



## Newsletter 6

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Christmas Events

Despite Covid restrictions, our teachers have worked hard to give our children a traditional Christmas experience. The Lower School performed their dress rehearsal to the rest of the school this week and a recording is now available on Tapestry. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Pantomime – the first for many of our younger pupils – so many thanks to the Friends of SSJ for subsidising this. We were also able to visit St John's for a traditional Christmas church service. Unfortunately, the Outdoor Market was cancelled but we raised £186 through the raffle and our lucky winners were Mrs Veni, Mrs Smith and Ms Adamaj. Thank you for supporting the school by buying tickets. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your children and your families a very happy Christmas. It has been a very long and busy term for children, families and staff so I sincerely hope that you all take the time over Christmas to rest and enjoy precious time with your families.

### Covid Update

We will continue to inform you if there is a positive PCR test in your child's class next term. Cases have slowed considerably and we have only had 1 case in the last 7 days. New guidance has been released this week which states that all children over 5 should now do a daily lateral flow test if they are a known contact of a positive Covid case. Lateral Flow tests are available online or from local pharmacies. They do not need to isolate unless they show symptoms.

### Pupil Voice and Clubs

We re-introduced our **Pupil Council** earlier this month and have already had a couple of opportunities for pupils to discuss school issues. So far, we have discussed clubs and behaviour. Pupils have had some excellent ideas for new clubs, which we will be listening to. New clubs (including lunchtime and after school) will be available in the new year. Details will be sent out early in January. As clubs have been interrupted due to Covid this term, any pupils booked onto Craft, Jigsaws/Lego, choir or Yoga will automatically carry on and keep their place next term.

### Swimming

We have decided to change our swimming provision so more children have the opportunity to learn each year. After Christmas we will be moving to 6 weekly blocks for different classes. This is the plan for the rest of 2022:

Spring 1:	Year 3
Spring 2:	Year 2
Summer 1:	Year 5
Summer 2:	Year 6
Autumn 1:	Year 6
Autumn 2:	Year 2

## Class Learning – Year 4



Mount Everest class had an art day using clay to make 'quick figurative sketches' in response to a sculpture that Miss Lemon made. They worked hard to persevere when they found working with the clay difficult. The class had to work quickly as the clay began to harden, dry out and crack which made it more difficult to mould into shape. The children really enjoyed their day and worked very hard!



## St John the Baptist Church, Stanground

Please remember that support, in the form of food or services, if available by contacting Rev. Carol on 07976523555 or through [www.maryschild.org.uk](http://www.maryschild.org.uk) confidentially.

## Safeguarding & Attendance– Everyone's Responsibility, Every Day –

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At SSJ we continue to work hard to try to raise attendance levels and to reduce instances of lateness. Our target for whole school attendance is 97% and we routinely monitor this. However, the whole school's attendance for the Autumn Term was only 93%. This means that on average children have missed 5 days of school so far this year. If your child is not in school they do not reach their learning potential. We understand that Covid restrictions are affecting this and we do take this into account. However, all schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the Local Authority. If your child's attendance falls below 97% they will receive an attendance letter, be monitored by our Attendance Team and if there is no improvement, then further absences will not be authorised without evidence. We want to work together and support you to improve attendance so please do get in touch if you have any questions. Please remember that if you ever have a safeguarding concern you can always speak to one of our school Safeguarding or Attendance Leaders: Mrs Hindmarsh, Mrs Massingham, Mrs Munday and Miss Giddings.

## Key Dates

<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Autumn Term ends
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School closed to pupils: Teachers' Inset Day
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Spring Term begins
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Book Fair
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	NSPCC Number Day
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Half-term
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parents Meetings
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Parents Meetings
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Spring Term ends
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Summer Term begins