Christmas Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

With the festive season not far away, to help you plan ahead, our Christmas special newsletter contains everything you need to know! Our key dates for Christmas events are indicated above, please keep hold of them for reference. We have outlined arrangements for the festive season below. Please read this carefully as ordering tickets etc. after the dates required may result in disappointment.

Key Christmas Dates	
Date	**Event**
Thursday 1st December	Book Fair based in the Studio
Friday 2nd December	Deadline for booking a Christmas Dinner for 9th December
Friday 2nd December	Christmas Craft and Christmas Jumper Day- *please bring your chocolate donation for the chocolate tombola. Take to classrooms.*
Friday 2nd December	PTA Christmas Bazar 3.40pm – 6.30pm KS2 Choir singing - need to be in hall at 5.30pm
Monday 5th - Friday 9th December	PTA Christmas Cards for the community
Wednesday 7th December	Menu change - usual menu for Friday 9th will be served today (Fish Fingers or Cheese and Tomato Turnover and Chocolate Brownie).
Wednesday 7th December	KS2 Service in the church 2pm and 6pm *(children in church by 5.45pm)*
Friday 9th December	Christmas Dinner *Children can wear a Christmas hat (There will also be opportunities to make one in school)*
Monday 12th December	KS2 Drama workshops: Year 5 and Year 6 - *a letter will come out with details*
Tuesday 13th December	KS2 Christmas Party afternoon-*food and clothing suggestions will come out to parents in the previous week*
Wednesday 14th December	KS1 and FSU Christmas performances at 2pm and 6pm *(children in school between 5.15pm and 5.30pm at the latest)*
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Drama workshops: Year 4 and Year 3 - *a letter will come out with details*
Thursday 15th December	Choir (Year 4, 5 and 6 only) 11am Singing at the Pym Court residential home.
Thursday 15th December	FSU and KS1 Christmas party- *food and clothing suggestions will come out to parents in the previous week*
Friday 16th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays (2.30pm finish)

Thursday 1st December - Book Fair
Based in the Studio, the Usborne book fair will be available for parents to browse and purchase between 3:00pm and 4:30pm. The children will have browsed and made wishlists during the school day.

Friday 2nd December - Christmas Craft and Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas kicks off with a fun filled craft morning where children will work in mixed aged house groups and create a variety of Christmas crafts. Glitter at the ready! Children can also wear a Christmas jumper to school that day in return for bringing an item for the Chocolate Tombola, which will be held during the Christmas Bazaar. Please don't go to the trouble of buying a Christmas jumper if you don't have one, adding some tinsel to a coloured jumper for example or some other decorations is just as good.

Friday 2nd December 3:40-6:30pm - **Christmas Bazaar –** Get in the festive mood with the PTA Bazaar, mulled wine, carols, Santa's grotto games and stalls makes this a really festive occasion that helps get everyone in the mood! Further details about this event will follow in due course and the Christmas Hampers are filling fast!

Friday 2nd December - KS2 Choir singing at the Christmas Bazaar

KS2 choir will be performing a medley of Christmas songs at the Christmas Bazaar. They will need to be wearing Christmas jumpers, and be at the Hall by 5.30pm.

Monday 5th December onwards - Christmas posting boxes
Posting boxes will be out in school from Monday 5th December. If children would like to post Christmas cards to their friends, could you please ensure that your child/ren have written their friend's **name and class** on the envelope, as we have a number of children in school with the same first name.

Monday 5th - Friday 9th December PTA Christmas Cards for the Community

Last year's Community Christmas Cards were a huge success as part of the PTA's 12 Days of Christmas. So, this year we are doing it again!
We would love children to make a Christmas card at home, for a member of the community, and bring it into school between Monday 5th December and Friday 9th. There will be a Christmas box by the school office for the children to 'post' their card in during this week. The cards will be distributed by Estuary League of Friends.
The card can have any Christmassy design, created on the computer or by hand, and can simply say 'Merry Christmas, from everyone at The Topsham School' inside.

Wednesday 7th December - Menu Change - To avoid having 2 roast dinners in the same week, on Wednesday 7th December we will be having the usual menu for Friday 9th (Fish Fingers or Cheese and Tomato Turnover and Chocolate Brownie).

