

Virtue of the month – Patience



All the staff wish to thank parents and children for the many Gifts, cards and kind wishes received. We wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year with your families.



Dear Parents and Carers

We've had such a full and wonderful term, packed with events to celebrate, and I'm truly grateful for all the blessings we've shared. It's been a season rich with achievements and joyful moments that remind us of the strength and warmth of our school community. I feel incredibly fortunate to lead this school and privileged to have your children in our care. Every day, their curiosity, kindness, and resilience inspire us all. Thank you for walking alongside us on this journey and for the unwavering support you show.

Today's assembly was an absolute blast! The children brought the 12 Days of Christmas to life in a joyful celebration. From "a partridge in a pear tree," to "twelve drummers drumming" every part was sung by different groups – ask your child how it went...! A special shout-out to our amazing kitchen staff, who stole the show with their brilliant "five gold rings" moment - it was fantastic and had everyone cheering! The children sang their hearts out and gave us all a reason to feel extra Christmassy.

The generosity of our parents and PTA in coming together to help others in need has been truly overwhelming. Your kindness and willingness to support those less fortunate reflect the heart of our community and the values we hold dear. Thank you. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, may this Holy Christmas bring peace, joy, and renewal to your homes. I pray that you and your families enjoy a restful and blessed holiday, filled with love and hope. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday, January 5th at 9:00 AM**, ready for a new term of learning and growth.

We are delighted to share some exciting news!

Congratulations to **Ms. Stansbury**, Elm Class Teacher, who has been appointed as our new SENCO (actual start date to be confirmed – not before Easter). This is a wonderful achievement, and we know she will bring great dedication and care to this important role. We also want to express our heartfelt thanks to **Mrs. Bertram**, who has served as interim SENCO with such commitment. She will continue to support Ms. Stansbury during the transition over the coming months to ensure a smooth handover. Thank you both for everything you do for our school!

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news! **Ms. Whicher** begins her maternity leave today, and we send her our very best wishes as she embarks on this exciting new chapter of motherhood. We can't wait to hear her joyful news soon! At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome **Ms. Wheeler**, an experienced teacher, who will be joining us to provide maternity cover. We are excited to have her on board and know she will be a fantastic addition to our team. Please join us in sending warm wishes to Ms. Whicher and a big, heartfelt welcome to Ms. Wheeler!



Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch and enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers. We had fun pulling crackers and sharing the jokes with each other and eating a tasty lunch, which was a credit to the excellent catering team we have in school.



Our Cook Caroline, with help from Laura, Natalie, & Jeanette provided a lovely Christmas dinner with all the trimming Lunch was served with help from the staff and Christmas crackers and juice were donated by the School Association. The Christmas songs added to the festive atmosphere. The children presented gifts to Brad, Caroline and her team in appreciation of their help and culinary efforts throughout the year. The visit and presents from Father Christmas and class gifts were a big hit!

Carol Service

Due to the weather, we had to make a last-minute change and hold our Carol Concert at school instead of at the church. While the setting was different, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits! Everyone came together to create a joyful and uplifting experience, and the children truly rose to the occasion with their beautiful singing and impressive instrumental performances. Thank you to our readers for leading us in prayer Our heartfelt thanks go to **Mrs. Hardy** and all the staff for their hard work and flexibility in making this special event such a success. It was a wonderful reminder of the strength and warmth of our school community.

Attendance Cup

Well done, Oak Class! Your fantastic attendance this week has earned you the **Attendance Cup**. It's great to see your commitment to being in school and learning together. To all our other classes: keep going, your turn to shine after the Christmas break.



Keeping Children Safe Online

Does your child know how to stay safe online? In today's digital world, understanding online safety is more important than ever. From protecting personal information to recognizing potential risks, these skills help children navigate the internet confidently and responsibly. Why not make it fun and test their knowledge? We've included a quick and engaging Online Safety Quiz that you can do together at home. It's a great way to start conversations about staying safe online and ensure your child knows the best practices.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/quiz/>

Primary school Admissions for 2026

Please remember the deadline for **Reception 2026 applications** to School Admissions is the **15th January**. Any applications received after this date are treated as late applications

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners this week and **Thomas More** for winning The House Points Cup



Wishing you a joyful, peaceful, and holy Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Mr Doyle & Staff



Calendar Dates

5 th January 2026	School Reopens @9am
13 th February	Break up For Half Term
23 rd February	School Reopens @9am
25 th February	Dorking Hall Festival -Details to Follow
13 th March	INSET – School Closed
27 th March	Break Up From School @1pm
13 th April	School Reopens @9am
4 th May	Bank Holiday -School Closed
5 th May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood Details to Follow
5 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst – Details to Follow
22 nd May	Break Up For Half Term
1 st June	School Reopens @9am
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm

RE

Approaching week 4 of advent means that there is not much longer to wait. Christmas is just around the corner and with the schools breaking up, children all over the country and need all over the world will be looking forward to Christmas day and the celebrations which will come. In all the rush of the day though, often we can get carried away and forget what it is all about. As one of the children proudly pronounced, "Christmas is Christ's Mass". In this time therefore, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas, and celebrate the birth of Christ with all of your hearts, minds and soul.

Volunteer Needed!

We are seeking a dedicated volunteer to take over the role of **Drop-Off Coordinator**. This important position helps ensure students arrive at school safely each morning and supports our smooth, efficient drop-off routine. By coordinating this service, you'll play a key part in helping families get their children to school on time while allowing parents to continue on to work without delay. Please contact **Jon** at dropoff.stfrancis@gmail.com to express your interest.



Carols, Christmas Lunch & Santa Visit



