



**St Peter's Bratton Church of
England Academy**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of the Autumn term. It wasn't quite the term we hoped it would be, needing to revert to bubbles and change many of our plans through the term! Nevertheless, we're delighted with how enthusiastic and hardworking the children have all been throughout this half-term.

It's been good for us to continue to get out and about as a school, using our local area, outdoor visits to places like Church Stretton and Year 6 being one of the few schools to make it to Arthog early in the term and to have workshop visitors and performances come to us.

I would like to thank all our staff for their dedication and hard work over the last term and wish them a very happy and restful Christmas.

Thank you, parents, for your help and support this term. I know many of you will be working over the holidays, many of you in essential services. I hope you get a break at some point and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.

We say a sad goodbye to our School Business Manager, Suzanne Lees today. Mrs Lees has been at St Peter's Bratton for 22 years, in administration roles and in more recent years took the role of SBM, organising our budgets, accounting and HR. Mrs Lees is retiring. She has lots of travel planned and is looking forward to relaxing! We thank her for everything she has brought to St Peter's Bratton and she will be really missed.

I'll finish today by saying well done and congratulations to Jacob in Year 4, whose Christmas card design was chosen by the mayor to be used as the Telford and Wrekin Christmas card! You can read about this further on in the newsletter. Well done Jacob!

Best wishes,

Mark Davis

Principal

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

January:

School reopens for the spring term on Tuesday 4th January and this is what we are planning for. Decisions made at government level about schools are not communicated to schools early. Any implications of these decisions we will inform you about via the Parent mail system as soon as we can.

Please can all children take a lateral flow test on the morning of Tuesday 4th January, before coming to school. Any children who are symptomatic cannot come to school and must go for a PCR test.

If your child tests positive for covid over the school holidays and will be in isolation when school returns, please let us know by completing this form [here](#). This will help us on the first day back. We will need to confirm your child's absence with you by phone on the first day back.

PE days next term

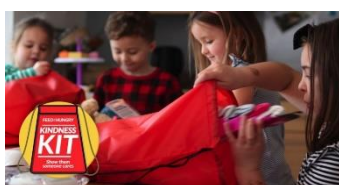
Monday	RO1, RO2, 4G1, 2R2
Tuesday	6O3, 6O1, 6O2, 1R1, 3G1, 1R2, 3G2 Swimming- 4G1, 4G2, 5B1, 5B2
Wednesday	3G1, 3G2, 2R1, 1R1, RO1, RO2,
Thursday	5B1, 5B2, 6O1, 6O2, 6O3
Friday	4G2, 1R2, 2R1, 2R2

Kindness Kits for Christmas

A BIG thank you to all the parents and children for your generous gifts for the Kindness Kits to support the work of "The Feed The Hungry" Charity.

Your generous gifts will help many children to have a Christmas they won't forget. Kind regards,

Miss Crossland



History of British Christmas traditions

Although Christmas will be very different for many of us this year, we can still enjoy festive activities such as decorating the tree, eating and drinking festive food and drink and refreshing winter walks.

Christmas has a long history in the UK, but we have the Victorians to thank for many of our most loved festive traditions, including sending cards and decorating Christmas trees. In fact, before the 19th Century, Christmas was barely celebrated in Britain.

What is the history of British Christmas celebrations?

Lord of Misrule is a historic figure who was central to British Christmas celebrations until the Puritans managed to ban the festive season in the 17th century. The Lord of Misrule was an elected individual who was charged with coordinating the seasonal revels of the Tudor court and in houses of nobility across the kingdom until Twelfth Night. At that time, the festive period saw servants and the poor given food boxes, and there was much drunkenness and celebrating. The concept of misrule celebrated this annual reversal of traditional social groups. In Scotland, the Abbot of Unreason played a similar role.

How did the Victorians celebrate Christmas?

