Bristol Airport. We had an amazing time and the Jet2 and Bristol Airport staff made us all feel very special! We were greeted by festive elves to take us on the shuttle bus and we enjoyed checking in and going through security together. Once we were at the departure gate, there were face painters, a magician, the airport fire crew and drinks and snacks.

Then it was time to board the flight and we'd heard that Santa had been spotted on a training flight over the Bristol Channel! To our great surprise, he was able to enter the plane as we flew over Wales and we were extremely excited to see him on board.

We even had a toilet paper snowball flight and sang carols together before we landed back at Bristol airport. Before leaving the plane, the children had a chance to visit the cockpit of the plane before we disembarked to applause from the fire and ground crews. Our experience ended with a chance to see Santa again in the terminal and the children were able to pick a gift. Mrs Bowden-Green and Mrs Pearson were very impressed with the behaviour and impeccable manners of all the children on board and we had a wonderful time together. Thank you to Bristol Airport for inviting our schools to take part and to the fantastic Jet2 crew for making it such a memorable experience!

# Bristol Airport/Jet 2 Santa Flight – Photos



# Federation Parent Governors Required

**Backwell Federation - Parent Governors Required.**

We have some exciting governor vacancies to join the work of our Local Governing Board. This is a great way to use your skills to support the work of our schools.

The role of the Local Governing Body, working with the Head Teacher and the leadership team, focuses on three core areas:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The governor vacancies:

We are looking to run an election for two Parent governors – from either West Leigh Infant School or Backwell Junior School.

As a Parent Governor, you will:

- Play a vital role in ensuring that the board is connected with, and aware of, the views of parents and the local community.
- Have a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children.
- Possess good inter-personal skills, a keen interest, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills.

Becoming a governor is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who have a good dollop of passion, curiosity, confidence to ask questions, as well as time to invest in the schools. It is a chance to both share your skills and develop and learn as part of a board.

How to apply:

1. If you would like to express an interest in applying, please email: wloffice@backwellfederation.co.uk or directly to our clerk to the governors, Nicola Gilg: NGilg@lsp.org.uk
2. Go to Blog 2 (Federation Newsletters section of the website), to check your eligibility for the role (see Appendix 2). If eligible, complete the nomination form (see Appendix 1).

# WL – PTA News

**Where does your money go?**
We have had a busy two terms organising events and raising money for the school.
We are very excited to announce that we are heading towards the grand total of **£4000** so far this school year. £2500 was raised by the Christmas Fair and raffle, which is a fantastic amount!

We met with the school this term and chatted about all the exciting ideas they have to spend the money you have been raising. We will have more news next term, but we're delighted that so far this year we have been able to fund:
- the outdoor learning that the kids have been enjoying (and will continue to over the rest of the school year);
- enrichment days such as the upcoming Maths Day in the new year;
- electronic resources for the school;
- and we have just agreed to contribute to investment in the Reception playground to give it some much needed improvements and enhance the space for outdoor learning.

A huge **THANK YOU to the PTA team and the class reps** who have been able to give up a lot of their time to help with various events. A huge amount of effort goes into each event/activity. If you feel like you would now like to join a lovely, friendly PTA team as a general member, helping when you can, please get in touch as it makes a huge difference!

**The Lions Santa Float Collection**
Thanks again to those that gave up yet another evening of their time to see the smiling faces of children as they waved to Santa. And thank you to those who were able to put some coins in the buckets.

## WL – PTA Recent Events Update

**Secret Shop**
Your children love shopping!! Over **500** items were wrapped by a brilliant team over a number of weeks. The finale was on Sunday evening where a team of 6 were packing the items to Christmas tunes till 10.15pm at school!! A HUGE thank you. We hope you enjoy your gifts!

**Christmas performance**
If you were unable to make the children's performance (Rec/Y1&2) or want to re-watch and keep as a memory keepsake then you can purchase the recording using the link on our website (see below Newsletter, in Blog 4) A huge thank you to Matt and Sarah who gave up their time to record and edit the event for FREE!!! AMAZING and we are ever so grateful.

**Christmas Raffle**
Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Everyone who won a prize has been contacted. We raised a staggering **£1000** exactly which is incredible!! Thanks to Helen who spent countless hours chasing local companies!

