



Horton St. Michael's CE First School & Nursery

CHRISTMAS 2018 NEWSLETTER

Please find below our Christmas programme of events.

The Friends' Christmas Fair - Friday, 30 November, 3.30-6.00pm

Further information available in the recent Friends' Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nativity Day - Thursday, 6 December

The children will be learning all about the true meaning of Christmas as they work with the other children in their houses. The day will be full of story-telling, crafts, prayers and songs as the children explore the Christmas story.

Maple Class Trip to the New Vic Theatre - Wednesday, 12 December

Maple class will be visiting the New Vic theatre to attend a performance of "Wind in the Willows". They will leave school at 12.30pm and arrive back at school at 5.30pm (traffic permitting).

Wreath Making - Wednesday, 12 December

The Friends have organised another evening of wreath making, mince-pies and mulled wine! Tickets are priced at £15 and are available from Emily Bloor or Sarah Heath. Time to be confirmed.

Hazel Class Nativity - Thursday, 13 December

Hazel Class (including our Nursery children) will be performing their nativity play. Parents of those children taking part are invited to attend. The performance will start at 2.00pm.

Carol Service at Horton Church - Monday, 17 December

Our whole school carol service is taking place at Horton Church this year. The service will begin at 1.30pm and will last around an hour. The children will be brought back to school by coach and you are welcome to join us back at school for festive refreshments.

Sycamore and Hazel Class trip to the Panto - Tuesday, 18 December at 1.00pm

Sycamore and Hazel class (including Nursery children who attend on Tuesdays) will be visiting Buxton Opera House to see "Dick Whittington". We leave school after an early lunch and will arrive back at school at about 4.20pm.

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday, 19 December

Mrs Hayes will be serving roast turkey and all the trimmings followed by a choice of puddings. **Please remember to order your child's Christmas lunch from Fresh Start Catering by Tuesday, 11 December.**

Christmas Parties - Thursday, 20 December

On the last day of term (20 December) children can come to school in their party gear for Christmas parties in the morning. Please note that there will be a party lunch served on this day and again **you will need to order it from Fresh Start Catering by Tuesday, 11 December.**

Christingle Service - Thursday, 20 December

Everyone is welcome to join us for this quiet and reflective service to celebrate the birth of Jesus, starting at 2.00pm. (Please note that Nursery children will take part in their normal Thursday afternoon activities.)

Summary of forthcoming events:

- 30 November: The Friends' Christmas Fair
- 6 December: Nativity Day
- 12 December: Hazel Class Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 12 December: Maple Class trip to New Vic Theatre
- 12 December: Friends' Wreath Making
- 13 December: Hazel Class Nativity performance
- 17 December: School Carol Service at Horton Church
- 18 December: Hazel & Sycamore Class panto trip
- 19 December: Christmas Lunch
- 20 December: Christmas Party morning
- 20 December: Christingle Service
- 20 December: SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR CHRISTMAS
- 23 December: Horton Church Carol Service

Looking ahead into 2019!

- 7 January: School re-opens
- 7 January: Flu Vaccinations (Reception, Years 1-4)
- 14 January: Sycamore Class dance at Regent Theatre
- 23 January: Maple Class trip to Lichfield Cathedral

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Horton Church Carol Service

Horton Church Carol Service will take place on Sunday, 23 December at 11.30am. This is always a lovely family occasion and everyone is most welcome.



Road Safety Message for Children

On darker mornings and evenings:

Can you be seen?

Make sure you wear something light coloured, reflective or fluorescent

Can you see properly before you cross the road?

Take your hood off your head to Stop, Look and Listen

It's difficult for vehicle drivers to see you when you're in dark clothing and when there's no street lights so please ...

THINK! BE SAFE! BE SEEN! STAY SAFE!

Also please can we reiterate the importance of careful driving practices around school; we've been made aware of near misses in the school entrance and dangerous reversing. In the interests of safety and with our neighbours and other road users in mind, please avoid parking on the yellow zigzags, opposite driveways and on bends. We request that you do not turn vehicles around in the school driveway/entrance. Thanks for your co-operation.

Winter School Closures

With winter rapidly on its way, a note about possible closures. Despite adverse weather, it is the school's policy to stay open as much as possible. If, however, the weather is so bad that getting to and from school becomes dangerous or if there is insufficient staffing to supervise teaching, then school will need to close. If so, you will be contacted with a text message to your mobile phone (if your number has recently changed, please contact the office to give your new number as soon as possible). You can also check to see if the school is closed by visiting Staffordshire County Council's website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures. This information can also be accessed via our website home page.

There is a smart phone version of the school closure list for parents on the move or without PC access. Local radio stations will also be checking the same website in order to broadcast details of closures.

Lesley will contact other local Headteachers, bus companies and staff prior to a final decision and there is usually a decision made by 7.30am. If you hear nothing, then assume that school is open for business as usual.

