

DIARY DATES

****ALL DATES ARE PROVISIONAL IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC****

Monday 6th December	We are watching a Pantomime in school...oh yes, we are!
Tuesday 7th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Nativity (Zoom)
Tuesday 7th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (outside)
Wednesday 8th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Nativity (Zoom)
Wednesday 8th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (outside)
Thursday 9th December	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (outside)
Friday 10th December	Very important visitor in school at the start of the school day!
Wednesday 15th December	School Christmas Lunch (NEW DATE)
Friday 17th December	School closes for the Christmas holiday
Wednesday 5th January 2022	School reopens for the spring term

HAPPY ADVENT

All of us here in school would like to wish each of you a very happy and peaceful Advent.

Advent is such a special time in the Church calendar and here in school. Although we often think about calendars and chocolate, it is also celebrated as a time for waiting and preparation for Christmas.

...love God...



CHRISTMAS IS FUN...OH YES IT IS!

We are very excited to share the news that, Covid-permitting, we will again be welcoming a touring pantomime into school this Christmas! Children will have the opportunity to watch the pantomime with their friends either in class via video-link, or in the hall. To ensure this can happen, please be vigilant of Covid-19 symptoms with your child to keep the virus away from school. The pantomime is being kindly funded by your wonderful PTA, so will be no additional cost to parents or carers.

Merry Christmas!



JOINING OUR RECEPTION CLASS IN 2022

Although it only seems like yesterday when our fabulous Reception Class joined us, applications are now open to join the **September 2022 Reception Class intake!**

If you, or anyone you know is thinking about a place for a young superstar to join the brilliant St. Werburgh's family, the deadline for applications is

15th January 2022.

To apply, visit:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

For further information about the Reception class of our lovely school and to book an after-school visit, please email: **office@st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk**

Love to learn, love God, love one another.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUUUUUUU!

We love to celebrate birthdays in school during our in-class, virtual 'Praise and Celebration' on a Friday. Please tune-in your best singing voice and join us in celebrating with the following children who have enjoyed a birthday from 13th November to Friday 26th November.

Happy Birthday: Emily, Hollie, Kacie, Jessica, Luca, Mrs Wright, Mrs Corby, Mrs Mace and Rev. Sue.



A LITTLE HELPING HAND WITH MEALS

Many families may be finding things a little tougher at the moment. Whichever year group your child is in, if you think that you may now be eligible for income-based Free School Meals, we would urge you to check and, if so, submit an application. This **also** applies to children who currently receive a lunch due to being in Reception, or Years 1 and 2.

Those children in receipt of income-based Free School Meals are also eligible for additional benefits in school.

To find out more, or to apply, please visit:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals



JOB VACANCY

Here in our lovely school, we are currently advertising for someone to join our team as a one-to-one Learning Support Assistant.

The post will commence in January 2022 (for two terms) and will be five mornings and three afternoons, with the possibility of joining us as a lunchtime supervisor too.

If you are a qualified learning support assistant/ teaching assistant and have experience working within an educational setting and wish to find out more, please contact the school office.

Love to learn, love God, love one another.

We now have a text messaging service for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who live in Staffordshire.

Get advice from our Public Health nurses (Health Visitors and School Nurses).

TEXT: 07520 615722



Feeding and nutrition



Child development



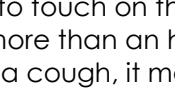
Parenting advice and support



Emotional health and wellbeing



Behaviour difficulties



Family health

We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be sent between 9am and 5pm. If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from all mobile numbers only (texts do not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health visitor from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.



COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND WHAT TO DO

Coronavirus/Covid-19

Below is a list of possible Covid-19/ coronavirus symptoms:

- High temperature (feel hot to touch on the chest or back);
- A new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours – if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste – you've noticed that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of the symptoms. We have also been advised that the virus could present itself in children as an upset stomach, or headache.

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus: please arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible.

The person displaying symptoms should stay at home until the results have been returned. Should the result be positive, then it is essential that the infected individual self-isolates as per the government guidelines and does not attend school, or come onto the school site.

If you are worried about your symptoms, or are unsure what to do, please use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>). If your child is under 5 years old, call 111 straight away.

If your child has symptoms and has undertaken a test:

please do not return to school until results are known and shared with us.

The current governmental guidelines state that children who are close contacts of a positive Covid-19 case no longer need to self-isolate. However, it is recommended (and strongly encouraged) that if they have been a close contact, then they do take a PCR test. Of course, if your child is unwell, please keep them off school until they feel better - even if they have returned a negative result.

Although this may seem a little frustrating, it is essential that we protect the children, your families, the staff and our families. For further (regularly updated) information on the virus, visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

COVID-19 IN SCHOOL

As you know, we have recently been affected by a number of positive cases in school.

