



# Audlem St. James' C of E Primary School

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*



20 December 2024

## Christmas in School

We have had two amazing performances of "Born in the Barn" this week which have been hugely enjoyed by parents of our Infant children. The children have worked incredibly hard learning their lines and giving their best performance. We would like to thank the parents and friends who came to watch us and our dedicated staff who gave their time and skill to allow our children to let their lights shine. Congratulations to everyone.



*Our Year 2 children in costume*

We have managed to fit every Christmas happening into this week; Christmas dinner, Christmas parties, Christmas jumper day and finally this morning the Christmas service at St James. Everybody now deserves to have a wonderful restful holiday with their families. Happy Christmas, everyone. We return to school on **Monday 6 January 2025** (no Inset Day this time).



(Christmas tree in the welcome area)

**Praise Book and 5Rs Children:** – due to the very busy Christmas week and the fact that the Christmas service at St James church on the last morning of term will prevent us from holding our usual Praise Assembly, we will award two names in the first week back in January 2025.

Everyone! - **You are all amazing shining stars.**





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### School

**Amethyst class:** Over the last few weeks in Amethyst Class, we have read stories by Julia Donaldson including 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'Stick Man.' We drew story maps, wrote menus for a midnight feast and labelled animals and their habitats. In maths, we have explored verbal counting to larger numbers larger than 20 and investigated the pattern of number names beyond the tricky 'teen' numbers. We sung counting rhymes and looked at a number square. In our topic lessons, we listened to the Nativity story. We found out about old and new Christmas traditions and looked at similarities and differences with other Christmas traditions from around the world.

**Sapphire class:** This month in our English lessons we have been learning about what a diary entry is and writing one ourselves. We found out that Nibbles was going on holiday, and we wrote about what he might have done whilst he was away. We challenged ourselves to use the days of the week in each of our sentences. The children have created some excellent pieces of writing and should be very proud of themselves. In Maths we have completed our addition and subtraction unit in Maths and have now moved onto Shape. We have been learning about 2d and 3d shapes and beginning to recognise their names and sort them. We have also been making puppets in D&T, map reading, learning about the different parts of the Christmas story in RE, and learning about kicking dribbling skills in PE. We have had a busy month preparing for our Nativity and have really enjoyed learning all the songs and dances in the performance.

**Pearl class:** Over the last few weeks the children have been adding numbers in maths using a range of strategies. We have also begun our unit on subtraction. In writing we have used our five senses to describe what we could see from the rooftops at night time. We have focussed on using commas in lists, adjectives and adverbs. We have been reading 'Above and Below' by Hanako Clulow and we have been learning the skill of scanning the text to find key words. We have been learning all about different habitats and challenging ourselves with scientific vocabulary. Of course, the Year 2 children have taken a leading role as we prepared for our nativity performances of "Born in a Barn". We are very proud of the effort they put into learning their lines and the way they acted so convincingly on stage.

**Amber class:** Year three have been learning about inverse operations in maths and also about how to estimate their answers. The class have moved onto working with multiplication and using arrays to represent times tables. In English, the children have worked with inverted commas to add speech to their writing. They have continued to use prepositions and adjectives to add details. The class have begun work on our new text 'Stone Age Boy.' Year three have improved their netball skills in PE this half term and worked on their swimming skills. In DT, the children designed and made seasonal tarts which used ingredients that had low food miles. They enjoyed taste testing their work. We have looked at The Bronze Age and Iron Age in History where the children have been learning about bronze smelting, grave goods and made their own Iron Age broaches in class. During the Science lessons, the class have been learning about bones and skeletons. They can label a human skeleton and they have also started to explore how tendons and muscles help us move. The children finished off their abstract oil pastel flowers in art and have loved learning some Christmas themed tunes on their recorders.

**Emerald class:** December has been a very busy month for our Year 4 children. They have been learning how to play tag rugby, have been in athletics competitions and have been enjoying Opal play at break times. The children have also been reading a story about a mysterious circus and another story about a mystical train that travels across space and different dimensions. They have been working hard on their handwriting and have been writing some lovely setting descriptions as well as writing Haiku poems for church. The class have been busy practising their clarinets and can now play notes from G to C which means they can play a few tunes





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including 'We Will Rock You'. They have made amazing progress and we look forward to them performing to parents next year.

