

# Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

## November Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the Festive Period, we have lots of community events to look forward to. Please have a read of this newsletter and as always please do not hesitate to get in contact if you do have any questions.

### Bishop Rose visit

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November we warmly welcomed Bishop Rose to Chilham. She ate with the children and enjoyed finding out all about our school. She was very impressed with the way we said Grace before we ate our lunch.

The children throughly enjoyed asking her all about her day job, how many churches she has visited and her life in Jamaica.



### Attendance and pupil welfare



We understand that this term there have been lots of bugs and illnesses due to the time of year.

We do please ask that you let us know on the morning of the first day if your child is sick. If we do not hear from you or anyone on your contacts list, we will carry out a welfare visit to your home. These visits take 2 adults out of the school day and as a small school we do not want to do these unnecessarily.

Please also try to bring siblings in if they are well and their brother/sister is unwell. We want the children in school as much as we possibly can to ensure their learning flourishes.

### PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for donating £10 per pupil towards our pantomime trip on 5<sup>th</sup> December. We are really looking forward to seeing Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs next Friday.

### Pantomime Trip - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Next Friday we will be going to the Marlowe theatre for what we hope can be a new annual school event. We will be travelling by coach during the school day. Please make sure children are in full school uniform. They will all need to bring in a packed lunch to eat before we leave. No sweets or spending money will be needed.

We should be back at school ready for your children to be collected from the School Playground at 4:30pm.

### KS1 Nativity

Our Nativity Service will take place in the Church at 2pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The children have been busy rehearsing their parts and songs. We can't wait to see lots of you to celebrate with us.

## Children in Need Ramble



The sun came out last Friday for our Annual Children in Need Ramble at Chilham Castle. It was wonderful to see so many adults and families join us for an afternoon of fresh air and views across the Kent Downs. Our total raised was £157.00.



## Reminder: Morning and After School Club Bookings

Please remember that all Morning and After School Clubs must be booked via the ParentMail app. Bookings close the night before the club takes place.

In an emergency, you may phone the office to book your child in for that day, but ideally, please use the app whenever possible.

Club spaces are limited to 20 places and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

We kindly ask that you check your ParentMail account and top up where needed, as we cannot allow accounts to fall into significant debt.

## SEND Focus

### **Spurgeons Family Charity.**

#### **Autism Support and Parenting After Separation**

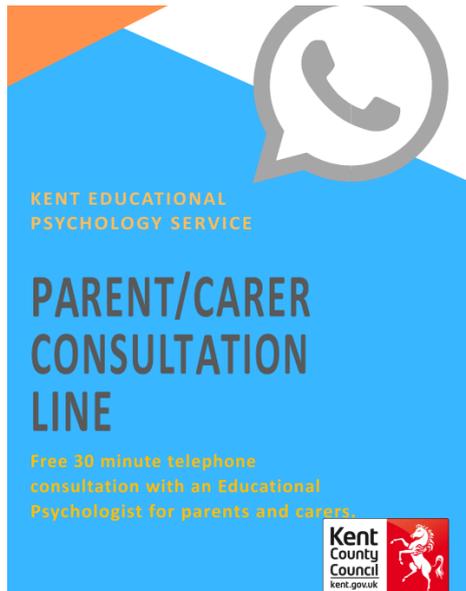
Spurgeons run free autism courses for parents in-person and online.

They have three courses created by the National Autistic Society giving advice and strategies for supporting children with autism spectrum conditions. Earlybird (under age 6) Earlybird Plus (ages 5-10) and NAS Teen Life (ages 10-25)

Anyone who cares for a child with a diagnosis can self-refer via the link below and Spurgeons will send out an email to let you know when the next course is running.

Spurgeons also offer support and courses on **Parenting After Separation**

<https://spurgeons.org/resources-and-courses/courses/nas-earlybird-plus-and-nas-teen-life/>



**KENT EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

**PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION LINE**

Free 30 minute telephone consultation with an Educational Psychologist for parents and carers.



The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.

Topics that parents and carers can use this service to discuss include:

- Social and emotional issues
- Concerns about learning
- Family relationships
- Concerns about behaviour
- Daily routines including sleep

**kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk**

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information:

- your name, telephone number and the district of Kent in which you live.
- your child's school year.
- the area of concern including a brief description of what you wish to discuss.
- a convenient day of the week and time of day to call (am or pm).

We will do our best to respond within 10 working days but this is subject to availability, particularly during school holidays.

## Christmas Time

Christmas is often a wonderful time of year, but for many neurodivergent children, it can be one of the most difficult ones too, when routines and expectations change. Neurodiversity is a term that we use that covers many different conditions including Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Condition (ASD/ASC), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyscalculia and Tourette's Syndrome.

This is a link from Parent Talk: **Supporting a child who finds Christmas overwhelming**

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/development-additional-needs/neurodiversity/send-christmas/>

As always, if you have any concerns about your children, please do not hesitate to come in to talk to us, call or email us.

## Dates for your diary

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School to Chilham Castle to see Father Christmas
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School trip to Pantomime - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Film Night
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Nativity play at 2pm (in St Mary's Church)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Carols in the Square from 6pm
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Children's Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Disco in Village Hall from 3.30pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Break up for Christmas at 1.30pm

Best wishes,

*Rebecca Dolan*