



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have enjoyed a wonderfully festive week, culminating with the travelling pantomime and Christmas Fair on Friday. I will share more about the Fair in the final newsletter of the term, but thank you for all those who have been giving their time and energy to plan, organise and set up. It takes a lot of people to put together such a great event for the children. There are some raffle prizes to be collected and Ms Gooday and Mrs Chalkley will be in touch about that, as well as slow cookers that were borrowed.

As we continue through this term we have a range of Christmas events still to come and I have tried to add all of the dates to the weekly bulletin, as well as this newsletter. If you are unsure about anything, then please ask your child's class teacher or staff on the gate. Next week we look forward to enjoying the Nativity performances. A big thank you to the staff who have been involved in putting the show together. The following week we will welcome residents from Totham Lodge Care Home into school for some Christmas singing. Grandparents are also invited to this event on Monday 15th December, 9.30am.

The Christingle will take place at All Saints Church on Tuesday 16th December at 1.45pm. All are welcome to join, however please be aware that there is very limited space in the church, often standing room only. It will be a great opportunity to see the wonderful Christmas trees decorated by the children as well as groups in the village. Children can be collected straight from the church to go home after the service. Book bags and water bottles will stay in school so we do not have to carry everything, however we will endeavour to take all lunch boxes with us. Staff will wash and change the water for children on Thursday morning. If you are unable to join the service or would like your child to return to school with staff for Smiley, please inform your child's class teacher.

If your child stays for Smiley Club, please let us know requirements for both breakfast and after school as we head towards the end of term. Mrs Hart is planning crafts and snack items and this supports us in ordering in advance.

I hope you have a warm weekend.

Very best wishes,  
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

## School Council

On Tuesday 2nd December we had a School Council meeting.

The focus of the meeting was on actions for the rest of the year and how the group would like to have their impact on the school. The group will also be deciding how they wish to use their section of the school website to share their impact with the wider community.

### Some future ideas:

Ideas to ensure children take home their own christingles with older classes helping younger classes to make their own

Fundraising for some new playground equipment

Combating litter in the village

## Cinderella comes to Messing...

Review by Margot and Ella

The scene was set, the actors were waiting and the children were ready...

It was a funny and inclusive experience for the audience. The actors got us up and dancing along to a song. We had to copy a sequence of movements for the dance and although nobody fell over, we are not the best dancers in the country.

The actors were brilliant at playing different characters and switching between their roles. They came out from behind the curtain with great energy. At the end, the actors were rapidly changing characters.

A highlight was when Mrs Canham was nominated by everyone, but especially Robins, to go up on stage to be a horse. She pretended to gallop and jump over fences and this got everyone laughing!

Thank you to the PTFA for raising the money to pay for the experience.

We give this a 4.5 star review.

## Christmas Gifts

Please know that there is no expectation that any families buy the staff gifts. Although we are always very grateful, a handmade card with a kind message is just as appreciated.

If you wish to support the school, we do have an Amazon gift list which has resources requested by the teachers to support children's learning and creativity. Thank you.





## Friends of Messing Church



I received a wonderful email from the Secretary of Friends of Messing Church following the event on Sunday 30th November.

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I wish to thank you once again for bringing the school children into the Church for their beautiful singing to the audience of the Christmas Tree light event yesterday. They really were amazing and had clearly been rehearsing for their public performance. We are all agreed that the children singing, together with their family and friends there to support them, was the icing on the cake and a lovely start to Christmas.

It was lovely to see the little ones engaging with Santa, so hopefully they had a great experience too.

Best wishes and Happy Christmas.

## Christmas at Messing

Christmas time in school is wonderful as we share the magic of the season with all of the children. We know that at home many children are starting the day with high energy due to the excitement of chocolate advent calendars and elves causing mischief. However, for many children these changes can be overwhelming so we are trying to keep our routines in school as 'normal' as possible to support children who find this time of year over stimulating.

We have the following festivities coming up:

**Christmas reading challenge-** to go out early next week. Please share children's reading from home with the class teacher for a little treat

**Bookmark tree in the library-** a little reading gift for all children who would like to take a bookmark home

**Nativity performances-** on Wednesday 10th (1.30pm) and Thursday 11th December (6pm)

**Singing for residents of Totham Lodge-** with children in Robins to bake as part of their Agents of Change project for this half term

**Christingle service-** on Tuesday 16th December (1.45pm) all welcome and children can be collected from the church afterwards

**Christmas Lunch & wear a Christmas jumper-** on Wednesday 17th December (raising money for Save the Children)

**Cosy Christmas bookshare-** children are able to bring their pyjamas into school and have an afternoon of cosiness sharing books

**Staff singing in the car park-** on Friday 19th December. If your child may find this too much, please arrive a little later in the morning (8.50am)



## Nativity Tickets

We are aware that the arrangements for this year's nativity are very different from previous years. The reason for the change in ticket allocation for the nativity is necessary to ensure that we are compliant with health and safety regulations. Unlike previous years, we do not have a significant sibling overlap in KS1 this year, and with all children attending, allowing each child to have two people in the audience, coupled with the number of staff required to support the nativity, would mean that the hall had to accommodate over 120 people. This is both unsafe and impractical.

We have considered all the alternatives for increasing audience size this year, and made some enquiries about using another venue, however nothing proved to be financially, practically or logistically viable. We will, of course, continue to consider whether there are any solutions to this next year.

As I mentioned in my original letter, we have a small number of spare tickets for each performance, these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you are unable to use your ticket to one or both performances, please return these to the office so that we are able to re-allocate them.

Thank you for your understanding

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

You can find dates for the year ahead on the [school planner](#).

**Weds 10th Dec-** Nativity Performance at 1.30pm

**Thurs 11th Dec-** Nativity Performance at 6pm

**Tues 16th Dec-** Christingle Service at All Saints at 1.45pm (all welcome) and collection from the church as with Harvest

**Weds 17th Dec-** Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

**Thurs 18th Dec-** Cosy Christmas PJ Day and library book exchange

**Fri 19th Dec-** Final day of term

**Mon 5th Jan-** Non-pupil day

**Tues 6th Jan-** Children back to school

**Thurs 22nd Jan-** Young Voices

**Mon 26th Jan-** Year 6 SATs talk for parents 3.20pm

**Weds 28th Jan-** Height and weight check for Reception and Year 6