

1st December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Winter has well and truly arrived this week and the children have made the most of it by having an amazing time playing in the snow. It is always wonderful to see our youngest children at this time as for some it is the first time that they have really experienced playing with friends in the snow. There is nothing quite like hearing them laugh and seeing their smiles and rosy cheeks as they have fun!

Despite the distraction of the snow the children have continued to work hard this week both with their learning and their Christmas preparations.

The staff have also been learning new things this week with some amazing play therapy training this week and are really looking forward to being able to implement what they have learnt to support the children in School.

Year 3 had an amazing day at the Centre for life this week. We are really proud of them as they were well mannered, polite and sensible at all points during the day and were complimented a number of times. Well done!

Our Year 6 footballers enjoyed the Pele Trust Primary Football tournament and were unbeaten in the group stages. They showed determination and resilience and were great representatives for the School. See later in the flyer for more details.

As we move into winter I am aware that there are lots of colds and other infections which are going around. We are frequently asked for advice about illnesses and what to do when a child is ill. Please follow the link for the NHS guidance on ['Is my child too ill for School?'](#) This is regularly updated and provides useful information for parents.

With the increasingly cold and inclement weather could I again ask that children come to School in appropriate clothing and waterproof footwear, particularly for the outdoors.

Thanks to the Friends of Heddon School and particularly to Heidi for organising our Christmas Fair. This is a popular event and it is great to see it was so well supported again this year. Funds raised will be going towards further equipment for OPAL play.

If either you or someone you know would like to join our School team we have a Teaching Assistant vacancy. Further details are later in the flyer.

Today also sees the opening of the first doors on the children's advent calendars. We have contributed a video to the Diocesan virtual advent calendar for you to check out online. Please see later in the flyer for more information.

Well done to Year 1 with the best attendance this week: 99.1%

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and that whatever you are doing this weekend you have a relaxing time and stay safe.

Mr. A. Wheatley,  
Headteacher

## Attendance Matters

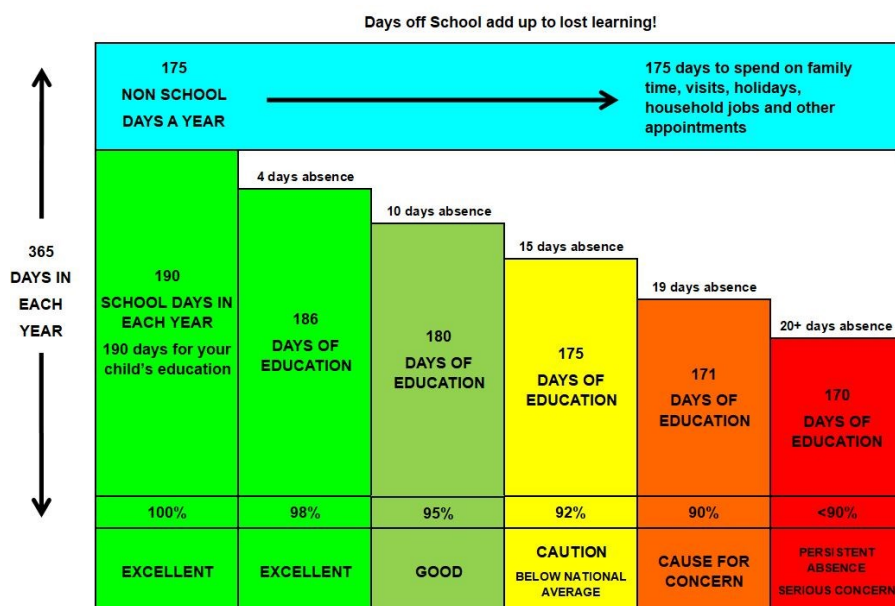


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	94.3%	95.8%	Year 3 (Gibside)	91.3%	94.3%
Year 1 (Wallington)	99.1%	96.1%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98%	96.5%
Year 2 (Craggside)	97.5%	98.5%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	91%	96%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	94.1%	95.5%

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.



