



Waverley Abbey School

All things are possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23



School Newsletter 8

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18th December '20

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HEAD'S UPDATE

Next term's first learning/ worship theme – New starts, epiphany

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As I write, we are nearing the end of a term (and indeed year) like no other. Throughout this time the children have not just coped, they've thrived and I have no doubt this is tantamount to our Waverley Abbey family. I know you will join me in also thanking my staff who have remained resilient and positive throughout too. I think it is this positive outlook and strong ethos that settles the children and ensures that we continue with gusto!

It was wonderful to welcome Year 3 back into school this week and see them settle back into learning so quickly. Many thanks to all Year 3 parents who ensured that their child was on the daily live Zoom call as well as completing the lessons and activities. The Year 3 team have been very impressed with the learning that was completed. All our policies and plans are on the school website so please feel free to look through them. Your feedback is warmly welcomed.

This week, as well as our core learning, we have also been giving the children time to enjoy other opportunities and experiences. The children had a wonderful 'Pause Day' on Tuesday where they came off the traditional timetable to

look at the Christmas story in more detail. There was music galore as children enjoyed a percussion workshop based of Jesus, light of the world, a 'wild nativity' in the school grounds led by Year 5 and lots of activities for the whole school to enjoy. Above are some of the positive messages that Year 3 have written for their 'chain of hope'. The children certainly had a fantastic day!

In addition, each class has also had the opportunity of watching a pantomime in school. There was much excitement today as many sat down to watch Dick Whittington with their friends. The school rang with laughter and I could hear calls of 'he's behind you' from various classrooms!

As written in my previous letter, until Christmas eve the school E mail address covid@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk will continue to be manned. Please E mail this address as soon as possible should any WA pupil test positive.

Staffing update: In January Ms. Morris will begin a two term placement as acting Assistant Head at another local GST school. While she is away Miss Haines will be acting Upper School Phase Leader. We will also welcome back Mr Millwater who will be teaching in Year 6 for the remainder of the academic year. Mr Millwater met with his class and groups this week and is very excited about returning!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support this term and also wish you a very Merry Christmas - and every blessing for the New Year.

Rebecca Marshall – Headteacher

School News & Information:



We are thrilled to share the news that Felix and Elliot's Christmas single is out! It has had quite a bit of radio play on BBC and Virgin radio. Their single was runner up by one point to the winner on Chris Evans Virgin Radio Christmas song competition. It's their second single with their first "Facemask" being picked up by BBC 6 Music. It's a happy feel good track and we hope it brings a smile to people's faces!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=WfuDFz3a4jA>

"Christmas Wish" by L.O.T.Z is also available on Amazon Music and Spotify

Wintershall Travelling Crib

Reminder: Can we please remind parents again to make payment for the travelling crib if you have not already done so. We have a substantial shortfall for this which will need to be covered by the school budget if further contributions are not received. Many thanks for supporting us in providing these activities for the children.

2nd Hand School Uniform:

We have now got a selection of 2nd hand uniform available for sale. Please contact the school office if you have any requirements. Please **do not** send in any further items for sale at this time as there is a large amount still to be sorted. Thank you.

Family Learning opportunities for parents, carers and grandparents

Bookings open now for FREE courses starting from 8 January.

Family Learning provides free online parenting courses for parents and carers, including grandparents, who lack confidence or are struggling to support their children with school, homework or behaviour issues.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Family Learning are currently unable to work directly in schools and other community venues. Instead, services have been transferred to online learning.

<https://bit.ly/2J4ZGQL>

www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning

email: Family.Learning@surreycc.gov.uk

Provided by Surrey Adult Learning, part of Surrey County Council.

New from Surrey Healthy Schools - NHS Parenting Videos

Families under pressure - parenting video tips from NHS - Healthy Surrey click on the highlighted 'tips and tricks' on the web page to access the videos.

The Maudsley Charity have put together simple tips and tricks formulated by researchers and NHS mental health experts, which are backed by science and proven to work with families.

The tips and tricks have been put together to help parents with difficult behaviour and negative emotions.

School Meals:

Don't forget to pre-order your child's meals at least 7 days in advance (so you will need to order during the Christmas holidays). Menus remain the same for now. Thank you.

Pencil Cases:

Can we take this opportunity to remind you that pupils should return to school in January with fully equipped pencil cases in order to minimise sharing between children. Thank you.

Diary dates for Spring Term

January

- 4th INSET Day
- 5th First Day of Spring Term
- 5th Year 4 Saxon Day
- 12th Year 6 Evacuee Day
- 15th **Deadline for Reception & Junior School Applications with Surrey County Council**

February

- 9th Parent / Teacher Conferences (Details to follow)
- 11th Parent / Teacher Conferences (Details to follow)
- 15th – 19th HALF TERM

The Solihull Approach have released an online course for TEENS: 'Understanding your brain (for teenager's only!)

- Just a reminder to check out www.inourplace.co.uk and use the access code: **PARENTING** for FREE (prepaid) access (for residents of Frimley; Ascot; Bracknell; Farnham; Maidenhead; North East Hampshire; Slough; Windsor; South Bucks) to some really useful and interesting online courses
- This short course pairs with the short course for parents **Understanding your teenager's brain**, so that both parents and teenagers have access to the same information.
- So if you have teens, pre-teens or little ones but want to know what's coming take a look (or check out the other courses* which may be more relevant!) All on the same access code.

Hi All,

As this year we have been unable to host, this December, "Carols by Candlelight" at All Saints, Tilford, I have put together an on-line version, "**Village Carols**", a sequence of carols and readings for Christmas, calling on local "talent". This is available free, on line from our Parish Website. Click here to view and listen [Village Carols](#)

I have had musical contributions, from All Saints School, Edgeborough School, Vox Chamber choir, All Saints Virtual Choir, Jayne Sylvester and several others.

There are also a number of humorous readings. Neil Fairlamb's reading of Ogden Nash's "The boy who laughed at Santa Claus" is a gem not to be missed! The complete details of all the items in the concert are also on the parish website.

At our "Carols by Candlelight", there is usually a retiring, charity collection. So this year, instead, we are asking for donations to the Grail Trust (www.grailtrust.org), if you have enjoyed "**Village Carols**".

Revd. Neil Fairlamb is the chairman of this charity. The Grail Trust UK a UK registered charity supporting 100 children in their own homes, in and around the town of Vallioor in Tamil Nadu in South India.

All good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Geoff (All Saints, Tilford)

FOWA News:

In the absence of the Christmas Fair, FoWA continued with wreath making this year to raise a small amount for the school (a mix of socially distanced outside and kits for a few to do at home)it's not much but we raised £120

*******New FoWA Chairs and Volunteers Needed*******

Do you like to organise? Do you enjoy running events? Does rolling up your sleeves and mucking in interest you? We are looking for new FoWA Chairs, as well as, volunteers in general to help with fundraising activities in the New Year. If you think you are someone who is suited to these fun challenges and can be fully committed to the roles, please send an email to fowa.chair@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk as we would love to hear from you!