

Weekly Update 16.12.22

What an amazing end to a super term! Huge congratulations to Rocket Class who led a fantastic Nativity Service supported by the Comet-Asteroid choir. Thank you to all who attended 'Carols around the Tree' yesterday – it was wonderful to all come together and the children did us proud with their beautiful singing.

Just a reminder that school closes at the earlier time of **2pm** today.

A BIG THANK YOU...

...from the staff for all your support during this busy term, not to mention all the Christmas treats which have appeared in the staffroom and have kept us going over the last week or two!

FRIENDS PTA GROUP

We would also like to thank all the members of our dedicated 'Friends of St Nicholas' PTA group who have continued to work tirelessly to organise super events for the children and to raise funds for school. The children will be bringing home selection boxes today – a special treat which the Friends organised with Father Christmas (with a bit of help from Morrisons!)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We know that everyone will have been saddened by the tragic events in Solihull last weekend. We teach the children about how to stay safe around water in PSHE lessons. If you would like further information on how to reinforce these important safety messages at home, please click on the link for some useful resources from the Royal Life Saving Society:

[Download.ashx \(rlss.org.uk\)](https://www.rlss.org.uk/Download.ashx)

COMMUNITY NEWS

We hope you have enjoyed watching our community baking project unfold via our website or Twitter. The results have been very well received - it was lovely to see the surprise and delight on the faces of many of our friends and neighbours in the village as we dropped off the Christmas goodies! A big thank you to all who supported our Harvest fundraising earlier in the term – your generous donations have really helped our children to put their thoughtful and compassionate ideas into action.

SUPPORT AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a joyous time but, for some, it can be a time of huge stress and worry, particularly as many face hardship due to the cost of living crisis. Please find attached information from North Yorkshire County Council about various support schemes available. We have spotted a slight error on the leaflet – the phone number should read 01609 780780. This is also the number you can ring if you are worried about a child over the Christmas break.

IDAS is the largest specialist charity in the North supporting those affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. They can be contacted on 03000 110 110 or click on the link below for further information:

[IDAS](#)

LOOKING AHEAD...

We are pleased to let you know that it will be the turn of Rocket Class (Reception, Y1 & Y2) to take part in weekly swimming sessions on Wednesday afternoons in the Spring Term. The balance for this can be paid via Parent Pay. This covers both the swimming sessions and transport to and from the pool.

Children will need:

Swim cap (more info to follow)

One-piece costume for girls and trunks for boys (no baggy board shorts please)

Towel

Goggles (optional)

Longer hair tied up

Forest School sessions will continue for our Nursery children and also for Asteroid Class.

Can you help? We are always grateful for offers of help with both swimming and forest school sessions. Please do let us know if you have some spare time on Wednesday afternoons and would like to volunteer.

CLUBS FOR THE SPRING TERM

The children were very excited to hear about some amazing new extra-curricular activities for the Spring Term. Chris from Sports Cool popped in to reveal the theme of the next Sports Cool club...archery! This is an

activity that many of our older children enjoyed during our residential visit to Ingleborough last year, so they are very keen to give this sport another try! Niki Alderson from Harrogate Theatre phoned yesterday to firm up the details of our drama club for KS2 children. Thanks to a grant sourced by Mrs Sharpley, we are in a position to offer a **FREE** place in this club to every child in Y3, 4, 5 & 6 who would like to participate!

We are pleased to offer the following clubs for the Spring Term:
Monday 3.30 – 4pm – Open library session with Mrs Court
Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 – Drama Club for KS2 in conjunction with Harrogate Theatre!
Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 – Archery Club (book directly with Chris at Sports Cool)
Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 Science Club with Mrs Cornforth

A new booking system for these clubs and our usual wrap-around care was launched this week. Please see the attached letter for further information, including how to book a place.

RECEPTION STARTERS 2023:

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they are due to start primary school in September 2023. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17th December 2.30 – 4pm: West Tanfield Methodist Church invite everyone to join them at the Methodist Church Schoolroom for Christmas crafts, drinks, cakes and chat. All ages welcome!

Sunday 18th December 10.30am: Carol Service in the Methodist Church

Tuesday 20th December 6.30pm: Carol Service at St Nicholas Church

Wednesday 4th January: School reopens for the Spring Term

TBC: Joint RE visit to a mosque (organised by Mrs Pawson at Kirkby Malzeard)

Wishing all our families a wonderful Christmas break.