



# PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Upcoming dates

### **Weds 30th November**

Year 1 – 6 Watermill Theatre trip

Return to school approx 5:15pm

### **Thurs 1st December 7:30pm**

FOPS AGM

### **Weds 7th December**

Hedgehog and Badger Class

Nativity dress rehearsal

### **Thurs 8th December 9:30am**

Nativity performance to parents

### **Fri 9th December 9:30am**

Nativity performance to parents

### **Mon 12th – Fri 16th December**

Elfridges Christmas Shop

### **Thurs 15th December**

The Pantry Christmas Lunch

### **Fri 16 December**

Christmas Craft day / Christmas

Jumper day in aid of Save the Children

### **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> December**

FOPS Disco

### **Tues 20th December, 10am**

Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

End of term **1:15pm**

### **Weds 4th January**

Start of Spring Term (and Nutkin)

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

After School (sports and activity)

Clubs start

## **This Week in School....**

Years 3, 4 and 5 have been busy with a series of learning activities about Rapunzel. In the morning they were re-telling the story and making stick puppets to perform the story to other children, including our Hedgehog class.

In the afternoons they became engineers to complete building challenges. These included the tallest tower challenge – using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Congratulations to Daniel, Arthur, Brandon, Theo and Jax from Falcon and Iris, Hannah, Darcie and Ella from Owl whose teams built the tallest towers. The engineers then looked at joining methods before building some amazing Rapunzel towers using card.

Finally, they designed an escape method from their tower. We saw 'hot air balloons', zip wires, slides, ladders and lifts helping Rapunzel to escape.

"I liked making the Rapunzel tower best because it was fun and we could use our DT skills." --D Y6

"I liked it when we were making the puppets, it matches what little children like watching." -Z Y6

"It was fun to do all the acting in our puppet plays." -DS Y4

"My best bit was engineering towers from marshmallows and spaghetti." - IS Y3

"I liked making the towers, it was a bit of DT and got your brain working when we had to work out how to get down from the tower." PTo Y4

*Mrs Charlesworth* (Chief Engineer, KS2)

## **And in Wales....**

Our Year 6 pupils have been adventuring in Rhos-y-Gwaliau.

There will be a full update and 'picture special' with next week's newsletter.

## **In Collective Worship This Week....**



This week we have focused on our school's core values: **love, courage and wisdom**. We talked about how we would recognise these in other people during our school day.

On Thursday, Mrs Lyn Jones led a Collective Worship session on courage:

- Courage is being able to face your fears.
- It is having the inner strength to be the best that you can be.
- Courage is doing what you know is the right thing, even when it is very difficult.

## Watermill Theatre Trip

The Year 1 -6 children are going to the Watermill Theatre on Wednesday 30th November to watch Rapunzel. The children will have lunch at school as normal, leaving Purley at 1.15pm. **We will return at approximately 5.15pm depending on traffic.**

At collection time, please make sure that you don't obstruct Purley Village (along the field and near the school) as there will be two large coaches needing to get through to park outside the school. Thank you.



## Hedgehog and Badger Class Nativity: Tickets Now Available!

The first performance will be on **Thursday 8th December at 9.30 am** in the school hall. You may bring younger siblings to this show. The second performance will be on **Friday 9th December at 9.30** in the hall once again. This performance is for adults only. A ParentMail form for ticket requests will be going out today.

## St Mary's Church Toy Service



On Sunday 4th December, at St Mary's Church, we will be holding a "Toy Service", to which everyone is invited! (Of course everyone is invited all the time anyway...).

The idea is that, similar to Harvest Festival when people bring all their canned goods and pasta and food etc, up to the front in church so that it can all be donated to the local food bank to help people in need... this time we will have a collection in church of toys which folks and families would like to donate to a charity, and that charity will then distribute the toys to underprivileged children in our area who would not otherwise be able to receive any gift for Christmas.

We're going to be partnering with the charity 'Care 4 Calais', who were originally set up to bring aid and relief to migrants and refugees who were stuck in a dire predicament at Calais. They continue to do that, as far as I'm aware, but have also expanded to help with aid and relief for refugee families all over, including recently the many refugees who've come over here because of the war in Ukraine. The local Care 4 Calais group work with disadvantaged families like this who are living here in Reading.

What they are asking for would be *newly purchased gifts* (i.e. not second hand) of any value, *gift wrapped*, and *labelled* simply with a note specifying 1) Boy-gift/Girl-gift, and 2) age bracket.

These can then be brought to church on Sunday 4th (9:30am service) where they can place them under the Christmas tree, and we will host a fun, all-age service with a little bit of Christmassyness thrown in, like some Christmas crackers, lighting an Advent wreath, a little quiz, a video, a short interactive talk on the joy of giving, and of course, singing songs (including one or two carols!)

*Reverend Aidan Jones*



### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Party

The 2022-23 academic year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> year of there being a school on this site. During the Summer Term, we plan to hold a community wide celebration. The exact form that this will take is yet to be finalised.... and that's where it is over to you! We would very much welcome support from parents and members of the local community in planning an event to mark the occasion. To get the ball rolling, there will be an initial working party meeting for the sharing of ideas and to start work on a timetable for preparations.

