



17th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The school has been filled with singing, fun and excitement this week and although we have had to do things a little differently than originally planned it has been brilliant to see so many smiling faces. As well as keeping learning going, albeit perhaps slightly Christmas themed, we have enjoyed a Christmas lunch, had a brilliant party afternoon and taken part in the obligatory Christmas quiz!

We have also shared our recorded Christmas offerings with you (in Y1 to Y6 the link is accessible through the secure class page via the website), please can we respectfully ask that you do not share these more widely on social media. Thank you to Miss Budge and Miss Dyer for putting these together and thank you to the whole of the staff team for their hard work in making this happen in what has been a really tricky time. They have had to show flexibility, adaptability and resilience throughout and I know you will want to join me in thanking them for that.

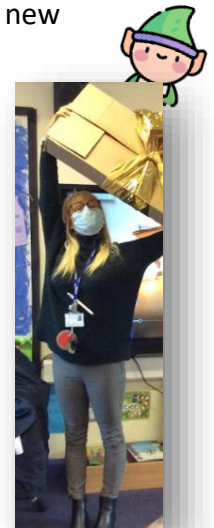
Christmas also arrived a little early for the school this year with a special delivery from the PTA of fantastic resources and games for us to use in school. This is in addition to six new IPADS which they have purchased for us and of course, the very well received selection boxes earlier this week. We are truly grateful for having such supportive friends of the school.

You will no doubt be more than aware of the developing situation surrounding COVID. As a school we generally receive updates and information at the same time as you. This obviously makes it quite challenging to respond in what are quite fast moving and evolving circumstances. However, as always, I will try to ensure that we keep you as up to date as possible and be as transparent with information as possible. Later in this newsletter I have included some of the updated guidance that was received this week.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy (and smoother) New Year!

Best wishes

Mr Hick



Staff Updates



Becca Ward who is currently on maternity leave has been successful in gaining a new position in Devon. We are thrilled for her and her family and the opportunity that this gives them but at the same time sad that she won't be re-joining us here at Chacewater. In the new year and when the world allows we will look to say goodbye properly but, in the meantime, wish her every success for the future.

It may become quite obvious in the new year but we are really excited to announce that **Mrs Glanville-Thomas** is pregnant. She won't be heading off on maternity leave any time soon and will see the vast majority of this year out with Acorns. We will keep you updated with plans for the end of the year.

Rachael Curnow – many of you will know Rachael who has been involved with the school in many capacities. Most recently, as our Vice Chair of Governors. Unfortunately for us, her term of office has ended and Rachael has decided that now is the right time to step away from this role. She has been a huge part of our school and we very much hope that she will maintain a link with us. Again, in the new year we will look to say goodbye properly.

We are also really pleased to welcome a new TA, **Liz Costello**, to our team who will be working primarily in year 2 with the Buds. We are really glad to have you Liz!

Term Dates

Please note that the first day of next term is **Tuesday 4th January**. Term dates for the rest of year can be found [here](#).

Friday 18th February is an inset day and the school will be closed to children.

Christmas Food Vouchers

Our local authority has once again provided funding to facilitate Free School Meal provision (for those in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals) over the holidays. We have used the WONDE platform and these were issued electronically last week. The vouchers will be valued at £30 per eligible child to cover the two-week holiday period.



Swimming

We have booked swimming for our year 5 and year 6 children. This will take place at Truro Leisure Centre next term and be led by qualified swimming teachers. The Leisure Centre have changed how they do this and, although different, feedback from other schools is really positive. The children will go swimming every afternoon for an intensive two-week block. Dates and times below:

- Year 6: Week beginning Monday 24th Jan and Monday 31st January. 1pm -2pm
- Year 5: Week beginning Monday 14th March and Monday 21st March. 1pm – 2pm



To help support this we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £8 per week to help cover the cost of coach travel to and from the pool. This is now on ParentPay.

