



Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Friday 20th December 2024

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of a very long Autumn Term we have lots of excited children (and staff!) Please read this packed newsletter this month full of news from the events which have happened this term in school. There has been lots going on!

Singing performances

During December, children have had the opportunity to perform Christmas Carols in a range of different locations. On 2nd December, we joined other schools within the CARE Trust at Ashford International hotel. On 8th December, we were selected as 1 of 16 school in the Canterbury area to perform as a mass choir at their St Nicholas's service. This was a very special opportunity to be a part of. On Sunday 15th December, 22 children joined the community to sing some carols at the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights in Chilham Square.



A big thank you to all of the children who have taken their time and sung their hearts out. You represented our school so beautifully. Thanks also to Mr Mankelow and Mrs Smith who supported the children to learn the lyrics and music to give the children the confidence to perform to large audiences.

Nativity performance

What an absolute delight it was to watch the Nativity performance in St Mary's Church. The children acted and sung so beautifully and made us incredibly proud. The staff worked extremely hard to put together a performance which I know is an annual highlight for families.

Thank you to the PTA for running the raffle and stalls in the church which I know were enjoyed by all.

Elfridges



A big thank you to Kerry and Kirsty for giving up their time to run Elfridges for all of our children. The children had a fun time choosing gifts to bring home. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting and seeing the excitement on the children's faces.

PE Kits

Please make sure your child's PE kit stays in school during term time so that they have their kit for their lessons throughout the week.

Jewellery

A polite reminder that necklaces, bracelets, rings and hoop/dangly earrings should not be worn to school. If your child does wear earrings then please make sure they are studs.

Toys in school

A reminder that children should not be bringing in toys from home into school.

Our visit to see Santa at Chilham Castle



We were lucky to be invited to Chilham castle on Monday afternoon to sing to the staff and meet Father Christmas. The castle staff met us at the door and we were greeted with a roaring fire and a beautifully decorated room to spend time in. He generously gave each child an elf which I am sure are now residents in your households!

This was a magical afternoon for the children and staff and is an experience which we hope we can continue year after year.

Forest School

Peacocks will be taking part in Forest School during Term 3. This will start on Tuesday 7th January. Please make sure the children wear appropriate clothing and have welly boots in school.

Curriculum Topics for Term 3

Wrens - Travel and Transport
Herons - The Great Fire of London
Martins - Ancient Egypt
Peacocks - The Americas (North)

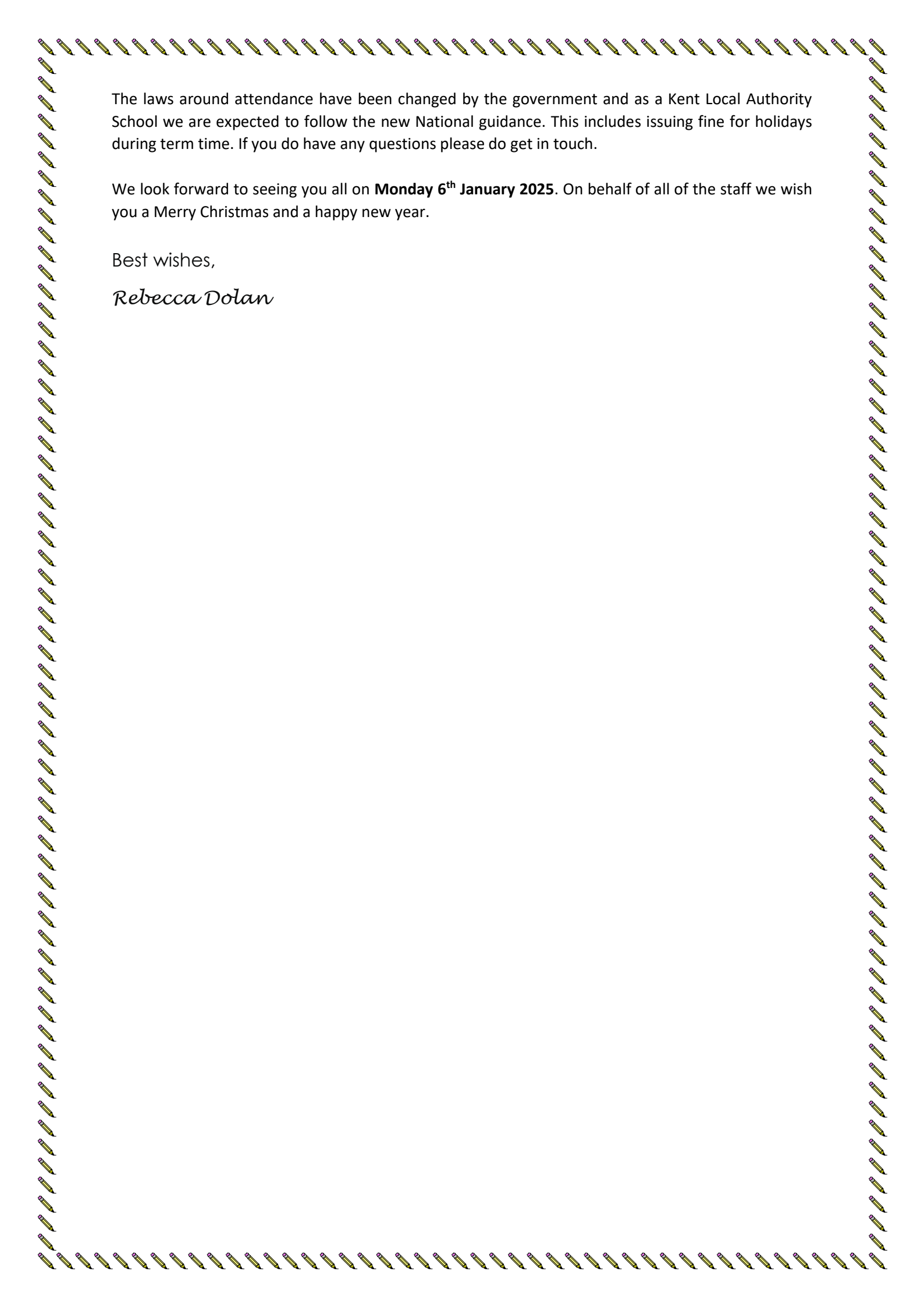
Topic webs will be sent home during the first week back at school explaining what the children will be learning in each subject.

Last day of term change

We will be moving to a 1:30pm finish on the last day of the Easter and Summer term. We will finish at 1:30pm on 3rd April and 22nd July.

Attendance

Please do let us know by telephone if your child is ill by 8:30am each morning. If you wish to make a leave of absence for an exceptional circumstance, please email into the school office and we will look at each case individually before writing back to you to let you know if this will be authorised or unauthorised.



The laws around attendance have been changed by the government and as a Kent Local Authority School we are expected to follow the new National guidance. This includes issuing fine for holidays during term time. If you do have any questions please do get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 6th January 2025**. On behalf of all of the staff we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Dolan