

Upham Primary School

Church of England (Aided)

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Wednesday 3 December 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the many Christmas events planned over the next few weeks, I wanted to provide you with some information as new parents to our school, so you know what to expect. If you are not sure of anything, please feel free to ask for clarification.

Christmas Cards

Children always love giving cards out but as you can imagine, daily handing would rather get in the way of their activities. We therefore encourage children to put their cards into post boxes in their classrooms which are then handed out during the last week on one day. This also means that all the children receive cards and feel happy.

Christmas Decorations

I hope you have read in the newsletter about our tradition of hanging decorations on our tree. If you would still like to make one at home there is still time. The children enjoy spending the next few weeks looking at each other's creations.

Christmas productions on Wednesday 17th December

Each class produces a performance at Christmas. Dormice Class (Year R) perform a traditional nativity; Squirrels (Years 1&2) perform a Christmas story with a twist and Hedgehogs (Years 3&4) and Badgers (Years 5&6) each do a more complex Christmas story. We make sure that every child has some part to play on stage and has lines of some sort. This gives all of them the opportunity to utilize speaking and listening skills in a formal performance context – definitely one of the benefits of being in a small school! All the productions take place on the same day so that parents who need to take time off work only have to do one day. The Dormice performance will be the first, at around 9.30am.

You will soon receive a letter regarding tickets for these productions. Initially we give two per family to make sure that everyone can come but there is normally lots of extra space (because they are such a small class) so if you want more tickets for eg grandparents then we can usually accommodate. During the Dormice Class performance, a couple of year 6 buddies help on stage, partly to narrate to keep the story moving on but also to offer a little bit of emotional support to anyone who might need it. This letter also details how I hope to video the performance. The letter explains how the video is then distributed and that a copy is not posted in any public area or in a public area of YouTube – if you would like to discuss what this involves, please have a chat with me about it.

You are welcome to take photographs of your child performing; this does not infringe any data protection legislation. However, in taking a photo of your child you are likely to have others in the background so we ask parents to understand the need to help safeguard these children and not to post such photos in public spaces eg Facebook or send via email. We also ask parents not to use flash photography during performances as this will distract and put the

children off and we want them of course to succeed and perform with confidence; we will organise a 'photo call' at the end. Continued parental cooperation around this enables us to work in this way, if some parents do not follow this guidance, we would have to move to not allowing photographs at all.

The children will all get to see each other's performances in school, partly so they can watch friends and siblings but for the younger children it also raises their aspirations for what they will be able to do later on in their school life.

Christmas Lunch – Thursday 18th December

On Thursday 18th, the lunch option will be a Christmas lunch. If your child normally has a packed lunch but would like to join in and have a Christmas lunch this can be ordered in class on the day. In the Newsletter the week before, I will confirm the details. The children all start together and enjoy the staff serving them their lunch. If they are having a packed lunch, they will still sit with everyone else and still be a part of the fun. Once finished, they go outside as usual which means that lunchtime takes a little longer than normal.

Christmas Parties - Afternoon 18th December

After the Christmas lunch in the afternoon, children enjoy Christmas Parties in their classrooms. They do not need anything for this they will play some traditional games and have some fun together. For Dormice Class this is all important learning still, the social rules around playing games, winning and not-winning and joining in.

Christmas Jumper Day – Afternoon 18th December

We like to support the Save The Children Jumper Day so on the Christmas Lunch/ party day on 18th December, we will hold a day children can wear a Christmas jumper and make a donation. They do not have to do this – lots of children will wear school uniform. It's only the jumper that's different – normal school trousers, shoes etc. It's not expected that people will go out and buy one – that defeats the point of the charity, but if children happen to have one they can wear it and it gives a nice Christmassy feel to the day!

Christmas Service –Friday 19th December

On Friday 19th (the last day of term) we will finish the term with our Christmas Carol Service at the Blessed Mary church in Upham. We will walk the children up to the church so parents and families are invited to join us and meet us there for a 2pm start. There will be a range of songs, music, readings and traditional hymns. This is likely to finish by around 3pm so you can then collect your child and leave. If you cannot come to the service please let us know and we will walk back to school with them once the service has finished for a normal pick-up.

The children will be exploring many themes in class related to the Christmas story. In our collective worships, we light a traditional advent candle and talk to the children about what this symbolises. Our Christmas service is a return to these themes so that in all of the fun and excitement, we finish with a spiritual reminder about what Christmas is truly about.

This is a busy, but enjoyable time of year in school – the weekly Friday Newsletter is our key way of sharing information with you to confirm dates, explain events, precise timings etc so please keep checking it.

I hope you thoroughly enjoy your child's first Upham School Christmas with us!



Yours sincerely

David Woolley, Headteacher