

November 25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Mass in October. The children from Year 5 did an excellent job supporting Father Lucas and a large donation of goods was made to Swindon Food Collective. The weight of food donated was 212.2kg - equivalent to the weight of a SIBERIAN TIGER! I know that families in need will be so grateful for your generosity and kindness and I thank you on their behalf.

Thank you to all those parents who attended Parents' Evening. They went really well and I would like to say a huge thank you to the prefects who escorted parents to the classrooms and pupils to the Evergreen Room; the prefects did an excellent job and were an absolute credit to the school.

Yellow Day, in support of mental health awareness, raised a fantastic £227 – again, thank you for your kind donations and it is a privilege to be able to support the Young Minds charity in the work they do. The children completed lots of fun events that have a positive impact on mental wellbeing; these included teamwork events, physical exercise, mindfulness and meditation. We were very lucky that this day also coincided with the new play equipment being opened and the children all enjoyed their time on it.



As we all know, Christmas is just around the corner and we aim to give our pupils a magical experience at this time of the year. The pantomimes are the most popular event of the year and I know how much the children look forward to them. Please could I ask for the payments for the panto to be made as soon as possible and if you are able to help us accompany the children to the theatre on this day, please do speak to your class teachers.

The Nativity performances are also fast approaching and once again, we have tried to keep the costumes to an absolute minimum with the wonderful TAs making as many props and costumes as they possibly can – my goodness, they are a very talented bunch! If you are struggling at all with anything you have been asked to provide, please do let either myself or the class teacher know and we will help in any way we can. Again, if you are able to help us accompany the children to church for the rehearsals etc, please do let your class teacher know.

I know Christmas can be a tricky time for some and I would like to say once again, that I am here to support our families in any way I can. Please feel free to reach out and ask for help if it is needed. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026 and thank you once again for all of your support during the start of this academic year 😊



Mrs Dowdeswell

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Nativity

Please read carefully as we are doing things slightly differently this year.

Nativity performance Y1 – Y6 Thursday 4th December, 3:30pm Holy Rood Church

- Pupils in Year 1 – Year 6 will be performing their Nativity at Holy Rood Church.
- Children to wear Christmas jumpers on that day.
- Families are warmly invited to come to the church to watch the performance. Doors will open at 3:15pm and the performance will start at 3:30pm.
- If you have a child in Y1 – Y6 and they have a sibling in Ash or Oak Class, the sibling may be picked up from school at 2:45pm so that you can take them to the church to watch their older brother/sister's Nativity performance.
- **Please note, there will be no after-school clubs for any children on this day.**
- **All children in Y1 – Y6 will need to be collected from church promptly at 4:15pm.**
- **No child will be allowed to walk home on their own.**
- **Children in Ash and Oak will need to be collected from school at 3:15pm (unless already at the church with a sibling) – there will be no after-school clubs.**



Nativity performance – EYFS Thursday 11th December, 2:30pm.

- The children in Ash and Oak Classes will perform their Nativity in the school hall on Thursday 11th December at 2:30pm.
- Families of the children in Ash and Oak are welcome to attend.

Ticket prices for the Nativity performances



Although we have never charged families to come and watch the Nativity performances, the school needs to purchase licences from the two production companies being used; therefore, to help us with this cost we have set up ParentPay to accept any voluntary donations parents would like to make towards the cost. If you feel unable to make a donation, that is absolutely fine – but if you do feel you are able, all donations would be very gratefully received.

Attendance

Thank you to those families who ensure their children are in school every day and arrive on time. It is so important that your children are here for the very beginning of the school day so that they do not miss any learning and so that the class is not disrupted by late arrivals. Thank you so much to those parents who ensure their child is on time every day – it really is appreciated by all staff.



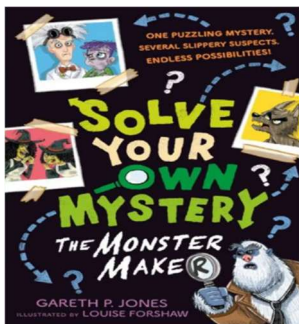
School Disco

Thank you to all children who came to the school disco and special thanks to the staff who stayed on after school to run these. The children who attended had a wonderful time and raised much-needed monies for the school.

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Curling PE lessons

Thank you to Mr Pidgeon for organising curling lessons for the pupils of our school. The children really enjoyed the experience and were very good at it (although Mrs Dowdeswell had a go and thought it was much harder than it looked!!).



