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Christmas Tree



We have a lovely real Christmas tree in our hall and the children have made the decorations. We will be taking the tree down on Thursday morning so the children can take home their decorations – if anyone would like the 7ft tree and can collect it themselves on Thursday afternoon, please do let us know! It would be good that it is used at Christmas.

Forest School

On Thursday 8th January, Hazel Class (Year 3/4) will be taking part in Forest School.



A message from Miss Harris

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. We began the week with an assembly to make sure we all knew how to use the water safely that we had in school and the children have followed our guidance so sensibly.

At the time of initially writing this message, we were not sure whether we would need to continue with the approaches to use of water we have taken next week – you may have seen that we now have notification of the Boil Notice having been lifted. For next week, and to allow us to drain the water tanks etc, we will continue to use bottled water and hand sanitisers.

(With the spread of illness you may have seen reported in other areas of the country, the hand sanitisers may well help to limit the spread of other germs too!)



Christmas preparations are very much in full flow – this week there has been much singing and practising for the nativity and Christmas Service for the children to perform to you next week. While we lost a week in our preparations due to needing to close, the children and staff have worked hard this week to pull it all together and I am looking forward to seeing the finished performances and Service next week. I am sure you are too and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of the events. (Please see the 'dates for your diary' at the end of this newsletter to confirm the times of the different events.)

And finally, a quick reminder that next week is our last week in school before Christmas, with our final day of term being on Thursday – the school is closed on Friday. The Christmas holidays have certainly arrived quickly!

Goodbyes and Hellos!

At the end of next week, we will say goodbye to two of our teachers, Mr Smith and Mrs Crabb. Mr Smith is relocating out of the county, and Mrs Crabb is moving onto pastures new. Both Mr Smith and Mrs Crabb have been at St Matthew's for a considerable number of years and we would like to thank them for their commitment to school and wish them all the very best for the future. We will miss them both.

We will be welcoming a new member of staff, Mrs Brophy, as the class teacher for Hazel Class – the children will have the chance to meet Mrs Brophy next week and we know that our school community will help her to settle into life at St Matt's.

For Chestnut Class, on a Thursday and Friday, we are welcoming back Mrs Phillips from maternity leave who many of the children know – she is looking forward to being part of the Yr 3/4 team and it will be good to have her back.

For Sycamore Class, on a Wednesday, we are welcoming back Mrs Bradshaw who also knows the children well and will work with Mrs Chater – Mrs Bradshaw has continued to work with us this year and it is lovely that she will be back with us each week.

Attendance Ted

Here's this week's attendance data.

Year R Willow 96%		
Year 1/2 Ash 96%	Year 1/2 Birch 97%	Year 1/2 Elm 92%
Year 3/4 Chestnut 95%	Year 3/4 Hazel 97%	Year 3/4 Pine 92%
Year 5 Maple 98%	Year 5 Sycamore 94%	
Year 6 Oak 89%	Year 6 Yew 93%	



PTA Christmas Events

Thank you very much to the PTA for organising a fantastic evening of discos for our children. Yesterday evening was one filled with music, dancing and laughter and it was lovely to see everyone having so much fun!

Today, there was a wonderful selection of Christmas jumpers in school and lots of donations made to support the preparation of the Christmas Wrapping Day next week.

On Wednesday, we are looking forward to welcoming a special visit from Father Christmas and giving the children the opportunity to purchase a gift and wrap it up for someone of their choice. This is such a valuable experience for them all and we thank you for your support in the lovely donations we have received today to enable the event to happen next week.

Dates for your Diary

Below are key dates for your diary (new events are coloured green):

Term 2:

- Monday 15th December 9.30am – Nativity performance for parents (Reception and Years 1/2)
- Monday 15 December 1.45pm and 7pm – Carol Service in Church (Years 3/4/5/6)
- Tuesday 16th December 1.45pm – Nativity performance for parents (Reception and Years 1/2)
- Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday 17th December – PTA Christmas wrapping and Father Christmas
- Thursday 18th December pm – Year 6 to visit Tunbridge Wells Boys School to enjoy a performance
- Thursday 18th December – End of Term 2 for children
- Friday 19th December – INSET Day – School closed for children

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January: Christmas Break – School closed for children

Term 3:

- Monday 5th January – Term 3 begins and school reopens to children
- Friday 13th February – End of Term 3

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February: Spring Break – School closed for children

Term 4:

- Monday 23rd February – Term 4 begins and school reopens to children
- Thursday 2nd April – End of Term 4

Friday 3rd April – Friday 17th April: Easter break – School closed for children