



BCS NEWS

2nd December 2022

Fulfilling our potential, achieving excellence together

We are a Good school with Outstanding Early Years Provision

Head's News

Last week Nativity rehearsals brought the spirit of Christmas into school. The singing has continued this week; rehearsals have shown a real dedication from the children to ensure that the performances are West End worthy, and on Thursday our brand new stage was delivered to ensure our performers can be seen by every member of the audience.

For many, Thursday 1st December also meant opening the first door of an advent calendar. Our Collective Worships this week have focussed the children's learning on the meaning of advent, its importance in the Christian calendar and how it is a period that reminds Christians to remember and prepare for Christmas celebrations. The children have also been learning about the history behind advent calendars as we know them today.



The word Advent is derived from the Latin word for 'coming'. During the 19th century people would mark their doors with a chalk line that was then rubbed out each day to count down the days before Christmas. The first actual numbered advent Calendars were produced by Gerhard Lang from Munich in Germany in 1908. These were later developed to have 'windows' and chocolates were introduced to help keep children's attention. We have learnt about the meaning behind the candles used on advent wreaths and have our own one in the school hall. This is being lit to help us count the Sundays before Christmas and relate to each part of the Christmas story.



Next week we are looking forward to creating Christingles as a whole school. We will be having a special worship on Wednesday followed by the making of the Christingles, when we will mix with other year groups to enjoy this activity and learn more about the meaning behind them.

Key Dates

Monday 5th December
KS1 Nativity - 2pm

Tuesday 6th December
KS1 Nativity - 9.30am
EYFS Nativity - 2pm

Tuesday 6th December
FOBCSA Teddy
Tuesday

Wednesday 7th December
Open afternoon for prospective Early Years' families - 1.30 - 3pm

Thursday 8th December
Christmas Jumper day

Saturday 10th December
Christmas Fair – 11am - 2pm

Monday 12th December
KS1 Shared Learning:
9.05-9.45am

Monday 12th December
KS2 Carol Concert: 6pm.
Children to arrive 5.30-5.45pm

Tuesday 13th December
KS2 Shared Learning:
9.05-9.45am

Weds 14th December
Christmas grotto, panto and meal + Xmas jumpers

Thursday 15th December
LAST DAY OF TERM
Whole school Christmas service at St. Stephen's Church – 8.45am

Friday 16th December
Inset day

Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January 2023
Christmas holidays

Tuesday 3rd January
First day of term 3

Wednesday 11th January
Open afternoon for prospective Early Years' families - 1.30- 3pm

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
Half term

Visit of Tom Tugendhat MP

We were delighted to welcome back Tom Tugendhat MP this afternoon. Tom last visited the school in 22nd April 2022.

Tom had a tour of the school and was impressed by the ongoing improvements and the way in which the children articulated their learning. He commented that the school felt 'fantastic' and is in such a good place after all the changes that have been made. He even had a sneak preview of the Early Years' Nativity and was incredibly complimentary about the performances he saw. After an initial worry that he could only see two kings, the third one appeared just in time!

Tom is fully supportive of our drive to improve the road access arrangements near the school, and is actively helping our efforts to lobby KCC and the Highways Agency. We continue to work tirelessly to improve arrangements for drop off and pick up, and appreciate your support and patience with this.

More photos available on our **relaunched school Facebook** page – search for Bishop Chavasse Primary School to join.



Shared Learning open mornings

We are delighted to introduce new Shared Learning events for **KS1 on Monday 12th December** and **KS2 on Tuesday 13th December**. We invite parents/carers to join your children from **9.05 - 9.45am** to see your children's classrooms and have an opportunity to have a look at all the work your children have done since September.

Please drop your children at the normal time and wait outside the main entrance. We will register the children and then invite you to the classrooms at 9.05am. If you have two children within one key stage, please split your time between your children so you are able to see all the amazing learning that has been done.

There will be a separate opportunity for parents/carers of Early Years' children to visit their children's classrooms in early 2023 when they will be able to show off their workbooks.

Nativity tickets

With the arrival of our new stage, we are delighted to be in a position to release more tickets for our KS1 Nativity performances on **Mon 5th December (2pm)** and **Tues 6th December (9.30am)**. We are now able to offer one more ticket per family for **either** the Monday or the Tuesday performance. These are now available on Arbor under Trips.

School shoes

A gentle reminder that children should wear sturdy school shoes rather than boots to school all year round as per our school uniform policy. We appreciate some children walk to school - and on colder, wetter days they may need to wear boots on these journeys, but please provide the children with school shoes to change into once they arrive at school. Boots can restrict movement within school – for example when sitting cross legged on the carpet or in worship, and children often get too warm so start to take their boots off during learning, which can then be hazardous for others moving around the classroom.

Enrichment clubs

The timetable for enrichment clubs next term is now available on our website under [Parents/Enrichment clubs](#) and will be emailed out to all parents. Booking will go live on Weds 7th December at 7pm on Arbor.

Please ensure that any outstanding payments for this term have been made on Arbor by Fri 9th December. The easiest way to access Arbor is to download the app on a smartphone, or use the website on a desktop computer – some parents have reported difficulties accessing payments by using the Arbor website on a mobile phone. Under Clubs there should be an option to 'Top Up Account'. Any difficulties, please let the office know.