We thank you for working with us to minimise the risk of transmission in school and also thank you in advance for ensuring that you maintain vigilance in looking for any symptoms presented by your child/ren, or within your household. We know that the Staffordshire Moorlands continues to see a large number of positive cases and unfortunately, we have felt the impact of this in our lovely school. Please continue to support us by talking to your child/ren about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly, maintaining good hygiene, and acting responsibly to reduce the spreading of any germs. Also, please, please keep your child at home should they be displaying symptoms of the virus, until they have taken a PCR test and the results are known and shared with school.

Please stay safe and continue to play your part in keeping others safe.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Just to confirm our change of date for the children's Christmas Lunch. The deliciously festive treat will now be enjoyed on **Wednesday 15th December**.



CHILDREN IN NEED THANKS

On Friday 19th November, we celebrated 'Children in Need' in school. The School Council led an assembly and organised challenges for each class - including designing a Pudsey Bear in a repeating pattern. Thanks to the generosity of all, we had fun and raised more than £190!
...love one another.



PARKING SAFELY

As we all want to keep everyone safe, please can we ask that those who drive to school park safely and responsibly and avoid the zig zags which are there to protect children. Please also respect our neighbours when parking your car. We also urge those in cars to only remain near to the school site for the necessary time to drop-off or collect your child as this will then free parking spaces for others. At a time when there is much to think about, let's work together to remove the risk caused by dangerous or inconsiderate parking.
...love one another.

PHOTOGRAPH REMINDER

Please remember that all photograph order forms **MUST** be received by school no later than 8.45am on 6th December to ensure these are with you in time for Christmas.

The Valley is 130!

Saturday 27th November 12pm - 2pm

Come and Celebrate 130 years in the life of our unique school!

THE VALLEY OAKAMOOR SCHOOL
Learn to Love and Love to Learn

- Look around the building & grounds
- Look through the archives & memorabilia
- Coffee and Cake

School Drive, Oakamoor, Staffordshire. ST10 3DQ. Tel.: 01538 702355 (opt 2) e-mail: office@valley.staffs.sch.uk

Ofsted *...a good school* www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk **TMFP** THE MOORLANDS PRIMARY FUNDRAISING SOCIETY

HAPPY IN ODD SOCKS!

We were delighted to host an 'Odd Sock Day' on Friday 19th November, which was part of our learning about 'Anti-bullying week'. 'Odd Sock Day' is designed to celebrate the little differences which make us all unique and special and helps our school to be a happy and diverse place in which to learn and smile.



Teacher Training Virtual Information Event

A collaboration of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ITT providers

5.00-7.00pm Thursday 9th December 2021

This virtual experience will enable you to meet with local teacher training providers, discuss various routes into teaching, find out more about your options and ask questions.



**CLICK HERE
TO BOOK**

Bookings close at midday on Wednesday 8th December 2021

For further information, please contact Louise Bullock, Teaching School Hub Administrator
01538 493 777 LBU@painsley.staffs.sch.uk www.goldenthreadth.co.uk
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TIMINGS

Below is a reminder of the timings for each class. Please can we ensure that we follow these timings carefully. The start of the school day for each class is stated below.

Children need to arrive in school by these times.

	Car park gate			Front gate	
	Arrive	Collect		Arrive	Collect
Year 1	8.40am	3.20pm	Year 3	8.40am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.45am	3.25pm	Year 4	8.45am	3.20pm
Reception	8.50am	3.15pm	Years 5/6	8.50am	3.25pm

WRAP-UP WARM

Now that the chilly months are upon us once again, please can you ensure that all children bring to school a warm coat each day and a hat and gloves to keep nice and toasty. Can we also request that children also have joggers and a sweatshirt for any outdoor learning in PE. As we need to keep rooms well ventilated, a vest is also a good idea.

STAYING NUT FREE

To continue to keep everyone safe in school, may we remind all that **NO nuts, or nut-based snacks/lunch** should come into school with your child. This decision is made to keep **everyone** safe in school.

YEAR 6 REPRESENT SCHOOL

As you know, each year we come together as a school family to commemorate Armistice Day and support the Royal British Legion. In school we joined together for a service and a moment's silence. To keep other Parishioners safe, we were unable to attend the cenotaph on the 11th November, however, our lovely Year 6 paid respects on behalf of our school the day after Remembrance Sunday.

...love one another.

PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Your fabulous PTA will soon be sending out details of how to enter the Christmas Raffle and win one of the lovely prizes on offer. In these times, fund-raising events have had to be reduced, so any support which can be given through this raffle and an upcoming non-uniform day really makes a difference.



THANK YOU

As we approach the start of Advent and Christmas is less than one month away(!), we thank you for your ongoing support of your school and the staff team.

The children have continued to work well in school and we have been busy planning lots of Christmas excitement. Reception and Years 1 and 2 are recording a Nativity story which can be enjoyed at home via Zoom, and we are also hoping to take our tentative first steps towards a 'live' event and, weather and Covid-19 permitting, we hope to be able to host a small outdoor Christmas performance by our youngest three classes - with a very limited number of tickets available and Covid-safety measures in place. Details have been sent to parents/carers with further information to follow. We are also welcoming a special jolly visitor from a chilly place into school at the start of the school day on Friday 10th December!

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