

# MORE NEWS

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Issue: 12

Parish website: [olcsaffronwalden.org.uk](http://olcsaffronwalden.org.uk)

## Diary Dates



30th November – Christmas Fete 1-3pm

4th December – Clubs make up session from the 6th November & Y5/6 Rehearsal at St Mary's Church for Spirit of Christmas

**5th December** – Clubs make up sessions

6th December – Reception Class Shooting Stars

7th December – Spirit of Christmas 4pm Y5&6.

9th December – Reception Cooking week & last swim

10th December – Y6 Prayer & Liturgy (Advent) & Year 2 last swim

12th December – Infant Concert 2pm & 6.30pm

16th December – Infant Christmas Party 1.30pm

17th December – KS2 Concert 2pm & 6.30pm

18th December – Whole School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

19th December – Junior Party 1.30pm & Author Visit for Reception & Y1 2pm

20th December – 9.30am Christmas Mass, All welcome. Last Day of Term

6th January – Inset Day

7th January – Back to School

8th January – Reception Class, Natural History Museum & Dinosaurs 9am – 12pm

## Lunch

w/c 2nd December Week 2

Please pay lunches on School Money - £2.40 per day

## Swimming

2nd December – Year 3&5

3rd December – Year 2

## Clubs

Reminder – Clubs have now finished apart from the following make up sessions:  
Wednesday 4th December - Art Club, Netball & Homework Club  
Thursday 5th December – Football, Craft & Lego

## Spirit of Christmas Rehearsal

Year 5 & 6 will be walking to St Mary's Church on Wednesday 4th December for a rehearsal for the Spirit of Christmas Concert at 2pm. We will be back by 3.15pm. Please make sure your child has a coat.

## Star Radio – 12 More Sleeps

The children recorded 12 More Sleeps for Star Radio. Their clip will be broadcast on Friday 13th December.

## School Money – Christmas Lunch

If your children would like to have Christmas Lunch on 18th December can we please remind you to make payment for this on School Money. The cost of the lunch is £4.00. Thank you.

## Parking in the Layby

Please can we remind you not to park in the layby outside the school at drop off and pick up time. There are parking restrictions in place between 8.15am – 9.15am and 2.45pm – 3.45pm.

## Amazon Wish List

We would just like to say a huge thank you for all your contributions from the Amazon Wish List. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and the teachers and children are delighted with all the new resources.

## Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2025

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 4 November 2024**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025. The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2025**. Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.

## Reception 2025 - Open Mornings

We have an Open Morning on Wednesday 4th December at 9.30am. Please do spread the word to anyone you think might be interested.

## Prayer of the Week

**Sunday 1st December is the 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Alleluia, Alleluia

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

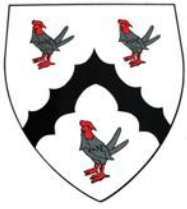
Alleluia

Mother Mary you have blessed us with God's precious son, Jesus.

Pray for us throughout the day and be with us when we are scared in the darkness.

We thank God for all of our mummies who we love and treasure.

Amen



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## **Santa Dash – Thursday 5th December**

Each class will take part in a Santa Dash in school on Thursday 5th December. The children are welcome to wear a Santa hat.

## **Spirit of Christmas – Saturday 7th December at 4pm**

**Please encourage your children to practise the songs at home. There is a link on the front page of our website to the sound files.**

Year 5&6 will be taking part in the Spirit of Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church on Saturday 7th December. The concert begins at 4.00pm but the children are asked to be at the church at 3.15pm for a rehearsal. It should be finished by 5.30pm. Boys are expected to wear their normal school uniform. Please can the girls wear a skirt with black tights and a sweatshirt, not cardigan. The children will then look smart to perform in the choir. Please click on the below link to purchase your tickets.

