



ADVENT WEEK 1

In Collective Worship on Monday, we talked about Advent being a time of waiting and preparation. We began by learning about what the different parts of the advent wreath represent and then lit the first candle, the candle of HOPE. We took time to reflect on how significant hope is for us in our lives and thought about our hopes for ourselves, our friends and family and our hopes for the world. Thank you to Mrs Lewis for once again making our beautiful Advent wreath.



We are looking rather festive!

The school is looking lovely and Christmassy with all our decorations up. The tree looks fabulous with everybody's personalised baubles and each class has made decorated hoops to hang from the hall ceiling, this year in school colours of blue and gold.

Our beautiful stable and crib set is in place, and there are coloured lights adorning the main corridor - as you can imagine, this has caused great excitement from the children!

*It's
Beginning
to Look
a lot Like
Christmas*



Class 5 Assembly Friday TOMORROW 9.15am

Class 5 parents are warmly invited to come and watch the Class 5 assembly TOMORROW at 9.15am in the hall. If you have babies or pre-schoolers they are very welcome to attend, all we ask is that you take them out if they are unsettled or making noise. **Please also note that we do not permit photographs or videos at class assemblies.**



Year 5 Mental Health Champions

Last week, Year 5 took part in a 'One Goal' mental health workshop. They learned lots of new strategies for maintaining strong mental and emotional health. The One Goal website also has lots of useful advice for parents:

www.onegoal.co.uk

Table Tennis finals

A huge well done to the boys who competed in the U11 table tennis county finals last week. They played brilliantly and came home with silver medals – second in the whole of Hertfordshire!

Congratulations team!



St Ippolyts Parish Pantry

With food prices rising fast, we know that sometimes it's a struggle to make ends meet. St Ippolyts Church has set up a Parish Pantry, a mini version of a food bank, which has a supply of food and toiletries that are available should you need them. We don't have enough resources to offer long term support but we can help bridge a gap until payday.

If you would like to access the Parish Pantry then please contact Revd Ginni at revginni@gmail.com or Mrs Peddie at head@stipps.herts.sch.uk Any emails will be treated with the strictest confidence.

CHRISTMAS CARDS POST BOX

This year we will once again be running our school postbox for Christmas cards. Cards can be brought in and posted from **Monday 5th December**. Envelopes need to be clearly labelled with the name and class please so that the Year 6 posties can make sure they get delivered to the right person.



Christmas Dinner

On **Wednesday 14th December**, we will be having our traditional Christmas Dinner.

All children who usually have a school dinner on Wednesdays will automatically get a Christmas Dinner. However, if your child usually has a packed lunch from home and you would like them to have a Christmas Dinner, please book with the office by Wednesday 7th December.



Even if you're late



DON'T PARK NEAR OUR GATE

Stopping here puts children in danger.

Parking near schools will never be an easy task, especially for schools like ours in rural locations with narrow roads and pavements. It may be tempting to try and park as close to school as possible, particularly when the weather is unpleasant. However, some parking choices are simply dangerous.

One of the worst places to park is on the double yellow lines close to, or overlapping the school gate. When this is blocked, if cars need to pull in to give way to oncoming traffic, their only option is to pull into the top of the drive by the gate – which can be filled with parents, pupils, toddlers and prams.

We have also had several complaints from local residents about vehicular access being blocked on the bend at the village green. Sadly there have also been occasions when parents have been verbally aggressive towards residents who, rightfully, have challenged dangerous parking.

Please ensure that you make safe, legal parking choices; this applies to Early Bird Club drop off, and after school clubs.

Thank you so much for your cooperation to keep our community safe.

CHRISTMAS

MOVIE AND MUNCH

Monday 12th December 2022 3.15-5pm £4 per child



Book online:

www.pta-events.co.uk/stipps

Bookings will close at the end of the day on Friday 9th December and we will not be able to accept any bookings after this date.



Class 1 movie: The Polar Express (U)

Class 2 movie: Christmas on Mistletoe Farm (U)

Class 3 movie: Saving Santa (U)

Class 4 movie: Prancer (U)

Class 5 & 6 movie: Nativity 3: Dude, where's my donkey? (U)

At the end of the session, **children will be dismissed by teachers at their usual collection points.** If you have children in more than one class attending, teachers will supervise your child until you get from one collection point to another.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Book Fair THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported our recent Book Fair. Your generosity has provided an incredible

£950

worth of new books for our library and classrooms.

We are blown away – thank you so, so much!

A special thank you also to Mrs Hayes for organising the fair and to all the parents who helped at the checkout.

Spring term 2023 milk

Letters about ordering milk for after Christmas were sent home earlier this week via email.

All orders have to be placed with the dairy well in advance, so the deadline for placing an order is Wednesday 14th December.



IMPORTANT: Sickness and illness reminders

Sickness and diarrhoea: Children need to stay off school for **48 hours** after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to avoid the spread of tummy bugs.

Covid: Children need to stay off school for a **minimum of three days**; this is the current government guidance: *If a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.*

Coughs and colds: If your child has a light cold and is otherwise ok to be at school, please remind them about good hand hygiene and ensure they have tissues in their bookbag.

Thank you for your vital cooperation to help us keep everyone fit and well this winter.

Class 5 Cake Day

Friday 16th December

Dear Class 5 parents,

The PTA are holding a cake sale on 16th December to raise funds for school. This time it is the turn of Class 5 to each supply small cakes or biscuits to sell on the day. Please make sure that any tins, plates or containers are clearly named.

