

Upham Newsletter

17 December 2021

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 4 Jan –
INSET Closure Day

Wednesday 5 Jan –
First Day Back in
Spring Term



5 x INSET Days for the year:

- Thursday 2 September
- Monday 1 November
- Tuesday 4 January
- Monday 28 February
- Summer 1 tbc

Communication This Week:

Mon 13 – Saints After
School Clubs booking link
10th, 13th & 15th -
Christmas Performance
links



Photo: Class 4's Christmas Production this week

2 Pages
Today

A few words from the headteacher...

Life seems so different at the moment due to the continued effects of the pandemic but in many ways just the same as always too! This week has had the expected mist of excited (though exhausted) children enjoying parties, Christmas lunch, Christmas craft activities and Christmas cooking. And learning doesn't stop either, with some subjects deliberately blocked so that children can spend sustained time learning skills, such as Class 3's Shadow Theatres which they made before performing to Class 1, or Class 4's Viking Longships bringing Art and DT learning together.



I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy a relaxing, rejuvenating break in amongst all of the excitement. Keep safe & well everyone!

Changes to COVID Rules

You will be aware that government advice has changed a little this week. Nothing is affecting us in school at the moment though and we anticipate a normal return in January. I would encourage LFD tests before return however.

I will use the Newsletter to point out any changes. The only one this week is:

If you are identified as a close contact (by Test and Trace) whether Omicron variant or not, you should complete 7 days of LFD tests instead of having to isolate.

Don't Forget:
Children return on
Wednesday 5
January (Tuesday
being an INSET
Closure Day)

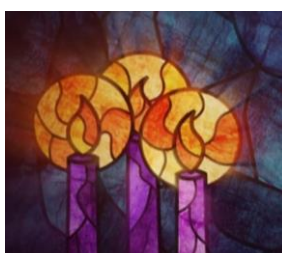
Productions

Class 4 performed their production to parents on Tuesday evening this week. Sadly this was without Miss Olver who is still having to isolate at home but the children did her proud and performed brilliantly.

I am so pleased, given everything happening at the moment that we were able to share these important moments with all of you – I have also been amazed by the huge number of views some of the recordings have had which is lovely!

3rd Week of Advent

We lit the third candle this week which represents St John the Baptist. He paved the way for Jesus and taught people to expect Him. In worship we discussed how John and Jesus had many similarities about their lives.



Keep Children Safe Online Over Christmas

With many children likely to receive devices over Christmas it is a good time to remind everyone about the need to keep children as safe as possible from the online dangers. Having said that, there are so many benefits too and I attach today with the Newsletter a guide detailing some of these. This guide is produced by an organisation called 'National Online Safety'. They produce guides for non-techy parents about every conceivable issue, from games such as Roblox, apps such as Tik Tok to how to set up filters. I would highly recommend the free resources. Have a look at their website:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides



Thank you – A week late!

I forget to add into last week's Newsletter a huge thank you to everyone for the FUS Christmas Fair earlier in the month. It was a fabulous event and all the hard work everyone put in really paid off. The committee members worked tirelessly but so many of you and your families volunteered and helped out – it was lovely to have some ex-pupils returning to help too. Thanks as well to everyone who attended. There were a few families who I had showed around on tours considering starting next September in Year R – what an amazing impression of our school family they would have found!

...and another

Thanks to FUS for providing the crackers for the children's Christmas lunch yesterday – they added just the right festive fun!

From Our Governors...

The Christmas tree is decorated, the class plays performed and we find ourselves at the end of term, with the excitement that the Christmas holidays bring. It has been a strange year for us all and thanks to everyone in our community, we have stood together to face the various challenges. Parents, you have worked tirelessly with the school staff throughout these trying times and your support of the school team and the pupils is greatly appreciated by all of the Governors.

I am sure you will agree with me that the dedication and commitment of all of the staff has been exceptional, ensuring that our school is a positive, happy place for the pupils to learn.

I would also like to thank my fellow Governors for their time, dedication and support that they so willingly give to the school.

On behalf of all of the Governors, we wish all pupils, their families and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gemma Rainger
Chair of Governors - on behalf of the Board of Governors

