



### Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear parents,

Have you already bought your Christmas tree?

That is always a tricky one – buy too soon and it's dead by Christmas Eve. I have heard that spraying it with hairspray keeps the needles on the tree, but turns your Christmas tree into a potential IED.

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

My children are at the age where they simply demand cash. As there are no cashpoints any more, or anywhere that wants to take cash, the Tutt family are doing festive bank transfers. No idea how we will wrap them.

Have you got your tickets for the school nativities?

At least we can look forward to something very special and festive this year.

#### **Change of dates for end of the summer term**

Due to the Queen's Jubilee, we have been given an extra day's holiday at the end of the school year. Therefore the last day of term will now be Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **School uniform**

Please ensure your children come to school with the proper uniform, including proper shoes; not black boots of any length. Tights should be grey (and warm!).

If you are unsure please do consult the school website for a full list. Proper school shoes for children are the most important part of the uniform.

If you are finding it difficult to afford the correct items, please get in touch with us as we would like to help.

#### **COVID-19**

Things seem to have ramped up very quickly recently; thank you for choosing to wear your masks at drop off and pick up, as well as when entering reception.

While some schools have moved their nativities online, we have decided to proceed with performing the Christmas plays live to families; each school has to make decisions based on their own circumstances. We continue to follow DfE guidelines and are continually updating our risk assessments. If the situation changes and we have an increase in case numbers at the school, we may need to cancel the Christmas plays at short notice or we may be advised to cancel by our local health protection team; we will let you know via ParentMail. We very much hope and expect that this will not be the case.

Please take a lateral flow test before coming into school to watch one of our plays and keep your mask on at all times while indoors. We will ensure that adults are distanced from the children. We will space adult seating as much as we can although there will be minimal social distancing in the school halls among the audiences. Even though we are limiting tickets to two per child, this still means there will be up to 170 adults at any one time



watching the Infant performances and 90 adults watching the Year 4 performances. Nobody will be allowed in without a ticket. All doors and windows will be wide open so please dress in warm clothes.

Sorry if none of that sounds very Christmassy. We want to see you and to share what the children have been practising with you. Christmas just isn't Christmas without tea towels on heads, children making star actions with their hands and wise men following a cardboard star on a stick. Pure magic!

### **Shrublands Court**

I continue to receive emails and calls from residents of Shrubland's Court who have parents blocking them in or parking illegally/anti-socially. Sometimes it is not the abysmal parking that is the issue, but the attitude of the car owners when challenged that is most upsetting.

I think most of us would agree that it is inconsiderate to park across someone else's drive or on double yellow lines. If there was an emergency and response vehicles could not get through, it would be a poor excuse that the road was blocked because someone could not be bothered to park a little further away and walk. Please do not do it.

### **Getting to school on time**

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time and in the best possible frame of mind to begin their learning. **All children must be in school by 8:55am.** After that time they need to be signed in by a parent.

On some mornings we have a large number of late arrivals which is disruptive for the children and adults. If getting to school on time is something you find difficult, please consider rising earlier or changing the time you leave the house each morning.

### **Late arrivals**

If your child is arriving late, for example, after a music exam or medical appointment, please ensure you come in with them and you sign them in. We have some parents of older children dropping them at the gate to walk up alone which is not acceptable and delays them getting into class.

### **Sports Update**

Football: Our girls' team have got their season up and running with a 2-1 victory over SKPS and an unfortunate 1-0 defeat to Claremont in a very tight game. Our A Team also played Claremont last week, losing 2-1 again in a very close game – our goal scored by Mohammad. The B Team also suffered a 2-1 defeat to Claremont with Ali scoring the goal. Yesterday, they played their second game of the season beating Southborough 5-0 with goals from Eli x2, Ryan and Seb x2. The A team have their second fixture next week against St Mark's.

Netball: Both our netball teams have continued our incredible results from recent years and got off to a barnstorming start to their seasons. The A team have beaten Southborough, St Peter's, Bidborough, Claremont and St Barnabas winning 8-0, 4-0, 13-0, 11-1 and 12-0! The B team have played Langton Green and Southborough, winning 8-1 and 7-0! A super start!

Cross Country: We had the first meet of the season this week at Mascalls Academy. We had very little notice of the event so there was very limited prep in advance! All the children ran exceptionally well in the cold and wet conditions. Isla and Rosie came 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Year 3/4 girls' race, Alex came an incredible 4<sup>th</sup> in the boys with a diving finish to gain an extra spot on the line, Emily finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the Year 5/6 girls and in the Year 5/6 boys Daniel finished 3<sup>rd</sup> after a fine run with Armin, Eddie and Daniel coming 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Brilliant results all round!





**Basketball:** Our girls' basketball team took part in a tournament at Hayesbrook. We played 6 other schools – winning 3 and losing 3. The girls had a fantastic time, met one of the players from the Sevenoaks Suns (the current European champions!) and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. A superb effort!

Mr Hodges

### Digi Duck

Well done to Year 1 and 2 for doing the Digi duck competition. You all did an **amazing** job at making and decorating his nests and for remembering how to be safe online.

Miss Hayward had a hard job at choosing the top 3 classes:

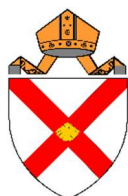
3rd place - Hedgehog class

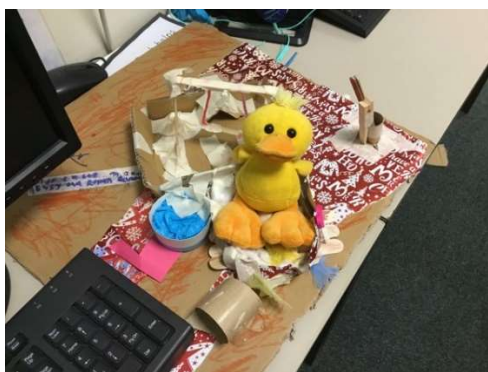
2nd place - Beech class

1st place - Squirrel class

Well done and always remember to stay safe online!

Miss Smith





### KS2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

As our reading challenges continue in Key Stage 2, we have been so impressed with the children's engagement in, and enjoyment of, their reading activities both at school and at home.

A huge well done to this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Word Count
Divit in Dormouse Class	Isabelle W in Deer Class	Swift Class
1,274,615 words	35 quizzes	4, 540, 069 words

Ms Simpson

### Dates for the diary

w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas plays this week
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant church service (provisional)
14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 church service (provisional)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception and KS1 disco
	Christmas lunch
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term
	KS2 disco
4 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of term

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt  
December 2021