Christmas jumper day – Thurs 8th December

Just a reminder that next Thursday 8th December is national Christmas jumper day – children (and staff!) can wear their Christmas jumpers along with their usual full uniform. If anyone doesn't have a Christmas jumper, there will be a few spares available in the office.

Christmas extravaganza lunch on 14th December – and jumpers again!

On Wednesday 14th December the children will enjoy a **Christmas dinner**, alongside the fun of visiting Santa's grotto and watching a panto, courtesy of FOBCSA (see below for more info). The meal will be a special festive turkey roast with crackers and music – the menu is on the school website under [Parents/Lunch menus](#). The turkey roast will be gluten free and to keep the catering simple there will be just one choice for EY and KS1 children to make in the morning of either turkey roast or vegetable parcel. Whilst we want as many children as possible to enjoy the traditional meal, there may be some who would prefer a sandwich – if so, please email the school office by Monday 12th December.

For KS2, please could parents/carers talk to their children over the next few days as to whether they would like a Christmas lunch – we are going to ask for a show of hands in class so we can get a rough idea of numbers for the kitchen.

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers again on this day along with their usual school uniform.



Attendance this Week

This week, we are pleased to announce that **5C** have the highest attendance of 97.5%, fantastic work 5C! In second place this week was 1P with 96.7%. Keep going children - you could be in the top spot next week. In third place this week was 4A with an impressive 95.8%.

From January, we will be adopting an 'Attendance Trophy'. The class with the highest attendance for the week will be in receipt of the trophy to proudly display in their classroom.

If your child is feeling just a "little under the weather" it is important they come into school to build up immunity and have consistency to their learning. If they become worse, please rest assured we would call you to come and collect them. Of course, if it is a sickness/diarrhoea bug, the child needs to stay at home for 48 hours after the last time they were ill before returning to school.

KS1 news

In Key Stage One, we have been busy rehearsing for our nativity 'Angel Express'. The children have shown great perseverance and determination to put on an amazing performance. The teachers are incredibly proud of all the children. We are looking forward to performing on Monday and Tuesday.

In Year 2, between all the rehearsals, the children have been busy learning about what a riddle is and writing their own. The children have read some riddles, developed their use of ambitious vocabulary and used similes to build the imagery. The children ended the week writing their own fantastic riddles!

In Year 1, we have been extending our writing, retelling the story of the Three Little Pigs. The children have started to use some more descriptive vocabulary to make their writing more engaging.

In Maths, we have been learning about subtracting. We have learnt that in subtraction, the number gets smaller and we have learnt how to represent this in different ways.

We continued our DT project, designing fruit kebabs, by taste testing a variety of fruits. The children evaluated each fruit and thought about whether they would use each piece of fruit on their kebab design.

It has been an exciting term for reading. The children have been using 'Read around the Universe', which is our new reading initiative. In Year 1, the children move through different continents for every five reads they complete and in Year 2, the children move up different mountains for every five reads. It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm. Please keep on reading over the Christmas holidays.



Celebrating success



We are excited to report that one of our pupils will be featuring in a forthcoming ITV drama – **Bobby Knell (1P)** recently spent three days filming in Brighton for a small part in the police drama 'Grace' starring John Simm. Bobby plays a young boy called Roan; he had to play games on a phone in one scene and play at the amusement arcade in another scene – not a bad job for a five year old! Bobby is with a child acting agency and has special permission for days off school whilst keeping up with his school learning.



We would like to celebrate the success of pupils regularly – please email if your child has achieved something we can celebrate in Collective Worship on a Friday and with a feature in the newsletter: stanton@bishopchavasseschool.org.uk.

FOBCSA update

Just over a week to go until the **Christmas Fair** on 10 December! Plans are shaping up festively, with stalls including facepainting, children's activities and delicious BBQ and mulled wine for the grown-ups. Thanks to everyone who brought in sweets and bottles last Friday. Next up:

Teddy Tuesday on 6 December when any teddies or soft toys looking for new homes can be donated at drop off.

Raffle tickets are still available to grab - there's a pile in the office. You have until 8 December to return your stubs and cash to the postbox in reception (or pay by BACS to FOBCSA).

FOBCSA's elves have been busy getting Santa's grotto ready ahead of the school's **Christmas extravaganza** on Weds 14 December. The children will have an amazing time watching Aladdin and Jasmine's Christmas Wedding Panto in the school hall, enjoying their Nourish festive lunch, and visiting Santa in his grotto! We are asking for contributions of **£5 per child** towards the panto, a present from Santa and a souvenir photo of your child. Payments can be made on Arbor: on your child's profile, go to 'Activities', then 'Trips' and select the Christmas panto and grotto. If you are concerned about affordability, please contact us in confidence: friendsofbc@gmail.com.

On Tues 29 November, FOBCSA held our **annual AGM**. In the face of stiff competition from the England vs. Wales match we were a fairly small bunch. But don't worry if you couldn't make it: the minutes of the meeting, Chair's and Treasurer's reports are available on the school website under [Friends of Bishop Chavasse School Association](#).