Year 6 visit to St Joseph's Catholic College to meet an author.

The children from Year 6 visited St Joseph's College to watch a presentation by the author Gareth P. Jones. They had an excellent time and really enjoyed listening to the stories he told. It was a great experience for them to listen to an author and find out about the inspiration for his books. Several of the children bought one of his books and I look forward to hearing how much they enjoyed it.

Remembrance Service



On Tuesday 11th November, we held our own Remembrance Service followed by a two-minute silence. The children were very respectful and shared their thoughts about why it is important to remember the sacrifice made by so many. The pupils in Aspen Class produced this wonderful window display – please have a look next time you are passing this classroom – it really is beautiful.



Advent



Advent begins on November 30th and we shall be celebrating this in school from Monday 1st December. We shall celebrate our Christmas Mass on Friday 19th December.

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." ' **Matthew 3:3**

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Christmas Dinner Day – Wednesday 17th December.



Children will enjoy Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December served by the staff. This will be a **non-school uniform day** for all and we look forward to seeing all of the children in their festive outfits! The menu is now available to view and book on ParentPay.

Q: Why should you never set the turkey next to the dessert?

A: Because he will gobble, gobble it up!

Christmas Fayre – Friday 12th December 3:30pm – 5pm 🎄

A separate letter will be sent giving all the details for the fayre. This is one of the main fundraising events for the school and provides lots of fun for all the children.

- No child will be allowed at the Christmas Fayre without an adult.
- **There will be no after-school clubs on this day.**
- Please can donations for the fayre be brought in as requested so that we can make hampers etc.
- If you are able to help run a stall, please let the office staff know.

Road Safety – EYFS and Y1

The children in EYFS and Y1 learnt all about how to ride a bike safely and how to be safe when they are close to roads and traffic. The children were amazing and really enjoyed their workshops. After their excellent workshops, the children drew a picture and wrote some words about what they had learnt.



Shanika Souza, EYFS



Ace Rodrigues, EYFS

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Children's Achievements Outside School

It is always great to hear of our children's interests and achievements outside of school and it was fantastic to hear of Kylah's (Alder Class) gymnastic achievements. Kylah wrote the following:

"I started gymnastics in June 2022 and I love it! I train 3 ½ hours on week days and on Saturday I train 4 hours and sometimes 5. My favourite apparatus is hoop because I love my hoop routine. I am learning 2 new routines for a big competition in a few months and the people I train with are my friends." Kylah, Y5.

If your child does any activities outside school, please encourage them to share with us as we love to hear all about their hobbies and interests and any medals or certificates can be presented to them during assembly on a Friday 😊



November

Tuesday 25th November

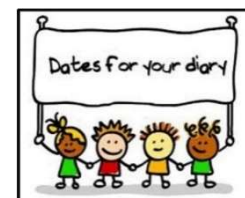
Year 2 Fire Station

Thursday 27th November

Non-uniform day in preparation for Christmas Fayre

Friday 28th November

TD Day – school closed to all pupils.



December

Wednesday 4th December

Nativity performance at the church. Doors open at 3:15pm for 3:30pm start.

Wednesday 10th December

KS2 pantomime at the Wyvern Theatre

Wednesday 10th December

EYFS & KS1 pantomime at in school

Thursday 11th December

EYFS Nativity performance

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas lunch for children (order through ParentPay).

Friday 19th December

Christmas Mass in school

Friday 20th December

1:15pm finish for all children on this day

January

Monday 5th January

TD Day – school closed to all pupils

Tuesday 6th January

Start of the new term and all children return to school

Friday 09th January

Yr 4-Epiphany Mass

Mon 19th January

World Religion Day

Friday 7th February

Wind instrument roadshow

Friday 13th February

Last day of term



Please note that the last day of term is Friday 19th December. School shall finish at 1:15pm for all pupils and no after school facilities will be available on this day. Please ensure all children are picked up promptly at 1:15pm. Thank you.

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November 25

Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 17th December 2025

Meat Option:

Roast Turkey & Gravy,
(pork) pigs in blankets,
sage & onion stuffing balls,
roast potatoes,
peas & baby carrots

Vegetarian Option:

Vegetable Parcels,
Quorn sausage sage & onion
stuffing balls,
roast potatoes,
peas & baby carrots

Dessert:

Christmas Iced Cupcake

Please place your order by

Monday 1st December 2025

through your ParentPay account.

Select the meat or vegetarian option

Thank you

*On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2026.*

Mrs Dowdeswell

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