



## Forde Class Weekly Newsletter Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**'Building Lifelong Foundations Together'**

### Attendance



Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Class	Weekly Attendance
Forde	91%
Courtenay	92%
Templar	93%

This week's whole school attendance: 92.1%

Last week's whole school attendance: 94.7%

RAG Rating		98% and above
		96.1%- 97.9%
		96% and below

*Our whole school attendance target is 96%*

### Home Learning

Please read 4x a week.

Please see your child's Home Learning book which comes home every **Friday**

Dear Parents and carers,

All Saints Marsh Academy – from Reception up to Year 6 – launched its new Handwriting scheme this week. We are following a Learning Academy Partnership policy, with resources taken from Read Write Inc which is very well established in the school so most children are already familiar with the language and signals. It is essential that every Primary school child can form letters correctly: this means that each letter should be a consistent size, relative to the other letters, and actually be produced correctly so that handwriting is a smooth and straightforward process for the children. If a letter is being formed incorrectly – for example, if a child is writing an 'a' by starting at the bottom, then this significantly slows down their writing speed. It also takes more effort to form letters incorrectly than correctly so all the teachers and support staff have joined

Star of the Week:

Irina – for showing excellent learning behaviour and persevering with her writing

together to work really hard this academic year on making handwriting easier and smoother for the children.

In Forde, our particular focus this week has been on sitting correctly when you write (this is called 'Posture') and holding the pencil in the grip that will allow the most movement and support for the pencil. This is called a tripod grip. Please see the images below and practice this with your child at home. Practice makes perfect! 😊

- feet flat on the floor
- bottom at the back of the chair
- body one fist from the table
- shoulders down and relaxed
- back leaning forward slightly
- left/right hand holding the page
- left/right hand ready in a tripod grip.



This week in Forde Class we have also been continuing to practise our nativity. The children are working on their lines and remembering where to stand! They are doing very well but please practise lines at home so that we can go script-free from next week! Please could any costume bits be brought in by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, in a named bag. Let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance in getting costumes.

In Maths this week we have begun our learning on Shape. The children have been learning names of 2D and 3D shapes. I wonder if you can spot any shapes over the weekend while you're out and about! We have been exploring corners, edges and faces. How many faces does a sphere have?

Reception children have been enjoying learning about celebrations in Continuous Provision and making birthday cards and paper chains. They have also been looking at dental hygiene and how to clean our teeth effectively.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Perry-Bates and Miss Rippon

## MESSAGE FROM MR O'SULLIVAN

We Believe...

### **We are stronger together**

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support during the recent SIAMS inspection. Your commitment to our school community was truly commendable, and together, we showcased how the Christian vision of building lifelong foundations underpins each day at All Saints Marsh. The collaborative effort of parents, children and staff reflected the strength of our community. A formal report will be produced to share with parents in the coming weeks.

### **We all belong in our School Trust....**

I am delighted to share with you the tremendous success of our Christmas decorations workshops, where parents, carers, and grandparents played a vital role in making it a memorable experience for the children. The high level of involvement contributed to the festive spirit, and the creativity displayed was truly heartwarming. We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated, making this festive season extra special for our children and once again thank you to the PTFA who provided the resources for this wonderful event.

### **In removing barriers for all....**

We are excited to announce that we'll be incorporating introductory Makaton signs into our daily routines at school. Starting with a "Sign of the Week" featured in our newsletters and implemented during class worship, this initiative aims to enhance communication skills among our children. Makaton not only supports language development but also fosters an inclusive environment where all children can communicate together more effectively. We look forward to the positive impact this will have on our school community and appreciate your support with this.

