



ADVENT WEEK 3

In Collective Worship on Monday, we lit the 3rd candle on our advent wreath, the pink one, which represents joy.

We talked about all the different things that bring us joy at Christmastime and thought about ways we can bring joy to other people too, by being helpful, thankful and loving.



Fun in the snow!

We had SO much fun in the snow on Monday! It was perfect snowman-making snow too 😊
A HUGE thank you to our snow-clearance heroes, Sid, Josh, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Harrington Smith who were at school from the early hours clearing the site so that we could open safely.





Class One Nativity 2022

A few snaps of Class One's wonderful nativity last week, 'The Bossy King'

There are lots more photos on the school website. Enjoy!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday 19th December

Class parties take place in the afternoon, but children may wear a non-uniform party outfit to school that day as long as it is suitable for normal school activities in the morning. Please also ensure your child has appropriate footwear and a warm coat to wear for the day as they will still be playing outside as normal.

Party food and drink contributions (**nut free**) should be brought in on the Monday morning.

C5 Cake Day tomorrow!

Instead of a morning snack tomorrow, children from all classes can bring a small amount of money to buy a cake or two. **Cakes are 25p** each, so please provide coins in a clearly named purse or envelope. Any cakes left over will be sold at hometime by the main doors.

Thank you to Class 5 for supplying the cakes!



Thank you

to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Fair such a success last week. Whether you donated items, helped to set up, manned a stall, spent your money... we are so grateful for your support!

A special thank you to the PTA Chair, **Marta Casero**, who has worked tirelessly for weeks to ensure the event ran smoothly. The fair raised over

£1623!



Tomorrow we are off to the virtual pantomime (oh yes we are!)

Once again, we are watching the Panto Online production, this year's production is 'Pantoland'.

Thank you to the PTA for providing Panto snacks, we can't wait!

School Office & payments

In order for Mrs Rule to finish banking and administration by the end of term, please ensure all outstanding bills for dinners and swimming are settled by TOMORROW many thanks.

Carol Service

Usually we would head over to Church for our annual school Carol Service, but the snow and ice made it a little problematic for taking the whole school over. Instead, we held it in the hall, with Young Worship telling the story while Class 2 showed us their wonderful drama and dance skills. Interspersed with some of our favourite carols, it was a lovely service for us all. Well done children!



Bank Holiday May 2023 & SATs week

The Government have now announced the new dates for the KS2 SATs in light of the extra Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. They will now take place during the same week, but from **Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May**. Please ensure no holidays are booked during this week.

PE kits

All PE kits will soon be coming home for washing over the holidays. Thank you for making sure that your child has kit suitable for indoors and outdoors.

Please bring PE kits back on the first day of term in January.

Pencil cases

At the end of term, we will be sending children's pencil cases home so that they can be checked /replenished. Please remember to bring them back at the start of term. If children have any new stationery items over Christmas, please could you make sure they are named to avoid any upset if things get misplaced. Thank you!

Christmas Dinner

An enormous thank you to Mrs Harrington Smith & Miss Batten in the school kitchen for providing a delicious Christmas dinner yesterday. It was wonderful to be able to invite governors to share in our Christmas feasting too!



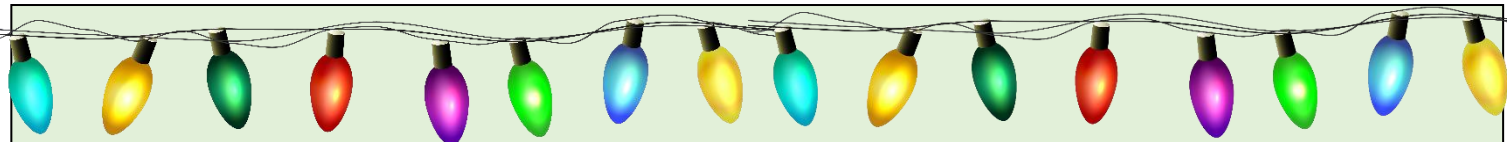
This week's article from our Pupil Journalists, Annie & Lily

The build up to Christmas gets busier and merrier! We have decided to ask all of the teachers about what they are looking forward to on Christmas as it is our last full week until the holidays.

Here are some of our responses.

