



## Newsletter No.4

December 2017



### Message from the Headteacher ...

We're now in the season of Advent, traditionally a time of waiting in expectation for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem. It's a very busy time in school which started off with the Operation Christmas Child Service last month – thank you to everyone for your generosity with creating shoeboxes.

We are looking forward to the JSA Bazaar on Thursday so please come and support the children and reward the JSA Committee for the hard work they have all put in. Thanks also to our Catering Team who will be giving the children their Christmas Meal on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. Please see the Menu that recently came home telling you what will be served on the last three days of the term.

Amidst all the excitement, presents, food, tinsel and decorations we shall be ensuring that we reflect with the children on the Christian meaning of Christmas. Our Carol Service at the Church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am is an important part of this and parents are warmly invited to join us.

The last day at school is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**JSA Christmas Bazaar**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**5.30 – 7.30pm**



### Staff-led Clubs

Staff-led Clubs have now finished for this term (Art, Football, Gardening, High 5 and Running Clubs). These Clubs will re-start in the New Year in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January. Parents with children involved in FITC Football, Eurokids French and Magical Maths will be aware of their various finish & re-start dates.

### Children in Need – 17<sup>th</sup> November

Well done to the children for such a splendid effort! The Cake/Sweet sale and non-uniform day raised a grand total of £350 for a very worthwhile cause! Thank you everyone.



### Dates for your diary

#### December

- 7 JSA Christmas Bazaar
- 8 Whole School visit to 'Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs' panto, Mercury Theatre, Colchester 1pm-5.15pm
- 11 Full Governing Body meeting, 7pm
- 12, 13 Year 3/4 Christmas Production, 6.00pm at the church (admission limited to 2 guests per family, per night)
- 15 JSA Discos
- 18 Christmas Carol Service at Church, 10.00am  
Pupils Christmas Meal (see revised Menu)
- 20 Last Day at school
- 21 Dec to 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Christmas Holiday & Non-Pupil Day

#### January 2017

- 2 Non-Pupil Staff Training Day
- 3 Children return to school

#### February

- 12-16 Half Term
- 26 Governors, Finance/Premises/Personnel Committee, 7.00pm

#### March

- 5 Governors Curriculum Committee, 7.00pm
- 29 JSA Discos
- 30 to 16 April Easter Holiday & Non-Pupil Day

#### April

- 17 Children return to school

#### May

- 14-18 Year 6 SATs week
- 21-25 Year 6 trip to the Lake District

### School Crossing Patrol

We are pleased to say that Mr. Andy Norman is returning to us as our new School Crossing Patrol Officer from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. He will be on duty at the junction of Church Road with Maldon Road.

Many of you are likely to remember him as he was with us up until a couple of years ago. We look forward to welcoming him back!



## Winter Weather Closures

As I write, I can see the very first flakes of snow for this year! This is reminding me to ensure that all our parents know what to do in the event that the weather becomes so extreme that you are not certain about whether or not the school will be able to open.

Any decision to close the school is based on local conditions, the distance that staff have to travel, the safety of staff and children on site, and advice on travel and weather given out by the local media. We will always do our best to keep the school open but often our hand is forced by the circumstances.

If there are doubts about the school opening, in the first instance you should visit Essex County Council's Emergency School Closures website which is available via the following link:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We will also send you an email via Parentmail and put a message on the home page of our website as quickly as we are able.

Please note that the information service about school closures given out by local radio stations in past years is no longer available.



## St Andrew's Church & All Saints Ulting Christmas & New Year Events

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
5pm: Carols "Songs of Praise"



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
10.15am: All-Age Nativity

An all-age Nativity presentation for the young and young-at-heart.

4pm: Carol Service at All Saints, Ulting.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
6.30pm: Nine Lessons and Carols



Christmas Eve

4.30pm: Children's Toy Service

"The Greatest Gift", toys donated to go to Witham "Homestart".

11.30pm: Christmas Eve/Day, Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup>)

9am: Holy Communion (1662) at All Saints, Ulting

10.15am: Family Carol Service with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve (31<sup>st</sup>)

11am: St Andrew's & Hatfield Peverel Methodist Joint Service at the Methodist Church (There is NO service at

St Andrew's on this day)

## PE Kits in Winter

If your child sometimes wears tights now the colder weather is here, please kindly make sure they have some spare socks to keep in their PE kit bag.

The children also need to ensure that they have a warm top, jogging bottoms and suitable trainers if they are doing outdoor PE.

Thank you.



THANK YOU to the JSA for the fantastic **TEA TOWELS** with the children's self-portraits! They will make great Christmas gifts and it is not too late to order. The letter with information and prices is available on our website or from the School Office.



Wishing all children, parents and families

**"A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR"**

From the staff and governors of St. Andrew's Junior School



**"Enjoy, respect, achieve"**

