



Hartlip Endowed Church of England Primary (Voluntary Aided)

Christmas 2023

Friday 1st December

Dear Parents/Carers

And so....December is here! And from Monday in school, it will be beginning to look like Christmas! Whilst core learning with full team support will continue to happen each morning, we will not be having our usual intervention groups in the afternoons. This is because we will be preparing for our Nativity Presentation. You can find all the details about the next two weeks below.

Our Nativity Presentation dates are as stated on the diary at the beginning of the academic year. On Tuesday 12th, our first Presentation, it is of course Ella's funeral. Myself and Miss Rocha will be attending to represent school and the family have welcomed school's offer to decorate the church for beautiful Ella. We intend this to be an expression of outreach, welcome and comfort as Ella and her family and friends are received in to church. As we then share in the story of Christmas together, the church décor will continue to provide a place of reflection and love. If you would like to contribute to the flowers for this, we are grateful to receive donations. Thank you



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each year, we like to identify a charity to support through Advent. This year, we would like to support: **The Gift of Christmas.**

As the cost-of-living crisis continues to heap pressure on households throughout Swale, Swale Foodbank and Sheerness Salvation Army have joined together to launch a brand-new community project to ensure that families and isolated or vulnerable adults are cared for this Christmas.

Both charities have operated smaller, similar schemes in past years, but both realised that the challenge is greater in 2023 than they have ever seen before and by uniting they would be able to help more people than they could alone.

The Gift of Christmas will see the two charities working with a host of other businesses and organisations in the local area, making this a true community wide effort. The public are being asked for donations of finances, food hampers, and brand-new unwrapped gifts, which will then be distributed to those needing support this year.

You can support us by sending in:

- An unwrapped gift for a child between the ages of 0-18 or for an adult
- Sending in any of the following Christmassy goodies: candy canes, chocolate coins, boxes of biscuits, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, pickled onions, trifle packs, selection boxes, shortbread, Pringles, Schloer, pretzels etc
- Additionally: any small non-food items as well eg brand new hat/scarf/gloves, Christmassy stickers, small toys etc

We will receive all goodies from **Monday** until **Wednesday 13th December 2023.**

The worship council will assist our hamper expert, Miss Rocha, in making up the hampers.

Thank you for your support.

Singing Squad!

Our Singing Squad have been busy preparing for Christmas and will be performing out and about in the community. Some of them will be participating in a Christmas Jamboree at Highsted on **Tuesday 5th December.** Mrs White has been in touch with participants. Keep an eye out for any further details that will be shared with you. The next day, all of Singing Squad will delight folk attending the Christmas Coffee morning in church, performing their Jamboree songs! Do come and support them!





Nativity 2023

Our Nativity Presentations are on: **Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December @ 2pm in Church**

Our dress rehearsal is on **Monday 11th December**.

Tickets can be ordered by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/tkTV48DG5f>

Each family can order a maximum of two tickets, over 2 days in the first instance. The deadline is: **Friday 8th December**. We can then open up any additional availability from **Monday 11th December**.

There will be a photographer at the dress rehearsal to take photographs of your children and these will be available to purchase at both performances.

COSTUMES!

Year R: Stars

Year 1: animals: sheep, cow, donkey

Year 2: Angels

Year 3 and 4: People of Bethlehem: Innkeepers/travellers/shepherds

Year 5: Kings

Year 6: Party revellers

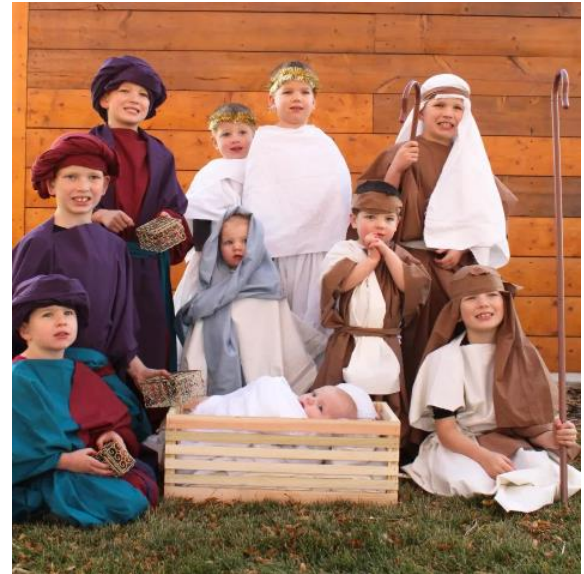
Keep things simple and at little cost! A pillow case makes an excellent

tunic, particularly for little ones! Likewise, a T towel is an excellent headdress! Remember also that we perform in church, so children will need to be warm and have leggings, tights, tops etc underneath.

We would be grateful to have all costumes in school by dress rehearsal day: **Monday 11th December**.

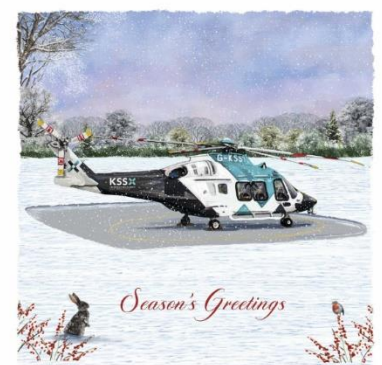
Please put all costumes in a **named carrier bag!** Thank you!

Any problems sourcing costumes, please speak to your child's class teacher. Please do reuse costumes from previous years and loan out to friends anything that may be useful to their child. Thank you



Christmas Post!

Our Christmas Post Box will be open from **Monday 11th December 2023**. Please do not send in post before this time! This year, you may like to consider not sending individual cards, but perhaps one school/teacher/class card with a donation to the air ambulance, in memory of Ella, supporting the charity her family have identified on her behalf. Your child can still write the card and post it in the box and classes/staff/ etc can read them out and thank you for your donation.



Christmas Fun Day!

Thursday 14th December 2023!

On Christmas Fun Day, children may wear Christmas themed dress: partywear, Christmas Jumpers etc....

This is the day for **Christmas Dinner!** Please Pre order via the CH&Co website. You must still order, even if your child is entitled to Universal

Infant Free School Meals, or Free School Meals. Any problem ordering, please contact Miss Clark in the school office.

This will also be **Christmas Market** day when your child can purchase presents for family members. If you would like to participate in this, the booking form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/EpLTiE5qex>
Please send all monies in, in a named envelope. Thank you!



Friday 15th December 2023

A reminder that school closes at 1.30pm on this day. There is no after school club provision available.

Please do join us for our **Christingle Service** at 1pm in church on this day, when our youngest children lead us in the

retelling of the Nativity Story.

We look forward to sharing this very special time with you.

Best wishes

Mrs Tracey Jerome

Headteacher