Much of our understanding of a merrie old English Christmas has more to do with the writings of Charles Dickens or Washington Irving than our real medieval ancestors. For the early Victorians, Christmas was an antiquated curiosity, but one that the English bourgeoisie were beginning to remember. Dickens's A Christmas Carol is more an idealised romance based on his own childhood memory rather than a chronicle of what was happening at the time. But when the Victorians did rediscover Christmas, they couldn't stop themselves and soon we had Christmas cards, crackers and the sense that Christmas was a time for family. And, as Tiny Tim observed: "God bless us, every one."

When did Christmas become Xmas?

The first examples of the abbreviation Xmas being used can be found in 15th century ecclesiastical writings. The X originally represented the first letter of the Greek word Χριστός, meaning Christ.

Why do we have Christmas trees?

In the UK the Christmas tree was first introduced in 1800 by the wife of King George III, Queen Charlotte, who brought the tradition from her native Germany, where it was common custom to have a Christmas tree in your home Yew. She requested a Yew tree be brought to Queen's Lodge in Windsor, which she decorated herself.

Why is mistletoe hung at Christmas?

Before it became a romantic symbol, Mistletoe was considered so sacred in ancient Britain that it could only be cut by druids with a golden sickle. The plant had connotations of peace, and people who met underneath it were forbidden from fighting, even if they were bitter enemies. Homes decorated with mistletoe offered shelter and protection to anyone who entered.

Even to this day it is very rare to see a sprig of mistletoe inside a church thanks to its Pagan leanings. To the druids of the old religions it was a potent symbol of fertility, and the Greeks and the Romans regularly parleyed peace beneath its boughs. From the Middle Ages our ancestors hung it above the threshold to ward off evil spirits, although the Victorians helped give the plant its modern, lip-smacking tradition. In the UK, the main mistletoe event of the year is the Tenbury Wells Mistletoe Festival in Worcestershire.

Why is holly associated with Christmas?

The barbed leaves and red berries of the holly plant have long been identified with eternal life and protection in Great Britain. At first the Christian church took a disapproving stance to holly, forbidding it from appearing in churches, but the spiky leaves still appeared in people's houses, as the red of the berries was thought to ward off witches. In the face of such popularity, the custom was sanctified, the leaves taken to represent Christ's crown of thorns, and the berries His blood. Of course, special care had to be taken with such a powerful and lucky plant and so the old decorations, which were traditionally taken down on Candlemas (2 February), were never thrown away, but burnt.

And the ivy...

Ivy was the female plant to the male holly, and another symbol of everlasting life and resurrection. Interestingly the plant, now seen in a somewhat friendly light, was originally mistrusted. Folklore claimed that the vine could bring on madness and intoxication. In many counties, such as Northamptonshire, it had to be countered with the beneficial holly; decorating your home with ivy alone brought bad luck in droves. Once again, you also had to be very careful about how you disposed of the ivy, but ever-pragmatic farmers used to feed the withered decorations to their cattle.

When was the first Christmas card sent?

Even some of our most established traditions have unusual origins. In 1843 John Calcott Horsley sent the first printed Christmas card for his friend, Sir Henry Cole.

According to the V&A, Henry Cole was instrumental in reforming the British postal system, helping to set up the Uniform Penny Post which encouraged the sending of seasonal greetings cards

Why do we eat mince pies?

For good luck, British tradition recommends that everyone should eat a mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas. Tradition states that anyone who refuses one of their twelve pies will suffer a year of misfortune (you have been warned!).

Why is turkey eaten on Christmas Day?

In the Victorian era, birds raised in East Anglia were often herded along Drovers' roads to London to be sold fresh in time for Christmas. Daniel Defoe recorded that 150,000 turkeys were driven from East Anglia to London each year, a journey that took three months to complete. To protect their feet, turkeys were fitted with leather or sacking boots, while geese had theirs tarred and sanded.

Yule log

Nowadays, a Christmas Yule log refers to a chocolate cake. Every Christmas Eve, the men of the house would drag back the largest log they could find in the woods to burn in the hearth, lighting it, if at all possible, with a piece of last year's log. The idea was to keep it burning throughout Christmas Day and was probably a remnant from the Viking traditions of old, when a piece of wood was burnt in honour of Yggdrasil, the world tree, as a harbinger of good fortune. Goodness knows what the Norse warriors would think of today's chocolate equivalent.

