

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 20th December

Dear Parents

Welcome to this, our last parent newsletter of 2024. We have had a super final two weeks with the children, packing lots in. Particular highlights for me have been the Nativity performances (didn't they do so well?) and our Church Service held on Wednesday; this is always such a special event, hearing the children speak or play an instrument in church, for some, overcoming nerves to do so, is a proud moment for the whole community. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to support the walk there and back and who attended. We hope you enjoyed it!

We have included some pictures of the festivities, including our Church Service, Christmas Dinner and Nativity Play for you to enjoy at the end of our Newsletter, a super send-off to 2024.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Warm regards

Bridgette Gough

Pantomime

Thank you to SASHA, the school's PTA for treating the school to our annual pantomime held this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed Cinderella, and the hall was a mass of giggles and laughter, with a very willing audience. We have captured a couple of scenes here for you to see.



Love Life and Learning

Collective Worship and Reflection themes

Last week our Reflections Area and Collective Worship theme focussed upon trust. The children were really eloquent when sharing their notion of what trust is, means and how important it was to be able to trust those we hold close. We shared the story of 'Jesus calming the Storm' and used a Nemo and Dory clip to promote discussion about trust within friendship.

This week we have shared different versions of the Christmas story, inclusive of 'The Christmas Promise', read so beautifully by our Year 6 pupils in church. Others we enjoyed were 'On Angel's Wings' and 'The Star Maker'.

Christmas Book Appeal

We are putting out a request that if you are having to make room on bookshelves for new books that have been delivered for Christmas presents, can we ask that you think of donating lightly read books to our school supplies. We have recently added to our book stocks but at the same time found that some old favourites were past their best. We are particularly looking for books for Key Stage 2. These can be fiction or non-fiction choices, and we know our children hold a wide range of reading preferences and this will support us in promoting reading for pleasure across the junior age range.

Learning Support News

We have two of our support staff moving on at the end of term, we would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for the contribution they have made to St. Andrew's and wish them well in their new roles. We will miss you Mrs Angela Nolan and Mrs Tracy Willis.

Miss Kirsty Stewart and Mrs Debbie Webb will be supporting pupils in Year 1 and Year 3; they are already members of the school staff and familiar to the children and we know they are very excited and keen to help teaching staff in supporting learning. Mrs Claire Burrett will also be joining the Year 1 team.

Headteacher's Cup

Tiger Cub Class:	W1-Myles W2-Tiger Cub Class
Reindeer Class:	W1-Reindeer Class W2-Albie
Fennec Fox Class:	W1-Fennec Fox Class W2-Buddy
Panda Class:	W1-Ruby W2-Joseph
Snow Leopard Class:	W1-Nicholas W2-Willis
Turtle Class:	W1-Turtle Class W2-Matilda
Seal Class:	W1-Joel W2-Abigail



Birthdays in December & January

Buddy	Connie
Oliver	Harper
Liliana	Mason
Olivia	Emily
Jacob	Olivia S
Darcy	Ethan
Ruby	Albie
Arthur	Aubrey
Tyler	Alex H
Huey	Lauren
Mya	Benjamin
Ellis	Rafe
Esme	Nicholas



Going For Green

Harper & Freddie C-P

Sports Cup

Harrison & Ruby H

Attendance

As we know the new year often means looking ahead, we therefore take the opportunity to remind parents of the statutory attendance policy around attendance and taking term time holidays.

Christmas Foodbank Vouchers

Just a reminder that we are a partner to the local foodbank service and are able to apply for vouchers on your behalf. Should you wish to contact us about this please do.
We are sharing their opening hours as an attachment with the Newsletter.

Football Club

Just a reminder that we host a football club on a Tuesday / Wednesday evening afterschool, until 4:15pm. This is an external club and so we have provided a flyer to support booking. The club is open to boys and girls from Years 1-6. This is a great way to support fitness and extend skills with an experienced coach that has had a long relationship with the Trust.

Energy Cost Support

Essex County Council has appointed Better Housing, Better Health (BHBH) to deliver Energy Advice and Fuel Poverty assistance across Essex, and access funding for home improvements to improve energy efficiency through the ECO4 Flex grant.

BHBH is a free, impartial service offering advice including:

- Financial Support: help to access Warm Home Discount and energy efficiency grants.
- Priority Services Register.
- Fuel debt advice and signposting.
- Fuel Vouchers.
- Small measures grant for immediate assistance to eligible households. Items may include thermal curtains, electric radiators, blankets etc.
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ECO4 Flex is a grant for low-income and vulnerable households, designed to improve the energy efficiency of properties rated D-G for energy performance.

There are many eligibility pathways including:

- Household income below £31,000
- Health Routes: if someone living in the household (including a child) has one of the following conditions: Cardiovascular; Respiratory (e.g. child with asthma); Immunosuppression; Limited Mobility. Income does NOT apply for Health Routes
- Qualifying means-tested benefit (BHBH can advise)
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There are other eligibility routes that may apply, including FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

The application process is easy and takes 2 mins: this can be a self-referral, or via a referral partner, such as school or GP (please get applicant permission to refer). Simply visit www.bhbh.org.uk and complete the form or call 0800 107 0044.

Please see the poster attached for further details.



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