



SYTCHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Message from Mrs Brogan

Dear Parents and Families,

So here we are on the roller-coaster to Christmas! There are lots of exciting festive activities planned over the next couple of weeks, and our Christmas Season was kicked off in style by the fabulous Fayre that was organised and run by the PTA and their supporters. A huge thank you to them for the time, thought and effort that goes into making an event like that such a success. Apologies that we had to postpone the celebration assembly for parents last Friday. This was to allow electrical work to take place. This work was the final stage of the 'new build' and has been long-awaited. A massive thank you to Mrs Bishop for her tenacity in making this happen - co-ordinating three different agencies to do one job has been no mean feat!

I have been delighted this week to meet with Mrs Fiona Templeton, who will be taking over as your permanent headteacher after February half term. We are planning a very thorough handover over the next couple of months, and I remain committed to leading the school throughout that handover. On a personal note, I want to say that I am thoroughly enjoying leading your lovely school in this interim period, and would have liked to stay longer. However, my personal circumstances are such that I can't currently make the long-term commitment that the children, staff and families at Sytchampton deserve. I will be sad to leave but am excited to hand over to Mrs Templeton to lead the school on the next part of its journey.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last term and to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

Best Wishes
Catherine Brogan.

THANK YOU and WELL DONE!

What a fantastic time we had at the Christmas Fayre! Games, stalls, refreshments, entertainment and lots of fun, all organised through the hard work of our PTA and all those who volunteered to help. It was lovely to see our school community in action, and a great start to our Christmas Festivities. Well done to the School Council for organising and running their stall, and to the choir for the wonderful Christmas singing. Thank you all for your support!



Maths Resources

Money raised by the PTA has been used to purchase some fabulous maths resources. We have bought a whole range of things that support children in developing their maths concepts and skills. The resources can be used within the maths curriculum right through school, from basic addition and subtraction to understanding fractions and decimals. Here Willow class are investigating the 4 times table.



Start of the School Day

Thank you to everyone for making an effort to make sure that our school day can start promptly at 8.45am. Children should be in the playground ready to enter their classes at 8.45am. **Please keep your conversations with teachers in the morning short, so that they can get into the classroom to start the day's learning.** This helps all of the children to have a settled start to the day. Thank you for your support with this.

Site Security

It is really important that our school site is secure, so if you are using the gate from the path, **please always close and latch the gate behind you** if there is no one immediately following.



It is also very helpful if parents leave the playground as soon as possible after drop off so that the gates can be locked. Many thanks

Local Support

Following our Operation Christmas Child appeal, some families also wanted to support people closer to home who may be in difficult circumstances this Christmas. In our school assemblies we have been talking about the meaning of Advent and Christmas and linking this to our value of **Hope**. We have talked about what we hope for others this Christmas. Over the next 2 weeks we will collect donations for the Maggs Clothing Project, supporting homeless people, and for a local Women's Refuge, giving housing and hope to women and their families who have been subject to domestic abuse. If you can spare any items in used but good condition, or would like to donate new items (e.g. food / toiletries) from the following lists, please bring them in to the collection boxes at the front office before Friday 20th. Please note that any items donated that can't be used by these projects will be donated to local Charity Shops or food banks.

Maggs Clothing Project

- Men's Clothes – in small sizes
- Sleeping Bags
- Rucksacks & Holdall Bags
- Roll Mats
- Men's Shoes
- Underwear
- Tracksuit Bottoms
- Toiletries
- Basic Kitchen Items
- Carrier Bags

Women's Refuge

For women and children

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Christmas Decorations (including an artificial tree if anyone has one!)
- Toiletries
- Sanitary products
- Christmas Treats (chocolate, biscuits etc)

We are having another **Rags2Riches** textile collection on the morning of 9th December, which is another opportunity to help raise money for school. If you are having a clear-out and have any of the items below, please bring them to school in a black refuse bag on the 9th December. Many thanks for your support.



