



Photos: Hedgehogs Playing 'Toots' in their concert this week

**Upham CE (Aided) Primary School**

**Friday 5 December**

YR Y1&2 Y3&4 Y5&6

With all of the Christmas excitement going on, we will finish next week with a return to the spiritual meaning of Christmas at the church. On Friday afternoon, we will walk the children from school up to the Blessed Mary Church where they will sing songs and think about the true meaning of Christmas. You are most welcome to join us - this is always a popular event so space will be limited but I hope you enjoy sharing this with us. We will start around 2pm, when we get there. Be prepared to join in with some carols and enjoy the traditional song we always end with! After this, you are welcome to then take your children. If you cannot make it, we will walk those children remaining back down to school for a normal 3.30pm collection.

Please help us keep the children safe by avoiding driving past us as we are walking between 1.30 - 2pm on Upham Street. Approaching the church from other directions or parking by the school and walking up is much safer for them.

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Weds 17 Dec** Christmas Productions Day  
**Thurs 18 Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day  
**Thurs 18 Dec** Christmas Lunch (Y3-6 £3.20)  
**Thurs 18 Dec** Class Parties in afternoon  
**Fri 19 Dec** 2pm Christmas Church Service all welcome

**INSET Days left for 25/26**

- Mon 5 Jan
- Mon 23 Feb
- Fri 22 May

**Christmas Production Day**

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday for the productions. Just to confirm, the timings are:

- Dormice (YrR) - 9.30am** 'Shine Star, Shine!'
- Squirrels (Y1&2) - 11am** 'Born in a Barn!'
- Hedgehogs (Y3&4) - 2.30pm** 'Fleece Force'
- Badgers (Y5&6) - 6.30pm** 'Bethlehem the Musical'

Please note you will not be able to come into the building before this as we simply do not have space!

For the Badgers evening performance, children should not be dropped off before 6.10pm. Please note that FUS will be selling some soft drinks for parents during this performance so you may like to bring some change.

There will be a charity collection which the children will have chosen for each performance which will be online via 'Just Giving', details will be provided at the performance, so you won't need to remember cash!



**Hedgehogs Concert**

Children from Hedgehogs Class (Y3&4) held a concert for parents on Wednesday (photo above) where they showed off everything they have learned playing their instrument in Listen2Me this term. They have been learning the 'Toot', which is a recorder-like woodwind instrument played like a flute. They really showed off how they have mastered the breathing technique and finger positions for the notes. Well done!

**Check you haven't missed these communications this week:**

- Tues 9 Dec** - Email re Christmas productions arrangements
  - Video consent
  - Tickets
- Thurs 12 Dec** - Badgers (Y5/6) Email End of Autumn Term Treats

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### Please Park Considerably and Safely

With events coming thick and fast you will find yourself parking outside the school. Please be considerate of local residents and ensure you do not park across someone's drive. Also please ensure that you do not park where your car will prevent other vehicles passing (access for a fire engine being the key thing to think about). This is especially true if you arrive late when all the 'best spots' will be taken – you will have to venture further up the lane – there is always space at the rec.

On the subject of traffic, it's also been brought to my attention the speed some parents drive back down the lane after dropping off, obviously eager to be somewhere. High speeds make it extremely hazardous for pedestrians – the 30mph limit is there for good reason – please be mindful.



### Christmas Jumpers - Thursday

Children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers on Thursday – they will add atmosphere to the Christmas lunch and children will have some fun at Christmas parties in the afternoon (you don't need to do anything for this!).

Children should wear normal uniform, but a Christmas jumper instead of the school top, if they want to. Please do not feel you need to rush out to buy one, it's just if you already have them or could borrow.

Christmas jumper day is an initiative for Save The Children's charity so if they would like to bring in a donation, a few coins, they are welcome.



Next week is the third week of Advent and symbolises Love and how St John the Baptist told of the coming messiah. Traditionally a rose-coloured candle is used:

3rd Week of Advent:

### Love

John the Baptist who paved the Way for God's love in it's fulness.



### Guess the Elf/ Number of Sweets

FUS are still running the 'guess the name of the elf' and 'guess the number of sweets' competitions from the fair last week - £1 entries from the office.

### Thanks for the Fair!

What a lovely event the FUS Christmas Fair was last Saturday – I hope it helped get you in the Christmas spirit. It was lovely to have so many people there, current families, ex families keen to revisit and future families already thinking about being here. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported things, too many to name; those who helped set-up on Friday, those who helped run stalls and those who helped clear away afterwards. Of course, the FUS committee have spent a great deal of time organising and preparing to make it such a success. My thanks to all of you, families and staff for giving up your time to support our school!