Wednesday 7th December 2pm and 6pm- Key Stage 2 Carols at Christmas

We invite parents of children in Years 3 – 6 to join us for the Key Stage 2 Christmas carol service, which will take place at St Margaret's Church at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Letters for costumes are sent in a separate letter from the class teacher. Tickets are not required for this event. Parents MUST indicate their children's attendance at the evening performance in order to assist with the allocation of parts, along with collection arrangements. We would appreciate as many children as possible attending the evening performance. Please confirm that your child is able to attend by clicking on the following link and completing a short Google form: https://forms.gle/h5MeRbEFcTQ5Gev19

Friday 9th December - Christmas Lunch

The children always enjoy our annual Christmas lunch when we all sit down together in a festive atmosphere!
Children can wear a festive hat! There will be a chance in school to make one as well.

Roasted turkey, Roasted potatoes
Stuffing (1), sausages (1,12)
Peas and carrots and Gravy

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Veggie strudel (1), Roasted potatoes
Veggie sausage (1) Stuffing (1)
Peas and carrots and Gravy

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Chocolate layer fudge cake (1,8)
Fruit salad
Yoghurts (6)

Please make sure you have booked your child's Christmas dinner **online via Schoolcomms** by **Friday 2nd December at the latest.** The ordering system is exactly the same as ordering lunch for any other day but you should be able to see the Christmas Dinner options for 9th December instead of the usual four choices. The only difference being that we will print a list on 2nd December and these numbers will be submitted to the kitchen. We will be unable to fulfil requests for meals ordered after this date. Please be aware that no refunds will be issued after the cut-off date as we have to submit these numbers to the kitchen in advance.

Monday 12th and Thursday 15th December - KS2 Drama workshops

The Key Stage 2 children will take part in an introduction to 'A Christmas Carol' and a fun re-telling of the play with props and costumes. The children in Year 5 and 6 have been learning about the life of Charles Dickens so will be able to make links to their Literacy learning.

Thursday 15th December - KS2 Choir singing (Y4, 5, 6 only)

The KS2 choir will be taking part in a Carol Concert at 11am at Pym Court. The children will be wearing their school uniform. They will be accompanied by Mrs Haysom and Miss Sheen.

Tuesday 13th December - KS2 Christmas Party
KS2 will play different Christmas party games throughout the afternoon. The children can bring a change of clothes for the parties and will have a chance to change at lunchtime. There will also be a small amount of party food to be shared, which we would like the children to bring in and share with their class. Information on what food is needed will come out to parents the week before the parties!

Wednesday 14th December at 2pm and 6pm - KS1 and FSU Christmas performances
Parents are invited to the Christmas production. Ticketed performances of the FSU and Key Stage 1 Christmas production will take place in the school hall at 2pm and 6pm. More information about costumes needed will follow shortly.
Little Acorns will only take part in the 2pm performance. We invite the Little Acorns who do not normally attend on a Wednesday afternoon to join us at 1.30pm if they wish to.

Tickets: This year, as part of our aim to become a 'paperless' school, we will not be issuing physical paper tickets for these performances. There is a small charge of £1.00 per ticket for this performance to cover costs which include a performance licence. To book your 'tickets' please login to your Schoolcomms account and select the option of order for the 2pm or 6pm performance from the payments section. Initially there will be a maximum of 2 'tickets' per family per show, as we have limited hall capacity. Ticket requests should be **completed by Wednesday 7th December at the latest**. Once initial allocations have been made, we will notify parents if there are any remaining tickets.

6pm Performance for Big Acorns/Year 1 and Year 2: Children need to be in school by 5.30pm at the latest Please inform us if your child is able to attend the 6pm performance and the arrangements for collection by clicking on the following link and completing a short Google form:
https://forms.gle/2Uqjpw247Mjw8eWs6

Thursday 15th December - FSU/Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
The Christmas party for children in FSU and Year 1 & 2! (All Little Acorns are invited to attend.) **The children will not need lunch on this day.** Instead, could they please bring in contributions of food for the party. Lists for this, and information about wearing party clothes, will be posted in the week before the parties. (No nuts or nut-based products please.)
If your child is in Nursery (Little Acorns) please let us know if they will be attending the FSU Nativity and the Christmas Party by competing a short Google form by clicking on the link below:
https://forms.gle/jTNEB5S4G4zBV9629

And finally…please do not forget, the end of term is at 2.30pm on Friday 16th December (and 4.30pm for Twiglets).

We hope that this gives a clear outline of arrangements for Christmas and helps you to plan ahead. As you can see, this is a busy time of year in the school calendar!

All the staff at Topsham are looking forward to seeing you join us for some of the Christmas events over the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Pipe