

The Holy Trinity Times



Upcoming Events

15/12/2023

End of Term - Finish at 1.30 pm

03/01/2024

INSET Day - School is Closed

04/01/2024

Start of Term

17/01/2024

Year 2 - Visit to Milestones

18/01/2024

'Young Voices'

24/01/2024

Year 4 - Visit to Harry Potter Studio

25/01/2024

Year 1 - Visit to Alice Holt

29/01/2024

5E - Visit to Royal Grammar School



Welcome to our December newsletter

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of term and we have a lot of excited children ready for the festive break! Thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year from attending one of our seven Christmas performances, to volunteering to help at Christmas craft days and providing jam jars and cardboard tubes too! It is a busy time of year and we really appreciate all the support you provide. It has also been wonderful to come together as a community to watch the children perform. We have a very talented group of students who have shown their musical and acting abilities as well backstage technical capabilities too.

We are pleased to let you know that we have new staff joining us next term. Davina Welton will be our new Year 4 Teaching Assistant and Charlotte Elton and Bonnie Aitken will be joining our Learning Support Team as LSAs. We will also have a new part time SENCO joining Mrs Taylor. Her name is Catherine Byng and she is an experienced SENCO. There will be a handover time between Mrs Taylor and Miss Byng in January but she will, in time, be working closely with some of our pupils and families.

Mrs Bartlett is retiring tomorrow after having had associations with the school for over 17 years, since her children joined us. She has been a valued member of staff who, as well as being a class teacher, has had responsibility for our PHSE and RSE curriculums as well as playtimes. We will miss her greatly but wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Just a gentle reminder for next term - we have had an increasing number of pupils arriving late in the mornings. Please remember that drop off at school is between 8.30 am and 8.40 am; after this time the front gates will be closed. The children are registered at 8.45 am.

I hope in the busyness of the season you will have an opportunity to take time to stop and reflect on what Christmas is all about. A time for gift wrapped presents of course, but also a time to give gifts of warmth, shelter, joy, peace, love and care, as shown in the very first Christmas. A story about a baby boy, who for Christians all around the world, is a symbol of love and hope. I hope you and your family have a Christmas full of fun, laughter and love.

Mrs Ambrose



Winter Mini Challenge 2023 Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)



Children aged three and above can take part in the winter mini reading challenge where they have to read 3 books by February in order to win a prize.

The Winter Mini Challenge will run from 1 December 2023 to 19 February 2024 and we would love pupils from Holy Trinity to take part.

The Winter Mini Challenge is aimed at primary school aged children.

This year, The Reading Agency teamed up with Youth Sport Trust for the Ready, Set, Read! Summer Reading Challenge, encouraging children to engage in games and sports in any way that suits them best. The Reading Agency is thrilled to announce that they are continuing their partnership with Youth Sport Trust for the Winter Mini Challenge, brought to life again by fabulous illustrator, Loretta Schauer.

Join the six characters as they have fun on a winter walk to the library and it will spark a love of reading, even in the most reluctant of readers.

What is the Winter Mini Challenge?

The Winter Mini Challenge is a free online, bitesize reading challenge, encouraging children to keep up good reading habits or discover the joy of reading. The Challenge is run through The Reading Agency's year-round children's website, where children can find fun activities and earn rewards for reading.

It is easy to take part in the Winter Mini Challenge. Children simply read three books or more of their choice between 1 December 2023 and 19 February 2024 and add them to their online profile on the Reading Agency's website. Reaching their reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

Prize for every child reaching their goal

We encourage every child and responsible adult to visit their local library to collect a prize once they have reached their online goal. Bring along your printed certificate or show it to a staff member or volunteer on a device like a mobile phone, and they can collect a prize (suitable for 3+ year olds, available in most of our libraries, and as long as stock lasts).

