

Newsletter – 15th December 2023



Dear Parents

It's been such a lovely, but busy, week in school. I hope that everyone who came to the Christmas plays enjoyed themselves as much as I did. Great singing, speaking and dancing and a lot of hard work from everyone involved. Thanks also to everyone in the audiences who brought something along for Aylesbury foodbank. The plays were all filmed on Monday and links will shortly be made available via Parentmail.

Our children in Reception also went out of school this week to post their Christmas letters to Santa. Thanks as always to the parent volunteers who joined us on the walk. Your help and support was much appreciated.

Sources of support and advice over Christmas

I'm sensitive that, for so many different reasons, not everyone in our community will have a happy Christmas this year. We all experience difficult times but Christmas and New Year can really magnify things. If this sounds like you at the moment, or someone you know, please remember that support is out there. We've attached a list of contacts that offer support both locally and nationally to this email.

Christmas jumper day

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to Save the Children last Friday. As a school, we raised £162.74 for Save the Children.

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.

Carols round the tree – Tuesday 19th December 2.15pm

Our Autumn term ends as usual with all the children in the hall for carols round the tree at 2.15pm. Parents are very welcome to join in with us, singing carols together.

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 2024

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

OPAL donations

Thanks to everyone who has helped us by bringing in things for us to use. These are the items we are looking for now:

- My little ponies
- Our Generation dolls
- Hobby horses
- Rocking horses
- Den building kits
- Buckets and spades
- Pipes
- Fabric and large pegs

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/>

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/)

Chickenpox and Scarlet Fever

We've had a few cases of chickenpox in school, which isn't unusual for this time of year. If your child does get chickenpox they should stay off school until all their spots have crusted over. That normally happens about five days after the spots first appear.

If your child has scarlet fever, they will need to be prescribed antibiotics by their GP, otherwise they will be infectious for two to three weeks. They can come back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

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

Wellies needed at school

Please can all children bring a pair of named wellies to school from January. If you have an old pair that your child has grown out of, we'd be grateful for any donations to add to our 'spares' collection.

Dates for the Diary	
December	
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
Thursday 18 th	OPAL session for parents 9.00 -10.00 am – Reception 10.00 -11.00 am – Year 1 11 am-12 pm – Year 2
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)	