



Newsletter

Issue 4 Autumn 2024

Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term, already the time is flying by. This half term is always a busy one with lots of lovely things planned.



Thank you to everyone who came in muffi last week and sent a donation for Children in Need. I will let you know the total raised as soon as I can.

We have another Muffi day planned for next week (29th November) and this one is organised by FoJoG. They are asking for a chocolate donation instead of money with plans to hold something later in the term with those donations.

We have our main school family learning day next week (see flyer at the end of the newsletter for times) and would love to see you all there. You will be creating a lovely Christmas decoration to take home and I hope a few extras ready for our school tree as part of the towns Christmas tree festival in Aylsham Parish Church. I'm praying they are all fast drying as we decorate the tree the day after family learning!

It was great to have so many families book in for parents evening appointments with teachers and we hope you found it helpful to know where your child is with their learning. Teachers are always available for a chat at the end of a school day if you need further information.

We seem to be doing the normal round of illnesses at this time of year. May I please remind parents that if your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea then there is a 48 hour quarantine in order to make sure the bugs don't spread. Thank you.

CE Toplis

Dates for your Diary

School finishes for Christmas at 3.10pm on 20th December

- 26.11.24 - Main school Family Learning Day
 - 29.11.24 - Muffi day with chocolate tombola donation
 - 2.12.24 - Flu Vaccine catch ups
 - 5.12.24 - John Bears Nursery Family Learning Day
 - 12.12.24 - Christmas Jumper Day
 - 16.12..24 - Parents Panto for children to watch at BVS
 - 20.12.24 - Christmas Lunch Day
 - 20.12.24 - Christmas Party Day
- See separate post in newsletter about Christmas Play Dates**
- School reopens for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th January at 8.50am.**

Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 94.3%. Our current figure is

The best Class this week was Leopards

Food Bank

Thank you for all your donations for foodbank. We sent a whole car load off which will really help families in need.

If you ever find yourself in need and would like a foodbank parcel, please speak to Mrs Toplis who can arrange for a voucher to be created.

Kindness Pennies

Just a little reminder about our kindness pennies.

Kindness pennies (loose change) can be brought in every Friday in an named purse or envelope and they are then collected as part of our celebration assembly. We then collect all the kindness pennies together each term and send them off to charity.

The school council in conjunction with their classes have voted on their chosen charities for this year.

Autumn Term: Guide Dogs

Spring Term: Food Bank

Summer Term: Shelter

Reminders

Just a couple of reminders:

- **John of Gaunt is a non smoking site and this includes vaping**
- **John of Gaunt and Bure Valley are non dog sites (please do not tie dogs at the gates either)**
- **Only nursery parents can park in the nursery car park (this is very important as our nursery children are so young)**
- **Please do not park in the entrance to the nursery car park (before the barriers) it stops vehicles being able to access the car park including the bin lorry and emergency vehicles.**

Rotary Carol Concert

John of Gaunt will once again be performing at this wonderful annual concert in Aylsham Parish Church. We have chosen our two songs and will be performing 'Oh we have to go' and 'The Penguin song'.

I will soon be sending letters out inviting our Year 1 and 2 children (in the first instance) to come and join us on stage for the concert. We hope that as many of our Year 1 and 2 children can join us as possible. As you know we love to sing at John of Gaunt!

Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter

Christmas play tickets

All of our Key Stage 1 (year 1 and 2 children) are joining together for their Christmas play this year, which is 89 children in total. We have put on three performances instead of the usual two in order to account for this.

However, I am mindful that due to fire regulations there is a maximum capacity for the hall. In order to make sure that we do not exceed those numbers I need to ask Year 1 and 2 parents to choose which performance they would like to attend, remembering that only 2 people can attend any one performance and that you can only watch it once. I am happy for you to book grandparents into alternative performances but reserve the right to refuse those tickets if we do not have enough space for parents to watch for the first time.

