



# St Mark's CofE Primary School

Danebury Road, Hatch Warren

Basingstoke, RG22 4US

(01256) 346 111

adminoffice@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk

www.stmarksprimary.net

News Update - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

## A Message From Mr Applegate

The Christmas season seems to have begun, and we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas together. We are mindful that Christmas can also be a difficult time for a variety of reasons. Last weekend, the American tradition of Thanksgiving took place, reminding us to give thanks in all circumstances. Not always easy to do, but it really helps us through tricky times. It also helps us to look outwards and not inwards.

My apologies for causing some discussion around the change to finishing times on the last day. We are finishing at 3:20pm because schools aren't supposed to finish early (I've had confirmation from the diocese). Many prefer this anyway due to work commitments. If you have to take your child early, just pop into the office and collect them after 1:30pm, but this should be the exception not the norm. 😊

## Respond To School At Home



This week, we learn about St Andrew, looking at who he trusted, and the good news he spread.

## Can you help us on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec?

Hatch Warren Nature group are helping us redo our Willow Tunnel and also improve our raised beds, as both are looking tired.

**Can you spare a few hours to help them? 9:30am** until lunch. We really need 4 more volunteers. Parents are to supervise their own children if they bring any. Bring gardening gloves. Bring secateurs if you have some. Wear old clothes and wear strong shoes or boots.

Please let us know if you can make it!



## Christmas Performances - Update

Thank you for the overwhelming positive comments and suggestions regarding the new ticket system.

We aim to get the tickets out to parents for the Reception performances on Monday, and the other performances in the following days.

If you haven't applied for tickets, please do so immediately via our website.

No ticket = No performance 😊

For all performances, young children and babies can be on an adult's lap in the performance. Older siblings will require a seat (and therefore their own ticket).

Finally, at the end of each performance, we'll be taking donations for "The Raising Hope Foundation", a charity which works with orphaned and vulnerable children in the traditional town of Santrokofi, Ghana.

[www.raisinghopefoundation.co.uk](http://www.raisinghopefoundation.co.uk)



## Christingle Donation

Your child may have come home with a Christingle box or envelope on Friday. If you would like to, feel free to pop a few coins in as a donation towards The Children's Society, who work with disadvantaged children and young people, and return it by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. You are also invited to Immanuel's Christingle Celebration on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 3pm, in the school hall.



## Friends of St Mark's Christmas Fayre

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

11am-2pm

Head Teacher: Mr Charles Applegate  
Deputy Head: Mrs Claire Cooper  
Assistant Head: Mrs Nicola Ford  
Assistant Head: Mrs Rebekah Alsey





# Christmas at St Mark's C of E Primary School 2017

★ **Christmas Fayre** ★  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 11am-2pm

★ **Christmas Lunch** ★  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

★ **Year R Nativity** ★  
Performances on:  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

★ **Year 1 and 2 performances of  
Behind the Stable Door** ★  
Performances on:  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

★ **Years 3, 4 and Choir  
Carol Concert** ★  
Performances on:  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2pm

★ **Years 5, 6 and  
Choir Carol Concert** ★  
Performances on:  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7pm



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*To attend a performance this year you will need to have a free ticket. Please see our website for more information!*



# Dates for your diary....

## Autumn Term

### Christmas Fayre

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Flu Vaccinations YR – Y4

Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas break

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Spring Term

### First day

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018

### Half-term

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

### Easter break

Mar 30<sup>th</sup> – Apr 13<sup>th</sup>

## Summer Term

### First day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

### May Day Bank Holiday

May 7<sup>th</sup>

### Half-term

May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>

### INSET Days - 2018

Friday 19th January, Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

### Last day of term

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

*We finish at 3:20pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December for the Christmas break.*

Join us this Christmas at Immanuel Church as we celebrate Jesus' birth

Saturday 25th November  
10.00am Advent Activity Morning

Advent Sunday: 3rd December  
10.00am Holy Communion for all  
3.00pm Christingle

Sunday 10th December  
10.00am Holy Communion for all

Sunday 17th December  
10.00am Nativity for all  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight  
(with mulled wine & mince pies afterwards)

Sunday 24th December  
10.00am Holy Communion for all  
3.00pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December  
10.00am Celebration Christmas Communion

Immanuel Church, Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, RG22 4US  
www.immanuelhub.co.uk facebook.com/immanuelhub

### Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec

Feel free to decorate the St Mark's jumper with Christmas items, or wear a Christmas jumper.

### Absence – Please be honest!

Thank you to everyone who is honest when their child is absent from school for any reason.

It can be tempting for parents to tell a 'little white lie' about why their child was absent (e.g. child was unwell despite being away on holiday).

The problem is that children talk about their holiday, parents, pupils and staff know things from social media, and the school almost always finds out. Sometimes children have tans, too. It's also not great for the children who may be told to keep quiet about a holiday.

If we have sufficient evidence to believe that a child has actually been away, then this may go down as unauthorised and will count towards absences for a penalty notice (fine).

Finally, there is an amazingly clear statistical link between good attainment and good attendance at school. Attendance really does help!