



# Churchstanton Catch-up

Churchstanton  
Primary School  
Somerset  
TA3 7RL

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## Newsletter: 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it has been a very eventful end to the term!

Thank you for being so supportive over our emergency half day closure. Quick thinking and hard work by Somerset Gas managed to put in a temporary fix and the portaloos were only in use for one day. The whole water main is being replaced over Christmas which should improve things across the site going forward.

I hope you all enjoyed our grand Christmas Raffle draw on Tuesday via Facebook. Santa was feeling a bit mischievous but got the job done! Congratulations to all our winners who will have been contacted by the PTA before the end of term.

You will have received your KS1 Nativity & KS2 Christmas Celebration DVD by now. The children thoroughly enjoyed the filming experience and having seen a preview copy of the DVD, I am so impressed by all the performances of our children here. It is wonderful that we all have a permanent record of the event and special thanks must go to the PTA for fully funding this for all families. Mrs Berry also did an amazing job of coordinating the filming day for the whole school so a big thank you goes to her too. Reflecting on the decision to record our performances, I feel that the additional measures now being introduced across the country as a result of the Omicron variant, proves that we were wise to be cautious. The PTA have also funded a special Christmas Panto DVD for all the classes to watch this week. It has been a lot of fun (oh yes it has!) and huge thanks must go to the PTA team for organising this as a replacement for our cancelled Brewhouse visit. More details about our new theatre visit in the spring term to follow in the new year!

Class Catch up is full of lovely photographs of the Christmas Dinner Day, Christmas Jumpers and of course our fabulous visit from Santa on Wednesday. He went to each class and delivered presents to all the children who were very excited to see him. Thank you to all families who donated some delicious Christmas treats for Taunton Food bank this week. They will be much appreciated at this time of year. Thank you again to the PTA for organising this.

I will of course contact you all at the beginning of January should the COVID situation change in Somerset over the holiday period but I am hoping to see you back at school on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a safe and peaceful celebration with your families and loved ones this year.

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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)





**Message from Jon Wood -  
Chair of Governors, Churchstanton Primary School**



Dear Children, Staff, Parents & Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank you all for a fantastic first term back. I know there have been many challenges with the ongoing pandemic, but all of you have shown great resilience and have achieved some amazing things.

I was particularly glad the Kilve Court Residential took place in October and was delighted to see the photographic evidence of so many wonderful memories being made on the school Facebook page.

I especially want to thank Mrs Halstead for leading the school through such difficult times, working hard with the support of all the staff at Churchstanton to ensure there was minimal disruption to your education.

It is a shame that recent rises in COVID infections has meant that many of our traditional Christmas activities have been postponed or moved online, but I do hope you manage to enjoy them nevertheless. Together with the wonderful school PTA, School Staff have worked really hard to make sure children do not feel as though they have missed out and they have a brilliant end to the term.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic break. Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you all back in school in 2022.

Best wishes,

Jon Wood

Chair of Governors



# Celebration Catch-up

## Headteacher Certificates

### Hedgehog Class

Eliza for being a Mega-Motivator and always trying her best - amazing!

Ylva for becoming a free reader and really enjoying her reading. Brilliant!

### Squirrel Class

Lyla for showing excellent resilience throughout her assessments this week - super effort!

Freddy for focussing well on his writing about the earthquake. Keep it up!

### Badger Class

Matilda for showing great perseverance in Maths - excellent work!

Lillie for working extremely hard - all term! Amazing!



### Super Swimmers!



Congratulations to the following pupils who all achieved their 25m swimming certificates this term:

George, Eva, Sylvia, Seb, Matilda, Dylan, Lennon, Michael, Lillie & Rossanna.

Winners of the House Points for the Autumn Term is

**MENDIPS!**

Well done to everyone! Who will be the winners in the spring Term?



<b>Blackdowns</b>	<b>984</b>
<b>Brendons</b>	<b>917</b>
<b>Mendips</b>	<b>1016</b>
<b>Quantocks</b>	<b>975</b>



## Celebration Catch-up

### Attendance

This fortnight, the Golden Gnome for attendance is awarded to **BADGER Class** Well done! If you're in school then you are learning! Keep it up!



Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved 100% attendance during the autumn term! This is amazing and we are very proud of you! Keep it up please!

**Edward, Oliver, Felix, Megan,  
Jemima, Isaac, Ylva, Ben, Lyla,  
Jeremy, Faye, Evie, Finley,  
George, Lennon, Caleb, Eva,  
Michael, Sylvia and Matilda**

## Celebration Catch-up



**Congratulations to Matilda in Badger Class who achieved a distinction in her Grade 4 gymnastics this month.**

**It is fantastic to see all that hard work paying off.**

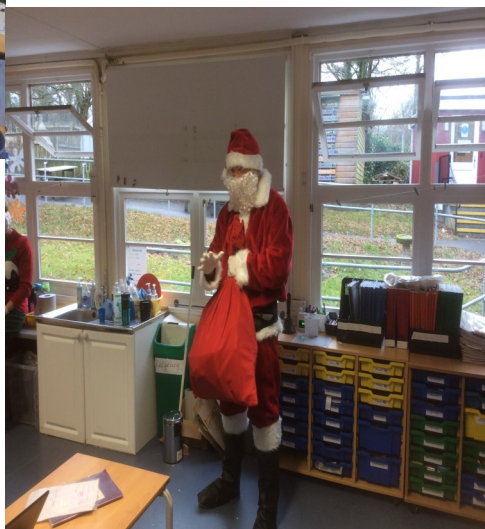




# Christmas Catch-up



Merry Christmas from us all here at Churchstanton Primary School!