**Ruby class:** Year 5 have had an incredibly busy and productive December, packed with exciting activities and plenty of learning! In English, the children put their imaginations to work by crafting detailed stories about Harry Potter's adventures at Hogwarts. They focused on including a range of Year 5 writing features, such as rich vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and dialogue to bring their stories to life. In maths, the children tackled fractions with enthusiasm, learning about equivalent fractions, converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, and solving problems involving them. Their determination to understand these challenging concepts has been impressive, and they have made fantastic progress. In Design and Technology, the children embraced a hands-on project, learning how to sew a blanket stitch. They applied this skill to create their own stuffed toys, showing patience, precision, and creativity. The results were amazing. In Science, Year 5 have conducted a variety of experiments. One highlight was investigating how the shape of a parachute affects its ability to slow down a payload. The children worked collaboratively, testing different designs and drawing conclusions from their observations. It has been a truly rewarding month, and the children have worked incredibly hard in every area of the curriculum. December has been filled with fun, learning, and accomplishments, and we are all looking forward to an equally exciting Spring term!

**Diamond class:** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! This month, aside from all of the Advent and Christmas activities dotted throughout the weeks (calendars, cards, quizzes, colouring competitions and songs) the children have been working hard on the curriculum. In English, we have continued learning about the plights of endangered animals in our stimulus book 'Can We Save the Tiger?' and have written letters from the perspective of a Bengali farmer whose livestock are being terrorised by a tiger. We have also recently been working on choosing modal verbs and using dashes for parenthesis while learning about the partula snail and its run-ins with giant African land snails and the rosy euglandina snail.

In Maths, our focus this month has been multiplying and dividing fractions as well as finding fractions of amounts and how this relates to percentages. On the 5<sup>th</sup> December, Diamond Class performed their class assembly play 'War - What is it good for?', where four pupils were whisked away on a whistle-stop tour of the Second World War by Doctor Who, learning first-hand about the experiences of people at home and abroad. In Art, Year 6 have continued to develop their photography skills and on top of designing album covers, they have decided on a famous painting to recreate as a photograph and what props will help them to achieve this. In RE, the class have deciphered the Nicene Creed and written their own creed displaying their specific beliefs. Coming up to Christmas, the class have also learned about how Jesus fulfils many of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies.

### Friends of Audlem School – CHRISTMAS FAIR SUCCESS – FINAL TOTAL £1,654

Friends of Audlem PTA are delighted to make two announcements:

**Money Raised: £1,654** at the Christmas Fair which is absolutely fantastic. Thank you to all who attended the fair, purchased raffle tickets, donated prizes, baked cakes and helped us both in the run up and on the day.

**Money spent/how funds raised are used to support our children: £10,000** will be donated to our school this week for the purchase of 32 laptops, each benefitting from a 3-year warranty. This means we can now ensure the whole school can access the computing curriculum, not just now but in the future as well. A huge thank you to the hard work of the outgoing Friends team who made this possible.





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### **Attendance this week**

Whole school weekly attendance 90.57% which is the lowest it has been this year and is a long way below our aim of 97%. This is entirely due to a sickness bug in school which has affected some classes hugely, as well as hand, foot and mouth and a virus which causes a high temperature. In EYFS/KS1, Pearl had the highest attendance and In KS2, Emerald had the best attendance. Congratulations to both classes.

### **School Kitchen Colouring Competition Winners**

There were so many excellent entries that the school cook decided to choose a winner and award a prize to each class as follows:

**Amethyst class:** Zoe Tighe

**Sapphire class:** Lucas Parkinson

**Pearl class:** Carter Swailes

**Amber class:** Ariana Tudor

**Emerald class:** Howie Goldrick

**Ruby class:** Toby Le Grice

**Diamond class:** Anya Miah

Thank you to every child who took part.

### **School Dinner Menu – Week 2 first week back in January beginning 6 January**

The menu for both weeks is available on the school website if you wish to check.

<https://www.audlemstjames.org.uk/parents/parent-information/school-dinners.html>

### **Finally**

It is important that our newsletter and all other forms of communication we send out to parents and carers, give you a clear and detailed picture of our work in school, so that you are kept up to date with events in school and our community. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the content of newsletters please get in touch with me.

A.Perry.

