**Dates for your diary**

**Breakfast with Santa-** please see additional letter

**Thursday 12th December** Christmas Jumper Day and National Santa Dash (£1 voluntary donation to Save the Children). All children can wear PE kit and trainers with their jumpers. If you have any Christmas jumpers that are too small for your children, we will be happy to pass them on to anyone who needs them if you send them into school next week.

**Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December** KS1 Nativity.

**Wednesday 18th December** Christmas Dinner Day.Order on School Hub.Christmas jumpers can be worn again, but with school trousers or skirt

**Thursday 19th December** Party Day. Own clothes or use those Christmas jumpers again with your own choice of trousers or skirt!

**Friday 20th December** Christmas jumpers and school trousers or skirt again

**School will finish at 1.10pm on Friday 20th December**

**Children are back in school on Monday 16th January**

**Church and Rev. Peter Dawkin**

Rev. Peter moved on to a new parish earlier this term, so there is currently no vicar at All Saints Upton church. This means we are unable to use the church for any services at the moment. We will be holding a carol service in school, but unfortunately will not have any space for parents to attend. Rev. Peter was our chair of Governors for many years, and we would like to thank him for all he has done for the school. Our new Chair of Governors is Mrs. Alison Twist who has a background in Special Needs Education and is currently a family and youth worker for the Methodist church.

**Perform**

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Monday 18th November. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of Outer Space and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills. To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of Outer Space. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Download Perform Outer Space from your App store.

**Behaviour**

We always take pride in the behaviour of the children in our school. However, we are becoming increasingly concerned that on some occasions children are not being as respectful as they could be both to adults and to other children in the class. We are addressing this situation using our behaviour policy (available on our website), but we would also ask you to ensure that you speak at home about expectations for behaviour and work with the staff in this regard.

**Reminders:**

Trainers should **only** be worn on PE days and all trousers/leggings worn on PE days should be plain black, navy or dark grey with no logos.Children do not need another hooded jacket or sweatshirt; they should wear their school jumper or cardigan with their t shirt. If there are any reasons why your child is not following these rules, then please make the class teacher aware of them.

**Help and support**

To apply for free school meals (with a possible voucher for over the holidays) please apply to the link below. This is for all children who are eligible, even if your child gets free school meals as they are in Key Stage 1. <https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals>

**Attendance for November**

Our whole school attendance: 92.9%

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reception | 93.4% |
| Year 1 | 91.9% |
| Year 2 | 94.8% |
| Year 3 | 95.0% |
| Year 4 | 94.3% |
| Year 5 | 86.1% |
| Year 6 | 94.8% |

There have been some nasty bugs going around. Let’s hope we’ve got them all out of the way for Christmas!

**Fundraising**

Thank you to all of you who have supported our fundraising efforts this month. Our Harvest Festival donations were received by Foodbank and helped to provide enough for 60 meals for families in need. We also raised £122 for Children in Need.

Our school disco was a huge success with one child telling us it was ‘the best day of their life!’ We hope to organise another disco for Spring 2025.

We are very grateful to Mr. Norton, one of our midday assistants who has run a marathon to help raise money for the school. This has helped to fund some new kitchen equipment and some equipment for Reception.

**Books**

Thank you so much to everybody who attended our book fair this month. We have been very fortunate to be able to get lots of lovely new books for school as we get rewards for the amount of money that we raise. Look out for many more reading experiences throughout this year!

We are also currently looking to receive £488.30 (with 1 day left!) from our Asda cashpot thanks to all those of you who signed up, and we will be using this for more non-fiction and picture books for our younger readers!

**Mrs. Linda Whitfield**

Mrs. Whitfield has worked in our school office for over 30 years and was already planning to take her well-deserved retirement at Christmas. However, she has had a recent illness which means that she will not return to school before that time. We are all going to miss her very much! If you would like to, we will be happy to pass on any cards as I know some of you will have known her for many years.

Thankyou for all your support while we have been short staffed in the office.

The next newsletter will be out in January.