# Christmas Catch-up



Merry Christmas from us all here at Churchstanton Primary School!



Badgers and Squirrels decorating the church Christmas tree





## Notices and reminders:

### Great news!

We have been successful in a bid for a grant for **£500** from the Hinkley Connection Project Education Fund Programme. This will be used to fund a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) project in the spring term.



Huge thanks must go to Rachel Darby who spent hours completing grant applications for the school and we are delighted that this one was successful! Fingers crossed for the rest!

If you would like to support us with grant applications, please do let Mrs Coghlan know in the office as it is something we are looking to do more of next year.



*Just a friendly reminder...*

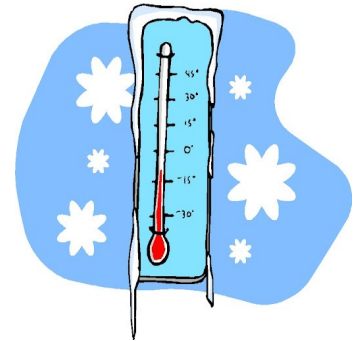
### Winter weather procedures - timely reminder for all parents/carers!

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.



### Christmas Tree Raffle

The winner of the beautiful Christmas Tree is Seb in Badger Class! We are so glad it is going to a good home for Christmas! Enjoy your tree Seb!

It will be available to collect from 12pm on Friday.

**We have a Winner!**



### Staffing changes

Ms Coles has decided to leave the school at the end of November. We want to thank her for all her hard work over the past 4 and ½ years and wish her well with her future. Please do not send any further emails to Ms Coles’ email address at school as they will not be responded to.

Our new temporary office staff have done an amazing job of settling into a good routine. Mrs Ruth Coghlan is our new Business Manager and deals with all things finance, and Miss Molly Soo will be our general admin assistant. Their working days are, Mrs Coghlan -Tuesday and Thursday, with Miss Soo in the office on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. We are hoping they will become part of the permanent office team.



# PTA Catch-up



Churchstanton Primary PTA



working on behalf of the school

Thank you to all parents/carers who donated Christmas treats to Taunton Food bank this week. You have been so generous yet again - what wonderful role models for our children you are.

Thank you to all Parents/Carers who donated Christmas treats to Taunton Food bank this week. You have been so generous yet again - what wonderful role models for our children you are.

What a wonderful term packed with lots of enrichment for the children funded by the PTA, all making their time at Churchstanton even more magical.

Thank you to Santa's Elves Gemma, Cara and Keri. And a big thank you to Santa for sparing time to visit.

Thanks to raffle hamper helpers Clair & Keri, and a big thank you to Rosie for solely organising the Xmas card orders and sourcing the most fantastic raffle prizes!

The Raffle was a big success, we raised a marvellous £521 which will help fund all the scheduled enrichment.

Thank you so very much to all those who supported Churchstanton Primary School by buying/selling Christmas raffle tickets and making prize donations!

The draw is on the PTA & School Facebook page. All winners have been contacted, congratulations!

Finally, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Becca,  
PTA Chair



## Community information:

The York Inn has some festive fun planned:

**Sunday 19th December ~**

**5:30pm**~Santa on his sleigh through the Village.

**-Monday 20th December ~ 5:30pm**~ movie night will show 'Elf'.

**-Christmas Eve** ~ lots of family fun, including Santa, see Facebook page for full details and times.

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

# Diary Catch-up

## Dates for your Diary: (Subject to change)

### January 2022

- 3rd - Bank Holiday - school closed
- 4th - Return to school - Spring Term
- 6th - Parent governor Interviews
- 26th - Safer Internet Workshop for Parents

### February 2022

- 8th - Safer Internet Day
- 18th - half term begins
- 28th - NSET school closed to pupils

### March 2022

- 1st - Return to school
- 3rd - World Book Day
- 9th - Theatre visit tbc

### April 2022

- 7th - End of term exhibition for parents
- 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

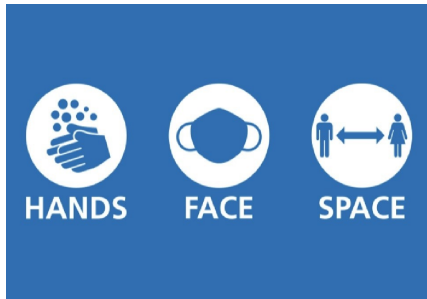
### JUNE 2022

- 6th June - **School closed** for 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](mailto: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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)**