

— Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year —



# Newchurch Primary School

## News from Newchurch Primary School and across the Federation

[Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth](#) [Head of School Mrs L Parkin](#) [Office Administrator Mrs P Knight](#)

20TH December 2024

VALUE: PEACE



### KEY STAGE 1 MAKE IT HAPPEN—PRICKLY HAY!

Children in Years 1 & 2 delighted audiences over three performances of the Nativity themed production of Prickly Hay this week. The story told of how a hardworking stable boy and his faithful friend Shrew have some

very special visitors. Performed on our big stage this was a modern take on the traditional Nativity story with this version even featuring a hoedown and some super special dancing!



The children from Key Stage 1 sang, danced and shared their lines with so much enthusiasm and confidence and members of the audience shared some amazing comments after each show!

A special mention must go to all of the children who were able to show amazing resilience and stand in for their poorly classmates and for those who came to school despite not feeling very well as they were super keen to perform to friends and family members.

Thank you also to FONs who raised £374.60 by selling refreshments, water & wine and photos of the cast.

### THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN—A MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNORS

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to wish all our children and their families a very Happy Christmas.

This year, the School Place Planning project implemented by the Local Authority has been worrying for many of us. Despite this and other increased pressures, our schools have continued to deliver a quality education to all our children with exceptional enrichment opportunities. The Ofsted inspections earlier this year, substantiated our excellent work across those areas inspected and made us, as Governors, feel very proud of what the whole team across the Federation has achieved.

Have a fabulous Christmas and New Year break.

**Mick and Ian**

Co-Chairs of Governors

*Merry  
Christmas*

## MAKING IT HAPPEN AT CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

This year's traditional Christmas Dinner was a heartwarming event, bringing festive cheer to over 170 children. The school hall was filled with laughter and joy as the children, proudly wearing party hats they had made themselves, gathered for the special meal that had been prepared by our superb kitchen team.

The atmosphere was truly magical, with tables beautifully decorated and the delicious aroma of a traditional Christmas feast filling the air. The children enjoyed a yummy meal that included all the classic favourites: roast turkey, stuffing, vegetables, and a special Christmas biscuit.

One of the highlights of the event was the sense of community and togetherness. All adults in school joined the children at the tables, sharing in the fun and festivities. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to create lasting memories and reinforced the strong sense of community within our school.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this event a success, from Sharon and the kitchen staff who prepared the delicious meal to the teachers and volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly. They certainly 'made it happen!'



## MAKING IT HAPPEN - KEY STAGE 2 CAROL SERVICE

The annual Carol Concert at All Saints Church was the perfect way to finish the term. The concert was a perfect blend of music, storytelling, and festive cheer, with a special emphasis on the story of the birth of Jesus. The event began with a warm welcome from Mr. Ian Watterson, Co Chair of Governors before a variety of musical performances, including *Jingle Bells* performed by the entire school with Year 6 playing recorders, Taitum on the violin, and Oliver S, Amelia B, Elsie F, Zak J and Sam B on guitars. Emily M, Grace S, Jack-James, and Luke accompanied the performance on the keyboard, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere.



Throughout the concert, Year 6 children told the story of the birth of Jesus. The story brought the true meaning of Christmas to life for everyone in attendance in the packed church.

There were several beautiful instrumental pieces, including *Away in a Manger* performed by Grace A on the recorder and Henleigh HG on the tenor horn. Each year group also contributed their own special songs. Year 5 performed a lively rendition of *All I Want for Christmas*, while Year 3 brightened the room with *Merry Christmas*. Year 4's performance of *Born in the Hay* was heart warming, and Year 6 students brought everyone's spirits up with their energetic rendition of *Last Christmas*.

The concert was a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season, and the entire Newchurch Primary School community would like to extend their warmest wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## A SURPRISE VISIT FROM SANTA FOR KEY STAGE ONE



Our week of Christmas themed activities was filled with additional festive cheer for the children in early Years and Key Stage 1 thanks to a surprise visit from Santa Claus yesterday afternoon! The excitement began when the children heard footsteps going upstairs to a North Pole-themed grotto, especially created for his visit by Mrs. Starkey and Mrs. Buckingham. The grotto was beautifully decorated, with cosy cushions twinkling lights, making it the perfect setting for Santa's arrival.

As Santa greeted the children, he asked them all an important question: "Have you been naughty or nice?" The children giggled as they eagerly replied, and Santa assured them that he would be checking his list twice

before his very busy Christmas Eve deliveries!

