



Dear Parents/Carers,

Advent is upon us and we are in the midst of rehearsals for Christmas productions, and the decorations are going up around the school thanks to Little Fingers Elves.....



Alex and I have collected all of your wonderful Christmas donations and are in awe of your tremendous generosity and kindness. As the school has managed to collect such a large amount (my car was completely full!) The donations have been distributed to Chelmsford and Braintree foodbank, Chess and Sanctus charities.

Your kindness will let people know that they are cared about and have been thought of this Christmas.

With thanks from, Alex (5E) and the Plant family X



Live Fully, Laugh Often, Learn Deeply,  
Love as God Loves You and Let Your Light Shine

Here are some dates for your calendars and an invitation.....

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December (next Wednesday!) – is Christmas Dinner Day – and we are continuing the tradition of Christmas Colours Non-Uniform for this, with a suggested 50p donation to the PTA – this will be collected in buckets at the start of the day, taken to the North Pole for de-contamination, and returned for counting and banking before being spent on exciting projects for the school and your children.

Christmas Productions will be posted on your child's Google classroom site by 4pm as follows:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – FS Nativity  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Years 3 and 4 Nativity  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Years 5 and 6

All these shows will be available to view from the above dates throughout the Christmas period.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December is a big day!

*You are invited* to return to school with your children for an outside and short Carols, Reading and Blessing Celebration, and to wonder at a full-size Nativity Scene and lots of magical lights and window displays shining out from the classes. You can bring your children out in their pyjamas and dressing gowns if you wish, and bring torches and lanterns (no naked flames, please) – and these are the times (if you have more than one child, choose one of them and come as a family – or come to each – it's up to you).

Please arrive and wait at the FS/carpark gates at these times:

FS—4.30pm / Yr 1—4.50pm / Yr 2—5.10pm  
Yr 3—5.30pm / Yr 4—5.50pm / Yr 5—6.10pm / Yr 6—6.30pm

Is this a safe thing to do?

We think so. Please continue to wear face-masks when on the school grounds, and when we sing together people can un-mask as we will be really making sure that everyone is a safe distance from each other. The government guidelines say that we can sing outside, so long as we are distanced.



## Emails to Staff

Our teachers are getting inundated with emails! –

Please write briefly (!)

Consider whether it's really necessary to write in.

Be patient and don't expect an immediate reply – teachers need their rest and relaxation and, like you, have exceptionally busy lives



## Cold Classrooms

We are trying to do the impossible – ventilate the classrooms and keep your children warm. If your child is sitting in a draughty place it is fine for them to wear extra clothing to keep warm, including coats and fingerless gloves – BUT please remember that the class teachers will only be allowing this in the draughty places!

It's always a pleasure to see children producing excellent work, trying their hardest and also having some **fun**. Here are some **fun** things from this week:



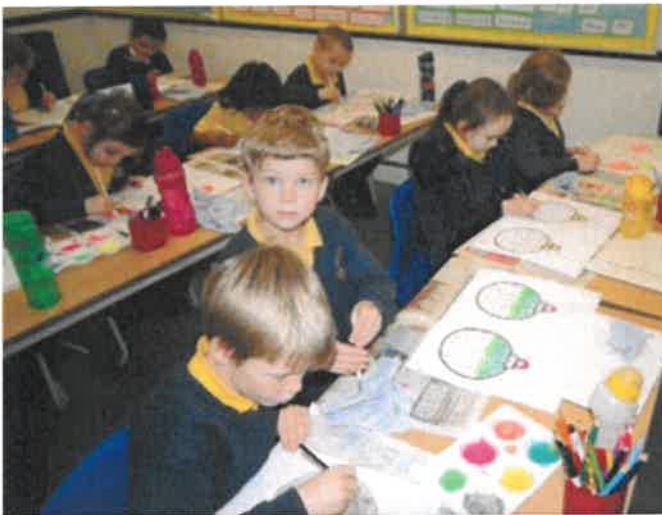
Year 6 lunchtime games.

**FS** are digging for number treasure in the sandpit.



Impressive Year 5 football skills.

Year 2 are learning about beat and keeping time by doing the hokey-cokey in 4-time – and also starting their Christmas Art projects.



3M writers and great spelling progress for Osato!



Finally, **Advent** is the season of waiting for something very special, and for that we need grace – so here are two **Graces** to wish you grace in your Advent time.



## Christmas Gifts for School Staff

We are so aware that many families have suffered hugely and may be dreading the pressures of Christmas and all that next year may bring. Some of you may have already been planning for gifts for our children's teachers, and I know how much they will be appreciated.