'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'

Colossians 3:23

The Hedgehogs were very excited about the snow this week! They got all wrapped up and had a fantastic time exploring outside. We also worked together to put our Christmas tree up. What a brilliant week!



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In Reception, we have been learning about the artist Paul Klee.



We looked at a famous painting called 'Castle and Sun'. We learned that it was made up of painted mosaic blocks. We created our own artwork using mosaic pieces. We even gave our artwork a name!



Some children also explored colour mixing to recreate his painting of 'Separation at Sunset'.



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The Owls have loved exploring the snow and ice this week. At the beginning of the week the ice was very thin and broke very easily but towards the end of the week the ice was super thick!



We explored how to break and melt the ice.



In the snow, we made snowmen, snowballs and investigated our different footprints.



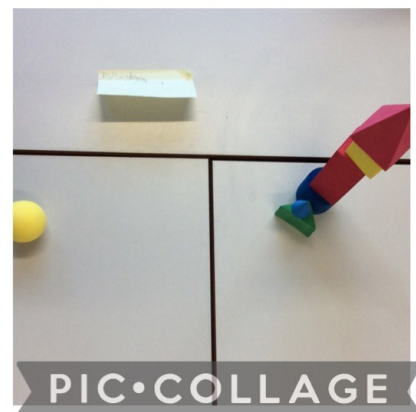
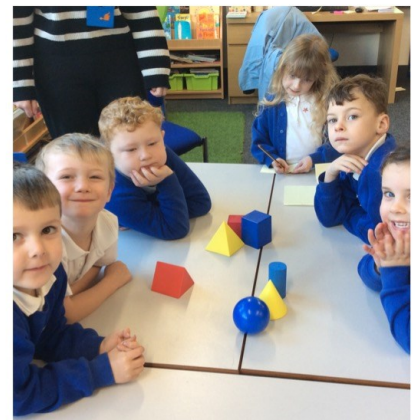
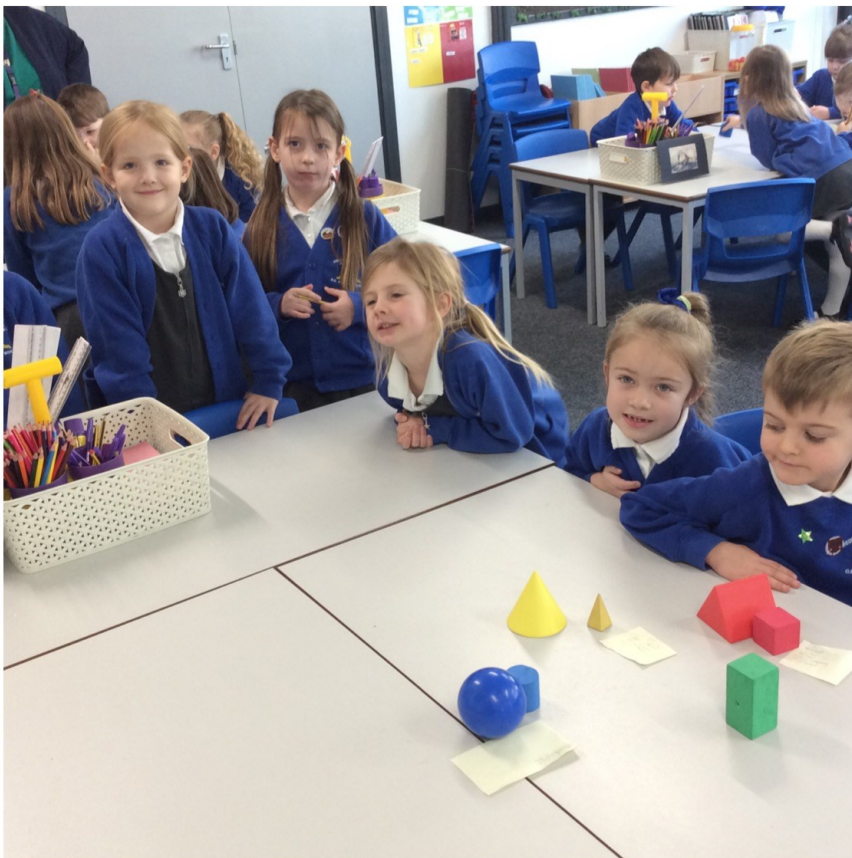
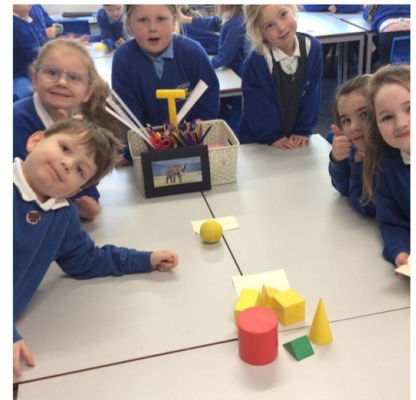
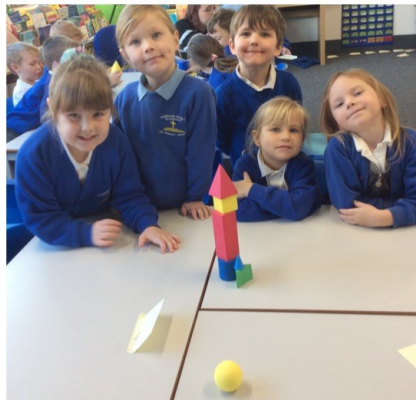
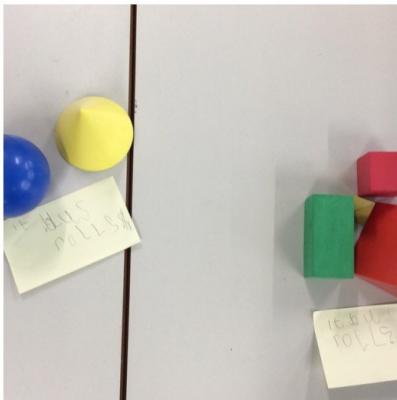
We even found a pair of gloves that had been dropped and had frozen to the ground. What a challenge it was to try and free them!

