

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Christmas Productions

It was lovely to share our Christmas productions with parents, families and the community this week.

All the Year 1 and 2 performances of 'Simply the Nativity' were full of brilliant acting, singing and dancing and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Reception children also performed 'Humph the Camel', their Christmas Nativity play to parents. The children were truly amazing with their wonderful acting, speaking, singing and signing.

All of the shows reminded me of the talented children we have and the dedicated staff, who bring those talents to the fore and ensure that everyone is included. Well done all!

Carol Concert

On Thursday evening, the Holbrook school community packed out St. Mary's Church for our KS2 Carol Concert. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it a memorable and special event. The children's beautiful singing, clear readings about Christmas around the world and well-acted tableaux scene enabled us all to feel the festive spirit.

Thank you for your kind donations to our retiring collections this week. The money will be divided between two local charities (Chestnut Tree House and Turning Tides).

Christmas assemblies

This morning the whole school visited St. Mark's Church for three special Christmas assemblies led by Reverend Stilwell. The children sang songs, watched the advent candle being lit and learnt the power of light. Thank you to all our parents who volunteered to help us walk to the church.



Christmas Fair

Last Saturday was our Christmas Fair which was superbly organised by the Friends of Holbrook. Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended this event, which had a lovely community feel.

Safeguarding – Smart watches

Just a reminder that some smart watches are not suitable for school due to the message and photo features which raise both privacy and safeguarding concerns. If your child has one of these watches, then please ensure that they are not worn to school. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Safety on the way to/from school

Recently, one of older pupils was approached by a man that he didn't know near Budgens on North Heath Lane, which we have reported to our local police community officer. Whilst we have no confirmation of the reason or intent, it would be worth reminding your child what to do if approached by an unknown adult. Rather than giving warnings about certain types of people, parents and schools are encouraged to teach them how to identify and respond to threatening situations. This is helpful for children who need to understand the difference between strangers who could hurt them and strangers who may help them. Some useful tips can be found [here](#). If you are aware of any incidences of concern, please report it to the police

Picture News

This week the topic for discussion is 'How can we show others we care?' – see below.

TAKEHOME

16th - 22nd December



How can we show others we care?

In the news this week

It is thought the number of cards sent this festive period will be lower than in previous years, as stamp prices have increased. The price of a first-class stamp rose by 30p in October, to £1.65. This rise (the fifth increase in less than three years) has also led to fears that the money reaching charities through card sales will be lower this year.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your experience of giving and receiving cards and ask someone at home about theirs.
- Fewer cards are being sent each year; talk about why you think this is the case.
- What other ways can you think of to show loved ones that you care and are thinking of them?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES	
CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
26 th December	6 th January 2025
2 nd January	13 th January
9 th January	20 th January
16 th January	27 th January
23 rd January	3 rd February

Diary Dates (new additions in bold)	
Wed 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 20th January	Y4 virtual Titanic Museum
Thursday 23rd January	Y3 swimming starts
Thursday 30th January	Parent Workshop -Supporting children's social and emotional development
Monday 3rd February	Young Voices at the O2
Monday 17th- Fri 21st February	Half Term
Monday 24th February	INSET DAY- school closed to pupils

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



Ian Holmes- Headteacher