



Churchstanton Catch-up

Churchstanton
Primary School
Somerset
TA3 7RL

Head Teacher: Mrs C Halstead
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Newsletter: 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Preparations are well underway for our Christmas performances that, as you know, will be recorded this year. My Headteacher colleagues and I were very disappointed to see the contradictory messages coming from the Government this week and in particular, the Prime Minister, who seems *not* to be aware of Local Authority alerts as a response to local infection rates. It is easy for politicians to make popular statements that appeal to the public, but we made the very difficult but necessary decision to record our celebrations again this year in an effort to safeguard your family Christmas celebrations. Cramming over 100 people into our hall, even with ventilation and other precautions in place, is not a risk we felt was worth taking. Instead, you as parents will have a professionally produced DVD to keep of your child's performance forever. All I have is a vague memory of my sons dressed as a cow and a shepherd and would have loved a video to look back on now! Thank you to all parents and carers who have shown understanding of the situation and supported our decision.

Mrs Berry has been rehearsing with the choir and both KS2 classes and is very pleased with progress so far. Mrs Holt and KS1 are very excited to be able to share their production of "The Sleepy Shepherd" very soon. Tea-towels at the ready!

The children will be visiting St Peters & St Pauls Church during the last week of term to take part in a Christmas Tree decorating festival. The children have all made individual decorations to hang on the tree for a special Christmas celebration where many local groups and businesses have sponsored a tree to raise money. Our theme was Gratitude. Do try and make time to visit as it promises to be really beautiful.

Our school Christmas Tree is up and has been beautifully decorated by our Year 6 pupils as is our tradition here at school. The tree was kindly donated to us by Langford Lakes Christmas Tree Farm and is a 7ft Nordman Fir - very impressive (even more impressive than the one in Trafalgar Square!) As it will last for a good few weeks and is a "no drop" variety, we thought it would be wonderful to raffle the tree off so that someone can take it home on the 17th December to enjoy for the rest of Christmas. Raffle tickets have been sent home in your child's book bag this week. If you would like to be in with a chance to win this wonderful tree (worth £60!) we are asking for a £1 per ticket. Just return one ticket with your name on in the envelope provided and retain the other ready for the draw. This will take place on Monday 13th December and winners will be notified by email.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards, Mrs. C. Halstead



Safeguarding: We take child protection extremely seriously at our school and this is especially important during any school closure. If you have any concerns you can ring Children Social Care on: **0300 123 2224** or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk



Celebration Catch-up

Headteacher Certificates

Hedgehog Class

Elena for producing some super writing about tigers - excellent work!

Harvey for excellent work in maths - super effort!

Squirrel Class

Finley for always being kind, polite and thoughtful towards others - brilliant!

Freya for always setting a good example and supporting others - keep it up!

Badger Class

Rosanna for thoughtful comments and asking engaging questions during anti-bullying week - well done!

Harry for consistent hard work and effort in all areas - keep it up!



Writer of the week

Congratulations to **Mikey** for being writer of the week!

His work is on display by the school office in a silver frame for all school visitors to see - well done **Mikey!**

House Points (so far this School year)....

Fantastic effort! Keep working hard for your team!

Blackdowns 837

Brendons 764

Mendips 841

Quantocks 828





BBC

Children in Need

Thank you to our wonderful school community for helping the School Council raise a magnificent...



£110!



for Children In Need!

We are really proud of how kind and generous you all are! It will make a real difference to children across the country and help to fund some amazing projects in the South West and here in Somerset. See link for details.

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/projects/region/south+west+england/>



Classroom Catch-up



Hedgehog Class

Nativity rehearsals are well underway in Hedgehog class and the children are very excited about becoming film stars !

In English we are reading *Stickman* by Julia Donaldson. We have made stick characters and created stories about them in the forest. We have been learning about the illustrator Axel Scheffler and we have painted our own stick man scenes. We will use these illustrations to write our own stories next week.



Squirrel Class

I would like to say a massive well done to all the children in Squirrel Class for their motivation and perseverance with their tests this week. You have all done brilliantly well at handling the pressures that can come with testing and you should be very proud of yourselves. You can breathe again now!

We are also well on our way to creating our newspaper articles for the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, linking our Geography learning around Earthquakes and Volcanoes to our writing. Squirrel Class are currently creating live volcanoes with Mrs Adams in Forest school. Many lovely pictures to follow!

