Newsletter 12

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas Fayre on Friday was a huge success, raising over £2200 for PTFA funds. It was great to see so many people helping to set it up, running the stalls, visiting the stalls and clearing up afterwards. Massive congratulations to the new PTFA Chair, Katie Pyke, and the brilliant committee members. Thank you also to our Year 6 children, their parents and the Y6 staff, for their excellent stalls.

The PTFA are straight back in action tonight with a stall and steam engine at the Christmas Lights event in the town centre, do come to say hello.

**Improving Attendance**

We’ve been working really hard to improve the level of  the overall attendance of all children in the school. Latest data shows that we are at 97.3% for the year so far. This is 2.2% above the National Average (95.1%). We’ve also tried to reduce the number of chidren who have attendance below 90%. We’re pleased that the percentage of our children in this category has reduced to 8.4%, well below the National Average of 15%. We are keen to reduce the figure even more as the year goes on.

Holidays are always classified as unauthorised absence and should be avoided as much as possible.

**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 will go on sale at £1 per ticket from Tuesday 19th November. After a week, more than the above allocationas can be bought, 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!

**PTFA Christmas Events**

**Monday 25th November** they will have a stall and a steam engine at the Christmas late night shopping and Christmas lights event in Shaftesbury.

**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.

**18th December** is our Christmas Party Day. More details to follow. The PTFA have already booked entertainment for the afternoon.

What a fabulous effort from our brilliant PTFA!

**School Choir Christmas events**

Our brilliant school choir, expertly conducted by Mrs Bastable, are planning the following performances in the next few weeks. 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.

**Christingle Service – St Peters Church on Sunday 1st December at 4.30pm**

Families are warmly invited to this special interactive service. A lovely way to start Advent and the Christmas season. It has been arranged in support of the Children’s Society.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 5 continue their three weeks 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 (for those who are super organised and like to look ahead).

[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 worldyoutu.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**