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Bridge & Patricbourne CEP School
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Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who attended our Advent services at the church on Wednesday. It was a pleasure to listen to the children's beautiful singing and reflections on the advent.

I am also proud to share that 30 of our talented children took part in the Salvation Army carol concert last night. Their performances were absolutely outstanding, and they truly brought the Christmas spirit to life. The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our students were truly remarkable, and they shone like stars on that stage. Well done to each and every one of them! Thank you to everyone who attended, we raised £358 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

In other exciting news, I am thrilled to announce that Elara, one of our talented pupils, has won the parish Christmas card competition. Her design was a true work of art, capturing the essence of Christmas with its vibrant colours and heartfelt message (especially given current events in the world). Congratulations, Elara, on this well-deserved achievement. We are incredibly proud of you!



Now, as we approach the most wonderful time of the year, I must remind you all not to forget to order your Christmas dinner by next Friday. Our dedicated kitchen staff are working tirelessly to ensure a delicious feast awaits us all on the last day of term. So please, take a moment to fill out the order form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Let's make this Christmas dinner one to remember!

Staff News

I am very sorry to have to share with everyone that in a couple of weeks' time, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Andrews. As well as an excellent teaching assistant, Mrs Andrews has also supported a number of our children as our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and has proved invaluable in both roles. She is returning to the NHS in which she previously worked and will be supporting new mothers in her position. Please join me in wishing her every best wish.

Generosity

As we approach the festive season, it is time to spread some holiday cheer and give back to those in need. We have a range of opportunities for our families to show their generosity and bring warmth and joy to those less fortunate during this special time of year.

Christmas Jumper Day

This is a last call for second-hand Christmas jumpers that can be reused (good for charity and the environment!) On Monday and Tuesday next week, parents are able to purchase a Christmas jumper from the playground after school on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December for a donation to Save the Children.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Chocolate Oranges for the NHS

In the spirit of giving, we will, once again, be collecting chocolate oranges to show our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the NHS workers. Last year, we did this under the banner of Team Chocolate Orange, the inspirational initiative created by Chris Lamb. Chris's son, Elliott, spent a lot of time in hospital with a number of significant health complications but sadly passed away just before Christmas in 2010, aged 4 years. Chris wanted to do something positive to cherish Elliott's memory and embarked on a mission to thank NHS staff for the care they provided.



These small tokens of gratitude will go a long way in brightening their day and letting them know how much we value their efforts. Please consider donating a chocolate orange to this worthy cause.

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Additionally, we will be collecting toys for the Salvation Army present drive. Every child deserves a special gift during the festive season, and your donations will help make this possible. If you have any new toys that you would like to contribute, please bring them to the school office.

Canterbury Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Finally, we will continue our tradition of collecting for the Canterbury foodbank. As we all come together to celebrate with our loved ones, let us not forget those who may be struggling to put food on the table. Any non-perishable food items that you can spare will be greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference to those in need. Alongside this newsletter is a list of products that would be appreciated by the foodbank.

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity. Together, we can make a positive impact in our community and spread joy during this festive season.

Reflection

In this morning's collective worship, the children reflected upon the beginning on Advent and considered how they could share the gifts of peace, hope, love and joy throughout the Advent season (it's not all about the chocolate!)

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead.

