

Newsletter – 8th December 2023



Dear Parents

Christmas got off to a fabulous start last Friday with the FoTIS Winter Fayre. Thank you so much to all the FoTIS committee and volunteers who helped to organise this event. It takes an awful lot of time and energy to make a Winter Fayre happen so thank you to everyone involved. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped us to raise money for the school. Together we raised £1996.68!

Today has been another fun, festive day as we wore our Christmas jumpers to school to raise money for the Save the Children charity and then, this afternoon, the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed watching the pantomime at school.

Thank you also to Mrs Meads who, once again, has managed to make the Christmas tree in the hall absolutely magical.

Safeguarding – Smart TVs

Children seeing content, often accidentally via YouTube, that is unsuitable for their age is one of the safeguarding conversations that we regularly have with parents. YouTube is a feature on Smart TVs so please take the time to set up or review the safety controls on your TV. Find out more here, <https://www.safesearchkids.com/a-parents-guide-to-setting-up-smart-tv-safely/>

The NSPCC also has some specific guidance regarding YouTube <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>

Diarrhoea and Vomiting – 48 hours

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting must stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours). Tummy bugs can spread very quickly around school and please note that the 48 hour policy also applies to staff.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

Christmas plays – Foodbank collection

At our Christmas plays we usually have a bucket collection for a chosen charity. However, this year if you are coming to a Christmas play, please could you bring an item for the Aylesbury food bank. The items that you bring make such a difference in our local community. <https://aylesbury.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Carolfest – Sunday 10th December

Aylesbury's much-loved sing-along is happening on Sunday 10 December at 6-7pm at St Mary's Church. This is a free event for all! Carolfest will feature a programme filled with your favourite carols led by choirs from Broughton Junior School and Aylesbury Music Centre. Wear your Christmas jumper for a chance to win a prize! Indulge in hot chocolate and gingerbread goodies, all for a good cause - supporting Mayor of Aylesbury's chosen charities, Age UK Bucks and Youth Concern. Please note that this is predominately a standing event, with priority seating available for those in need.

Arrive from 5:45pm. Full details can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/Carolfest23>.

Last FoTIS tuck shop and last Celebration assembly of term – Friday 15th December

Next Friday is the last end of school tuck shop and it's also the last Celebration assembly for this term if there any certificates or awards from home to share.

Christmas Party Day – Monday 18th December

A reminder that this is a non-uniform day, but children should be dressed for the weather and accessing the outdoors. Please make sure that your child is wearing shoes that they can run and climb in.

Names for Christmas cards and the Christmas post box

Our school Christmas post box is open. If your child has cards for friends and staff that they would like to post, please make sure that the name, class or class teacher's name is also written on the front. Class lists, first names only, can be provided on request.

1970's day – Friday 12th January 2024

In January, Turnfurlong Infant School will be celebrating our 50th birthday. We will hold a special event in the Summer term but, to mark the actual opening of the school in January, the children will be experiencing a school day with a 1970's feel. Children should come to school in their usual clothes but they will be having 1970's style lessons, including a 1970's infant school assembly.

OPAL questionnaire

In January, we are launching the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project. As we start this piece of work at school we'd be very grateful if you could complete a short questionnaire about play and playtimes. The link to the questionnaire is contained in the email.

OPAL session for parents – Thursday 18th January

The Outdoor Play and Learning project is the focus of one of our January INSET sessions for staff and, following this, we will be holding regular assemblies for children to gradually introduce new resources and equipment and to share expectations for how to safely play with them. We'd also like to show you what OPAL looks like at our school so we are holding three sessions with the children where parents can join us in the playground.

These will be held on Thursday 18th January at the following times:

9.00 -10.00 am – Reception

10.00 -11.00 am – Year 1

11 am-12 pm – Year 2

Applications for Reception and Year 3 school places in September 2024

If your child is in Year 2 you must apply for their Year 3 school place at Junior school.

If your child is in Nursery, and they were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, you must apply for a Reception place.

You must submit your application to Buckinghamshire Council by Monday 15th January 2024. The link to complete the application for Reception and Year 3 is here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

Dates for the Diary	
December	
Tuesday 12 th	Reception Christmas Play - 9.30 am
Wednesday 13 th	Year 1 Christmas Play - 9.30 am Year 2 Christmas Play - 2.15 pm
Thursday 14 th	Reception walk to the post box <i>Miss Paley's class 9.30-10.00 am</i> <i>Mrs Ackland's class 9.45-10.15 am</i> <i>Mrs Stockwell/Mrs Hepworth's class 10.30-11.00 am</i>
Monday 18 th	Christmas Party Day – wear non uniform to school
Tuesday 19 th	Carols round the Christmas Tree - 2.15 pm (children and parents) End of Term 3.15 pm
January	
Monday 8 th	Term begins for all children
Friday 12 th	1970's day
Tuesday 16 th	SENDCo coffee morning for parents – 9.00am
Monday 22 nd	Year 2 SATs meeting for parents and carers – 9.00-9.40am
February	
Monday 5 th	Steel band workshop (Reception, Year 1, Year 2)
Friday 9 th	Break up for half term holiday, finish at usual time
Monday 19 th	Start of second half of spring term
March	
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day - come to school dressed as a character from a story
Monday 11 th	Parents' Discussions - 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 12 th	Parents' Discussions - 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 13 th	Parents' Discussions - 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 20 th	Parent involvement morning - 9.00-10.30 am
Thursday 28 th	End of Term (finish at usual time)

TERM DATES 2023-24		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Spring Term	Monday 8 January 2024	Friday 9 February 2024
	Monday 19 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Summer Term	Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
	Tuesday 4 June 2024	Tuesday 23 July 2024
Staff Training Days	Thursday 4 January 2024 Friday 5 January 2024 Monday 3 June 2024	
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2024 (school closed)	

TERM DATES 2024-25		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Thursday 5 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024
	Tuesday 5 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Spring Term	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Summer Term	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
	Tuesday 3 June 2025	Tuesday 23 July 2025
Staff Training Days	Tuesday 3 September 2024 Wednesday 4 September 2024 Monday 4 November 2024 Monday 6 January 2025 Monday 2 June 2025	
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2024 (school closed)	