Please could I ask you to state your preferences using the google form below. We will then allocate 'tickets' enabling us to stay within fire capacity. If you have not completed the google form and try to turn up to the performance without your 'ticket' you may be turned away.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbnMynvmd6rDAOL6yfnXR3JJGabYrt6CurhvzxLNV6DNE5Nw/viewform>

Apologies, but fire regulations take precedence and for this it is nice for the children to perform in their own school hall rather than at BVS.

Christmas play dates

It seems very early to mention the C word but I know that it helps if you have dates for your diaries. Our Christmas Performances will be as follows:

Tuesday 17th December

9.15am - Year 1 and 2 performance

2pm - Reception performance

Wednesday 18th December

9.15am - Reception performance

2pm - Year 1 and 2 performance

Thursday 19th December

9.15am - Year 1 and 2 performance



You are welcome to attend either of your child's year group performances but ask that due to space you do not attend more than one. This year we will have 3 and half classes in the Year 1 and 2 performance so ask that only 2 people attend per performance please in order to be able to comply with fire regulations.



John of Gaunt Infant and Nursery School

Christmas Family Learning

Please come and join your child for
Christmas craft family learning activities on

Tuesday 26th November

9am - 9.40am - Elephants

9.50am - 10.30am - Giraffes

10.45am - 11.25am - Zebras


1.30pm - 2.10pm - Turtles

2.20pm - 3pm - Leopards

Grandparents, aunts, uncles and
younger siblings welcome.



Friends of John of Gaunt
Mufti day



Friday 29th November

For those that are able, please send in a
donation of chocolate for our chocolate
tombola... Coming soon!



FRIENDS OF JOHN OF GAUNT WE NEED YOU!

OUR AIM IS TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION BY FUNDRAISING FOR
SPECIAL TRIPS, EVENTS AND EQUIPMENT...
ENRICHING ACTIVITIES THAT COULD NOT HAPPEN
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

WHETHER YOU HAVE **A LITTLE OR A LOT**
OF TIME TO GIVE, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU
JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP.

EMAIL THE SCHOOL OFFICE
IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE.

Rotary Club
of Aylsham & District



Christmas

COMMUNITY CONCERT

**AYLSHAM
PARISH CHURCH**

**DEC 12 THURSDAY
6:30PM**

FEATURING - Vocalights with Claire Devitt
John of Gaunt School * St Michael's School
Bure Valley School * Aylsham High School
Organist Mathew Martin

*Community singing of carols and fun Christmas songs
Mulled wine and mince pies on arrival*



FREE ENTRY
Collection for local Foodbank

AYLSHAM PARISH CHURCH

Supporting local,
national and
international
charities

Open Daily
10am - 4pm
PLUS
Special events

Christmas **TREE FESTIVAL** November 29th - December 3rd

Friday 29th Nov - 10am - 4pm

Friday LIGHTS ON 5pm - 8pm
Mulled wine and mince pies
RAFFLE tickets in church and in
the Gazebo outside church
HOT FOOD SERVED

Saturday 30th Nov - 10am - 4pm

Coffee Morning 10am - 12noon
with Charity Stalls
Lunches served 12noon - 2pm
Soup and Bread
Visiting choirs in the afternoon

CONCERT at 7pm
with the CAWSTON BAND

Sunday 1st Dec - 12:30pm - 4pm

Refreshments served in the afternoon
ADVENT FESTIVAL SERVICE - 4pm
beautiful service of lights and music

Monday 2nd Dec - 10am - 4pm

Refreshments served - 10am - 12noon

Tuesday 3rd Dec - 10am - 4pm

Drinks served - 4pm - 5pm
The Raffle is drawn!
Come and join us!

01263 704457
aylshamtreefestival@gmail.com



The Cawston Band Christmas Concert

30 NOV : Aylsham Parish Church
7PM : tickets: £10 adult £5 child

scan the QRCode or visit us at
<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/1TaJczmcYg>
OR purchase your tickets on the door!

REFRESHMENTS SERVED



Dont miss the fun!

raising funds for the charities of this year's Tree Festival