



Holbrook C of E Primary School

Together we Learn

Upcoming dates

18.12.23 – Christmas party day

19.12.23 – End of term reports out

21.12.23 – Christmas Church Service

08.01.24 – INSET day – no children in school

A full lists of dates for the year can be found on the school website

A message from Mrs Taylor: This is the last newsletter of the term, and indeed of 2023, so I will take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. It has been another busy term with children enjoying a huge range of exciting activities, starting way back in September with our 'Bird Man Visit', through theatre visits, school trips, sport tournaments, choir performances and, still to come, Christmas parties. A huge thank you to all our staff who really do put everything into making school an exciting and enriching place to be. Thank you too to parent helpers and our PFA who support us to provide the best for our children.

Christmas Service: If you are able to support us walking down to church next Thursday, please get in touch with Mrs Swinfield. A reminder that this service is open to parent/carers and will be attended by children from Year 1 up. The service starts at 10am at St Michael's Church.



Choir: The school choir and our Year 3 and 4 children put on a fabulous performance for us this Tuesday and Thursday – thank you so much if you were able to join us. Scarlett has written a report about choir and the event: **“Hello everyone who wants to do choir. We practice at lunchtime for about half an hour. Year 3 and 4 also have class lessons. We recently did a performance and we sang: ‘Tomorrow’ from the film ‘Annie’ and ‘I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas’. We did actions for this song. We also sang ‘I Saw Three Ships’ – a Christmas carol you may not be familiar with. I thought it was a really good performance but it was also really scary – in front of all those adults and the whole school!”**

Holiday safeguarding arrangements: Over the holidays, any safeguarding concerns should be directed to Call Derbyshire - **01629 533190**. If you believe a child to be in immediate danger, please phone 999. You may also be concerned about the welfare of an adult living in the same home. If you are the victim of abuse, or you think you know someone who is being or has been abused, it is really important to get help and advice or make a referral. The same number as above can be used.

This service is available between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday, and between 9.30am and 4pm on Saturdays. Outside these times contact the out of hours service 01629 532600.

Christingle: Everyone had lots of fun making Christingles with Rev Rachel last week. Jacob would like to tell you all about it: “**I put the tape around the orange. I put fruit on it. I put a candle on it and a black stick in it. I liked making it.**” Martha drew this lovely picture to show you what a Christingle looks like.



Christmas dinner: Wednesday was Christmas dinner day and Mr Thornley and his kitchen team provided staff and children with a lovely meal which we enjoyed with some Christmas Music. You can see some of Class 4 here sporting their festive hats and jumpers for the occasion!

School Improvement Updates:

The end of term one seems a good time to reflect on some of our school improvement priorities this term. These are some of our development actions this term:

- Implemented a forest school curriculum to be accessed by all children to maximise the learning potential of our outdoor spaces
- Supported children's well-being through the development of our nurture nest, implemented nurture interventions and provided further ways for children to share their worries through, for example, our worry tree
- Further developed our curriculum in all areas to ensure what we teach children is clearly sequenced, rigorous and progressive
- Focussed particularly closely on children's reading in lower key stage two, to make sure that anyone who needs further phonics support gets what they need to make good progress
- Begun to focus on oracy with children, helping them to express their ideas clearly and confidently
- Enhanced our citizenship teaching through our first 'British Parliament Week' including an MP visit
- Provided a range of leadership opportunities for children to ensure everyone has the opportunity to contribute actively to our community
- Introduced expert singing tuition for Years 3 and 4 to enhance the music curriculum
- Reviewed termly reports to include more information for everyone, and particularly for children with additional needs
- Redecorated Classes 3 and 5 to provide calm learning spaces and improved the learning environment in other parts of school
- Rolled out new laptops for use in classrooms to support our computing teaching

Christmas parties: Monday is Christmas party day! All children can come in their party clothes. Rather than regular PE, all children will be enjoying party games in the hall (even if it isn't their PE day) so please make sure footwear is suitable for running around, and that clothes are warm enough for playtime.