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## Learning about Shapes in Year 1

Year 1 have been investigating the properties of shapes this week. We talked about their features and looked at what is the same and what is different. We worked together to group them based on their properties.





## Fun in the Snow with Year 2

Year 2 have had great fun in the snow during break and lunchtime, making the most of the snow while it lasts!





### At the Centre for Life with Year 3

Year 3 had a brilliant day at the Centre for Life this week. We completed hands-on light experiments, learnt about light from stars in the planetarium, were wowed by light in the Fire and Ice Science Show, explored the Space and Wow Zones and even squeezed in an ice-skate! What a busy day! Thank you very much to the parent helpers who accompanied us on our trip.



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## Fun in the Snow with Year 3



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Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23



## Advent in Year 4

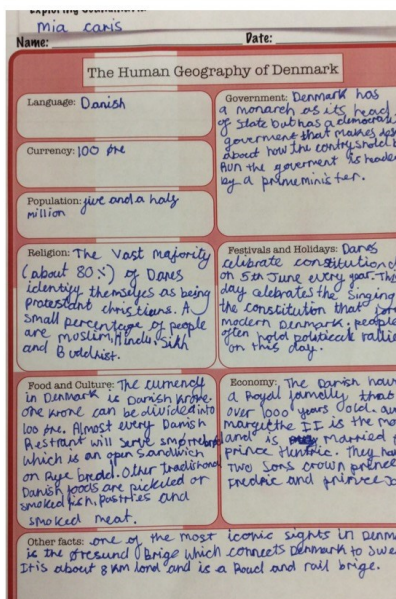
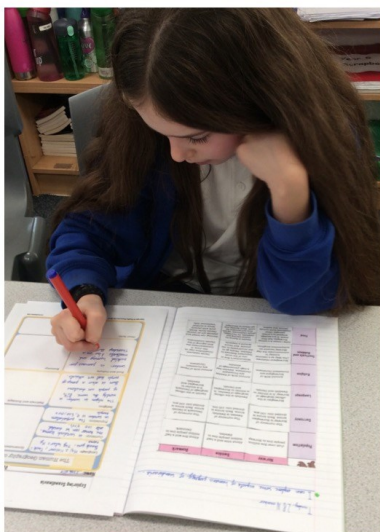
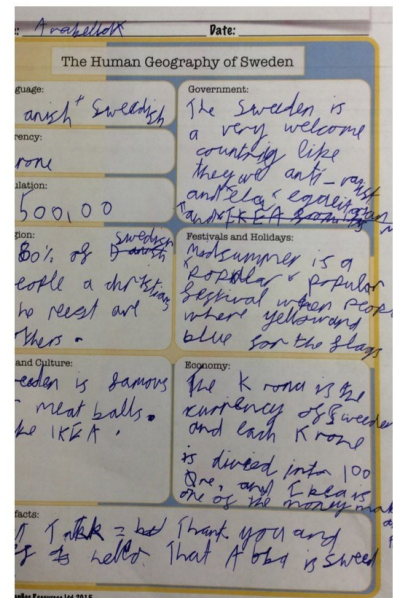
In year 4 this week we have been talking about Advent and we worked together to create our own class advent calendar. Each child wrote a message to spread positivity and kindness amongst our class. We look forward to practising this kindness throughout December.





## Learning about Scandinavia in Year 5

This week in Year 5, we have been had lots of fun in our Geography lesson. We have been researching and studying the human geographic features of Scandinavian countries. We have compared currency, population, culture and religion in this lesson and we discussed their similarities too. Some children have also managed to create very detailed fact files highlighting key aspects of human geography within each country.

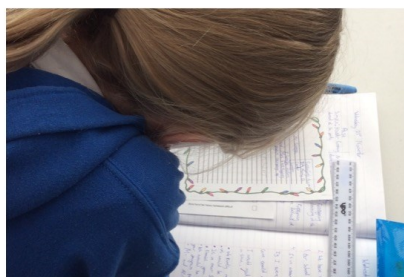
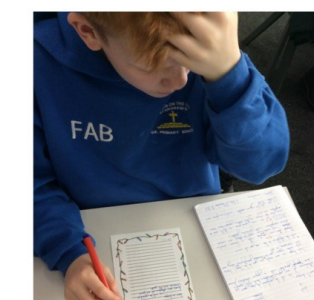
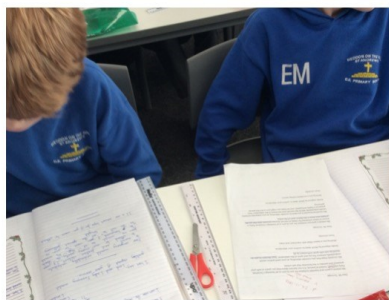
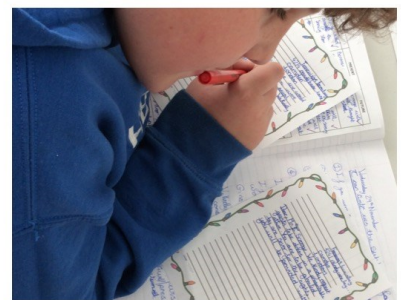
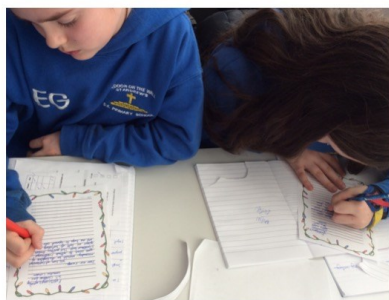
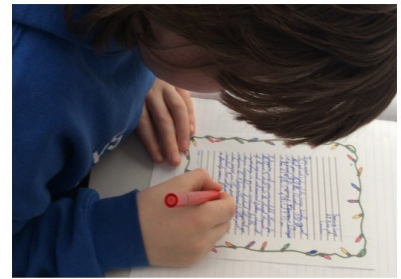


