

St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



Dear Parents,

The end of term has reached us again and, once again, I can't believe how fast the time has gone! In a time where so many things have stood still, it is amazing how fast all the children have settled, progressed and normalised all the changes made. My thanks, to all the team, within our Federation, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we can continue to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children, where our pupils can continue to learn and develop, as well as provide a sense of normality in what would otherwise seem very strange times.

Last Day

Our last day of term, this year, is Friday 18th December with our current end of day arrangements remaining the same. Our first day back at school will be Monday 4th January.

Policies

Thank-you to everyone who has made comments on our proposed Behaviour, Relationships and PSHE policies. When we return, the school leadership team will be reflecting on the comments made and making amendments as needed. These policies will then be discussed further with the full governing body before being implemented in each of our schools.

Covid

Firstly, I cannot express my thanks to all those who have communicated support and kind words in such challenging times. Such messages of kindness and thoughtfulness go a long way and are really appreciated. We, like schools all over the country, continue to navigate through the pandemic and work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children and staff, remains a priority. There now seems to be light at the end of the tunnel and the possibility of returning to a sense of the old normal. However, until this time I would urge everyone to remain vigilant, support distancing measures and take appropriate action should you suspect a case of covid within your household (more information on this can be found on our website).

Test and Trace

During the school holiday, all schools have been asked to support test and trace for 6 days after the last point of teaching. We therefore have to ask that should your child develop any symptoms (**within 48 hours after leaving**

In this Issue:

- ◇ Mr Bowen's Message
- ◇ Message from Revd Potterton
- ◇ Robins
- ◇ Woodpeckers
- ◇ Owls
- ◇ PTA Thank You, Making Community Decorations and Cards
- ◇ SMAA Christmas Message
- ◇ Diary dates and Notices

Mr Bowen's Message Continued...

leaving school on Friday 18th December), and subsequently receives a positive covid test result, it is imperative that you inform the school immediately, in order for us to notify any potential contacts up to 3.15pm on 24th Dec.

Our admin team in Lyndhurst will be checking their emails daily, each morning by 10am, for any notifications of positive covid cases. So please email adminoffice@lyndhurst.hants.sch.uk (you can also email directly using our school website). The last time the emails will be checked will be 3.15 on the 24th December.

PLEASE DO NOT PHONE YOUR SCHOOL OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE SCHOOL ANSWERPHONE OR EMAIL ANY OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS AS THESE WILL NOT BE PICKED UP UNTIL JANUARY 4TH WHEN SCHOOL REOPENS.

In your email, please include your child's full name, class and school (as it may not be your child's admin team who pick up the email), the date and time of when your child's symptoms started and please let us know if your child attended any before or after school provision, 48 hours before symptoms started.

I hope that everyone is able to keep safe and well over Christmas and continue to be prepared to support ongoing efforts to reduce transmission, if needed. Please note that the Lyndhurst email account will not be checked after 3.15pm on the 24th December until we return to school on the 4th January.

Parent meetings

Next term, we are aiming for parent meetings to take place during the week beginning 22nd March. More information on this, will follow nearer the time.

Website

Our hope is that you can all enjoy quality family time, rest, relax, reconnect and share in the excitement and magic of Christmas.

As the children return to school, and learning starts to accelerate again, I hope you will all continue to make best use of our online platforms, such as reading eggs and mathletics. I would also like to draw your attention to a number of resources available on our website as well. For those parents who are seeking a few more resources to support with home learning. These can be found on the main Oaks Federation page, under curriculum:

<https://www.oakscelearningfederation.co.uk/curriculum-resources/>

Phonics

Due to the disruptions last year, the government have asked for all Year Two pupils to take the Year One Phonics Screening Check. This is a simple check, consisting of 20 real and 20 pseudo words, which is aimed at identifying children who may benefit from additional phonic support. As a school we have to report on our outcomes to the department for education and you will be (if not already) receiving a letter letting you know of your child's outcome before the end of the term.

Update news

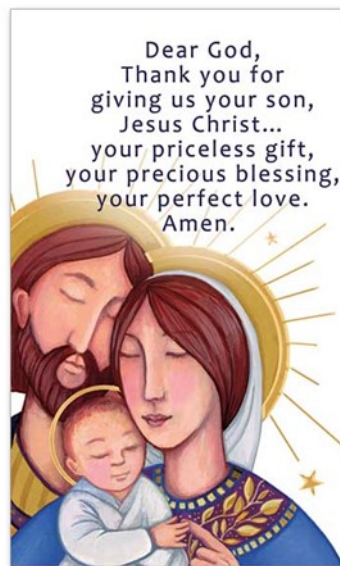
Did you know that we can issue permits for free parking in Lyndhurst, to help with collection and drop off? Also, we currently have spaces at our breakfast club (run by the school, from 8am) and afterschool club (run by New forest childcare). Take up on this can be on a regular or ad hoc basis – all you need to do is register your details. More information can be found on the 'Saint Michaels' page, on the school website, under key information –

Mr Bowen's Message Continued...

