



Head Teacher's News



BE CONFIDENT

Countdown to Christmas – **3 days** till Christmas!

Christmas Performances

I am so disappointed this year not to have been able to watch the majority of the children's Christmas performances due to my absence, through illness. A big thank you needs to go to Mrs Markham for stepping in for me.

I hope that you all enjoyed the performances you attended, be it FS1, FS2, Year 1 and 2 or with us at the church for our junior classes.

What a lot was on offer this year with FS1, treating us to a Christmas singalong, FS2 performing 'A King Is Born' and Years 1 and 2 with an amazing performance of 'Humph the Camel.' The children looked fantastic and did an incredible job of learning all their songs and lines. I am sure it brought a smile to everyone's face and that you all went away in a Christmassy mood. Well done to all the staff and children involved.

It is the first time the whole of KS2 has come together to perform in the church.

Whilst writing this I am hoping I may be better to attend this special performance, including individual musicians, class group pieces, the choir and much more! We would like to thank Rev Dom and all at St Margaret's for inviting us into their church.



Christmas Lunch

Mrs Grubba and her fantastic team served up their amazing Christmas lunch this Wednesday with all the trimmings – yum yum! All the children wore their Christmas party hats and the house and vice captains acted as waiters and waitresses to serve dinner to all the children partaking in the Christmas feast.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties for each class were held on Friday. The children played games with the food being provided by the school/PTA.



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PTA

Christmas Movie Night – with Santa!

The PTA held a movie night last Wednesday. The children had a fantastic time watching the films they voted for including a hot chocolate (with marshmallows) mid-way through, popcorn and a lovely goody bag to leave with at the end. The audience with Santa was magical! FS also enjoyed their party and a live visit from Santa today! A huge thank you to our newly formed PTA who did a magnificent job!

I hope you all had time to visit the Christmas shop last Friday and find a little something for the special day. Once again this was run, very successfully, by the PTA with some help from our year 6 pupils.

PTA Update

The PTA had a busy few weeks with their Christmas events;

We hope you all loved receiving your Christmas artwork - there were some fabulous and creative designs!

Christmas movie night was enjoyed by all and the Santa messages were a lovely surprise for the children.

The Christmas shop was a huge success with lots of children coming to spend their pocket money, we had some wonderful helpers from Year 6 and it was lovely to see some parents pop in later on too.

FS classes have enjoyed their Christmas party too and got a chance to watch a movie, speak with Santa and have some yummy snacks.

The Christmas tree competition was a fun and exciting end to the week of events and we can announce that Hannah in Year 1 was the winner!!

Our Christmas events combined raised over £500 for the PTA fund and we are excited to continue momentum into the new year - we'll share details then about how you can get involved to support.

We are also really pleased to share with you all following the fundraising for Isla, in Year 1, who suffered a loss recently, has received £300 to put towards a very special experience for her with her family. Thank you all for your support and kind donations.

BE A LIFE LONG LEARNER

Academy Status

In case you missed my last update, the academy process was slightly delayed and our new target date to join the Summit Learning Trust, is the 1st February 2024.

Parents Evenings for February

Parents evenings will be held on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February 2024. We will once again be asking you to book online using School Cloud. This will be an opportunity to look at children's books as well as discussing your child's progress with their class teacher. We will let you know when bookings will be opened.

Staff Update

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new lunchtime supervisors. Please welcome Mrs Nunes, Mrs Bi (yes, we already have a Miss Bi – they are sisters!) and Mrs Chilke (supply lunch time supervisor) who have all joined us recently.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Term Ends—Friday 22nd December 2023

Term Begins—Monday 8th January 2024

Inset Days 2023—2024

Thursday 9th May 2024

Friday 21st June 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024



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Christmas Bauble Competition

A huge thank you to Miss Ali for organising the Christmas bauble Competition this year and for all those children who entered. I am pleased to announce the following winners all of who will enjoy an afternoon tea, including drinks and the children's favourite cakes, with myself after Christmas break.