We would be very grateful if you could **donate 15 cakes for cake day**, to ensure that we have enough to go around & the children are not left disappointed. These cakes /biscuits can be either homemade or bought. You may want to plan some kitchen time to make or decorate the cakes with your child! **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CAKES MUST BE NUT-FREE.**

The cakes will be sold during the morning break to the whole of the school, any remaining cakes will be sold outside school at home time. We hope that you will be able to support us with this event, and we thank you in anticipation.

Thank you from The PTA






No heels in the hall

With several in-school events approaching such as class assemblies, the C1 Nativity and The Christmas Fair, a reminder that heels cannot be worn in our school hall. The floor is a specialist sprung floor for gym and is very costly to repair. Stiletto and kitten heels can cause significant damage. Please could you pass this on to other family members who may be attending too. Thank you!

This week's article from our Pupil Journalists, Annie & Lily




Last Friday, Mrs Peddie, Mrs Stewart and the TAs put up the Christmas decorations around the school. Each class made two hoops and now they're hanging in the hall. You may know each year the decorations are based on a theme. This year, they are based on our school colours, gold and navy blue.

All the children have been very busy, and each classroom is covered in glitter! Class 4 had been working hard making origami candy canes and paper Christmas trees, Class 5 made beautiful transparent stars and Class 1, 2, and 3 also created some Christmassy decorations like stockings, presents and candles -there are even mini school ties! All their hard work definitely paid off. In class 6, we had collaged bells in golden squares with different designs and for our other hoop, we painted glue onto pinecones and coated them in glitter.

On Monday, we lit the first candle on the advent wreath, kindly made by Mrs Lewis. The first Sunday of advent represents Hope. We don't only hope for the presents we may be receiving, but we hope good for others and the world, even people we've never met. What will you be hoping for?

Today a lot of people came in with their Christmas Jumpers and brought some items for the hampers. Each class was assigned different things to bring in, so we could have a variety of prizes to receive.





Christmas

IS COMING!



Christmas Trail

Friday 25th Nov - Wednesday 1st Dec

Bring £2 to the School Office to collect your Trail sheets

Fill in 10 pictures on your trail sheet to earn a treat.

Fill in 12 or more pictures to earn a treat
and be entered into a prize draw



Draw on 9th December

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Do you have any unwanted or outgrown Christmas jumpers at home?

Let us take them off your hands for our preloved Christmas Jumper stall at the fair!

Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets

There will be some fantastic hampers to be won at the Christmas Fair hamper raffle- good luck!

The Secrets Room

At The Christmas Fair, the 'Secrets Room' is a place where children can go and buy gifts for their family and have them wrapped ready for Christmas Day.

If you have any gift items suitable for our secrets room, we would love to take them off your hands - thank you!

NO
Grown Ups
Allowed

Visit Father Christmas in his grotto at The Christmas Fair!

Book a time slot at the token
exchange when you arrive at the fair
£3 per child (you can book for
younger siblings too)



Come & have fun inside the giant inflatable Snow Globe at The Christmas Fair!

Book a time slot at the token
exchange when you arrive at
the fair. £2 per child
(you can book for younger siblings too)

The school choir will be launching our
Christmas Fair at 3.30pm on Friday 9th
December. They will be singing outside on
the driveway to get us in the mood for
festive fun!

When they have finished, our fair will be
officially opened, and you will be able to
enter through the main doors.

**Please note that prams and buggies
can't be brought into the school
building.**



'The Token Exchange' at The Christmas Fair

There will be two ways of paying for things at the Christmas Fair this year. Stalls and activities will accept cash as normal, or you can buy tokens using your debit card at the Token Exchange which will be in the main foyer next to the hall. The tokens can then be used at all the stalls and activities.

The Token Exchange is also where you will be able to book a time slot to visit Father Christmas in his grotto and the Snow Dome. You will need a time slot for these activities so it's a good idea to get that booked on arrival at the fair.

There will be lots to see and do at The Christmas Fair!



- * The Snow Dome
- * Father Christmas in his grotto
- * Refreshments
- * Face Painting
- * Hamper Raffle
- * Pre-loved uniform and Christmas Jumpers
- * The Secrets Room (no grown-ups!)
- * Toys and Books
- * Games and competitions designed by Year 6



- * Craft activities
- * Lucky dip
- * Stocking Challenge
- * Photo Booth
- * Badge Making
- * Reindeer Food





Warm Welcome Space opens at Zeo Centre on Wednesdays 5:30–7:30pm From 7th December

We'd love to welcome families and individuals to hangout in the Zeo Centre Warm Welcome space (Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 1HF), running on Wednesdays in the Winter months from 5:30pm - 7:30pm - starting Wed 7th December.

You can expect:

- a warm space to hang out,
- charge your phone,
- do some work (or homework),
- relax and chill,
- enjoy hot/cold drinks
- two-course cooked meal
- space and toys for kids to play
- FREE Wi-Fi access
- And a listening ear - if you need one.

You can be there the whole time or just drop in whenever you need to - although food will stop serving at 7pm.

Children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

You can just turn up, but it would be helpful if you're able to let us know you're coming (with how many people) so we make sure there's enough food 😊

Email us at hello@zeochurch.com or text us on 07999 126563.

Use that email and mobile is you have any questions too – and need help.

We can look to provide transport if you'd like to come but can't get to/from us. Contact us for details.

ST IPPOLYTS CHURCH



BREAKFAST SERVICE

in the Parish Hall

(Waterdell Lane, behind the Village Shop)

Come along and join us!

This week we will be learning about Advent and making Advent Wreath cakes.

The service is relaxed and informal and will last for approximately 30 minutes, followed by breakfast.

THIS SUNDAY

4th December at 9.15am