New Lunchtime Staff

We are very pleased to let you know that Sharon Lahouni and Kerry Vernon have joined our lunchtime supervisor team. We have a minimum of 3 staff on duty at lunchtime.

Late Arrivals/Early Leavers

If your child arrives late, please come to the **FRONT DOOR** and sign them in. If your child needs to leave early, again please come to the **FRONT DOOR** and sign them out. Thank you.

After School Clubs

The last sessions of our After School Clubs will be week commencing 10 December. Clubs will resume after the Christmas Holiday with the first sessions taking place w/c 14 January 2019.

Thank you for supporting two very worthwhile causes: our in-school **Poppy Appeal** (and thanks to Maple Class children who collected donations from the sale of poppies and related products) - our collection box was presented to members of the Royal British Legion during their special visit to school on Friday, 9 November - we raised £85.06; AND **Children In Need** "Wear Something Spotty" Dress-Down Day - we raised £90.31.



News from the office

<p>Admission to Reception Year 2019</p>	<p>The application process is now open and the closing date for applications is 15 January 2019. For online applications please visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions.</p>
<p>Fresh Start Catering</p> <p>Tel: 01869 226675</p> <p>Email: support@freshstartcatering.uk</p>	<p>We hope your child is enjoying the new choice of meals offered by Fresh Start Catering and that the meal ordering and payment side of things is working well. Some questions have arisen over the last couple of weeks, so we're taking the opportunity to answer them below:</p> <p>Q: What is the cut-off time on Tuesdays for meals to be ordered? A: 23.59 hours.</p> <p>Q: Can personal details and payment card details be saved in the Meal Manager system? A: At present no but this is something that is being worked on. At the moment you will need to save the details in the browser and use autofill.</p> <p>Q: If I've ordered my child's meals in advance and become aware of a school trip and wish to provide my child with a packed lunch from home, how and when do I cancel the meal? A: If you do not wish your child to have a packed lunch with Fresh Start you can change your 'preferences' to "do not replace" or you can call or email the Fresh Start office by the Tuesday deadline the week before.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE 1: if you change your mind and wish to cancel a meal in favour of a packed lunch from home, please ensure you amend your order by the Tuesday deadline.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE 2: if your child has a lunch provided by the kitchen that has not been ordered or paid for in advance, please contact the Fresh Start team ON THE DAY in order to pay.</p> <p>Just for clarity, there is currently no packed lunch option (unless there is a school trip) or salad bar.</p> <p>If you have any comments or feedback on our new catering service please do get in touch.</p>
<p>Teachers2Parents APP</p>	<p>Many parents/carers are accessing text messages from school on their mobile phones via the recently introduced (and free of charge) Teachers2Parents APP. Installing the APP means that all text messages from school are delivered to the APP and are stored there, making it easy to track back and view all messages from school in one place. Also, you can opt for a notification and get an alert when there is a new message to read. Search for Teachers2Parents in your APP store and read the Frequently Asked Questions to fully familiarise yourself with using the APP. Also, just to clarify that text messages are sent to the Priority 1 contact only; in the case of email, messages are sent to both the Priority 1 and Priority 2 contacts if we have email addresses for both.</p>
<p>New School Website</p>	<p>You might have noticed our website looks different! Now that we are part of Staffordshire University Academies Trust our website is run by Phenix. All of the SUAT schools have the same provider so that we can share information easily. We hope you like the look of the website and find it easy to navigate. Please bear with us as we try ensure that all the information is up to date—Phenix moved our data across to the new website back in March!</p>
<p>Paying for items on ParentPay</p>	<p>Thank you for using ParentPay to pay for trips, nursery fees, after school clubs, violin hire etc (we have now removed the School Meal payment item with the introduction of Fresh Start Catering). We've received feedback from some parents/carers that they are finding the 'alert' facility useful ... if you wish to set email alerts associated with your ParentPay account, please go to the "Communication" tab and select "Alert Settings".</p> <p>Please can we ask for your co-operation with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observe the instructions provided in trip letters regarding consent and additional information required via the notes facility (eg refreshment preferences) ◆ Prompt payment in line with deadlines <p>Your help will reduce the need to spend time chasing payments and responses, thank you!</p>
<p>Coming soon SIMS Parentlite APP</p>	<p>SIMS is the school's information management system in which record your child's data. We are pleased to let you know that you'll be able to let us know of any changes to personal details (eg address, contact details etc) via a new SIMS Parentlite APP. This will reduce both the amount of paperwork involved and risk of error in inputting the data. We'll keep you posted.</p>
<p>Office Hours</p>	<p>Just to let you know that the office is staffed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Woodward (Finance & Support Officer) - Monday & Friday, all day • Suzanne Pointon (Secretary) - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.00am-1.00pm • Rachel Gregory (Clerical Assistant) - Monday & Tuesday, 9.00am-12.00noon