### **In realising the possible so that all children can flourish....**

You may well have seen that we had a visit from a doctor who spoke to our children about his career and journey this week. The interactive session not only sparked curiosity but also aligned with our school's initiative: "You can't be what you can't see." Witnessing a real-life professional in action broadens horizons, inspiring our children to dream big. This is just the beginning – we plan to host more talks throughout the year featuring various professionals, allowing our children to explore a multitude of career paths.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th November - Templar trip to Coombeshead to watch Panto  
30th November - Templar Bake Sale  
4th December - Templar Lantern Workshop at the Avenue Church  
5th December - PTFA Whole School Cinema Visit - Arthur Christmas  
6th December - School Christmas Meal and PTFA Xmas Fayre  
13th December - Lantern Parade - Newton Abbot Town Centre  
14th December - Nativity at St Pauls' Church 1.45 and PTFA Christmas Disco

## FAMILY SUPPORT

Christmas can often feel like a logistical nightmare, full of non-negotiable Christmas traditions that have to get done, so it is important to remember that we really don't have to do everything. Here are a few reminders to keep in mind in the run up to Christmas!

### What do you want Christmas to look like?

Ask everyone you spend Christmas with to think about what is important to them, then make a plan together that includes a little of what everyone wants.



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### It's okay to say no

It can be hard to say no when we are worried about upsetting people, but it doesn't need to be confrontational. It may well save you stress and even stop arguments down the line.



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### What do you want Christmas to look like?

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### Stick to your budget

It might mean cutting back on presents, how much you spend on each person or who comes to dinner, but you'll thank yourself in January!



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### Be realistic

Whether it's planning your budget or deciding who's coming for Christmas dinner, make sure you are being realistic. Think about what you can actually manage, and plan for that. You can always add in extra later.



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### Setting boundaries

Try to set clear boundaries for yourself and stick to them! Think about the things that make you stressed over Christmas and set boundaries to manage them.



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**Rest is important**  
 It's so easy to get caught up in making plans, and before you know it there isn't a spare moment. Remember to plan in some rest time, and do your best to protect it.



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**Living Options: Devon**

Eligibility: The Food Fuel and More Cost-of-Living Support is only applicable for beneficiaries living in Devon County Council areas and is for households living with a disability, Deafness or long-term health conditions struggling financially. Anyone in a household who meet the above criteria can apply. Only one application per household. For more information please speak to Mrs Webber

**We have funding to help people in the current cost of living crisis including:**

- Household essential hampers worth £250
- Support including white goods, fuel and food cards may also be available in some circumstances

**How to refer**

If you know somebody that may be applicable please complete our referral form and email [info@livingoptions.org](mailto:info@livingoptions.org)

Eligibility: Beneficiaries will need to live in Devon County Council administered areas of Devon. For more information contact Living Options Devon Hub team: 01392 459222

**Help for people with a disability, Deaf or with a long term health condition struggling financially**  
[www.livingoptions.org](http://www.livingoptions.org)

**THAT FOOD BANK**

This year, unfortunately, due to the high and increasing number of claimants and the drop in donations due to the current economic crisis, the food bank are no longer able to supply Christmas hampers.

However, if you could do with some more support, please feel free contact Mrs Webber and she can refer you for the food packs which will have a few extra goodies in.

You can also self refer by calling 01626 437310 between 10.00 and 13.00 (weekdays) or contact us by email: [thatfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:thatfoodbank@gmail.com).



## OFFICE NEWS

A reminder that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 school meals will be priced at £2.60 per meal. We understand that in the current climate any revised pricing will have an impact and I hope that you can see we have made minimum changes which are to reflect the increased costs that we can no longer sustain. I hope that you find the extended notice period of some help and I thank you for your understanding and recognition that this has been unavoidable if we wish to continue to provide the very best for your child

## COMMUNITY NEWS



It's back!! The much loved Elf Express Christmas Grotto by Wellbeing in Action 🎄🎅🎁  
Tickets: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/grotto23>

Donate a free ticket or gift to a child in crisis: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/elfexpress23>

All the snowy excitement, frozen fun with Olaf & Elsa, naughtiness with Elf on the Shelf, cute hugs with Mickey & Minnie, AND... frosty webbed visits from Spiderman and his little pal Bluey - and rumour has it Stitch will be popping in too!