Please note your child must be a library member to collect their prize. If your child isn't a member yet, you can join the library online or at your local library. Library membership is free. Please visit your local library to pick up your books and start reading! Or if you prefer, you can also download eBook, eAudiobook and eComics, all reading counts!



THE CHRISTMAS CHARITY VOTE

At our Christmas performances parents are invited to donate to a charity that the children have chosen. This year you were very generous and raised £357.90 for the Dogs trust - thank you!



Thank you also for your generous donations to our Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save The Children, you raised a fantastic £449.15. We appreciate that finances are tight for people and at this time of year the pressures on families are even greater with Christmas around the corner. Thank you for showing our school values of Love and Service in such a practical way.



A huge thank you to all the staff for making the end of term festivities such fun for the children. Here are some photos from today of the Christmas Performance by staff - a comical retelling of A Christmas Carol and our catering staff and their colourful christmas lunch biscuits!



Uniform



At Holy Trinity Primary School we take a lot of pride in our school uniform. We have noticed towards the end of this term that some children are not wearing the correct clothing or shoes. Over the Christmas holiday please check your child's uniform and ensure that they return to school correctly dressed, including the correct PE kit and shoes. If you are unsure please refer to our uniform policy on our website.



The big Ambition is a survey put together by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza.

She has had an amazing response from nursery, primary and secondary schools across England and as a result she has decided to extend the closing date to Friday 19th January 2024 to allow even more children the chance to have their say.

This gives schools, children and young people an extra month over the festive season to take part in 'The Big Ambition'. Some of our classes have done this in school but if your child hasn't had the opportunity and would like to, please support them in completing it.

**Children and parents can complete the survey here:
www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition**

'The Big Ambition' provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election.

This is a way to ensure that the children and young people of Surrey are represented in the results.



Our pupil voice group the WHAM Team have been busy this term. They created a piece of art work for the Guildford Cathedral art exhibition. The theme this year was God's Gift and pieces were created by church schools from around the Diocese of Guildford. The WHAM children designed and made the piece you can see here. They wrapped baby Jesus up like a gift with a big ribbon and thought of all the different names given to Jesus such as 'Shepherd' and Prince of Peace'. They also set it all on a big heart to represent love and put two candles either side as he is also known as 'The Light of the World'. The exhibition takes place until the 3rd February and is free to see.

The WHAM Team also created decorations for the Holy Trinity Church Tree Festival last weekend. A lot of wool and fun was part of the making process!



WHAM Team We Have A Mission





AS MENTIONED IN LAST MONTHS NEWSLETTER - WE NEED YOUR HELP.....



In our July newsletter I was thrilled to announce that Holy Trinity had decided to introduce the Opal Play Programme. Staff and parents have had an opportunity to complete a questionnaire giving their views on playtimes and the pupils will have their say before the end of term. Staff training on this has begun and we are hoping that the children will start to see some changes to their playtimes from early next term.

For those who didn't see the July newsletter here is some information about OPAL and why we have chosen to make this change at Holy Trinity.

Research shows that children's mental and physical health is struggling and that great play can make it better. We are investing time and money into improving the quality of play-times for children and raising the importance of play to the children's development in line with their academic development. The benefits of this are enormous and include; behaviour, self-regulation, social and emotional development, risk management and physical activity. Please feel free to follow this link to find out more about this amazing programme and how it can benefit your child: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

Watch this video to see what we are aiming towards:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UCex3K_Oj4

We need your help...

As part of the programme we need to build up resources in school for the children to play with. This will be a gradual process as we purchase and install storage.

Christmas time can be a time for clearing out the old as the new comes in.

In January we will be looking for donations of the following:

- old clothes for dressing up - including hats and bags - we are not looking for actual dressing up outfits such as Disney princess or superheroes but clothing that could be more adaptable
- old sheets, shower curtains
- old kitchen pots and pans and cooking utensils
- small wheelee suitcases
- cuddly toys
- pushchairs (full size not toy ones)

We will let you know when to bring your donations in next term.