## Recycle your old Christmas/Greetings Cards

The Christie
TOWARDS A FUTURE WITHOUT CANCER

**AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Please recycle your

**Christmas and greetings cards***

in the School Collection Box**

***Help The Christie and help the planet***

Your used cards are gratefully received and turned into new Christmas and greetings cards which are sold to raise funds for cancer patients at the Christie Hospital.

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT*

* Any greetings cards

**Collection Box at Main entrance

UPCYCLE

© 2024 The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Registered charity number: 1201654

## Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

**Our Backwell B awards include: Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible**

**Celebration Assembly – 6th December 2024**

Year 3 - Sammy and Allegra
Year 4 - Breccan and Bella
Year 5 – Harry L and Lucas
Year 6 - Jackson and Lauren

**Celebration Assembly – 13th December 2024**

Year 3 - Dylan W and Gruff
Year 4 - Grace D and Asa
Year 5 – Micah and Ayla
Year 6 - Etta

**Celebration Assembly – 20th December 2024**

Year 3 - Jaxson and Millie
Year 4 - Ollie C and Fred
Year 5 – Cassia and Barney
Year 6 - Abi and Amy

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# Year 4 Trip to Caerleon

On the 28th November, Year 4 travelled to Caerleon in South Wales. First, everyone arrived and went straight to the classroom and put on their hi-vis. Next, we got on the coach and sat next to our partner. When, we arrived, we were very excited we couldn't wait to see what we were going to do.

Then, we predicted that the amphitheatre would be closed because it was so icy. So we went straight to the barracks where the soldiers stayed. We looked at their latrines and where they cooked bread.

Next, we looked at the amphitheatre through the gate. Because we couldn't go in the wonderful theatre, we went to the Roman baths where we watched a film of how Romans cleaned themselves. First they stepped into a room with fire under the floor, so it was hot. Because they would burn their feet otherwise, they wore wooden sandals. Next, they covered themselves in olive oil. Then, they got into a freezing pool.

At last it was lunch time and we all had our packed lunches…we saw a CAT it was adorable and black.

Now, when everyone had finished, we went to the workshop. When we were sorted into two groups we put on some clothes and some of us pretended we had a headache and the rest tooth ache or a cut.

Next, we went to the museum and with a partner found Roman objects and named them by what it said they were called.

Finally, we walked back to the coach, fastened our seatbelts and got to school. As soon as we arrived at school we went home. What a wonderful day.

By Olivia, 4PB

# Y4 Trip to St Andrew's Church

On Monday 25th November, we went to St Andrews church to do such fun activities. First, we did a huge board game but it was different because if you landed on a question mark you get a question like how long did it take for Mary and Joseph to get to Bethlehem and if you got it correct you will stay where you are but if you get it wrong then you miss a go!

Next, we decorated some stars to go on our Christmas tree. I took too long on mine but luckily I still finished it in time!

After that, we recreated a Christmas carol and I loved it because it was so funny.

Shortly after that, we decorated some advent candles by sticking plants and berries at the bottom of them.

Then, we practised playing the First Noel. Although it was hard, we kept playing it until we got it just right.

Finally, we made some angels that looked like us and if someone looked at mine they would probably notice it's me!

By Cole, 4PB

## PTA News

What a term it's been! We've had break the rules day, name the reindeer, the raffle and of course the Christmas Fair.

Overall we've raised over £3500 (with some very kind matched giving). A huge total so thank you to everyone for your support. Whether it's through attending the events, donating prizes or volunteering. We couldn't do it without you.

This has allowed us to pay for the pantomime visit and the puzzle day this term, with the rest going towards new iPads and other tech which we hope to start buying soon.

The next date to get in your diaries is Thurs 13th Feb for the Valentines Disco. More details to follow in the new year.

COMING UP.....

Thursday 13th February
Valentines Disco

## Polite Notices

**Aspens Select**

Please remember to book your lunches for rest of the term so that the kitchen can plan ahead. Many thanks.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please can you ensure that you leave a message or email the office to let us know by 9.30am on the day of absence and each day thereafter. In your message please could you give a brief overview of the symptoms rather than just saying "unwell". The reason for this is so that we can identify if there is a certain illness that is circulating and take any steps possible to minimise the spread.