Each child then received a wrapped present from Santa. The children couldn't wait to unwrap their gifts, and the excitement was contagious as they shared the contents of their presents with their friends. One little girl was even heard to say 'this is the best day ever!'

We would like to thank Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit our school. The children all know how lucky they are that you made time to come to Newchurch to make this happen when you are super busy!



## EYFS MAKE IT HAPPEN AROUND THE TREE

Mrs Starkey, Miss Newland and Miss Parker were super proud of Donaldson Class and could not believe how confident and happy our littlest singers were singing around the tree yesterday afternoon!

They sang '5 Little Snowflakes', '5 Little Elves' and 'Jingle Bells' and they sang and signed along to 'Christmas pudding' and 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney'. We were also treated to a solo performance from Harper-Rose and a freestyle dance from Aurora.

Amazing singing Donaldson Class!





## SANTA DASH SUCCESS!

On Monday, we had an amazing time during our annual Santa Dash in the woods! Luckily, the weather was just perfect as the children had the choice to walk or run, and it was wonderful to see everyone dressed in their fantastic Christmas accessories.



Amazingly we had 105 children who enthusiastically joined the KS2 route whilst 78 children happily took part in the KS1 route.

The children set off on their walking and running routes around the woods, with Miss Bartlett joyfully singing Christmas songs! The festive spirit was truly in the air. Upon their return to school, each child received a special Santa medal, a warm cup of hot chocolate, and a delicious slice of cake to top off a fantastic morning.

This event certainly puts the 'fun' into fundraising and has helped to raise £600 for our new computer fund!



A big well done to everyone and Merry Christmas from Miss Bartlett and the PE Team!



## WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—KS2 PANTOMIME VISIT



On Tuesday the very large majority of children in Key Stage 2 took a trip on the Hovercraft over the Solent to watch the professional pantomime 'Dick Whittington' at the Kings Theatre in Southsea. Whilst this was a super treat the experience also supported our Music curriculum within which we hope that all children can experience a professional stage performance during the year.



Billed as 'Panto Perfection' the children really enjoyed watching the story of how Dick Whittington played by George Sampson, sought fame and fortune by travelling London—the city where streets are paved with gold! Along the way he met all sorts of characters including a rather acrobatic cat!

The children were absolutely buzzing after watching the show and have told staff all about the funny jokes, great songs, flying toilet rolls and water pistols and even a giant turtle that the pantomime Dame was able to ride across the stage!

A BIG thank you to Mrs Parkin for making this happen!



## OUR ELVES MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Thank you very much to our special elf delivery service who have done an amazing job in sorting and delivering all of the Christmas post that has arrived in school since the start of December!

They have been amazingly well organised and really



taken the role super seriously to make sure that all of the handwritten cards have been delivered to the correct classrooms each day.

Thank you elves!



## PLATFORM ONE MAKE IT HAPPEN!

This Wednesday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Platform One back to our school for a delightful performance of Christmas songs.



The children and staff alike were thrilled and joined in with great enthusiasm. The joy and excitement were palpable, as everyone sang along with gusto. You can see the wonderful moments captured in the video on Seesaw.

It was a truly festive and memorable experience for all!



## OUR POETRY CORNER

### *"A Visit from St Nicholas"*

by Clement Clarke Moore

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering sight should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Elitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof—  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And fill'd all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

"A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore is a beloved poem, and is one of Miss Howarth's favourite ever poems. She remembers learning the lengthy verses when she was at school and can still recall the names of all of the reindeer as a result—which comes in very handy for a Christmas Quiz!

The poem describes a magical Christmas Eve when St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) visits a household. The narrator hears a noise and sees St. Nicholas arrive in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. St. Nicholas is described as a jolly, plump figure with twinkling eyes and a red nose. He fills the stockings hung by the chimney with care and then disappears up the chimney with a nod.

The poem ends with St. Nicholas wishing everyone a "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"





## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—DEVICES AT CHRISTMAS

We know that many of our children have asked Father Christmas for a new device this Christmas whether it be a games console, tablet, Kindle or even a phone. Please can we encourage families to think carefully before gifting your child's first or fifth device, to make sure it is not just a present but an opportunity to provide a safe and secure digital experience for your little ones.

By following this link to the [Safety Centre](#), you will discover information on setting up parental controls, privacy settings, and safety measures. Please can we encourage you to 'take a moment' to do so before wrapping the box to ensure that devices are safe and ready to use and enjoy on Christmas Day.