Key Stage 1 Nativity

The Key Stage 1 Nativity starts at 1.30 and 5.30 on Tuesday 10th December. Tickets have now all been sent out. If you have any queries, please speak to the school office. The PTA will be selling refreshments from 1.00 and 5.00 in the hall. Please make sure that children are back at school by 5.00 to get ready for the 5.30 performance. Thanks

Christmas Lunch in Christmas Jumpers



Our **Christmas lunch** for children is **18th December**.

This will need to be booked via Red Hen by Wednesday 11th December. If you have not registered to order lunches before, please

visit [Red Hen Cookery](#) and click the Log in/Register button at the top of the screen.

Children can wear **Christmas Jumpers** on this day and donations can be brought for the **NSPCC**.

Christmas Post

There will be a post box for school

Christmas Cards outside the school office from Monday.

Children can post Christmas cards for their friends in school up until **Thursday**

19th December when they will be sorted and delivered. Please make sure that envelopes are clearly addressed with name and class.



Christmas Celebration Day Thursday 19th December

Talent Show

Children have been invited to take part in our Talent Show

during our Christmas Celebration Day.

We are looking forward to seeing a range of talents on display. Children need to speak to their class teacher and fill in an entry form in school. There is no pressure to participate, as a supportive audience is just as valuable as the acts! Everyone who wants to will have chance to perform, but the number of entries may need to be limited depending on numbers.



Christmas Parties

Children will have their Christmas Parties in their classes on this day, along with a **Surprise Event!** Class teachers will let you know about the arrangements for the parties.

Children can come to school in their Party Clothes on this day (nothing that can be easily spoiled by a school day!)



Raffle Tickets

Thank you to everyone who has sold raffle tickets for the PTA. If you have any unsold tickets, please return them by Monday 9th. If you would like extra tickets, please come to the office from Monday 9th to order them. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 20th December.



School holidays are around the corner and the **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme** is back for winter. **Eligible children and families** are invited to sign up to the HAF Programme. This year the

programme includes family days out, pantomime tickets, activity clubs, events and more!

The **HAF** programme, funded by the Department for Education (DfE):

- Offers fully funded holiday activity places, events and family passes across Worcestershire for eligible children and young people.
- Allows children, young people and their families to access up to 4 funded activity places, access funded family passes, tickets to events and more.

Who is eligible?

Worcestershire Children and Young people aged 5-16:

- Who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM).
- Limited places are available to other groups of children and young people who are considered financially or otherwise vulnerable.

Visit the [HAF page](#) on the Worcestershire County Council website. To get live updates about the programme, follow the [HAF Worcestershire Facebook page](#).

Register now to view and book activities when they go live at the Worcestershire County Council's booking site: **Register [here](#).**

Additional Support

School holidays can be challenging for everyone. Additional support, advice and resources are available. Visit the [additional support in the holidays](#) page on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Online Safety

KS 2 parents will have seen the 'Wake up Wednesday' resources that Miss Unitt has been sending out. It is vital that parents keep up to date with online safety issues, because our children will always be one step ahead! This month we have drawn attention to the dangers of Snapchat which will reveal a child's location, has disappearing messages which makes it difficult for parents to monitor and can be set to have locked folders, which parents won't be able to see or access. The guidance age is 13+ and research shows that 65% of young users have received threatening messages encouraging them to share indecent images or threatening to share more widely images that have been posted.

Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a member of our community to act as a '**Lloyds Foundation Governor**'. Governors play a vital role in supporting the running of our school and it is a great way to broaden experience and 'give something back'.

An interest/experience in Finance, Building Services or Human Resources would be advantageous, but not essential, as the governor would be asked to sit on our Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee. We are looking for someone in the wider school community, as our Parent Governor positions are currently filled. If you know of someone who would be interested in having more information about this post, please contact Clerk to Governors seps-govclerk@sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk

Talk About Learning....

Elm class have been enjoying practical Science lessons to look for patterns in their findings. Children have been considering the relative size of the earth and if the size of an object affects gravity. Investigating air resistance was fun too!



In Brambles we have been learning about winter, Christmas and Advent and enjoying the wintry weather!



In Oak we had a 'woodland afternoon'. We explored the outdoors and made journey sticks, which inspired some great writing!



In science we have been learning about and sorting materials.