Why do we celebrate Boxing Day?

Boxing Day is a British tradition which follows Christmas Day. It began sometime in the 1800s when Christmas gifts were received in a 'Christmas box'. The following day, wealthier classes would fill the box

with gifts to give to the poor – often servants and staff from their home who would traditionally be given Boxing Day off as a holiday. Alternatively, the box would be donated to a local church to help poorer people.

The feast of St Stephen is now known as Boxing Day thanks to the tradition of tradesmen calling on anyone who had employed them in the previous year to collect a monetary gift placed in special Christmas boxes.

Year 4 Party Day!

Year 4 had a brilliant party day this week. Here are some more pictures.



Christmas Services



Start your Christmas with the joy of singing carols in a special outdoor event.

Sunday 19th December 5pm
Refreshments available from 4.30pm

See website for further information.

www.hopeadmaston.org.uk/events

St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine

CAROL SERVICE: SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER 2021 @ 3.00pm.

We will be taking the necessary precautions and masks are now a requirement for the duration of the service (unless medically exempt).

Christmas Eve 24th Crib 3.00pm

Christmas Eve Communion 24th 11.30pm

Christmas Day HC 11.15am.

All welcome.

Dear Children,
Wishing you pawsome Christmas with your family!

Thank you for all your love and support.

From,

Soda 🐾x



Guy Fawkes Experience – Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic morning on Friday 10th December when they became time travellers and travelled back in time to 1605. They learnt more about the Gunpowder plot and acted in role as Catholics and Protestants fighting in the 80 Years Spanish War. We met Guy Fawkes and Robert Catesby and listened in as they plotted to blow up King James. We discovered more about the letter sent to Lord Mounteagle telling him not to go to Parliament on the 5th November. Finally, we acted out the arrest of Guy Fawkes when the soldiers discovered the 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden in the cellar.

The children had great fun as time travellers and were able to really show their knowledge they have gained over the course of their History this term. We were really proud of their enthusiastic responses and their desire to learn more as well as their listening skills.





On Friday 7th January,

St Peter's is holding a French Day in school.

The children will be taking part in a variety of French activities, games, lessons and songs in class.

*As part of this day, the school kitchen is preparing a special **French Menu**, for the children (and staff!) to enjoy, if they order a school dinner, on this day. Please see the attached French menu,.*



*To celebrate this day, we are inviting children to come into school wearing mufti in **Red**, **white** and / or **Blue**, the colours of the French flag.*

We are very excited to promote a love of languages across the school, on this special day.

*Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Branagh.*



Français Menu

vendredi 7th janvier

Mains

French Bread Pizzas

With a variety of toppings

Ratatouille (vegetarian)

Quiche Lorraine (vegetarian)