On this site you can also download a guide, "[My Child's First Device](#)," which outlines five essential steps to enhance device security.

At Newchurch Primary we want to make sure that our children are as safe in the online world as the real world and by taking just a few minutes to initiate these checks will help to make all the difference.



## MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO TAKE CARE THIS CHRISTMAS

Sadly some of our community have missed the final few days of school of 2024 due to contracting Flu A.

As flu season is in full swing, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of flu and how best to treat it. Here are some key points and advice from the NHS to help keep your family healthy:

**Signs and Symptoms of Flu:** Sudden fever, chills and sweats, headaches, muscle aches, sore throat, cough, fatigue

**How to Treat Flu (NHS Advice):**

**Rest and Sleep:** Ensure your child gets plenty of rest and sleep to help their body fight off the infection.

**Keep Warm:** Make sure they stay warm and comfortable.

**Medication:** For children, give paracetamol or ibuprofen if they are distressed or uncomfortable. Always check the packaging or leaflet to ensure the medicine is suitable for your child, and consult a pharmacist or GP if you're unsure.

**Hydration:** Encourage your child to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Their pee should be light yellow or clear.

By following these simple steps, you can help your child recover more quickly and comfortably from the flu. If you have any concerns or if symptoms persist, don't hesitate to contact your GP for further advice.

Stay healthy over the holidays and take good care!



# PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT SCHOOL REOPENS TO PUPILS ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025



## MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES—BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH



We have been asked to share the following information in our newsletter this week that may provide support to our families.

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a not-for-profit service run by the National Energy Foundation, working to help residents living in or at risk of living in fuel poverty to access advice and support.

We're a service that's free of charge and open to all residents experiencing issues with keeping warm at home.

As part of our service, we have a helpline that's free to call where our team can give valuable tips on how to stay warm at home, help to arrange free home energy visits, sign up those in need of additional support to the Priority Services Register and access grants for energy efficiency measures. We understand the physical and mental effects of living in a cold home, and we feel it's more important than ever to ensure everyone is living in a warm and happy household.

For more information please go to <https://www.bhbh.org.uk/>



## WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS FOR THE FIRST WEEK BACK

MONDAY 6TH

Farm

NO CLUBS

TUESDAY 7TH

NO CLUBS

WEDNESDAY 8TH

NO CLUBS



THURSDAY 9TH

NO CLUBS

FRIDAY 10TH

KS1 Celebrations  
Year 4 Showcase

NO CLUBS

## SPRING TERM CLUBS

Please be advised that our clubs programme will not start until 13th January.

Coolkidz provision is available to book on SchoolMoney.

## INSET DAYS

When populating your new 2025 calendars please remember to note that the school will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

Monday 2nd June 2025

Monday 28th July 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Tuesday 29th July 2025



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST



### Children's COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments – Winter Clinics at North Hospital

We are offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children aged 5-17 at the Children's Outpatient Department, North Hospital, St Mary's (NOT the Hospital Vaccine Hub).

#### Eligibility:

- Children in clinical risk groups (as defined in the Green Book)

#### Vaccine:

The latest Pfizer JN.1 vaccines will be administered.

#### Clinic Dates:

- Monday, 6 January 2025: 2pm – 5pm
- Thursday, 16 January 2025: 8am – 11am

#### How to Book:

Appointments must be booked in advance by calling the Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline at **0300 561 0018**. We are unable to offer walk-ins.

#### Parking:

Accessible parking is available in the North Car Park.

For more details, contact the Hospital Vaccine Hub Team at [iownt.vaccine-hub@nhs.net](mailto:iownt.vaccine-hub@nhs.net).



I CAN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES



### NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember that due to keeping children with serious allergies safe we are a nut free school.

When packing lunchboxes in the New Year please have this in mind when packing items for your

children to enjoy.

Thank you for making this healthy choice.

THIS SCHOOL IS A



### Lunchtime Menu – Chartwells for week beginning 6th January 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Veggie Supreme Pizza	Beef Bolognese & Pasta	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Vegetable Pie, Mash & Gravy	Crispy Chicken Burger & Chips
Vegetarian	Vegetable Fajita & Rice	Chinese Vegetable Noodles	Winter Vegetable Hotpot	Macaroni Cheese	Quorn Dippers & Chips
Dessert	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Apple and Cinnamon Sponge & Custard	Fruit Jelly	Chocolate Cookie	Orange Sticky Sponge Pudding