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## Formal Writing in Year 6

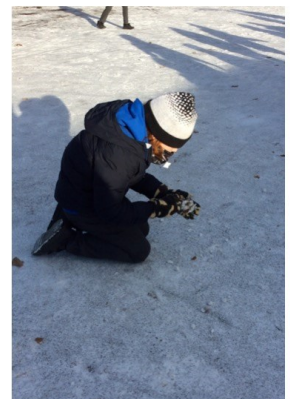
Year 6 used the subjunctive form to elevate the level of formality in their writing this week. To practise this, the children wrote short invitations in the role of Fezziwig, inviting Scrooge to attend his annual Christmas Ball.



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## Fun in the Snow with Key Stage 2



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Everyone  
had a great  
time at our  
Christmas  
Fair.



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## Year 6 Pele Trust Tournament

Well done to the Year 6 mixed football team for their efforts at the Pele Trust Football Tournament this week. The team played really well and were unbeaten in their group matches. Not only were they excellent on the football pitch, their attitude and conduct was exemplary across the morning. We are so proud of them. Well done!



Many thanks to Heddon Juniors FC who sponsor our football strips.

## Out of School Achievements

Well done to Austin who will be performing in 'The Snowman' at the Glass House in Gateshead over Christmas. He will be singing 'Walking in the Air' on stage accompanied by the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra. Austin is performing on Saturday 23rd December at both 2pm and 5pm.



Henry decided to put his artistic skills to good use this week. He has copied a number of his line drawings and has sold them today at our Christmas Fair as colouring sheets for his peers to raise money for charity. Well done!



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23



## **The School Choir at the Christmas Fair at the Knott Hall**

The School Choir had a great time singing to open the Christmas Fair at the Knott Hall on Friday night last week. The Hall was packed and the children thoroughly enjoyed performing on the stage to a huge audience. Everyone had a great time hearing them sing and joining in with the songs. The children then enjoyed receiving a special gift of some sweets from the Knott Hall.

Singing at the Knott Hall Christmas Fair has quickly become a real tradition marking the beginning of our Christmas preparations.



## Diocesan Advent Calendar

We were really pleased to be invited to contribute to the Diocesan Virtual Advent Calendar. Two Year 6 representatives recorded a short video reflection about the Bible verse, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' and how this links to Christmas. Please follow the link below to check out the calendar. The doors open one per day with our School contribution being on 14th December.

To view the Virtual Advent Calendar please [click here](#).





## Pele Trust Junior Park Run

Mr. Smith, the Pele Trust Primary PE Lead, has organised a Festive Junior Park Run at the Town Moor in Newcastle. This will be a Christmas themed event in collaboration with Junior Park Run and is open to all children, family and friends from the Pele Trust Primary Schools.

It is super inclusive as you can walk, run or go for a personal best over the 2km route. This event is free and is a great opportunity to have some healthy fun in a beautiful setting.

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 17th December at 9am on the Town Moor.

For more information and to sign up to take part please [click here](#) to register. Once you have done this you can then download their QR code that you need to take to the event.



## **Would you or someone you know like to join our School team?**

The School currently has a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant.

The Academy Committee of Heddton-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School are seeking to appoint a part time Teaching Assistant to this high achieving school. This is an exciting opportunity to join an effective school.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is an excellent teaching assistant with high expectations for learning;
- Is enthusiastic, highly motivated, energetic and creative;
- Enjoys new challenges and working as part of an effective team;
- Believes that all children can achieve success;
- Preferably has experience in Early Years.

In return we can offer:

- Committed, dynamic and supportive staff and Governors;
- An excellent work environment;
- Support for career development.

Contract type: term-time only; part time 19.5 hours per week

Grade / Salary: Band 3 with possible acting up opportunities

Closing date: Monday 4th December 2023

Full details are available on the North East Jobs website or by [clicking here](#)



The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils and expects all staff to share this commitment. Successful applicants will undertake an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.



## Good Attendance Matters!

We love our new banner which reminds everyone how important it is to attend School regularly.

