



# *Archibald First School*

## *Autumn Term 2 Newsletter*

### *2018*



What another brilliant half term! It is hard to believe we are now (nearly) a third of the way through the school year. December is finally here so it is safe to say the word 'Christmas!' The hall has been decorated with the tree and fabulous art work inspired by a 'Winter Theme'.

The children continue to impress us with their attitudes to each other and to learning, their individual progress and their engagement with school life.

Thank you, again, for all your support for your children and for the school as a whole. We hope that you have a lovely holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you on Monday 7th January 2019.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and healthy holiday, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## *GST Poppies and Poems: A Week of Remembrance*



Our GST Poppies and Poem week was a tremendous success. The children proved to be truly inspired by the theme and took on board the importance of this significant event in their history. The idea of saying thank you was a key feature for the younger children whilst the older children explored the animals that played their part in the war and significant events such as the Christmas Day Truce.

Thank you to Trinity Church for providing the space to showcase our work collectively as a Trust.

Follow this link to find out all about it <https://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/parents-information/letters/>

# Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch for Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 is being served on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The School Council would also like to invite all the children to dress up in a Christmas outfit. This is not a fundraiser, just a School Council fun day for all children and staff.



## Christmas Church Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will be held at Trinity Church, High Street, Gosforth, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm. Throughout the church service the children will be acting out the nativity, and there will be lots of festive singing. It would be lovely to see you all there and seats will be available from 1.20pm.

Please watch out for the 'reserved' and 'class signs' as we need these pews for the children.

If you are able to join us at the church your child can be signed out and taken home at the end of the service. We would therefore suggest that book bags are not sent into school on the last day of term. The children will take their packed lunches to the church so that they are able to go straight home.

At the end of the service those children whose parents are unable to join us will return to school and can be collected at the normal time of 3.15pm.



## #AFSFamilyTime

Enjoy  
Life  
It's  
Family  
Time

Over the Christmas break why not tag us @archibaldfirst or include the hashtag #AFSFamilytime to share your special family time?

Some ideas for the holidays

Christmas baking, a winter walk, winter art, a walk along the beach with a hot chocolate at the end, ice skating, snuggling up sharing books, watching Christmas movies, a duvet day!

What will you get up to?

# *Congratulations Mrs Watson*

As some of you may have noticed Mrs Watson is expecting baby number three. Congratulations to Mrs Watson (Nursery 1) and her family from everyone at Archibald.

The staff will be waiting for cuddles from the new arrival who is due mid-spring.

A nursery teacher will be appointed after the Christmas holidays to begin prior to Mrs Watson's maternity leave commencing, and we will inform nursery parents of the appointment once it is made.



## *Mrs West: Our Family Support Advisor*

From January 2019, Mrs West will be in school to families from 8.00am-1.00pm on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday.

Mrs West can offer support in the following areas:

- Family Learning (literacy and numeracy skills)
- Enrolment on parenting programmes/college courses
- Behaviour Support
- Emotional wellbeing for children and adults
- Transition to Middle School
- Signposting to other support services
- Making referrals to School Health and Children and Young People Service

Please contact Diana on 07879485993 or [diana.west@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:diana.west@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk).

## *Archibald Toddlers*

Toddlers will continue to run on a Friday. It continues to be in high demand which means that it is currently full with a waiting list for parents with a sibling in Archibald.

Thank you Mrs West for running this popular morning activity.



# *School Visit Packed Lunches - EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2*

We recently informed you that as children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were all entitled to a Universal Infant Free school Meal school would now provide a packed lunch for your child on any school visits. On any visit forms you will be asked to indicate if you would like to provide your own.

School will therefore only provide the number of packed lunches required. Please ensure that you make a note at home to remember to provide your own packed lunch if this is what you have indicated on your form.

Mrs Smith and the kitchen staff work hard to make the packed lunches fresh and as you will understand it is very hard to suddenly prepare more lunches at very short notice for children who have forgotten theirs, particularly as the classes need to leave promptly for metro and bus journeys. Small paper carrier bags are used for the packed lunches however we will be asking children to bring in their own bag (carrier bag is fine) to put this in on the day.

Thank you for your support and help with this.



# Christmas Productions

Christmas Productions commence next week! Each Key Stage is working hard to put the finishing touches to their performances ready for their live audiences. The singing sounds fantastic and there are lots of smiles from the children.

Thank you for all your support with learning lines, providing costumes, and of course, listening to the songs being repeatedly sung around the house; We are sure that you will be word perfect too!

