Newsletter 13

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Advent to you all! It’s such a special time of year, with decorations going up, Nativities being rehearsed, Parties planned, Christmas songs practiced and gifts being made and bought. It’s a busy time for families and staff, please note the dates in this newsletter to keep up with everything going on!

**Congratulations to Daisy in Year 6**

We were delighted to hear that Daisy has won the Technology for the Future competition organised by Shaftesbury School. She won a ‘state of the art’ VR Headset. She’s a great example of what can happen if you put lots of effort into a competition entry. Well done Daisy!



**Christmas Concert – Monday 16th December at 5pm**

All our young musicians learning instruments in or out of school are invited to be part of our Christmas Concert in the Hall at 5pm on Monday 16th December. Their teachers will talk to them about whether they perform on their own or in a group and will let parents and carers know which piece they need to practise! Our two school bands will also be invited to entertain us …they’re loud! We’d also like to ask if a couple of former pupils would play something, to inspire our young musicians. Please contact Mrs Bastable directly or through the office email if your child would like to take part. We aim for it to last about an hour or so, we’ll ask for you to let us know who’s coming closer to the time, but it will be free and you won’t need tickets to come.

**Nativity Performances**

Year 1 and 2 will present their Nativity play on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th December at 2pm, with families allocated 2 tickets for each performance initially.

Reception will have their performance on Monday 16th December at 2pm, with 4 tickets available for each family in the initial week of sales.

Tickets on sale at £1 per ticket from the office. More than the above allocation can be bought as of now, up to the capacity of the Hall.

No tickets to be reserved - to be paid for at the office ideally with the right money!

Thanks!

**Christmas Carol Service – Tuesday 17th December at 2pm in St James Church**

The children and staff will sing Carols and Christmas songs, and hear the Christmas story in this service. The are 30 places for parents of children in Years 3-6, please email the office if you’d like a place or two.

**Christmas Times Tables Finals – Thursday 19th December at 9.30am**

Finalists from each class from Year 2-6 will compete to see who has the quickest, most accurate recall of their times tables facts. Parents of finalists will be invited to come along if they can.

**Last Day of term – Thursday 19th December, collections from 1pm**

Please note that the children finish on Thursday 19th December, we have a staff training day on the Friday. Children can be collected at 1pm from the normal places. If they need to stay with us after that, please let the office know what time you will pick them up, and do so via the main office entrance.

**PTFA Christmas Events**

**6th December** is the Christmas Wreath making evening, there are two spaces available for this popular evening.

**12th December** will be ‘Breakfast with Santa’ in the School Hall during the morning (classes all meeting Santa and having a drink and snack). This is a free event to ensure all the children get to meet Santa. If anyone doesn't want their child to take part please can you let the office know?

**18th December** is our Christmas Party Day. The PTFA have booked Mad4animals as entertainment for the afternoon and are going to provide all the food so parents don't need to do anything. Would be great if the children can wear Christmas Party clothes!

What a fabulous effort from our brilliant PTFA!

**School Choir Christmas events**

Our brilliant school choir, expertly conducted by Mrs Bastable, have started this impressive programme of performances. Not all of the choir will go to each event, and the events are dependent on getting enough help to get them safely there and back. I’m sure they will bring great joy to the people who see and hear them.

Thursday 28th November Town Hall 10am

Friday 29th November Memorial Hospital 1.30pm

Thursday 5th December Trinity Centre 10am

Friday 6th December Churchills Residential Care 10.30am

Tuesday 10th December British Legion 10.30am

Thursday 12th December Waitrose 5pm

Friday 13th December St Denis Lodge 11am

We are very grateful to Mrs Bastable and the children for their commitment to the school choir.

**Tree Planting volunteers needed**

Mrs Beveridge has received a package of trees to plant in our grounds. If you are able to lead or help with a planting group, please let us know.

**Children in Need**

Our recent non uniform day raised £153 for Children in Need. Thank you very much to everyone who donated.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 5 have their final afternoon of Forest School this Wednesday. After Christmas it will be Y6 for the first three weeks followed by Year 2 from 29th January and Year 1 from 26th February.

Children need to have trousers and long-sleeved tops, wellies and a **waterproof coat** (with overtrousers if they have them). The Forest School philosophy is to wear the right clothing to go out in all weathers.

Forest School bookings for the after school clubs for your school for Spring Term 1 and 2 can be made by clicking on the links below:

[Shaftesbury Abbey After School Club Spring Term 1 2025 - Booking by Bookwhen](https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sjt0-20250108152000)

[Shaftesbury Abbey After School Club Spring Term 2 2025 - Booking by Bookwhen](https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sl26-20250226152000)

**Read-Easy**

The local Read-Easy group are a lovely organisation who support adults to improve their reading skills. Please mention this to anyone you know who could benefit from this. They have produced some videos on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/0M5ZWlWRD9Y?si=Fwb4pU2ZqMbLDn8e>

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| [YouTube](https://youtu.be/0M5ZWlWRD9Y?si=Fwb4pU2ZqMbLDn8e)  Share your videos with friends, family, and the world  youtu.be |

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2024 – 2025**

**Autumn Term**

**INSET DAY                                                      Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

Children start back                                       Wednesday 4th September 2024

Autumn Half Term                                        Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024

**INSET DAY                                                      Monday 4th November 2024**

Autumn Term ends                                      Thursday 19th December 2024

**INSET DAY                                                      Friday 20th December 2024**

Christmas Holidays                                       Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025

**Spring Term**

Schools due to start back                           Monday 6th January 2025

Spring half term                                            Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Spring Term ends                                         Friday 4th April 2025

Easter holidays                                              Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2025

**Summer Term**

Schools due to start back                            Tuesday 22nd April 2025

MAY DAY Bank Holiday                                 Monday 5th May 2025

Summer half term                                          Monday 26th May to Friday 30st May 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Monday 2nd June 2025**

Summer Term ends                                       Tuesday 22nd July 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Wednesday 23rd July 2025**