Every day matters and helps us to achieve our best in the future.



## Mental Wellbeing Advent Calendar

We know that this time of year can be very busy and non-stop. While this can be a fun and exciting time it is also a time which may make some children feel anxious and stressed. Please see below the YoungMinds Wellbeing calendar.

This calendar contains some simple daily activities, designed for Primary age children, which you can do alongside your child to help them to manage their mental wellbeing in the run up to Christmas.

We hope that you not only find these useful but really enjoy spending time with your children doing them!

## The YoungMinds Wellbeing Calendar 2023

Looking after your wellbeing as you count down to the winter break.



27 - MONDAY

### Belly breaths

Take a big deep breath in and fill your belly up with air. Then slowly breathe out through your nose.

28 - TUESDAY

### Affirmation station

Spread some winter joy to your classmates by writing positive messages on cards. Then get your teacher to collect and pass them around. For example 'I am loved', 'I can do this'.

29 - WEDNESDAY

### Stretch it out

Stretch your body from head to toe. Roll your neck, spin your arms and flex your toes!

30 - THURSDAY

### Gratitude snowman

Draw three circles on top of each other to create a snowman. In each circle, write something you're grateful for today.



1 - FRIDAY

### Dance party

As a class, get the month off to a great start by singing and dancing along to tunes that make you feel happy!



4 - MONDAY

### Mindful colouring

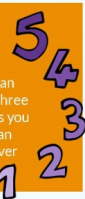
Enjoy some quiet colouring in time and let your creative juices flow.



5 - TUESDAY

### Feeling grounded

Silently, name five things you can see. Four things you can feel. Three things you can hear. Two things you can smell. And one thing you can taste. Use this exercise whenever your emotions feel too big.



6 - WEDNESDAY

### Get crafty

Draw, paint or craft your favourite animal that reminds you of winter. Polar bear? Penguin? Reindeer? Or even just a cat with a funky scarf on!

7 - THURSDAY

### Worldwide winter

Learn how other cultures and countries celebrate different things about winter.

8 - FRIDAY

### Random act of kindness

Do something nice for someone else today. Doesn't it feel great?



11 - MONDAY

### Signs of winter

As a class, take a silent, mindful walk around the school grounds. Noticing signs of winter along the way. Such as frost, falling leaves or even robins.



12 - TUESDAY

### Body scan

Try a body scan meditation to help you let go of stress or worries. There are lots of free videos of this on YouTube!



13 - WEDNESDAY

### Self-soothe session

Create your own self-soothe box to take home and use whenever you feel sad or worried. Include things like sensory toys, sour sweets and photos of things that make you happy. For more tips, check out the 'How to make a self-soothe box' blog on our website.

14 - THURSDAY

### Get the giggles

Give laughter yoga a go. It's said to make you happier and less stressed! There are lots of free videos on YouTube.

15 - FRIDAY

### Your 2023

Write down your favourite school moments of 2023 and any hopes or goals you might have for 2024.



# Carols by Candlelight

St. Andrew's Church

Heddon-on-the-Wall

16th December 4pm

This is our traditional community  
carol service

Everyone is welcome



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

## Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term



Tuesday 5th December 2023	Incredible Years Parenting Workshop for Parents of children aged 2-6 years. Free workshop in School Studio from 2pm-3pm. (Run by the Family Hub)
Tuesday 5th December 2023	Choir Christmas Concert in School Hall at 5pm
Friday 8th December 2023	Year 6 visit to Beamish
Wednesday 13th December 2023	Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children charity
Friday 15th December 2023	Rocksteady Concert in School Hall at 10am
Sunday 17th December 2023	Pele Trust Park Run at Town Moor at 9am
Tuesday 19th December 2023	Early Years Nativity in School Hall at 10am
Tuesday 19th December 2023	Key Stage 1 Performance at Church at 1.30pm
Wednesday 20th December 2023	Key Stage 1 Performance at Church at 5pm
Friday 22nd December 2023	Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Church at 9.30am
Friday 22nd December	AUTUMN TERM ENDS