



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"

Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 12: 1 Dec 2023

DIARY DATES

Wed 6 Dec	9.30am and 2pm Busy Bees Christmas Nativity Performances
Thurs 7 Dec	2pm KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance: The Landlord's Cat
Fri 8 Dec	2pm KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance: The Landlord's Cat
Mon 11 Dec	Elfridges Christmas Shop & Class Parties—wear party/festive clothes
Tues 12 Dec	3.15pm FOSP Festive Cinema Night
Thurs 14 Dec	Mufti Day: Festive jumpers/home clothes for School Christmas Lunch
Fri 15 Dec	9am St Peter's Christmas Service @ St Peter's Church, Tandridge—All welcome
Tues 2 Jan	INSET Day—school closed for staff training
Wed 10 Jan	Pied Piper & Deafinitely Theatre Group "Can Bears Ski?"

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first day of Advent. I am sure that the majority of your children (and maybe you) will have cracked open the advent calendars today, or will when you get home, to lots of delightful daily surprises. Some say you are never too old to have an advent calendar or candle and, I admit, that I am definitely one of those people too!

Reverend Ashton led a lovely Collective Worship yesterday to show how we prepare for Advent. He referenced the different weather patterns with lots of props to demonstrate—as we prepare for summer we might dig out our sunglasses and sunhat; as winter comes we find our scarf and woolly hat. Then, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we have our advent calendars and candles through Advent and think about all those things we want to get ready for Christmas. The children then thought about the meaning of Advent in their classrooms as part of our Pause Day (when we spend the day thinking carefully about a special event in the church calendar). It was a real treat going into the Busy Bees classroom to the calm sounds of Christmas carols with all the children very carefully and super quietly making advent wreaths.



Many Advent customs involve counting down the days until Christmas begins. Some churches have an advent wreath with five candles, one for each of the four Sunday's leading up to Christmas Day and one for Christmas Day itself. Sometimes Christians will have their own Advent candle (like me) which they'll burn at home. This burns down gradually as each day passes toward the big day itself.

WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT COLOURS ON AN ADVENT WREATH SYMBOLISE?

First candle for the 1st Sunday: **HOPE** (The Prophecy Candle) - Purple
Second candle for the 2nd Sunday: **PEACE** (The Bethlehem Candle) - Purple
Third candle for the 3rd Sunday: **JOY** (The Shepherd's Candle) - Pink
Fourth candle for the 4th Sunday: **LOVE** (The Angel's Candle) - Purple

In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically **WHITE** and larger than the other candles and is placed in the centre of the wreath.



“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man”
-Pope Francis



THINGS TO CHECK THIS WEEK

- ❑ 1 small keyring on book bag only
- ❑ After School Clubs for Spring Term
- ❑ Full PE Kit in school at all times
- ❑ Named wellies in school
- ❑ All items of uniform, coats, etc clearly named



BUT WHAT IS ADVENT REALLY ABOUT?

In the Christian church calendar, the time leading up to Christmas is called Advent, from the Latin word 'Adventus' meaning "coming." Christians mark the four Sundays in Advent as a way to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus.

Christianity focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe to be the Son of God.

Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth - so the Advent period reminds Christians to remember and prepare for those celebrations. Services will take place in church; carols will be sung, and Nativity plays and Christmas shows will be performed in schools up and down the country.



God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son.
Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen



CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have really started to get into the Christmas spirit. We had a lovely Pause day learning all about Advent and the importance of this date on the Christian calendar. In Maths we progressed from finding one more and one less within 5 and started putting objects into two groups, using the part, part, whole model to represent the groups and the bonds to 5. We have also had a successful dress rehearsal of our Nativity play watched by Ladybirds and Dragonflies classes. Can I please ask that each Busy Bee brings in a cardboard tube next week. It can be from toilet roll or kitchen roll or similar. Thank you.



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a brilliant week. We filmed our performance of "The Landlord's Cat" which went really well and are looking forward to performing it live next week. In English we have continued to use "The Polar Express" as a focus for our writing; using adjectives to describe various scenes from the film. We also wrote letters to Father Christmas, saying what we would like for Christmas and making sure we used the correct language features for letter writing. In Maths we revisited our number bonds to 10 and also focused on addition. In Geography we have looked at human and physical features in London.

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had a theatrical week! Our play continues to go well; we have performed for Busy Bees and have made a recording of the show too. Both expression and volume have improved significantly so thank you to those that helped with this at home. In English we have used the book "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers to help us create imaginative stories about finding an animal on our doorstep. What would we do with it? Who could we ask for help? Where would we put it? In Maths we have explored directions. We learned left, right, turn, clockwise, anticlockwise etc. In Geography we have looked at compass directions and tried to plan a route to return the Penguin to the South Pole.



