



# St Mark's CofE Primary School

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News Update - Monday 27th 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**

who he trusted, and the good news he spread.

This week, we learn about St Andrew, looking at

#### Can you help us on Sunday 10th 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

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

#### **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 3rd Dec at 3pm, in the school hall.



















#### **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** 

**Spring Term** 

**Summer Term** 

**Christmas Fayre** 

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

First day Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Flu Vaccinations YR - Y4

Dec 12th, 13th

Half-term

May Day Bank Holiday May 7<sup>th</sup>

Fab 12th

 $Feb~12^{th}-16^{th}$ 

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**Christmas break** 

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

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

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

Half-term

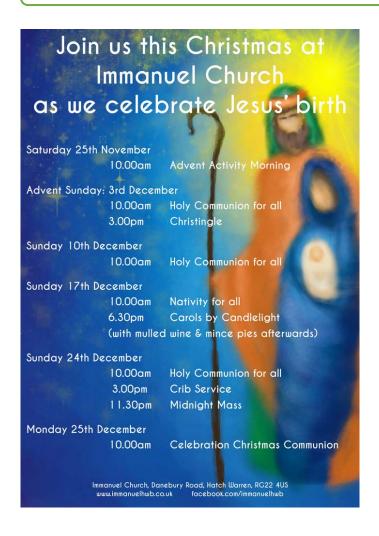
INSET Days - 2018

Friday 19th January, Thurs 29th March, Monday 4th June

Last day of term

July 23rd

We finish at 3:20pm on Thursday 21st December for the Christmas break.



## 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!