Miss Walker (class 6 teacher) is excited to spend time with her family, especially her niece Peggy, who has just turned 1! Miss Abbott (class 5 teacher) said she is looking forward to eating lots of delicious foods, primarily pigs in blankets! Mrs Archer (a class 4 teacher) is excited to eat her Mum's Christmas pudding! Mrs Bean and Mrs Gemmell are thrilled to be spending time with family. Mrs Peddie can't wait to have some time off and have a much-needed sleep! What are you looking forward to during the holidays?

We also just wanted to say a big thank you to all the teachers and adults in school who have made the lead up to Christmas exciting and full of fun, creative activities.



A message from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Luxton

As I sat in the school hall today eating a sumptuous Christmas lunch and chatting with my lovely year 6 hosts, I was struck by the real sense of joy, community and purpose that are the stock in trade of St Ippolyts School.

As Governors we meet regularly to discuss serious school related issues from SATs results to safeguarding, from pupil attendance to statutory policies but it is not often that we have the time in our busy schedule to talk in depth with the children themselves, which is why events like today's lunch are so important.

I was really gratified to be surrounded by such a confident and articulate group of children who were happy to talk in depth around such diverse topics as hobbies (gymnastics, drama, knitting and sleeping to name but a few) to challenging oneself on the PGL trip. They asked intelligent questions about my role as Chair of Governors and were particularly interested to know which house at Hogwarts I would be in (Hufflepuff, for anyone who is interested!).

I felt proud to be presented with living proof of the things we do best at St Ippolyts; giving our pupils the confidence and skills to reach their full potential while allowing them to develop and grow as individuals with enquiring minds. In our role as Governors, we strive to support Mrs Peddie and her team while acting as critical friends as we work towards our joint goal of providing the best possible education for the children in our care.

I wish all our staff, children and their families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
Liz



Reception places 2023

Parents wishing to apply for a Reception place commencing September 2023 are reminded that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2023**.

Copies of our SIF (Supplementary Information Form) can be collected from the office or downloaded from the school website. Please note that applications **MUST** be done using the Hertfordshire online system as well as our paper form.

SPORTS

With the newsletter this week you should receive a copy of this term's Sports Newsletter, written by our Sports Captains, Ciaran & Carly.

It has been a busy and successful term for sport and we hope you enjoy reading their fantastic newsletter.



End of term Early finish 2pm

A reminder that term finishes on **Tuesday 20th December** at the earlier time of 2pm. The Spring Term begins on Thursday 5th January 2023.

On behalf of all the children, staff and governors of St Ippolyts Primary School, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



I am sure you will join me in hope and prayer for a blessed and healthy 2023. With warmest wishes to you all, Mrs Peddie



Welcome!

Winter 2022

To our Winter edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

Lithium Batteries and E-Scooters

You may be thinking about buying an E-Scooter for your child this Christmas, but did you know that private e-scooters are currently illegal for use on public roads and cycleways, even though they are widely available for sale? There is currently a lack of regulation of these vehicles, meaning there are no minimum vehicle standards or battery specification.

Most modern mobile devices such as mobile phones use lithium-ion batteries. Lithium-ion is the most common form of battery because it can store the most energy in the smallest space.

Because of their tendency to catch fire, lithium-ion batteries must be looked after.

- Only buy batteries from a reputable manufacturer.
- Unplug devices when they are fully charged to avoid overheating.
- Store batteries in a cool dry place.
- It is recommended that you do not charge items such as mobile phones or tablets under pillows or on beds.
- Avoid charging devices overnight when anyone is asleep.
- You should not charge anything in a corridor or room that provides your only way out of your home.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm in every room where charging takes place and charge in a location where you can close a door to prevent smoke spread.
- In the event of a fire, leave immediately and do not attempt to extinguish the fire yourself.

[E-bikes and e-scooters fire safety guidance
\(nationalfirechiefs.org.uk\)](https://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk)



Road Safety and Drink Driving

As the party season approaches and we plan our Christmas parties, we ask that you are mindful of the dangers that drink driving pose. Just one drink can impair coordination, slow your reactions, and distort your judgement.

Drink driving is illegal and puts lives at risk. It is not possible to say how much alcohol you can drink and stay below the limit. The way alcohol affects you depends on:

- your weight, age, sex, and metabolism (the rate your body uses energy)
- the type and amount of alcohol you're drinking
- what you've eaten recently
- your stress levels at the time

So, if you're driving, it's better to have none for the road.

Here are a few pointers to ensure you can enjoy your night safely.

