

# School Newsletter

18 November 2022



Dear Parents & Carers,

This term seems to be whizzing by already and we are fast approaching the busy month of December. Last week, we commemorated Remembrance Day and we would like to thank the children for marking the two-minute silence on 11 November with such excellent behaviour. As always, we sold a huge number of poppies and the money will be given to the Royal British Legion.

We hope you have seen the exciting letter that was sent out earlier in the week about our school being part of a rebuild programme in 2023. If you missed this, you can find it [here](#).

We would like to remind parents of the importance of your child attending school every day. Our aim is for 96% attendance every week and last week (week commencing 7.11.22) it was 95.3%. Last week, the best attendance from a year group was Year 6 with 97.1%. If your child can come to school but needs Calpol or other medicines, you can arrange for the School Office to give them a dose during the school day. All you need to do is fill out a medication at the School Office.

Thank you to everyone for your support with our fundraising efforts yesterday and today for Children in Need. It has been lovely seeing the children in their spots and Pudsey accessories today. Some of the crazy hairstyles were incredible! At the moment, we don't have a final total but we will share with you next week when we do.

**Finally, please be aware that school will close on Friday 16 December at 1:30pm for all pupils for the Christmas holidays. There will be no After School Club on this day.**

Kindest regards,

*Mrs Robinson, Mr Keer and Mrs Seagrave*

## Dates for Your Diary

<b>Mon 21 &amp; Tues 22 Nov</b>	Scholastic book fair in school – see information below	
<b>Fri 25 Nov</b>	Christmas hamper gift non-uniform day – see information below	
<b>Fri 2 Dec</b>	FOF Disco – see information below	
<b>Wed 7 Dec</b>	Year 3 and 4 Christmas lunch day	
	Open Book event 3:15pm – 4pm – drop in event to come and view your child's books	
<b>Thurs 8 Dec</b>	Year 5 and 6 Christmas lunch day	
	Open Book event 3:15pm – 4pm – drop in event to come and view your child's books	
<b>Sat 10 Dec</b>	Friends of Firsides Christmas Fayre	
<b>Mon 12 Dec</b>	FOF Christmas jumper sale – any donations gratefully received	
<b>Tues 13 Dec</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> Year 5 Christmas performance	<b>1:45 PM</b> Year 3 Christmas performance
<b>Wed 14 Dec</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> Year 6 Christmas performance	<b>1:45 PM</b> Year 4 Christmas performance
<b>Fri 16 Dec</b>	Last day of term – free non-uniform day with optional Christmas jumpers	
	School closes for <b>ALL</b> pupils at 1:30pm. There will be no After School Club on this day.	

### Scholastic book fair

On Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November we will be holding a Scholastic book fair. This is an opportunity for children and parents to buy books from a huge list of titles. The more money raised from the book sales, the more the school can earn back in books. So buying books for your family and friends helps to buy more books for the school!

We are holding the book sales from 2:45pm in the school hall with the view that parents can attend before the end of the school day – an ideal opportunity for some Christmas present buying! Children and their parents will be able to attend after school.



Please note that all payments will be electronic through scanning a QR code or pre-payment.

Please [follow this link](#) to find out the books that will be on sale. You can also pre-pay for books here.

Look out for a design competition that will be announced next week where children can win vouchers to use at the Book fair.

### Christmas hamper gifts non-uniform day Friday 25 November



On Friday 25 November, we are holding a non-uniform to collect donations of items for our Christmas hamper raffle. So that we receive a range of items, we are asking that children bring the following items in return for a non-uniform day:

**Year 3 and 4** – smellies, small gift sets or candles

**Year 5 and 6** – chocolates, sweets or biscuits.



### FOF Christmas Fayre Saturday 10 December

We look forward to welcoming you to our first Christmas Fayre since 2019! More details to follow from FOF who have many exciting plans up their sleeves for this event.

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### Christmas performance

The children are busy rehearsing their Christmas performances to share with you in December. The performance times will be:

<b>Tues 13 Dec</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> Year 5 Christmas performance	<b>1:45 PM</b> Year 3 Christmas performance
<b>Wed 14 Dec</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> Year 6 Christmas performance	<b>1:45 PM</b> Year 4 Christmas performance

On the day, please enter school via the School Office. At the end of the afternoon performances, children will be able to leave if their parents are attending. The afternoon performances will be finished in time for parents to go to collect younger children from their infant schools. At the moment, we are unsure of exact running times but usually the performances are 30 - 40 minutes long.

### Buckingham Christmas School Sugar Collection

Every year we support the homeless, needy and vulnerable in Norfolk and Suffolk by collecting sugar for shelters. A huge amount of sugar is needed in shelters and food kitchens in the cold days of winter and particularly over Christmas. Last year, nearly 6 tonnes of sugar was collected and we would like to help again this year.

When you come to your child's Christmas performance this year, we would really appreciate it if you could bring a bag of sugar (any size) as your entry ticket! If every family contributed just one bag of sugar, we could help by donating 250-300 bags!



### Christmas Lunch ordering

Please ensure you order your child's Christmas lunch through Scopay by Friday 18 November. Please be advised that we will not be ordering any other lunch options on these dates. Children that are entitled to Free School Meals, we will be able to order a school packed lunch option only on the day they are **NOT** eating their Christmas lunch. For example, if your child is eating their Christmas lunch on Wednesday they can order a packed lunch on Thursday, if required.

### Flu clinic catch up session

If your child missed the Flu Immunisation clinic last week, we are running a catch up session on Thursday 1 December. You can consent for this using [this form](#).

### School Disco

Friends of Firside will be running a Christmas disco. An entry fee of £3 is payable via Scopay and this entry fee includes tuck shop and drinks.

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### Nut-free and fish-free lunches

A reminder to all families that we aim to be a nut free school. This is due to severe allergies of some children in our school. Please help us to keep them safe by refraining from including nut products in your child's lunchbox. This includes whole nuts, nuts in cereal bars, peanut butter and Nutella. We have noticed a few chocolate bars coming in to school which contain nuts (for example, Kinder Bueno bars). Please ensure that these are not in lunchboxes.



There should also be **no fish** in packed lunches, this is due to severe allergies of children in our school. This includes, but is not limited to: tuna, salmon, fish paste, fish pate, fish sticks and prawns. We do not serve fish as a hot dinner or jacket potato filling option.



We ask that all parents follow this guidance, as food allergies can be very serious.

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