Another big thank you must go to the staff who work with the children to pull it altogether.

We hope you all enjoy the show!

## Polite Reminder

Doors to the school will open 10 minutes before the performances as this allows us the time to set up the hall and get all the children ready.

Please remember that you must bring your tickets with you to show on the door.

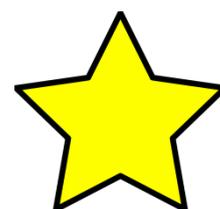
Thank you for your support with this. As you will understand the audience number we can have for the productions is governed by health and safety standards. This means that all adults will need to be seated during the performances and can only attend a show for which they have a ticket. We still have spare tickets for the EYFS shows and a few tickets for the performances for parents with young children for both KS1 and KS2. Please pop into the office to find out more.

Buggies and prams cannot be taken into the big hall or left in corridors due to fire restrictions.

Coffee, tea and sweet mince pies will be served by the PTFA after the main performances in the small hall.

## The Shows

The Early Years Production of *The Gold Star Inn* is looking fantastic!!! All of the children have worked so hard to learn their lines and when to get on and off the stage. Mrs Nelson says *'They are far braver than her'*. Watch out for the brilliant Makaton signing to go along with the singing. What an amazing achievement for all the children and staff to learn this together. We can't wait for the show stopping performances!



Key Stage 1 will present **Straw & Order** set in a courtroom in the middle of Bethlehem...The cows feel pushed out of their stable and they want it back! The donkeys, accused of having invited over a whole host of people, including a baby, deny all charges. What will Judge Grumps do?



Key Stage 2 will put on a fabulous Christmas Concert to get everyone in the festive spirit. Through a series of songs, readings, poems and dance the children will entertain and impress their audience with their confidence, enthusiasm and talent; we were very proud of them all. A special mention goes out to our fabulous solo singers and extremely competent music directors.

# *Nursery Applications 2019*

Archibald First School offer 15 hours of free nursery provision to children who are aged 3 on or before 31 August 2019. For 2019 we are also offering an option of 30 hours per week. The hours are offered as either Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3.

## **Option 1:**

Monday 8.45 – 3.15  
Tuesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Wednesday 8.45 – 11.30

## **Option 2:**

Wednesday 12.30 – 3.15  
Thursday 8.45 – 3.15  
Friday 8.45 – 3.15

## **Option 3:**

Monday 8.45 – 3.15  
Tuesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Wednesday 8.45 – 3.15  
Thursday 8.45 – 3.15  
Friday 8.45 – 3.15



If your child is 3 on or before 31 August 2019 and is due to start Nursery in September 2019 we would be delighted to welcome you into the Early Years Unit for a visit, show you around and answer any questions you may have.

These visits take place throughout the spring term 2019 for Nursery on Tuesdays and Thursdays prior to the dates that the applications need to be submitted. Please ring the school office from Monday 14 January 2019 to make a visit.

## **Nursery Deadline Dates**

Nursery applications will be available from the School Office from 14 January 2019. Please note that your child's birth certificate and proof of your home address must be shown with the application form.

Deadline for applications: 22 March 2019

Deadline for accepting a place: 26 April 2019

Please note that submitting more than one application to other schools slows down the allocation process.

## *Applying for Reception Places*

Please ensure that you apply for the next stage of your child's education by the closing date below. Attending our Nursery does NOT guarantee your child a place in Reception. Details can be obtained at

<http://newcastle.gov.uk/education-and-learning/admissions-and-schooltransfers>

## **Closing Dates**

Reception 2019: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at noon

# News and Events



## Children in Need

We raised a fantastic £270 pounds! For Children in Need! Thank you so much for your generous donations!

## GST Trust Video

Mrs Jones attended a session with the other trust schools to plan a video about our school and the trust. The finished video will be on our website in June as we will spend most of this year capturing how we are having fun and achieving excellence at Archibald. Look out for Mrs Jones and her camera capturing all the excitement of Christmas!

## Year 4 - Hindu Temple

Earlier this half term, Year 4 were extremely lucky as they got to visit the Hindu Temple. They travelled there by coach and when they arrived, they felt excited and curious. The first thing they had to do was take their shoes off! Why might that be? Well, one of the reasons why they did this is because the sacred animal in Hinduism is the cow, so it was for respect to the gods, goddesses and animals. Next, they were able to explore the Temple whilst the guide told them lots of interesting information. He tested them on their Hindu Gods and Goddess knowledge, and they were very good! All around the room, there were pictures and models of different gods and goddesses. It looked beautiful. After they had their time to explore, they were very fortunate because they were able to watch and listen to a real Hindu prayer, with bells, candles and singing.

