



# Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A heartfelt thank you for your very generous donations for today's PTA's Christmas Fair. What a great way to start the countdown to Christmas! The PTA events not only raise money for the school they also offer an opportunity for some fun the whole family can enjoy!

The next couple of weeks are packed full of seasonal activities across the school, including family craft sessions, Christmas lunch and panto performances for every year group to enjoy. We are also looking forward to welcoming many of you to our two Christmas services at St Mary's Church next week.

We also have some lovely news to share this week, Miss Bell has baby no.2 on the way! Another ACE baby due in the summer term. Congratulations Miss Bell!

Some of our children represented our school today at Tesco to hand out shopping lists for the Food Bank. The Food Bank were very grateful for our support.



Kind regards,

*Sara Allen*

Headteacher (Interim)

## Parking

We are keen to maintain our good relationships with our neighbours, so please be considerate in the local area especially Hanover House. We have had a further complaint about how a parent spoke to a resident. Please be polite and respectful.

## School Shoes and PE Kit

Please ensure your children are wearing black school shoes not trainers to school in line with our uniform policy. A reminder that PE will take place outside (unless adverse weather), so please ensure your child has warm jogging bottoms.

## Dates for your Diary...

**Paula's Pop In will start again in the New Year**

## INSET DAYS

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Year 4 and Year 6 Music Concert

Year 4 and Year 6 will be performing their music concert on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. Parents are welcome to come and watch them perform in the hall.

## Christmas Cards

The post box will be up and running for children to post their Christmas cards from 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please add the year group on the envelope to enable safe postal delivery!

## Christmas Craft afternoons. Arrive at 2.15pm.

5<sup>th</sup> December - Year 3

7<sup>th</sup> December - Year 2

8<sup>th</sup> December - Year R

11<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6

13<sup>th</sup> December - Year 1



## Christmas Church Services

Year R, 1 and 2 will share their Nativity play on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm**. This will be held at St Mary's Church, and all are welcome to attend.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will share their Carols by Candlelight on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm**. This will be held at St Mary's Church, and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – wear a Christmas jumper instead of your school jumper for the day! The lunch menu is now available on SCOPAY. Please pre-order by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## Christmas Panto

Early Years and KS1: The Littlest Christmas Elf will be performed by Big Foot Arts Education in school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

KS2: All children are invited to attend a performance of Aladdin at The Lights on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. More details to follow.

## Is your child starting school September 2024?

### Admissions dates:

#### Year R Starting School 2024:

Deadline for applications 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

If you have a child starting school in 2024 our open day is:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am

### Wraparound Care

After School Childcare available in partnership with Youth Options at The Scott Centre.

Youth Options collect children from school and take them, with an escort, to The Scott Centre at Mead Hedges, SP10 2LB. If you would like to book a place please contact Paige Richards at [scottcentre@youthoptions.org.uk](mailto:scottcentre@youthoptions.org.uk) or 01264 332188.

Breakfast Club continues on site. Please book and pay via Scopay.

### SEND Contact

Any queries about your IEP or EHCP please email [send@andover-pri.hants.sch.uk](mailto:send@andover-pri.hants.sch.uk) Mrs Tickle our Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo is happy to answer your questions.

### Family Support

Our Family Support Worker is Paula Lindfield and she is happy to answer any questions around family support you may need. Her email is [p.lindfield@andover-pri.hants.sch.uk](mailto:p.lindfield@andover-pri.hants.sch.uk) Paula can also be contacted directly on her school mobile phone - 07513105230

### Absence and lateness

A reminder that our gates open daily at 08:40am and aim to close promptly at 08:55am.

Any child arriving after this time will need to enter school via the Office and will be marked as late. Please note that parents of any latecomers will be required to sign their child in via our signing in system. Please ensure you come to the Office with your child to do this.

If for any reason your child is unable to attend school, please ensure that you either call, email or text us before 09:10hrs to report the absence stating the reason/nature of the illness.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### What is Advent?

Advent is the beginning of the spiritual year and is observed the four Sundays before Christmas Day. Spiritually, it's meant as a celebration of the Earthly birth of Jesus around 2,000 years ago but also a preparation and anticipation for the second coming of Christ.

Christians traditionally pray, sing, and light a candle on each Advent Sunday until all four candles are lit on the fourth Sunday. A fifth, white candle known as the Christ candle sometimes sits unlit in the centre of the wreath; it is only lit on Christmas Eve.

### The Four Sundays and Themes of Advent

- First candle (purple) - HOPE (The Prophecy Candle)
- Second candle (purple) - PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle)
- Third candle (pink) - JOY (The Shepherd's Candle)
- Fourth candle (purple) - LOVE (The Angel's Candle)