**Wrap Around Care – Important Information**

**Please ensure that Premier Education are contacted directly for any amendments to bookings or collection arrangements, all contact details are detailed here:**

**Backwell Junior School:**

**Site Phone: 07707878334 - Active between 7:15 & 8:30am for BSC / Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.**

**Email - c.clarke@premier-education.com for information regarding updates for the day, or collection passwords if somebody different is collecting.**

**Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.**

**West Leigh Infant School:**

**Site Phone: 07707800019 - Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.**

**Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.**

# Parking at BJS

The school office have received a large number of neighbourhood complaints regarding parking at school and in the surrounding roads. There has been an increase in the number of parents dropping their children off by car directly opposite Backwell Juniors. We'd like to remind everyone that it is not permitted to stop on the painted zig zag lines outside school, but it is also unsafe to park on the road due to the narrowness of the lanes etc.

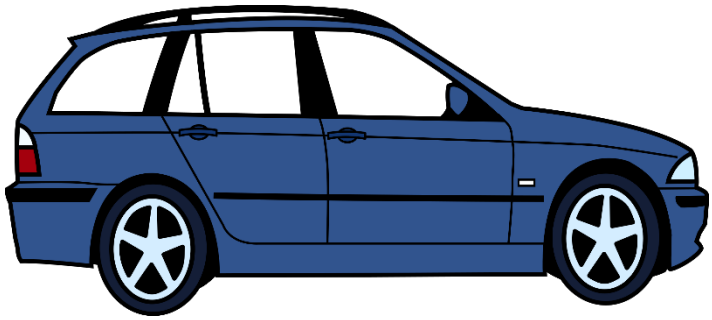
Several children have mentioned that they feel unsafe walking to and from school due to the speed and number of cars on this road and so we politely ask for you to refrain from dropping off in these areas and park on Dark Lane and walk the short distance to school to drop off/pick up. This additional 5 minutes is a small ask given these safety concerns.

Large vehicles have been unable to pass on Church Lane and the congestion level at school times is excessive.

As well as being very concerned about reports of people being rude to other road users and our neighbours we are very concerned that if larger vehicles are unable to pass then emergency vehicles will also be unable to reach a destination in an emergency situation which in turn could have devastating results to the community.

We ask you all to consider your parking – leave a little earlier for a space near school or park a little further away in a safe manner. Community Police have been informed and we have requested assistance in managing this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation.



# Community Notices

# FEEL FAB FESTIVE FITNESS FUN

FIND YOUR CHRISTMAS STARS

NAME _____

HOW MANY DID YOU COLLECT?

Here are some activities which help us stay active and make us feel good! This is great for our Physical Literacy! IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO ASK FOR SOME HELP FROM AN ADULT & STAY SAFE WHEN TRYING ANYTHING NEW. Activities can be done in any order. Certificates are available from your school. Can you achieve CHRISTMAS GOLD by collecting at least 7 stars from the list? Let your teacher know if you do!

We would love to see some of your attempts on Twitter using #FeelFabFestiveFitnessFun and tagging: @AshtonSSP @CSETSports1 @NSSPEA1

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Go for a 'Christmas lights walk' as a family - where are your favourite lights? | Perform at least one random act of kindness a day. | Set yourself a daily Christmas Star Jump challenge e.g., 3 sets of 10. How many can you do a day? | Make a Christmas table decoration and design your own name place markers for your family. |
| Make Christmas cookies or mince pies. You could go big and make a gingerbread house! | Host a Christmas games night and play all of your favourite games. | Make your own Christmas music playlist... what songs will you choose? | Ride your bike, walk or scoot for at least 10 minutes a day. |
| Organise a Christmas movie night or even a whole week, then everyone gets a chance to watch their favourite film. | Organise your own Christmas Treasure Hunt... this could take place in the house or outdoors! | Turn your Christmas cards into next year's present tags. | Donate or gift a toy or something else in new or good condition to charity. |
| Make up your own game using balloons. Give it a name and play it with your friends or family. | Get creative with art... make a snowman or angel paperchain. Perhaps even design your own tree ornaments. | Take up the 16-day holiday challenge... go for a walk with your dog or friends every day | Prepare hot chocolate for your friends or family. Will you be adding marshmallows and whipped cream? |