



## FANTASTIC FESTIVE FUN!

What a fabulous week of festive treats we have all enjoyed! On Tuesday, our Year 1's and some of our enthusiastic singers from Years 4, 5 and 6 visited our friends at Brendoncare to entertain them with songs from the Nativity and also some traditional Christmas Carols. The children were so considerate and represented our school values excellently. The residents of Brendoncare really enjoyed the entertainment.



On Wednesday, thanks to the fundraising efforts of our wonderful FROGS the whole school visited the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to enjoy Snow White. It was a truly magical experience for all the children (and adults) and one that they will remember. The cast were led by the legend that is Christopher Biggins and we were all wowed by the dance moves of Ashley Banjo and Diversity. The absolute icing on the cake, though, was **Laily, Amelia and Zac**, who were invited onto the stage by 'Muddles' the jester. They were so confident and self assured and Zac even sang 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' at the end. The whole audience roared with approval. What a magical moment for us all.

Our week finished with Christmas lunch and jumper day on Thursday and a final service at St Peter's for our whole Ropley community. We hope that you enjoy a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in January.  
**More photos on website!!**



## A MESSAGE FROM MISS VITTLE

We have had a really successful Autumn Term at Ropley CE Primary School.

From our newest children in Bumblebees settling into school life through to our Year Six children capably taking on their new roles and responsibilities. We remain proud of the children and grateful for all that they bring to make our school a happy and flourishing place to be.

Please find time to recharge over the Christmas break. It will undoubtedly be a busy time with lots going on but try to take opportunities to relax and rewind too. The children need it.

We cannot wait to see you all on 2nd January ready for a brand new year and term!



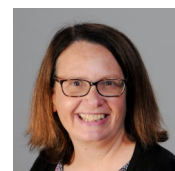
## THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all the parent helpers who came to panto with us and were so helpful, not only throughout the afternoon with the numerous toilet runs, but also with escorting the children from the coaches back to school at the end of the day. Ropley is extremely dark at night and your help (and torches) were invaluable in shuttling our tired children safely back into school. Thank you to:  
**Nicole Kelly, Tamsin Armstrong, Emily Budd, Janet Kirby, Duncan Sergeant, Alex Carpenter, Anna Irwin, Laura Silk, John Henry Wicks, Charlie Chute, Shae Jackson, Coach James, Kerry Martin, Sarah Allen, Brian Newens, Julie Stroud, Christine Farrell, Cat D'Alton and Abby Bance.**



## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

Today we said goodbye to Vicky Howard. She has been at Ropley for the last 15 months and has slotted into our team so seamlessly that it feels like she has been here forever! We would like to wish her every success in her new role, we are sure that she will be as valued in her new school as she is at Ropley. We will all miss her.





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Happy Birthday** to all the children who have their birthday in this week and over the Christmas holidays:

<i>Cecily W</i>	<i>Adam W</i>
<i>Bernie B</i>	<i>Oran C</i>
<i>Chloe A</i>	<i>Vinnie B</i>
<i>Ronnie U</i>	<i>Elijah M</i>
<i>Henry P</i>	

Thank you to *Cecily W* for the book that she has donated for her birthday, and to *Annabel G* for the set of books that she has donated from her home library. Mrs Howling will put stickers in the front with their names on them.

If you would like to donate a book, or something else, for your child's birthday, the link to our wishlist is:

<https://amzn.eu/bXvpSme>

## FROGS END OF TERM WRAP UP

FROGS hosted another hugely successful wreath event on Tuesday 5 December. St Peters Church was a spectacularly festive venue with festive food and drinks and music. Special thanks to Laura Silk for coordinating, Abby Bance for the refreshments and Emily Budd for hosting all day!



**£1,500** was raised towards school funds. Hope to see you there next year!

As this term draws to a close we would like to extend a huge thanks to all of our class reps, FROGS, parents, carers and regular fundraisers who have contributed to our incredible school community and fundraising effort. Charles Chute at the house partnership for the very generous sponsorship of **£1,000**, school Christmas cards organised by Tamsin Armstrong **£349** and various class events and the Christmas Fair have topped us up to the tune of over **£6,500**! All of this contributes to the learning experiences for the children at school, from laptop and IT provision, development of Norma's garden, our own garden, after school clubs, sports equipment, school trips and contributions to class craft materials. It is all very much appreciated. Thank you!