Potato Dauphinoise

Selection of Vegetables



Desserts

Crepes

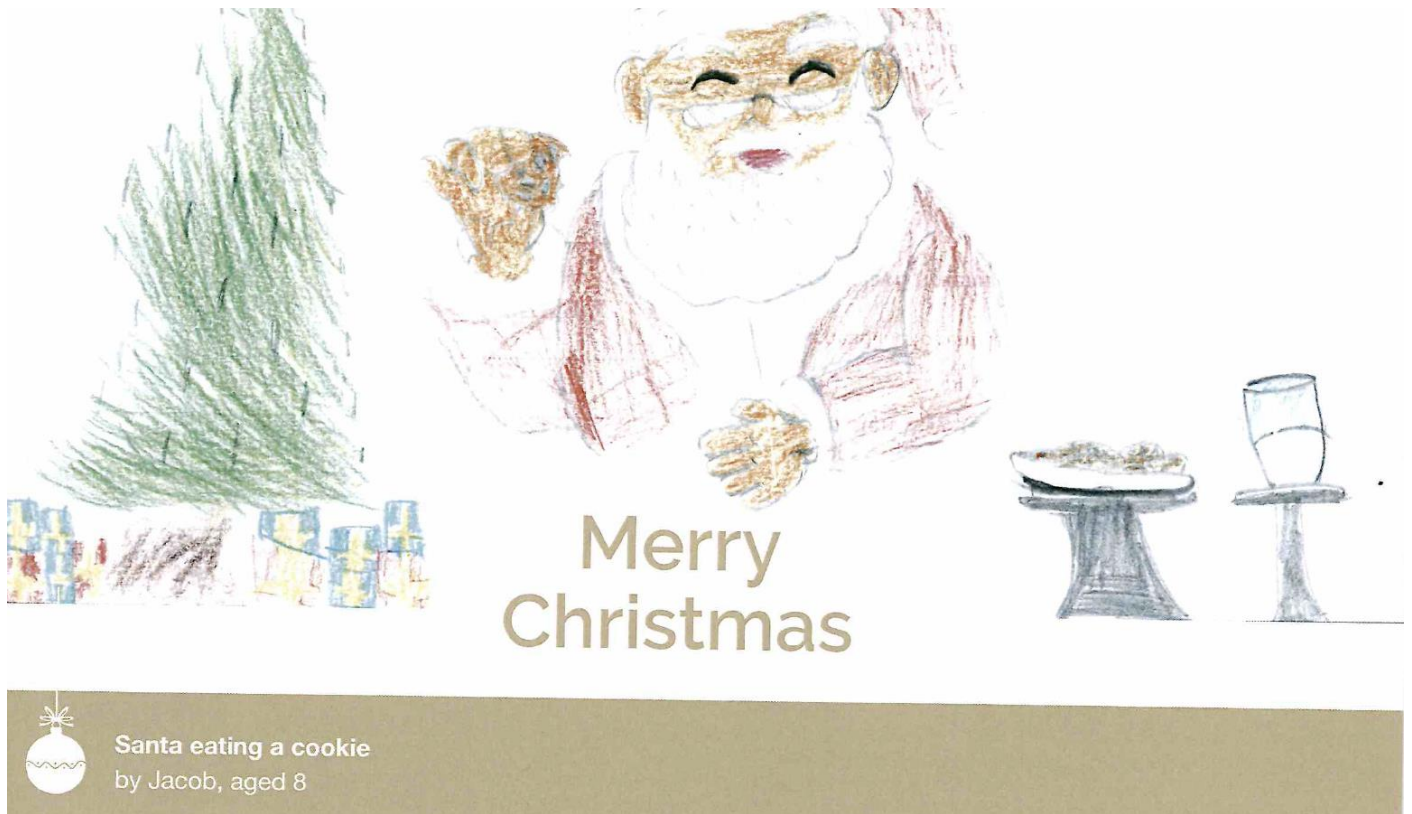
Fresh Fruit

Christmas Card Design Winner

Congratulations to Jacob in year 4!

Jacob has won Telford and Wrekin's Leader and Mayor's Christmas Card Design Competition 2021. The Mayor and Council Leader thank everyone for their entries and were overwhelmed by the response received from schools, they were very proud to announce Jacob's entry entitled 'Santa Eating a Cookie' as one of two designs to be used on their cards this year.

Well done Jacob





All children in Year 2 now have a Times Tables Rockstars password and username. These are stuck into their journals alongside a parent letter explaining the site. The classes have been learning their 2, 5 and 10 x tables over the past few weeks and will be continuing working on these after Christmas. Please help your child to set up their avatar and play the game. In addition, they have particularly enjoyed joining in with the BBC Super Movers dances, they can be found here [KS1 Maths Collection - BBC Teach](#)

We thank you for your continued support.



Year 2 will be learning about people who help us during PSHE next term. We are keen to experience an online video call with a paramedic, member of the police and someone who works for the fire brigade, so that the children can pose questions about keeping safe. If you think you can help, please contact Mrs Crooke via the Year 2 email address. You do not have to be a parent of the current cohort. We would be extremely grateful if you could help us with the topic.



Please may you save any magazines over the holidays as Year 2 will need to use them as part of next term's art activities. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event
Monday 20 th December to Monday 3 rd January	Christmas holidays
Tuesday 4 th January	Spring term starts
Friday 7 th January	French day – whole school - French Menu & Mufti (Red, white and/or blue)