The meeting will be held at **6pm on 11<sup>th</sup> January**. If you are unable to attend, but have some ideas to share, please email [office@purley.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@purley.w-berks.sch.uk) with '150<sup>th</sup> Birthday' in the subject line.



### The Pantry: Lunch Price Increase

We have been advised by our Caterers (The Pantry) that the school meal price will shortly be increasing by 5p. From the 1st December the new meal price will be **£2.40**. All meals booked before this date will be honoured at the current price of £2.35 even if the meal is due to be taken afterwards (i.e. if you book all your December meals before 1st December, they will cost £2.35 each). We understand that this is yet another household price increase at a challenging time for many of us, but we have done well to keep the meal price low in recent years and we believe this is a fair increase.

**If your child is in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 in September, they are still entitled to a free school meal every day.**

### Nutkin After School Club: Split Sessions

A reminder that our after school Nutkin club is offering the option of a shorter (3.15-4.30 pm) session as well as the usual (3.15-6pm) sessions. Please visit the Wraparound Care page on our website to book.



### Maths Skills 'At Their Fingertips'

As part of our recent 'push' to improve fluency in Maths skills, partly through our promotion of TTRS competitions, we have already noted an improvement in the speed with which pupils recall key number facts. From next week, we will be awarding certificates in assembly pupils as they achieve a new 'status' level and for the biggest improvement in studio speed. For Years 2-6 TTRS is part of their home learning for Maths and we encourage them to complete a short session at home every other day.



### Reverse Advent Calendar

This Advent, we will be setting up a 'reverse advent calendar' whereby you are invited to make a donation to our two chosen charities: the RediFood foodbank in Reading and Kedesh Santuario : a boy's home for 30 boys between the ages of 9 and 18, located near Beira on the east coast of Mozambique, which is our school's link charity.

There are two ways to share this festive season: you can either donate items on the RediFood 'wish list', or you can donate the cost of much needed school supplies for pupils in Kedesh.

The RediFood list is on their [website](#) and information with the full list, and a donation link for Kedesh will be sent next week. Large boxes for collection of items will be placed at the front of Owl Class and by the front of the school each day.

Thank you in advance for your support of these two causes.

## FOPS Update

### Second Hand Christmas and Party Clothes Sale

We're always keen to do our bit for sustainability here at Purley, so in the spirit of reusing unwanted clothing, FOPS are organising a second-hand Christmas & Party Clothing sale, after-school on **Friday 9th December**. We are still taking donations of clean Christmas themed clothes such as jumpers, tops, dresses, PJs etc. as well as any party or occasion wear (child or adult sized). Just drop them off at school. All proceeds will go to FOPS.

### FOPS Christmas Disco with DJ NikNak

**Monday 19 December** at Memorial Hall, Glebe Road.

There are two parties: one for the youngest school classes from FS1 - Y2 at 4.45-6.15pm, followed by a later disco for KS2 (Years 3-6) from 6.30-8pm

We are providing crisps and juice/squash and sweets as children are always too busy having fun to eat any more than this.

Father Christmas will be visiting the first party and meet the children. He will leave gifts for KS2 children.

£3 per ticket.

To attend the school disco, follow these simple steps:

- 1) Complete google form (the link is embedded on the poster). Alternatively it's [here](#).
- 2) Pay for your tickets online on our new "FOPS Shop" platform. The link to the shop is embedded on the poster. Alternatively it's [here](#).
- 3) Booking deadline is 12/12/22

### 'Elfridges' Christmas Shop

Our Christmas Shop will run **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

We will once again be offering the children the opportunity to purchase gifts for their own family members. There will be a selection of small, affordable gifts to choose from ranging in price from £1.50 - £3.00.

Please send any money in a named purse and bring a named carrier/reusable shopping bag to transport purchases home. The children will then bring the gifts home already wrapped and labelled, ready to put under the tree.

### FOPS AGM

Join us for a drink and meet new people at the **FOPS AGM** on **Thursday 1st December at 7:30pm**. It is the perfect place to find out about the committee, what we do, forthcoming plans and how you might be able to join the fun going forward.

FOPS exists to raise money to enhance the children's school experience - be it funding extracurricular activities or buying new play apparatus, for example. But we need people to make the magic happen.

**Everyone** can bring something to FOPS and it isn't "just for mums"! We gladly welcome Dads, Grandparents and more. In a nutshell, if you would like to support us, we would love to meet you! We are also looking for named positions on the committee going forward (e.g. Treasurer (money), Chair (oversee the committee), Secretary (communications). A lot of our members have been on the committee for many years and whilst they're still keen to stay on and lead events for 22/23 they're also looking to welcome new people with fresh ideas to take FOPS forward.

We really hope to see you at the AGM but if for any reason you can't make it and would like to join the PTA please do email [askfops@gmail.com](mailto:askfops@gmail.com) or find Chloé Tigwell, Nat Taylor, Sarah Clarke or Jennifer Campbell in the playground for a quick chat.

See you there!

*Natalie Taylor FOPS Secretary*