## EYFS- Whitehouse Farm Trip

Well it was cold, it was wet but we had the best time at the farm. We met elves, we went on a tractor ride we fed goats, horses, donkey's, sheep, we held guinea pigs, rabbits, stroked a dragon as well as meeting the big man himself - Santa!! The children were so well behaved and after a long day quite a lot had a snooze on the way home.

## PE

What a wonderful start to PE and Sport this year. We have had many opportunities to compete through Gosforth Gets Going competitions such as cricket and basketball, and attended multi skills events to promote our healthy and active lifestyles. After half term, EYFS will be trying out some yoga and Dance Club will start for KS2 in the run up to the Newcastle City Dance Festival!

## Anti-Bullying Week

This year's theme for Anti-Bullying Week was '#ChooseRespect' and as a school we have fully embraced it! We started the week with Odd Socks Day to celebrate our differences; it was great to see so many colours up and down the school. Awareness was raised about the importance and acceptance of difference at Archibald. The poster competition also started, and children were encouraged to design a poster which represented #ChooseRespect. There were so many excellent designs to choose from, it was a very very tricky choice! Well done to all those who participated. Throughout the week, lots of different activities were carried out, from the Ugly Duckling to religion, drama to discussion, #ChooseRespect was on everyone's mind. A really important delivery was made to each classroom this week, a special post box for all to use. If someone is feeling proud, worried or anything in between, and they need to let someone know, they can write it down and pop it in the post box because sometimes it can be tricky to talk about how we're feeling! Thank you all for making Anti-Bullying Week such a success; let's make sure we all continue to #ChooseRespect.

#### **Year 4 - Centre For Life**

On Monday 3rd December, Year 4 were extremely lucky because they got to go ice skating at the Centre for Life...

On arriving at the Centre for Life, the children explore the Brain Zone! Lots of children enjoyed the different ways to investigate the brain, one of these ways allowed the children to use technology to look inside the brain! A hugely popular attraction was the toilet. It looked like a toilet, but it was actually a water fountain. The water was cold, but definitely drinkable! Most of the things tested whether you believe your brain, or your sight.

After the Brain Zone, they went on the 4D Motion Ride which took the children on the Polar Express. They were also to visit the planetarium to watch a movie called 'Alien Worlds', which taught the children some more interesting facts about the planets in our solar system. The final treat was the ice skating which was a combination of determination, resilience, laughter, bumped bottoms and fun!

All of the staff and helpers agreed that it was an excellent day, and were all very proud of everyone for trying their best and representing Archibald so well.

#### **Year 1**

On Tuesday 4 December, Year 1 visited All Saints church and had a lovely time. They found the organ that is used to play music, and the font, which is used to baptise babies! All the children really enjoyed looking at the stained glass windows and the stories that they told.

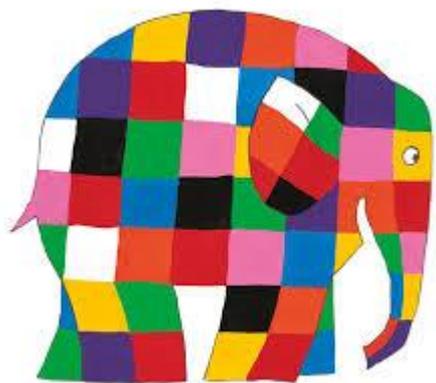
#### **Christmas Fair**

A BIG thank you to the PTFA for organising the Christmas Fair on 5 December. A huge £2,200 was raised! Thank you to all of you who made donations – from the wonderful prizes to jam jars, teddies to Reception Classes baking cakes. Thanks also to those who donated their time and helped out at the event and those who came on the night.

#### **Year 3**

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their Extreme Earth topic! We have found out about many types of extreme weather and even brought them to life in the classroom. Our first natural disaster involved using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to make a volcanic eruption! After that it was time for tornadoes in a bottle. This entailed using bottles and water to make a vortex. This actually changes how the water comes out of the bottle when compared to letting it out normally. Why don't you ask us what happened? Next we used crackers and icing to show how tectonic plates move to create earthquakes. We've even dealt with milder weather and created our very own windsocks to show which way the wind is blowing!

## *Elmer*



After the success of the Great North Snowdogs, an even bigger set of feet will be parading through our streets, parks and coastline – *Elmer the Elephant's Great North Parade* is coming to town!

