



# Newsletter



Newsletter 8

December 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks, and I am sure you have felt just as proud of our children as we have! The singing, dancing and acting in the school productions has been outstanding, and as ever, the children have been a pleasure to be with. I am extremely grateful to the staff, for their hard work towards every aspect of the plays; every child having the opportunity to be in a school play at Christmas is very special. This is a real testament to the stoicism and commitment of the teachers and support staff, and to the shortness of their memories!

I cannot believe we have reached the end of term, and 2024! I am sure that the children are ready for a break, and I know they are looking forward to Christmas!



## Plays & Carols

We were delighted by the performances given by the children in their plays – they worked really hard to learn their lines, the songs, dances and stage directions. We hope you enjoyed these as much as we did! The Year 2 children also impressed us all with their singing in Ukrainian at the Carol Service – it was a very special moment – we plan to make this an annual feature. The choir also sang beautifully and Year 6 children's readings were excellent too.



## Christmas Tree Festival & Choir

Thank you very much to the choir for performing so well at the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival, and to their families, for supporting this event at such a busy time of the year! We have some exciting news to share for 2025 – we will be taking part in the Hertfordshire Schools Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, in March – more details to follow next term!



## Vanstone Garden Centre, Church Farm & Ashridge House

A huge thank you to Vanstone Garden Centre for their very generous gift of the beautiful Christmas tree in our school hall. It has survived school plays and parties and still looks amazing! We are very grateful. Thanks too, to everyone who provided prizes for our raffle, including Church Farm and Ashridge House, as well as friends and families of the school.



### **PTFA**

Thank you very much for supporting our events this year – as a result of everyone’s efforts, a new kiln, stage lighting and the cost of the pantomime coaches have all been funded by the PTFA. We really appreciate Charlie’s hard work arranging the installation of the lighting and also coming along to operate the system for us at the plays. He will be training us up ready for next year!

The very popular Big Breakfast will be returning on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 8.30 a.m. Any offers of help will be gratefully received – please let Mrs Martin in the school office know if you’re able to help. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, at 7.00pm, in the staffroom – all parents and carers are welcome to come along and help us to plan the next set of events.



### **Panto!**

We had a fantastic time at the Panto – the children were amazing and the grown-ups were very good too! We were really proud of everyone’s behaviour and enthusiasm. Thank you for your contributions towards this event and for sending the children in with snacks and drinks to get them through the morning until lunchtime!



### **Christmas Lunch**

Thank you very much to our Kitchen team – Mrs Martin, Mrs McKenzie and Ms Comman for cooking Christmas lunch for us all – it was lovely to see the children and staff enjoying their meals together. We know the effort involved in cooking for so many and appreciate their cheerfulness and hard work.



### **Trips and outings for 2025**

The following trips have been booked for 2025. I will continue to update you as the year progresses.

- 6<sup>th</sup> March: Year 5 St. Albans Cathedral
- 12<sup>th</sup> March: Year 1 visit to RAF Museum
- 13<sup>th</sup> March: Year 3 Hertford museum
- 6 + 7<sup>th</sup> May: Year 5 Tolmers
- 20<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 to Harry Potter
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June: Year 6 Isle of Wight
- 25<sup>th</sup> June: Year 2 visit to Shepreth

As we reach the end of this newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous support you have given us throughout the year; this is something we really value, and never take for granted! I am also grateful to our Governors and PTFA who work extremely hard to ensure that the children have the best possible opportunities in their education.

On behalf of all of the staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER



### Community News

#### St Giles Crib Service - Christmas Eve 4:30pm

This is family friendly and lots of fun! The story of the first Christmas will be told by listening to bible stories, singing well-known carols and helping to build our beautiful wooden crib scene.

Children are invited to come dressed up as a nativity character - Mary, Joseph, shepherd, angel, star, stable animal, inn keeper, king etc. The Crib Service could be a special part of your family's Christmas traditions this year!