[A message from St Paul's Church](#)

St Paul's Church invites children and young families to their Crib Service on **Christmas Eve**. We meet in the village car park at 3.30pm (weather permitting) and follow the 'ponkey' up to the church for a short service at 4pm. This year we ask that adults wear masks.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club has started and bookings can be made in the same way as we now do for Chatterbox, through Parent Pay (**last bookings by 3.15pm the day before**). The club runs from 7.45am through to the start of the school day and we are providing the children with a drink and a choice of cereal or toast (or both if they want!). It is being run by Mrs Dicker and Mr Smith and there is a session charge of £3.50 per day.



COVID Support

This can be a confusing time for some children and they may have lots of questions during this time. The links below may help to support with these conversations:

- Supporting parents and carers video – click [here](#).
- Helpful information to answer children questions about coronavirus – click [here](#)
- Talking to your child about the coronavirus – YoungMinds – click [here](#)
- Worries about the world - Childline advice page – click [here](#)
- Coronavirus comic strip – NPR – click [here](#)
- Tips for if you're worried about the coronavirus - Newsround video – click [here](#)

COVID Guidance – Updates

Since returning from the school closure last week (6th and 7th) we have seen a decline in the number of positive cases (those positive in a 10-day period). We are following all of the current guidance and doing our very best to mitigate the risk of infection, whilst still maintaining the smooth running of the school. However, we have had a very small number of positive but isolated cases in the school and I think it is very likely that we will see the same pattern next term. With this in mind we have attached a 'warn and inform' letter, which you will have had several times already this term, to outline information with regard to symptoms and testing. This should be read in conjunction with the updated guidance below.

Over the holidays I will continue to monitor and keep abreast of the guidance from the government about our return to school and keep you informed if there are any changes or developments. Below is some information that has been updated daily testing for contacts.

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 –whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

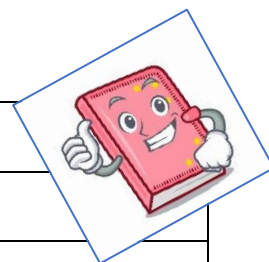
All staff and secondary aged pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting. If your setting requires additional test kits sooner than they would be available through the standard ordering process, or will run out of test kits imminently, you can contact 119 to request an emergency replenishment. For primary aged children LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.



<u>Dates For Your Diary</u>	
4.1.22	First day of Spring term.
5.1.22	Y1 - Mark's Ark Visit.
24.1.22	Y6 Two Week Swimming Block begins.
17.2.22	End of half term for children
18.2.22	Inset Day – School closed to children.
28.2.22	Start of new half term
8.4.22	End of Spring Term
25.4.22	Start of Summer Term



GOLDEN AWARD WINNERS

ACORNS	Harvey & James
SEEDLINGS	Theodore & Elijah
BUDS	Kip & Benny
YOUNG OAKS	Ella-Jane & The whole class
BUR OAKS	Bronnen, Orla & Alfie
RED OAKS	Freya-Mae & Ted
MIGHTY OAKS	Holly & Ella



An invitation to you all from Churches Together in Truro

Come and see our
STABLE SCENE
and a HOST of
SCRAP ANGELS

PREPARED

Wednesday December 15 4-8pm
Thursday December 16 4-5.30
Friday December 17 4-5.30
Saturday December 18 10-5.30
Sunday December 19th
Church open for services 9-1, 5-8
Monday December 20 10am-5.30
Tuesday December 21 10-5.30
with childrens film, The Star showing at 3.30
Wednesday December 22 10am-8pm
Thursday December 23 10-5.30

Why not join our
Angel Trail

Wednesday December 15th
to Thursday January 6th

*Begins at the Truro Visitor Information
Centre in Boscawen Street and ends
back at Truro Methodist Church*

Grateful thanks go to some of you who have contributed to our Scrap Angel display. Even if you didn't make an angel please come along!

Here is your invitation to bring family and friends into Truro Methodist Church to see them in all their glory!!!

We hope too that lots of you will want to find the hidden angels around the city.

Go to The Truro Visitor Information Centre with a mobile phone on which you have installed a QR code reader and then enjoy!!!