James Tibbles

James Tibbles
Headteacher



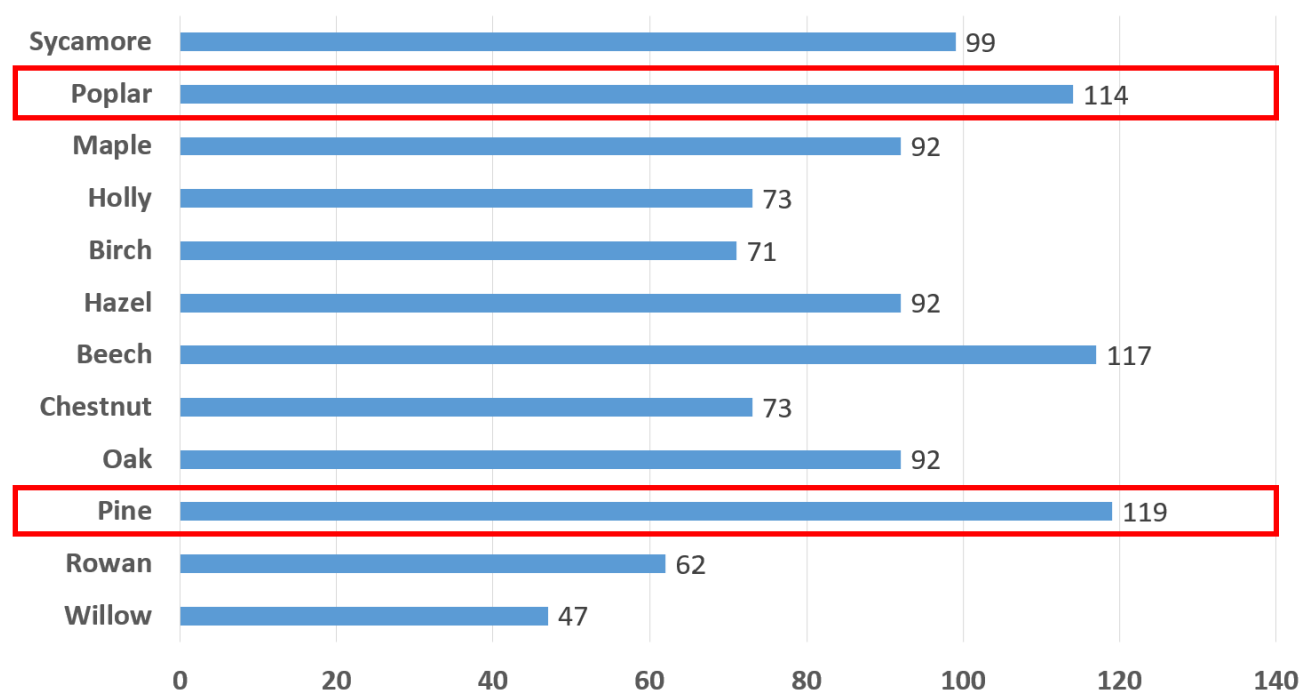
Celebration

Star Pupils

Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ McCarthy D (Willow) for interesting contributions to class discussions! <i>Mrs Cork</i> | ☆ Niamh N (Hazel) for working collaboratively during our science experiment and demonstrating a great understanding of the water cycle. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Maddie-Rose B (Willow) for kindness and caring to other at lunchtimes this week! <i>Mrs Starling</i> | ☆ Ivy M (Birch) for going the extra mile to make great progress in her maths by completing extra work at home and then transferring and applying this knowledge during morning work. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Alex W (Rowan) for always having a positive attitude to his learning. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Mona H (Holly) for excellent questions about seasonal gardening on our visit to The Pig this week. <i>Mr Ablett</i> |
| ☆ Heidi (Oak) for being a great role model and a kind friend! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Leo C (Maple) for participating and enjoying the dance class. <i>Mrs L Andrews</i> |
| ☆ Arthur B (Pine) for showing great enthusiasm for maths learning and working hard. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> | ☆ Holly B (Maple) for her amazing math this week. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Alex H (Beech) for being a kind and helpful member of the class and having a positive attitude towards all of his learning. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Alf K (Poplar) for being so helpful and friendly in the classroom. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Raef W (Chestnut) for demonstrating the school's values and for trying very hard with his maths. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> | ☆ Ella J (Sycamore) for her perseverance in Maths and her creativity in English. <i>Mr Wren</i> |

Reading



PTFA

The PTFA at Bridge & Patricxbourne CEP School plays a vital role in supporting the school and enhancing the educational experience of our children. It serves as a platform for parents, teachers, and friends of the school to work together and contribute towards the overall development and success of our school.

The primary objectives of our PTFA are:

- to foster strong relationships between the school and parents;
- raise funds to support various school projects, and
- organize social events that bring the school community closer together.

By actively participating in the PTFA, parents have the opportunity to be engaged in their child's education and actively contribute towards the school's growth.

The funds raised by the PTFA are used to enhance various aspects of our school, such as providing additional resources, organizing educational trips and events, and supporting extracurricular activities. These initiatives greatly benefit our students and contribute towards making their time at Bridge & Patricxbourne CEP School more enriching and rewarding.

Who Are the PTFA?

The short answer is that all parents are part of the PTFA.

Every class in the school has two representatives and these meet seasonally to discuss plans for the PTFA and how we can meet our primary objectives. Additionally we have an 'executive committee' which consists of the following six people:

Charlie Turrell (Chair)

Layla Dayani (Treasurer)

Louise Malkin (Secretary)

James Tibbles (Headteacher)

Estella Last (Governor/Community)

Morny Starling (School)

How Can I Support the PTFA?

We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated parents who are willing to contribute their time and effort for the betterment of our school. We would like to extend a warm invitation to all parents to join and actively participate in our PTFA.

We have also had a few parents ask us how they can best contribute financially to support the work of the PTFA and this is something that we are looking into.

Whether you can spare a few hours to help with fundraising events or have skills and expertise that can benefit the school community, your involvement is invaluable. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our children and create a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Contact Details

Email: bridgeschoolpta@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BridgePTA/>

Upcoming Dates

All dates and events can be found on our school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

Monday 4th December	
Tuesday 5th December	Year 2 Nativity Performance at church (2pm)
Wednesday 6th December	Year 2 Nativity Performance at church (9.30am)
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December	

Monday 11th December		
Tuesday 12th December	Year R Nativity performance (2.15pm)	Gulbenkian Christmas concert
Wednesday 13th December	Year R Nativity performance (9.30am)	
Thursday 14th December	Christingle Services in school	Carols in the Village
Friday 15th December	Christmas Dinner	

Year 2 Nativity

The Year 2 children will be giving two performances which will take place in the church on Tuesday 5th Dec (2pm) and Wednesday 6th Dec (9.30am) – given that space in the church is limited please can I ask parents to limit themselves to two spaces per family per day?

Senior Citizen's Tea Party

The school has a proud tradition of inviting in our 'older' members of the community to listen to some Christmas songs whilst being offered an afternoon tea and we're pleased that we can, once again, do this. If you have family members or friends in Bridge or the surrounding villages we would like to extend a warm welcome to Bridge School from 1.30pm on Thursday 7th December.

Year R Nativity

I hope that our Year R families are looking forward to a the Year R's performance of 'Hey Ewe!' in a few weeks' time on Tuesday 12th December (9.30 am) and Wednesday 13th December (2.15pm) – doors will open 15 minutes before each performance.

This will be a seated performance and you will be able to book up to two spaces for each performance from Monday 20th November. Please note that, in the interests of fairness, seating will be randomly allocated.

Carols in the Village

Not all of our community are able to make the journey to Bridge School and so, on Thursday 14th Dec, we will be visiting Bridge Haven, Mansfield Court and other locations around the village to share some festive joy.