

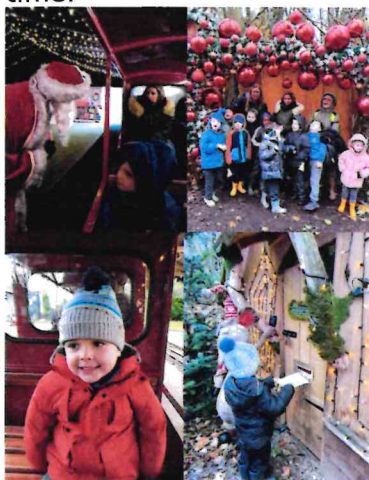


### It's cold outside!

The weather has certainly turned wintry over the last week or so – de-icing the car in the morning is not fun! Please can you ensure that your child has a warm coat and a hat, scarf and gloves if they tolerate them and need them as we do still go out to play every day. Please name all belongings as there are multiple items in each classroom which have the potential to be lost!

### A magical day

The children in lower school had a wonderful festive day out this week. They visited Audley End and travelled on the train to see Santa as well as listening to a story from Mother Christmas and making reindeer food. Everyone had a magical time!



### A COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Across the school we are now starting to get excited at the prospect of Christmas. Wonderful aromas from cooking lessons are wafting round

the school as the pupils make mince pies and Christmas cakes.



We are busy this week starting to put together a Christmas show for you all to enjoy – tickets are ordered via the school office. You will also have had a letter regarding our annual 'Carols Round the Tree' event. Do book your tickets for this family event. At the end of the newsletter are key dates in our calendar from now until the end of term.

### Focus Week

Last week we all enjoyed a special Focus week in school centred around the history curriculum. The staff worked very hard to plan lots of special activities and the children worked well to support one another in groups outside of their normal classes.



### Tales From The Chalkface!

#### Lower School

Lower School pupils have continued working on their topic 'Celebrations.' This week the pupils enjoyed the story of Kipper's birthday and made items to celebrate with a birthday party. They also wrote a birthday invitation.



Pupils have been learning celebration dances in dance lessons and have also been decorating a star for their costume in the Christmas show!

#### Middle School

The children in Middle School have had lots of fun with their topic 'The Romans.' This week they have role played Gladiator fights and have also

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labelled the uniform of a roman soldier.



Next week they have a special 'Roman Day' of activities planned. In science they have been learning about the properties of materials and using vocabulary to describe this.



The pupils are also exploring the religion of Judaism and are currently making visits to a local synagogue.

## Upper School

Upper School have continued with their topic 'Journeys'. They have learnt about famous journeys made by some individuals such as the first black woman to be an astronaut in space. In RE, pupils have learnt about the concept of pilgrimage. In maths lessons the pupils have been exploring money and have role played a shop where they can purchase real snacks!



Today the Kestrel class enjoyed a special

Christmas off site visit to the Christmas barns.



## Parent volunteers

If we have any parents or family members with a bit of time to spare then we would appreciate any parent helpers for activities such as Santa's shop, or Carols Round the tree. Please do contact the school office on 01920 485152 if you think you might be able to help – even if just for half hour.

## Parent Craft Workshop

Please do join us on 5<sup>th</sup> December for a social opportunity while also getting crafty! Please let the office or Mrs Nash know if you would like to attend.

## Community News

Church Farm, Ardeley have asked us to share with families that they have some special Christmas activities lined up. This includes a visit to Father Christmas – and your dog can come too! You can visit their web site at

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

## Dates for the diary

**Week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** – Santa's Shop  
**5<sup>th</sup> Dec** – parent craft and coffee workshop  
**10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December** – school show (details to follow)  
**12<sup>th</sup> December** – Carols round the tree  
**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – pantomime for Lower school and Upper school

## Middleton News

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – pantomime for Upper school  
**19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Dinner  
**20<sup>th</sup> Dec** – end of term  
**1pm**

As we move into advent this weekend I am sure you will enjoy some family time putting up decorations . . . or admiring everyone else's!

We look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming festive events. Have a great weekend

Many thanks

*Debbie Hartley*