Looking for a school place?

Do you know anyone looking to start school in September? Please let them know that we currently have virtual tours of our school sites, which allow you to virtually walk around our schools and find out more information, on our school website.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and hope that, however you choose to spend this celebration, that you are all able to enjoy this time together, make some wonderful memories (and get *some* sleep on Christmas eve!)



Yours sincerely

M. Bowen.

Mat Bowen

Executive Headteacher

Important dates:

Parent meetings, more information to follow

INSET day

Message from Reverend Potterton

To say that these are challenging times is the great Christmas understatement isn't it. I want to firstly congratulate everyone who has worked hard this term to achieve high levels of learning and maintain such a positive atmosphere in the school. Understandably, the term has been full of unwelcome distractions and interruptions, but for all this, the children have contributed so much life to the school and are in the main looking forward to Christmas, well aware that it will not perhaps be the same as before. Of course, we understand that changes that have occurred during this past year at home will mean that some children will be nervous or even sad as they see Christmas coming. I am so pleased that School has been such a positive experience, giving value to those things that really matter, to 'love', 'respect' and 'compassion' - values which the children are understanding more and more.

Denzil has starred in weekly Collective Worship, and along with videos from the Open the Book Team, collective Worship has been delivered 'from a distance' via YouTube. It will be wonderful when those of us who take part in Collective Worship at the school can visit the classrooms once again.

I am delighted that last Monday, the children were thinking about and making their Christingles and that St Mike's has provided the oranges and candles this year. Along with supporting Christingle in the school, the Advent Booklets handed out to the children were donated by the church too.

We will all miss the children singing this year but on 23rd December, we hope there will be an opportunity for the community to come together to sing well known carols in the village. At St Mike's, we have asked the NFDC and Parish Council for permission to hold our Carol Service in the main carpark in the village where we can gather to sing together (following Covid Guidance). We are currently in discussion with the various authorities and once we get the go ahead, we will send a flyer home in the school bag sometime this week confirming that we can go ahead. So watch this space and put the possible date for the '**JOLLY CAREFUL CHRISTMAS CAROL SING**' on your calendars, planners and diaries! Let's gather as a local community to raise voices and lift spirits! **Wed 23 December, 5pm in the Long Stay part of the central carpark in Lyndhurst.** Details from communications@newforestparishes.com

At this outdoor service, we are asking everyone who comes to put bring donations of food for the **Lyndhurst Food Bank**. They will have a van present to collect all of your generous donations brought to the carol singing. We are now looking to provide food parcels for families moving into the New Year, so your generosity will be appreciated. We will also be collecting funds to cover expenses and support the food bank. See you there - hopefully.

So, can I wish you all a peaceful, safe and differently lovely Christmas and a New Year full of hope and invite you to join us at St Mike's, the Baptist or Roman Catholic Churches for our Christmas services, all advertised on line. Join us as we celebrate the gift of a Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord and the light and hope he brings to kings and shepherds alike!

Remember that our hope comes wrapped in a child, and as we celebrate Christmas as families this year, take a moment to look at your own children in the same way!

Revd David
david.potterton@newforestparishes.com

07468 527820



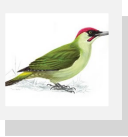


Year R Robins

Robins Class

The Robins have had a fantastic half term learning how children celebrate birthdays around the world. They have worked hard learning their new sounds and writing their names and have started taking reading books home. They have been amazing at cricket and developed lots of new skills. The Robins are currently practicing their Nativity play and will be recording it this week on Tapestry! Last Friday the Robins enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers, having a Christmas lunch and watching a super pantomime!





Year 1 Woodpeckers

Somehow we have already reached the end of term! We have been soaking up the Christmas spirit this week, with plenty of activities such as Christingle and the Christmas shop, as well as lots of stories and opportunities to create different things.

Last Friday, our Christmas jumper day, we finished our week off with watching this year's virtual pantomime. Although it was a little bit different to the usual, all the children were fully engaged and had plenty of laughs throughout.

On Wednesday morning this week we were working hard, filming our Nativity performance, which we are all very excited for you all to see!

We wish you a very merry festive period and are looking forward to getting back to the learning in the New Year!