May I suggest two things - first that the words you write are always appreciated as much as, or more than, the gifts themselves. Your thanks and best wishes are special gifts in themselves. And secondly that you may wish to make a donation to BCCS - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - instead.

They provide wonderful support to young people of all faiths and none across Essex, and the support we receive in school from them is huge - and subsidised through donations.

They have an emergency appeal at <https://www.bccs.org.uk/take-minute> or here are their bank details:

**Account Name:** Brentwood Catholic Childrens' Society

**Account Number:** 31094130

**Sort Code:** 40 13 22

Whatever you decide to do, please let your children bring in presents by **Tuesday 15th December**, so there is time for them to 'rest' before being taken home. Thank you.

### Club Arrival Times

Please can we ask you to ensure your child arrives on time for clubs. Entry points are opened and closed on time, anyone arriving late causes a disturbance to the club once it has started. Thank you.

### Thank you so much for the previous equipment donated to FS

We are also in need of the following:

- Pebbles/shells/small stones
- Children's gardening equipment
- Unwanted kitchen spoons, pans and sieves
- Small empty plastic bottles, which will be used for 'potions'
- Small world toys- zoo animals, farm animals, knights
  - Small metal cars
- Herbs – Lavender, Rosemary, Bay and any others

**Many thanks, The Foundation Team**

## Lunchtime Menu—Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pasta with Tomato Sauce or Cheese	Cumberland Sausage with Gravy	<u>Christmas Dinner</u> <b>Turkey &amp; Pigs in Blankets</b>	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Omega 3 Breadcrumbs Fish Fingers
Served with Mixed Salad	Served with New Potatoes, Baked Beans or Peas	<u>OR</u> <b>Vegetarian Sausage in a Blanket</b>	<u>OR</u>	<u>OR</u>
Fresh Fruit Selection	<u>OR</u> Gluten Free Spicy Bean Burger	<b>Roast Potatoes Sweetcorn Carrots Gravy</b>	Roasted Seasonal Vegetable Parcels	Served with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas
	Chunky Flapjack	<b>Triple Chocolate Muffins</b> 	Chocolate Ice Cream	Fresh Fruit Selection

### The Bishops' PTA

Next Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas dinner day at school and will also be the PTAs annual Red, Green and Sparkly day. Please send your child to school wearing something festive for the day. There will be members of the PTA outside the front of school and by the year 6 gate with donation buckets. Please do donate if you are able. We are limited with what fundraising we can do and December is usually our biggest fundraising month of the year.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us through Easy Fundraising, Amazon Smile and the school lottery. If you would like more information on these please let us know.

Do we have a photographer amongst our parents who is available to support the PTA on 16<sup>th</sup> December during the day? Could you please contact Becci on [thebishopspta@gmail.com](mailto:thebishopspta@gmail.com) for more details if you are able to help.

Thank you  
The PTA

Contact us: [thebishopspta@gmail.com](mailto:thebishopspta@gmail.com)  
Find us @BishopsPta  
Or The Bishops' School PTA on Facebook



## Looking Ahead



**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**— Church led by 4HG via Zoom, 9.20am;  
Year 2 Bedtime Stories via Zoom, 6.15 to 6.40pm



**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**—School Christmas Dinner and PTA

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**—**Last posting day for school Christmas cards;**  
FS Christmas Production video upload, 4pm

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**—Year 1/2 Christmas Production video upload, 4pm

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**— Year 3/4 Christmas Production video upload, 4pm

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**—Year 5/6 Christmas Production video upload, 4pm

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**— The Bishops' Christmas Journey to Bethlehem,  
FS—4.30pm / Yr 1—4.50pm / Yr 2—5.10pm  
Yr 3—5.30pm / Yr 4—5.50pm / Yr 5—6.10pm / Yr 6—6.30pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**— M&M Pantomime in school, 3 performances;  
Last day of term

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**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**— Children back to school for the spring term

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**—

The Bishops' Big Library Challenge—fundraising walk, run & cycle event  
in aid of The Bishops' School Hall



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## Community News/Notices

Please visit the 'News/General News' section on our website for information on useful organisations, children's activities, community events and local businesses.



## The Bishops' School

Contact us on: 01245 460107 / [admin@bishops.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bishops.essex.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.bishops.essex.sch.uk](http://www.bishops.essex.sch.uk)



**Pupil on the day absences and lates:** Please telephone or email by 9am  
**Late parents at pick up:** Please telephone before the end of your child's day  
**Forgotten items:** Essential items only, please telephone to arrange drop off  
**Notifying Us:** Forms for leave of absence, administering medicine,  
change of details etc. are available on our website under 'Parents' and 'Notify Us',  
please send in completed forms by email

**Thank you**