The really exciting news is that Archibald are getting their very own ELMER in 2019! The children will be putting on their creative hats as we design and decorate our Elmer that will be included in the trail around our region.

Please speak to Miss. Pearson if you feel you have any creative or design skills that you could offer to enhance this fantastic project.

# PTFA Playground Project

As you know the PTFA is here to raise money for the school and ensure that all the children benefit from the funds to help enhance their experience at Archibald First School.

This year the PTFA would love to invest a large sum of money into enhancing and developing the outdoor area at the school.

Below are some of the plans (although not finalised)

## Playground equipment, markings and games

- Daily mile track + exercise stations and sports markings
- More playground markings (e.g. twister, maze)
- Wall mounted games / activities (e.g. noughts and crosses, jigsaws)
- 2 football goals (to be used as part of the pre-existing pitch markings)
- Removal of wooden planters (aim to recycle timber within Green Zone)

## 'Creative Play' Zone

- Wooden stage (making use of pre-existing seating areas)
- Wall mounted activities (e.g. musical chimes, drums)

## Early Years

- New play lodge

## Green Zone

- Development of the green area round the back of the school to try and incorporate a 'forest school' feel
- New planters / benches
- Den building posts
- Fire pit
- Bug hotel

The children will be involved with the decision making regarding the games, activities and playground markings etc. The PTFA are also particularly keen to work with the Green Team over the development of the Green Zone.

To help top up the PTFA funds the PTFA are looking for any grants or corporate donations that may be available and would appreciate any help or guidance from parents and friends of the school that may be able to offer in this area. If this is something you can support with, please get in touch with the PTFA ([archibaldchair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:archibaldchair@yahoo.co.uk)).



# Important Reminders

## Drinks in school

Every classroom has a water cooler and paper cups which all children can access throughout the day.

Please remember that water bottles should **not** be brought into school unless there is an explicit medical reason, in which case only plain, still water must be in the bottles.

Juice and flavoured water are not permitted.



## A safe environment for everyone

Please remember that dogs, with the exception of guide dogs, are not allowed with the school grounds even if they are carried. If you chose to secure your dog outside the school, please make sure it is away from entrances and not left unattended.



## Parking

Thank you to all those parents who continue to 'park and walk'; we appreciate your support in making the roads close to school safer for children and their parents.

Please do not park on the yellow lines or in the alley.



## Healthy School - Health and Balance Packed lunches

As a healthy school all meals prepared are balanced. We ask that parents supplying packed lunches from home consider this carefully and provide a balance of savoury and sweet along with fruit. No pop or fizzy drinks should be included. We ask that all sweets / confectionary are kept for treats at home.