## DIARY DATES

New dates or changes in bold

<b>Tues 2nd Jan</b>	<b>Return to School Spring 1</b>
Thur 4th Jan	Multisports Club starts, 3.15-4.15pm
Fri 5th Jan	KS1 Football Club starts, 3.15-4.15pm
Mon 8th Jan	Inclusion Hub with Mrs Hayes 9am at school
Mon 8th Jan	KS2 Football Club starts, 3.15-4.15pm
Mon 15th Jan	Yr R 2024 Applications Portal Closes
<b>Wed 17th Jan</b>	<b>Phonics &amp; Reading Workshop for Parents, 9am</b>
<b>Thur 18th Jan</b>	<b>Teacher Led Clubs start (6 weeks) 3.15pm to 4pm</b>
<b>Tues 23rd Jan</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Workshop for Parents 9am</b>
<b>Mon 29th Jan</b>	<b>KS1 Maths Workshop for Parents 9am</b>
Wed 31st Jan	Runways End Activity Day, Yrs 3, 4 & 5 Year 6 Height & Weight
<b>Fri 2nd Feb</b>	<b>FROGS Evening Social and Quiz</b>
Tues 6th Feb	Safer Internet Day
<b>Wed 7th Feb</b>	<b>Year 6 Flight Simulator Experience</b>
Fri 9th Feb	<b>Pancake Races</b> Break for Half Term
Mon 19th Feb	INSET Day
Tues 20th Feb	Return to School Spring 2
<b>Thur 29th Feb</b>	<b>Last Teacher Led Club Session</b>
<b>Fri 1st Mar</b>	<b>House Cross Country, 2pm</b>
<b>Thur 7th Mar</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>Wed 13th Mar</b>	<b>Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
<b>Thur 14th Mar</b>	<b>Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm</b>
<b>Fri 15th Mar</b>	<b>Comic Relief Day</b>
<b>Wed 20th Mar</b>	<b>Full Governing Body Meeting</b>
<b>Thur 28th Mar</b>	<b>Easter Performance to Parents at St Peter's, 9.30am</b> <b>Open Afternoon for parents to view Children's books, 2pm</b>
Thur 28th Mar	Break for Easter
Mon 15th Apr	Return to School Summer 1
Fri 24th May	INSET Day Break for Half Term
Mon 3rd June	Return to School Summer 2
<b>Tue 23rd July</b>	<b>Break for Summer</b> <b>Return to School for 2024/45</b>



## DID YOU KNOW:

**Nearly 75%** of our expenditure goes on staffing costs

**15%** on fixed costs (electricity, heating, cleaning and services provided by Hampshire County Council)

**Only around 10%** of the total budget is available to spend on educational supplies, classroom equipment, computer software and the similar – the tangible things that provide a real benefit to our pupils.



# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



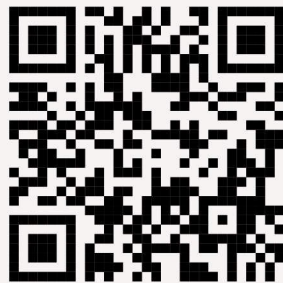
**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

**Scan the QR code to find out more.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



**Home Office**  
BUILDING A SAFE, JUST  
AND TOLERANT SOCIETY



West Midlands  
Violence  
Reduction Unit



west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner





# Breast Walk Ever Hampshire

**Sunday  
12 May  
2024**

*Take part  
from just  
£13*

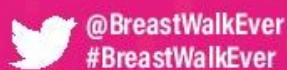
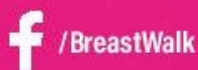
  
**IBM, Hursley,  
SO21 2JN**

*Three distance  
options with feed  
stations. Medal  
for all finishers,  
dogs welcome.*

**Raise funds for secondary spread breast cancer  
research at the University of Southampton.**

Family, friendly fun. Children's activities available on the day 

Sign up at **breastwalkever.org** 



Against Breast Cancer is a registered charity in England and Wales  
Registered Charity No. 1121258





## **PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING**

Every year, the Government allocates funding to schools to help address the national trend that disadvantaged students do not attain as highly as non-disadvantaged students. This valuable extra money is allocated to schools to provide additional or enhanced provision, so that no child is left behind in their education as a result of financial circumstances. This can include subsidising after school clubs and trips as well as providing additional learning support or resources in class, for example.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents and carers can check eligibility simply and easily by visiting:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

and clicking on 'New Application'. Once you have input your details it will return an instant result and notify the school office electronically of your eligibility. If you would prefer us to check on your behalf, please email Mrs Burr with YOUR name, YOUR date of birth and YOUR national insurance number. We would like to reassure you that all applications made are confidential and no child is identified as a Pupil Premium child in any way in their day to day school life. Equally being entitled to free school meals does not mean your child has to eat a meal every day!

**Even if your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and already entitled to Universal Free School Meals, if you think you might be entitled to this benefit please complete the form. This valuable extra funding ensures that we can offer many different types of support throughout the years your child is at our school and will ensure they continue to receive free school meals as they move into KS2.**

**Just one day of qualifying entitlement = 6 years of funding!  
Current funding = £1455 per child per academic year**