Newsletter 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is in full-swing at school this week, we hope your children will enjoy all the special lessons and activities but recognise that for some children this can be a challenging time of year. We will try very hard to support these children and give them quiet options if they need them.

**Lunchtime Supervisor required after Christmas**

We have an opening for a lunchtime supervisor to join our brilliant team, 5 days a week, 11.45-1.15pm. It’s a great way to get into working in schools. Many staff start off in these roles, then move into class or office-based work within the school. If you’re interested or know someone who is, please get in touch with the school office so that we can arrange a chat about the role.

**Staff change after Christmas**

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Chalke at the end of this term. She has been an excellent teacher here for the past five years, teaching in Year three and previously Year 5. She will be greastly missed by the children, staff and parents. We wish her success and happiness in her new job. We are very grateful to Mrs A Saunders who has agreed to take on the extra two days a week in Year 3 to give continuity to the class in the Spring and Summer terms.

**Nativity Performances**

Year 1 and 2 will present their Nativity play -Baarmy Bethlehem  on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th December at 2pm.

Reception will have their performance on Monday 16th December at 2pm

Tickets still available for all performances.

**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.

**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**

**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 they want to.

**18th December** is our Christmas Party Day. **Children should wear ‘party clothes’ for the day**. There will be a party lunch for all the children and the PTFA have booked entertainment for the afternoon.

**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 are going to each event, and the events are dependent on getting enough help to get them safely there and back. Thank you very much to all the parents who’ve helped so far. I’m sure the choir are bringing great joy to the people who see and hear them.

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 – Friday 13th December at 1pm -volunteers needed**

Mr Jones will be leading our tree planting on Friday afternoon. Please come along with some wellies and a spade if you can help with this important job.

**Christmas Services**

Please see list attached of all the Chistmas services in our area – in Shaftesbury, Margarets Marsh, Motcombe, Melbury Abbas and Compton Abbas.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 6 have an afternoon of Forest School this Wednesday. After Christmas it will be Y6  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)

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**

Children  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**