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/saffron-walden-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saffron-walden-choral-society)

## **Infant & Junior Performances**

The Infant performance is on Thursday 12th December and the Junior performance will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December with shows at 2pm and 6.30pm. No tickets will be issued, but a register will be taken on entry. Two people per family will be allowed at each performance. Pre-school siblings will be admitted to the 2pm performance only. **Only adults will be admitted to the 6.30pm performance.**

Please note seats are not transferable between families.

Infant children – please could the children return to school at 6pm to give the children time to change.

**If Infant children usually attend Double Club on the 12th, we advise they are collected at 3.15pm instead so they can go home for a rest before the show.**

## **Recording of the Infant Nativity**

One of our parents will be recording the Infant Nativity. If you would like a copy on USB, this can be purchased on School Money for £5.

## **House Competitions**

Entries need to be handed in to Year 6 by Monday 9th December. Don't forget to add your name and year to your entry.

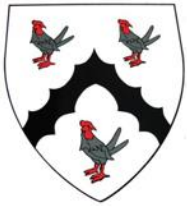
**St Peters** – Infants and Juniors - We would like you to design a Christmas wrapping paper. You can draw, colour, paint and even add glitter. You could also create your wrapping paper on the computer and print out a sheet. **Please give your entries to Chloe or Teddy in Year 6.**

**St Bernadette** – Infants - We would like you to design a cheerful elf. Don't forget a hat and elf shoes. We have a template for you to use if you would like.

Juniors – design or collage a Christmas tree and decorate it with the most colourful baubles. **Please give your entries to Grace or Luigi in Year 6.**

**St Francis** – Infants and Juniors – We would like you to design a Santa hat. You can draw, collage, colour or paint it. We have a template for you to use if you would like. **Please give your entries to Isaac or Alice in Year 6.**

**St Theresa** – Infants and Juniors - We would like you to design your dream Christmas present. You can draw and colour it and then add labels to explain how it works. Get creative – you could design something like a magic pen that does your homework for you! **Please give your entries to Sebastian or Aurelia in Year 6.**



## More Sports News

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> our yr3/4 and 5/6 Archery teams took part in the USSP Archery tournament against schools from across the town and local villages. Each child fired a round of 3 arrows, recording their score on the team sheet. Each team of 4 children then added their scores together for the team event over a series of 6 rounds.

After a tough competition our year 3/4 teams finished in Gold and Silver medal positions, and our 5/6 teams finishing in Bronze.

A further individual silver medal was also awarded to George.

Well done to all the children who took part, and we wish the children who finished as medallists good luck in the next round.



## Hockey Trials

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding Hockey trials. We will be using this session to select a team for the forthcoming Hockey Tournament. The trial will be open to all children in Year 5 and 6 however, they must have a gum shield and shin pads to be able to attend the trial. Please note that team selection will be based on this trial and failure to attend with the above items will prevent them from participating. The trial will be taken by Mrs Head and Mr Hall.

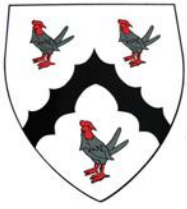
## PSA News

### Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1-3pm

Please come and support us at our Christmas Bazaar tomorrow – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1 – 3pm. Pre-purchased tokens can be collected from Mrs Davies and Mrs McNally at the fete, alternatively they can be purchased on the day.

### Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on this day with their school uniform.



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## More PSA News Continued....

On behalf of the PSA we would like to send out a survey about children's smartphone use.

Smartphone free childhoods - currently being debated by parliament. There is overwhelming evidence of the negative impact of smartphones and social media on children's brains. It is widely accepted that children's brains are now being exposed to things they are nowhere near developed enough to cope with, and as a result a generation of children are suffering; anxiety, eating disorders, bullying and sexual predators - research shows all have a proven link to early access to smartphones.

SURVEY: <https://forms.office.com/e/812P7CahuU>

Please will you take 2 minutes to fill in this survey to tell us your view on your child(ren)'s access (now or in the future) to smartphones, so that we can gauge (a) interest in attending/receiving additional resources to help navigate this challenging area; and (b) interest in each year group for signing a pledge to not provide your child(ren) with a smartphone until a certain age.