In Willow we have been investigating the effects of different materials on friction. We have also designed our own hiking boots thinking about design factors.



We had great fun on our Santa Dash.....



and the Healthy Elfie Activities organised by our Play Leaders and Sports Crew brightened a grey day!



The Posada

The Posada is a tradition from Mexico where people re-enact Mary and Joseph searching for a room to stay. This week we have been 'hosting' Mary and Joseph at our school.

Mary and Joseph (and their donkey) will travel around Ombersley, staying at different hosts' houses, during Advent. Their next stop will be with Toby's family. Mary and Joseph will end their journey at the Family Worship at St Andrews on Christmas morning.



Santa Claus is coming to town

2024 WORCESTER LIONS SANTA SLEIGH

- Sat 23rd Nov** Launch event outside The Guildhall (10am-4pm)
- Wed 27th Nov** The Harleys, Warndon Villages
- Fri 29th Nov** Cranham Parade / Ambleside Parade, Warndon
- Mon 2nd Dec** Northwick / Bevere
- Tue 3rd Dec** Tolladine / Ronkswood
- Thurs 5th Dec** Honeywell Primary, Dines Green
- Fri 6th Dec** Barn Owl, Wall Meadow
- Sun 8th Dec** Ombersley village hall
- Tue 10th Dec** Pitmaston, St Johns
- Thurs 12th Dec** Waitrose, Red Hill
- Sat 14th Dec** Tesco St Peters + Farne Ave
- Sun 15th Dec** Santa Dash, St Richards Hospice
- Tue 17th Dec** Monarch Drive, Henwick
- Thurs 19th Dec** Perdiswells Leisure Centre
- Sat 21st Dec** Fort Royal + Friar Street, City centre

All dates subject to change due to weather etc

For latest information, check

www.facebook.com/worcesterlionsssleigh



Term dates 2024 - 2025

Please Remember that Term Time Holidays are not permitted

- Taking children on holiday or out of school during term time is against the law.
- The school is not allowed to authorise absence during term time
- Taking unauthorised holidays could result in a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

The agreed term dates are here for your information

	Holidays - School closes to pupils on	School re-opens to pupils on
Autumn Term		Wednesday 4th September 2024
Autumn mid term	Friday 25th October 2024	Monday 4th November 2024
Christmas	Friday 20th December 2024	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Spring mid-term	Friday 14th February 2025	Monday 24th February 2025
Easter	Friday 11th April 2025	Monday 28th April 2025
Summer mid-term	Friday 23rd May 2025	Tuesday 3rd June 2025
End of summer term	Friday 18th July 2025	

Christmas Day	Wednesday 25 th December 2024
Boxing Day	Thursday 26 th December 2024
New Year's Day	Wednesday 1 st January 2025
Good Friday	Friday 18 th April 2025
Easter Monday	Monday 21 st April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 26 th May 2025

Wrap Around Care

We have some spaces in our WAC club which runs before and after school.

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am until 8.45am in the Key Stage 1 classrooms and children are given a breakfast of toast, cereal and fruit. Milk or juice is available.

After school, children can stay until 4.15pm or stay and have tea, being collected by 5.30pm Monday-Thursday and 5.00pm Friday.

Please ask in the school office for more information or see our [website](#).

Session	Cost
Breakfast Club	£4.50
3.15 to 4.15pm	£5.00
3.15 to 5.30pm (Mon to Thu)	£10.50
3.15 to 5.00pm (Fri)	£9.50

Lunches and milk

Please remember to order lunches online by Wednesday for the following week.

Children have free milk up to the age of 5. If you want your child to continue to receive milk after their 5th birthday, there is a small charge for this. Please speak to the school office.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 10 th December	KS1 Nativity 1.30 and 5.30 – Tickets have been sent out
Wednesday 11 th December	Deadline for booking Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas lunch for children
Wednesday 18 th December	KS2 Carol Concert (2.30) All parents welcome
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Celebration Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talent Show• Class Parties• Surprise Event
Friday 20 th December	Special Visitor
Friday 20 th December	End of term
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January 2025	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 6 th January	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 th January	School Opens to Pupils