We have also enjoyed decoration day in which we decorated our own wreathes, ready to put up. Also, for our enterprise, we have created advent calendars! Due to go on sale the beginning of next week, so keep an eye out for these also!

Badger Class

Badger Class have worked very hard this week on their assessments and have done very well! It is a difficult week for many and yet they have coped with it really well and should be very proud of themselves!

We have now finished our *Chill Con Carne* food writing in English and children will be able to bring photocopies of their finished work home just in case they want to try making it again! Below are some photographs of the children enjoying their cooking session.



Attendance

This week, the **Golden Gnome** for attendance is awarded to **Squirrel Class** Well done! If you're in school - you're learning! Keep it up!



Notices and reminders:

Hot School Lunches — reminder!



Please ensure that lunches are booked, and paid for if applicable, for the weeks commencing the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th January by no later than 12th December.

Any lunches not booked by then will not be processed for the new year.

If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact Hazel in the school office.

The new school lunch menu is now live.

Spare Wool

If any parents/Carers have any spare wool or yarn that can be donated for the Forest School, please hand it in to the school office.



Pupil Christmas Cards



Any children who wish to send Christmas cards to their friends this year will be able to do so from next week. We are planning to do this within each Key Stage to keep bubbles from mixing. Cards should have the child's name clearly on the envelope and "posties" from each class will take turns to deliver them to their friends.

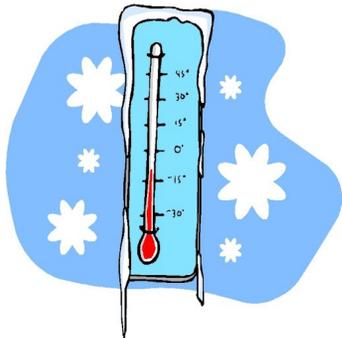
Winter weather procedures - timely reminder for all parents/carers!

As winter approaches, I would like to remind you of our procedures for any Snow closures. We will make the decision to close the school due to bad weather, snow or ice before 7.30am on the day.

This decision will be communicated to you in the following ways:

- **Via email to all parents - be sure to check your emails on the day.**
- **Via the School closure notification website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-closures/>**
- **Via our School Facebook account**

Should it be necessary to close the school for a day or two, these will be treated as "snow days". If the closure is longer, then we will revert to remote learning via Google Classroom to ensure your children's education is not disrupted any further. Fingers crossed for a disruption free winter!



Christmas Tree Raffle - reminder

Raffle tickets have been sent home this week in book bags!

Do get your £1 in before the draw date — Monday 13th December.

It's a beauty!



Choir Club

Please note that choir club will be held after school on **Wednesday 8th December** instead of Thursday. If you usually attend it would be lovely to see you all, but I realise that this may not be possible for all. If your child can attend this session, please ensure you book their place on the new, one off, choir club item on ParentPay. This will be live for bookings as of **Friday 3rd December**.


Just a friendly reminder...



PTA Catch-up:

Lots of exciting things this term, PTA dates and information to remember please:



Theatre news:

The PTA didn't want the Brewhouse trip cancellation to stop a Christmas theatre experience for the children. So 'the show will go on', 'oh no it won't, oh yes it will'!

Panto time!! We have organised for the children to see a wonderful 2021 virtual pantomime performance in school.

We will also support in a future theatre trip when possible.

Christmas raffle :

Churchstanton Primary Schools marvellous Christmas raffle launched on Monday 22nd November. You will have had your raffle letter, including your hamper item request please. Please return your tickets if you can, as per letter.

Hampers:

Thursday 9th December, MORNING please drop off hamper raffle prizes etc to school. (See letter for full details).

Raffle ticket sales:

Further tickets are available from the yellow PTA box at school, The York Inn, Churchinford community shop & the staff room (for staff). The deadline for all tickets is **Monday 12th December at 10am**. You can pay by cash or by BACCS with reference Xmas raffle. (Please contact Becca if you need bank details).

Raffle draw:

Tuesday 14th December, See Santa and his glamorous helper draw the Christmas raffle online, on the Facebook school page in the evening.

Table top sale:

Sunday 12th December, Churchinford table top sale, **10am-1pm** for the benefit of Churchstanton Primary School. Please let Becca know if you can help. It's going to be fantastic! We truly hope this can happen as safety measures are in place.

Christmas lunch day:

Wednesday 15th December, wear a Christmas jumper over school uniform in exchange for bringing an item for Taunton food bank (look out for letter with more information).

A special visitor:

On Wednesday 15th December Santa will be visiting school! (Albeit it to current guidelines at that time).