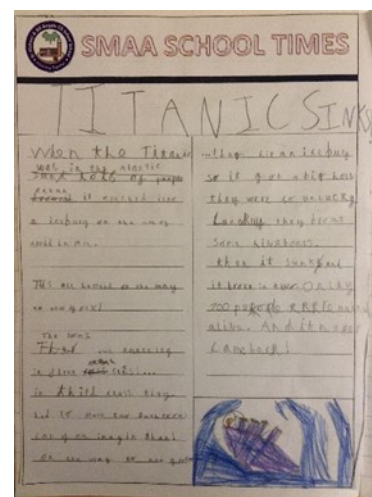
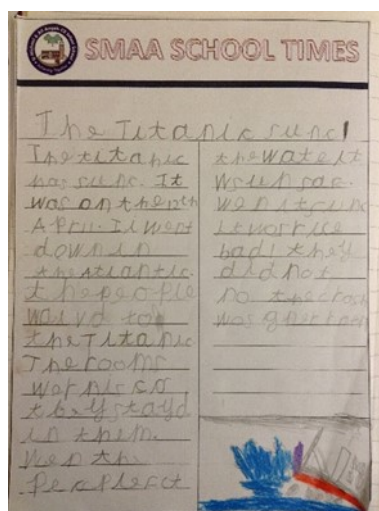
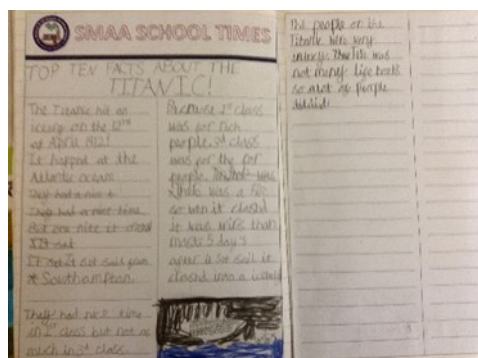
The Year 1 team





Year 2 Owls

This half term we travelled back in time! First, we visited 1912 and learnt all about the Titanic. We imagined we were journalists and wrote our own newspaper report about the catastrophe!



We also raised £330 for Children in Need! Owls class decided on, made posters for, organised and counted the money from the whole event! How courageous!



PTA and Parent Helpers Thank You

Thank you so much to all of our lovely parent helpers and PTA who have worked tirelessly to organise our Covid friendly Christmas Shop for the children this year. The PTA have also kindly provided the festive table cloths and crackers for our Christmas Lunch and have funded the Pantomime, oh yes they did!... Without you it wouldn't be possible to hold such fun and festive events, we really do

appreciate you all!

Community Christmas Decorations



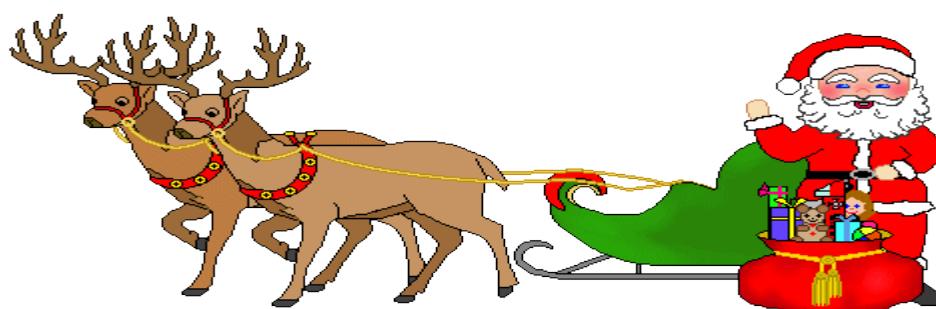
To help the Greenwood Tree Café re-open after lockdown, each child kindly decorated a Christmas decoration for them which are currently on display in the window to help bring Christmas joy to the community.

Lyndhurst Food Bank Christmas Cards



One of our lunchtime supervisors works as a volunteer at the Food Bank and asked the children if they could each make a Christmas card to go into the donation packs to support those in need. The children did a great job!

If anybody in Lyndhurst, Emery Down or Bank is in need of a little bit of help before Christmas, please call this number in confidence: 07485 489 275.





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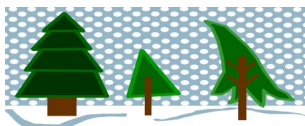
Wish You All

A Very

Merry Christmas



Diary Dates



Monday 4th January	First day back to school
Thursday 11h February	Last Day Of Term 3.15pm - 4.15pm After school gymnastics club, Years 1 and 2 only
Friday 12th February	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 22nd February	First Day Back To School

After School Club - Now Open TUESDAY EVENINGS

New Forest Child Care are pleased to announce that they will be extending their hours to include a Tuesday evening here at St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School.

Please use the link below to register your interest and book your child a place.



<https://www.newforestchildcare.co.uk/>



Christmas Holiday Dates

Break up Friday 18th December

Back to School Monday 4th January