FS1- Tara

Y1- Madison

y3- Kenon

Y5- Thomas

FS2- Amelia

Y2- Olivia

Y4- Lucas

Y6- Shoaib



BE RESPECTFUL

School Choir

A huge well done to our magnificent school choir, who wowed the parents and the shoppers in the centre of Touchwood on Monday 11th December. It is a competition, so if you would like to support the school choir you can go online and vote until December 30th.

[Christmas Choir — Touchwood Solihull \(christmasattouchwood.co.uk\)](http://christmasattouchwood.co.uk)

The more votes the better the chance we may come out on top!

The choir also sang for the residents at Solihull Hospital on Tuesday this week. I am sure they made everyone feel much better!

Thank you to Miss Maddock for all her hard work in forming, organising and supporting the choir to attend all these events.

On Thursday, we held our first (hopefully of many) concerts at St Margaret's Church. We were blown away with the incredible musical skills on display, from recorders, to guitars, to ukuleles, to solos, to jingle bells, to Spanish singing, to singing, we had it all. A big thank you to all the adults who supported this event.

We had another amazing musical opportunity this week for our Year 5 and 6 children who will be going to Young Voices in the new year. ITV Central News came to film us singing and talking about the event. It will be broadcast in the new year and we will certainly let you know the date!

As always, thank you to all the grown ups who have supported our school events, we really appreciate it.

School Council

The school council, along with Mrs Knight, organised our Christmas Jumper day last week for which we had an incredible array of festive sweaters on display. Thank you if you donated online or gave cash on the day.

Rudolf Run!

We all ran like reindeer, in our Christmas jumpers again this year. It was not the weather we hoped for but we still carried on albeit indoors. A thank you to all who sponsored or donated we raised an amazing £444 for Birmingham Hospice.

Just Giving

We would like to thank all parents who have donated to the Just Giving page for Isla Wainwright. So far it has raised £300 which Isla's mum will be putting towards a holiday to visit family in Cyprus.

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BE SAFE AND BE HEALTHY

Before and After School Clubs

Stardust Dance Club and Lego club will both be starting again the first week back in January. Separate communications have been sent out explaining how you book these as they are direct with the relevant club.

Information regarding all other clubs will follow shortly.

School Choir will be starting the second week back next term.

Being the final letter of 2023 I would like to wish all our children and families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! We all hope you have a truly magical time.

Medical Appointments

We are still getting a high number of children leaving during the school day to attend medical appointments. Where possible, please avoid making medical appointments (including dental/optician appointments) during school hours.

Attendance

Please see below the latest attendance statistics:-



<i>Class</i>	<i>Week Ending 8th December</i>	<i>Week Ending 15th December</i>	<i>Week Ending 22nd December</i>	<i>Combined</i>
FS1	95.38%	93.8%	92.72%	94.34%
FS2	92.98%	89.3%	90.97	91.08%
Year 1	95%	99.29%	98.57%	97.62%
Year 2	93.6%	93.33%	93%	93.31%
Year 3	94.33%	94.67%	90.33%	93.11%
Year 4	92.22%	92.59%	88.52%	91.11%
Year 5	93.45%	95.52%	92.07%	93.68%
Year 6	94%	96%	91.67%	93.89%

Congratulations to **Y1** for having the highest attendance overall in infants and **Y6** for having the highest attendance overall in Juniors.

Gold Book



Class	Week Ending 22nd December 2023
FS1—Gold Award	The Whole Class
Bee Award	Luna
Bees Knees	Scarlett
FS2—Gold Award	The Whole Class
Bee Award	Mahd
Bees Knees	Amelia
Year 1—Gold Award	Ariya
Bee Award	Elvana
Bees Knees	Alizah
Year 2—Gold Award	Lauren
Bee Award	Mustafa
Bees Knees	Joan
Year 3—Gold Award	Pippa
Bee Award	Arlo
Bees Knees	Ammarah
Year 4—Gold Award	Henry
Bee Award	Frankie
Bees Knees	Joshua
Year 5—Gold Award	Martha
Bee Award	Harry
Bees Knees	Mia
Year 6—Gold Award	Colin
Bee Award	Layla
Bees Knees	Shoaib