Easy fund raising: It's so easy to register and then even easier to earn money for school, no hard work needed. Some companies give 8% on your purchase as a donation! Get money for school whilst you make those Christmas purchases and more.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchstantonpta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-f1



With Christmas in mind:

Churchstanton Primary PTA



working on behalf of the school

- ◆ Do you work for or own a business that would like to donate a raffle prize in return for some promotion? Please let Rosie or Becca know.
- ◆ Have you got any items suitable for a tombola or as a raffle prize? Please let Becca know, needed by **Wednesday 9th December** please.
- ◆ Outgrown your Christmas jumper or have unwanted Christmas things? Why not pop on the schools Facebook preloved page & make some pennies for the PTA pot.
- ◆ Having a clear out before Christmas? Don't forget to pop bagged clothes in our school recycling bank.
- ◆ When buying your presents, why not raise some pennies for the PTA? Register easily with Easy fundraising.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchstantonpta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-fi

MONTHLY CHARITY
TABLE TOP SALE
CHURCHINFORD VILLAGE HALL
TA37RG
SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER
10 OCLOCK TILL 1 OCLOCK
IN AID OF CHURCHSTANTON SCHOOL PTA

Churchstanton Primary PTA

SELLERS £5 PER TABLE
BUYERS MINIMUM 50p DONATION TO ENTER- KIDS FREE
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

TABLES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCED
TO BOOK A TABLE PLEASE TEXT OR RING
SARAH BURTON 07593825923
EMAIL sarahburton218@btinternet.com

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Churchstanton Primary School

CHRISTMAS
Raffle

£1 a ticket (£5 per strip)
**From: The school, Churchinford
Community Shop & The York Inn**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW UNTIL 10AM MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER
ONLINE DRAW TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER EVENING
ON THE SCHOOL'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

Churchstantonschoolpta@hotmail.com

PTA officers:

Chair: Becca Williams

Vice Chair: Rosie James

Secretary: VACANCY

Treasurer: Tamara Paul autumn term & Amy Day from spring term.



Dear Parents/Carers

On **Wednesday 15th December**, children can wear their Christmas jumpers over their school uniform and enjoy yummy Christmas lunches followed by a special visit from Father Christmas!



In exchange, and in light of the Christmas tradition of giving, may we request any donation of Christmassy food items such as shortbread, mince pies, Christmas pudding, chocolates, or anything with a long shelf life (not baked beans) to go to the Taunton food bank.



There will be a box at each class entrance on the morning of the 15th, or you can pop in the yellow PTA box prior.

Yours Sincerely,

The PTA



Community Catch-up

The York Inn Monday Christmas Movie's start this coming Monday (6th). 5:30pm Start. Get in your pj's and dressing Gowns and come Watch The Polar Express. Hot Chocolate & Marshmallows for Refreshments. Everyone Welcome and absolutely FREE.

please note this is not a babysitting service so please can all parents remain in the building during the screening even if it is down stairs at the bar 😊



Diary Catch-up

Dates for your Diary: (Subject to change)

December 2021

1st December - Winter flu vaccinations 1pm
10th - Recording of all Christmas performances
15th - Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day & Visit from Santa!
16th - Recordings of Christmas performances to go home via children
17th - End of Term

January 2022

3rd - Bank Holiday - school closed
4th - Return to school - Spring Term

February 2022

18th - half term begins
28th - INSET school closed to pupils

March 2022

1st - Return to school

April 2022

8th—End of term
25th—Return to school

May 2022

2nd - Bank Holiday
9th –12th - Year 6 SATs week - ***Y6 parents, please avoid booking any trips or holidays during this week.***
19th-20th - Squirrel Residential to Wildside
27th-5th June - Half Term

JUNE 2022

6th June - Queens' Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday
7th June - Return to School

JULY 2022

22nd - End of term - summer holiday begins.



COVID update

Just a reminder of the procedures for parents if your child is displaying any of the symptoms associated with Coronavirus.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, please **DO NOT** send your child to school. Contact the school office and leave a message on **01823 601345** **and** email **sch.105@educ.somerset.gov.uk** **and your child's class account** to be sure that the message is received. You should organise for your child to take a PCR test via the NHS online portal or by calling 119. Members of the household do not need to isolate unless they themselves have symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Safeguarding:

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school and this is especially important during any school closure. If you have any concerns you can ring Children Social Care on: **0300 123 2224** or email **childrens@somerset.gov.uk**