LIFE IS LIKE A TEACUP—TO BE FILLED TO THE BRIM AND ENJOYED WITH FRIENDS

Thank you to everyone who came to support the Dragonflies teatime on Monday. There were some amazing cakes made (I, personally, have to give a shout out to Ava and Henry's grandma who made a superb lemon drizzle sponge cake. Light as a feather and delicious!). The children had a lovely time with the various activities laid on by the Dragonflies class parents and it was definitely in a great cause. Mr Atterton has already planned what the class will spend the monies raised on and is looking forward to some fantastic class activities made possible by your generous donations. Thank you everyone.



We would also like to say a big thank you to Florence H.'s grandma who donated us lots of lovely books for the library. They will, I know, be well read, and loved by many. Thank you so much.

OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE...

And last, but by no means least, an enormous thank you to Knights Garden Centre for gifting us our beautiful Christmas tree. We are so grateful for this and know the children will be so excited to see it in all its decorated glory next week. As in previous years, we would love to regift the tree to a family in need or charitable cause at the end of term—the tree is always still in such lovely condition with lots of life left. If you know of anyone that could put it to good use, please let us know. Please note it is around 8ft tall and will need collecting!



OUR CHRISTMAS PLAYS

Having seen all the rehearsals and then dress rehearsals, please may I remind you to bring your tissues for the performances next week. The children have really blown us away and I know they will do the same for you. It would be fabulous if you could also bring along your purses to buy some tickets for the absolutely amazing raffle that has been organised by the Friends. There really are the most fabulous prizes to be had this year (details below). Tickets will be on sale before and after the performances.

On a similar note, please be considerate when parking during the performances. The Barley Mow kindly allow us to use their car park but please remember that they are a business and need to accommodate their own trade at this time too. The car park behind school is available but is also used by Pre-school families and local residents who will need access to/from at all times. Please bear this in mind when parking. If the weather is dry we will open up the Millennium Field (at the end of the carpark) and this may be used with care as overflow parking. Do not use the disabled parking space in front of preschool and, as always, no parking on the zigzags at the front of school. Thank you.

I know it's Christmas but... when's really over!



I know many of you will be starting to put the Christmas tree and decorations up from this weekend. Have a wonderful time if you are doing this or even if you are still in the 'thinking about it' stages.

Enjoy a relaxing weekend. God bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

At St Peter's we take the safety and well-being of every child very seriously. If you are ever concerned about a child please speak in confidence to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Greenaway or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Atterton and Mrs Vaquinhos. If you feel you have not had a satisfactory response from us to any child protection issue, please phone the contact centre on:

Tel: 0300 200 1006

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

HOUSE TEAM POINTS

 35	 43	 45
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HOMEWORK

Busy Bees: Keep practicing for the play and try some 'cvc' words writing

Ladybirds: Addition

Dragonflies: English skills



ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE



SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

11am All Age Worship
4.30pm Café Service @ St Mary's, Oxted
6.30pm Evensong

Phone: 01883 714263
Email: stmaryoxted.stpeterandtandridge@gmail.com
https://stpeterandtandridge.uk/Groups/343723/St_Peters_Church.aspx



Christmas Café Church

Carols, Crafts and Christingles

11.30am, Sunday 10th December
St John's, Hurst Green

Join us for a relaxed Christmas Café Church for all ages. Enjoy carols, crafts and making Christingles. Starting with Community Brunch at 11am. Collection for The Children's Society.

stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk



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ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

- Author Unknown



Emergency information regarding the school will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM

☎ 01883 712439 ✉ hello@stpetersinfant.org 🌐 www.stpetersinfant.org



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education





THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

6th, 7th and 8th December

Tickets on sale at all nativity performances

£5 per strip

Prizes to be drawn on Friday

PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!!

- Chartham Park – Four ball golf
- Quarry Farm – 30 minute riding lesson
- Karma – One day holiday camp for two
- Tandridge Leisure Centre – Family Swim
- Aqua Sports @ Mercers Park - £30 voucher
- Gymspire Gymnastics - One month free
- Spectrum Gymnastics Club – One day holiday camp
- Co-Op – Food hamper
- Hobbledown Children's Farm – Two tickets
- Godstone Farm – Family entry
- Priory Farm – Family entry
- Westerham Brewery - £10 voucher
- Inches of Oxted – Clarins gifts
- Nutrikind – One hour nutrition session
- FP Massage – Two 45 minute massages
- Ingledale – 45 minute head neck and back massage
- Nutfield Priory – Afternoon Tea for for two
- LCA – three musical theatre classes for kids
- Elements Salon – Product bag
- Quince Cookery House - £30 voucher and cookery book
- Spiral Art – personalized art work
- Beauty Box – Product bag
- Howdens – Kitchen appliance voucher
- Lianne Marie Photography – 30 minute photo shoot
- Flower Arrangement
- Cupcake Bouquet
- Limpsfield Fitness - 60 minute Acupuncture

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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