- Consider allocating a designated driver for the night. You can rotate amongst groups of friends.
- Do not drink any alcohol if you are the designated driver rather than risk it.
- Book and take taxis if you are going to drink alcohol. Make sure your friends do the same.
- Use public transport where you can and if it is safe for you to do so.
- Do not get into a car with anybody you suspect has drunk too much no matter how much pressure you feel under.
- Tell somebody who has drunk too much not to drive, you could save their life.
- Inform the police if you suspect somebody is driving under the influence.



Drink driving – THINK!

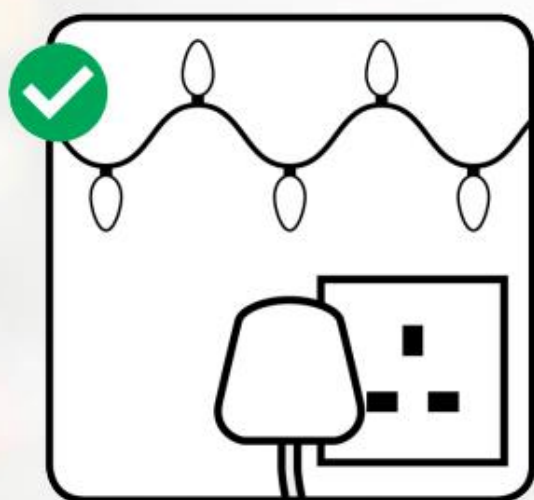


Christmas Fairy Lights and decorations

We all love a pretty Christmas decoration and fairy lights at this time of year, but did you know unsafe use of such items as fairy lights can cause fire.

Christmas is a magical time of year and with some careful planning it can stay that way!

- Check your Christmas tree lights carry the British Safety Standard sign.
- Never place candles near your Christmas tree or materials that can catch light easily.
- Decorations can burn easily – so don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- Keep candles, lighters, and matches out of children's reach. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed





Family Escape Plan for your loved ones.

At Christmas it's great to have the family come over and stay!

Have you thought about how you would all escape in the unlikely case of a fire? It only takes 5 minutes to run through your escape plan and can save lives!

- Be prepared by making a plan of escape
- Make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.




We work closely with Hertfordshire Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams to ensure our local communities feel safe in their homes and when out and about. The below website offers items for you to purchase to keep your personal belongings safe and ensure you are protected against theft.

<https://owlprotect.uk/index.php/>

If you need any further information or advice on any of these topics, please feel free to call our friendly staff at your local station

- **Stevenage Fire Station**
01438 202500
Stevenage.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Hitchin Fire Station**
01462 666800
Hitchin.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Royston Fire Station**
01763 822100
Royston.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **Baldock Fire Station**
01438 847313
Baldock.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk

-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
-  Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety



Date	Event	Information
JANUARY		
4 th	INSET Day	No school for children
5 th	Spring Term begins	
16 th	After school clubs start	
17 th	Bag2School	Collection of unwanted clothing etc
18 th & 19 th	Arts Days	
27 th	Class 4 Cake Day	
30 th	Open Session	3.30-5.30pm
FEBRUARY		
3 rd	Class 4 Assembly	9.15am in the hall for Class 4 parents
6 th	Movie & Munch	
8 th	Y6 Parent Consultations	1.30 – 5pm
10 th	Finish for half term	Usual time of 3.15pm
20 th	Back to school	
23 rd & 24 th	Book Fair	Before and after school
MARCH		
2 nd	World Book Day	Costume needed!
3 rd	PTA Spring Disco	5.30 – 7pm
6 th – 10 th	ASSESSMENT WEEK	Years 1-6, avoid absence please
10 th	Class 3 Cake Day	
15 th & 16 th	Science Days	
17 th	Red Nose Day	Charity event
20 th – 24 th	Parent Consultations	Face to face appointments available on Monday 20 th . The rest of the week will be video and telephone calls.
24 th	Class 3 Assembly	9.15am in the hall for Class 3 parents
31 st	End of term	Early finish of 2pm

SUMMER TERM 2023	
17 th April	Summer term begins for children
1 st May & 8 th May	Bank Holidays
29 th May-2 nd June	Half term week
18 th July	END OF TERM 2pm
19 th July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
20 th July	<i>INSET Day, no school for children</i>
21 st July	<i>Occasional Day. School closed to staff & children</i>