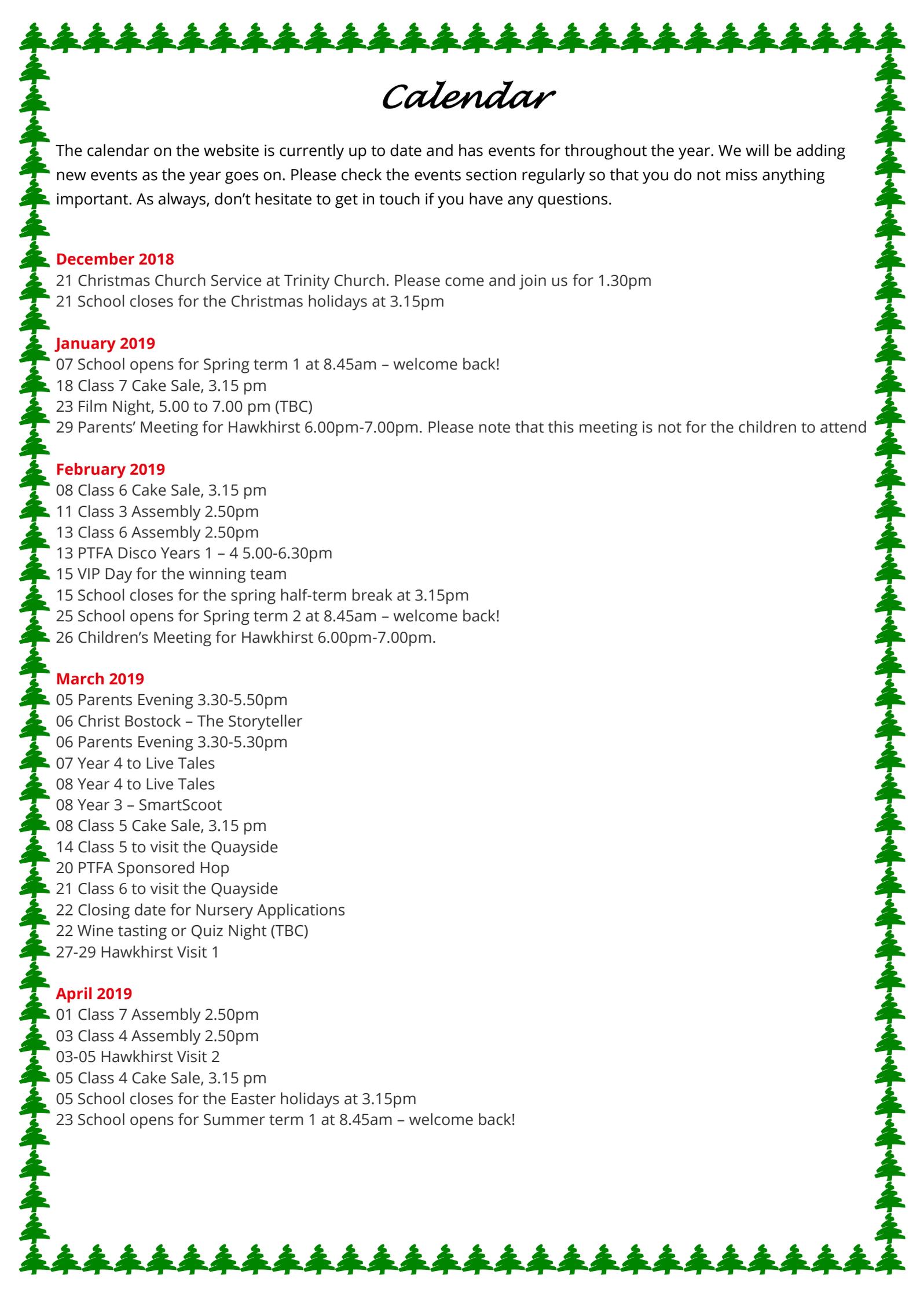


## Uniform, coats and names belongings...

The children are all looking exceptionally smart in their uniforms. We are all wearing the correct uniform and shoes. Please continue to support this after half term.

It is essential that **all** children have a suitable coat, hats and gloves with them every day. We play outside every day - even when the temperature drops!

**Over the holidays please double check that your child's name is inside each item and check that all shoes and PE clothing stills fits ready for the Spring Term.**



# Calendar

The calendar on the website is currently up to date and has events for throughout the year. We will be adding new events as the year goes on. Please check the events section regularly so that you do not miss anything important. As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

## December 2018

- 21 Christmas Church Service at Trinity Church. Please come and join us for 1.30pm
- 21 School closes for the Christmas holidays at 3.15pm

## January 2019

- 07 School opens for Spring term 1 at 8.45am – welcome back!
- 18 Class 7 Cake Sale, 3.15 pm
- 23 Film Night, 5.00 to 7.00 pm (TBC)
- 29 Parents' Meeting for Hawkthirst 6.00pm-7.00pm. Please note that this meeting is not for the children to attend

## February 2019

- 08 Class 6 Cake Sale, 3.15 pm
- 11 Class 3 Assembly 2.50pm
- 13 Class 6 Assembly 2.50pm
- 13 PTFA Disco Years 1 – 4 5.00-6.30pm
- 15 VIP Day for the winning team
- 15 School closes for the spring half-term break at 3.15pm
- 25 School opens for Spring term 2 at 8.45am – welcome back!
- 26 Children's Meeting for Hawkthirst 6.00pm-7.00pm.

## March 2019

- 05 Parents Evening 3.30-5.50pm
- 06 Christ Bostock – The Storyteller
- 06 Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm
- 07 Year 4 to Live Tales
- 08 Year 4 to Live Tales
- 08 Year 3 – SmartScoot
- 08 Class 5 Cake Sale, 3.15 pm
- 14 Class 5 to visit the Quayside
- 20 PTFA Sponsored Hop
- 21 Class 6 to visit the Quayside
- 22 Closing date for Nursery Applications
- 22 Wine tasting or Quiz Night (TBC)
- 27-29 Hawkthirst Visit 1

## April 2019

- 01 Class 7 Assembly 2.50pm
- 03 Class 4 Assembly 2.50pm
- 03-05 Hawkthirst Visit 2
- 05 Class 4 Cake Sale, 3.15 pm
- 05 School closes for the Easter holidays at 3.15pm
- 23 School opens for Summer term 1 at 8.45am – welcome back!