



SIAMS Outstanding
Church School

Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Thursday, 29 November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Diary Dates & News

As the term rushes on towards Advent (this weekend) and Christmas, here are some important events reminders and information to share with everyone about the very busy and exciting time of year coming up...

**Friday 30th November, Christingle Service at 2:45pm in St John's Church, Old Hutton
ALL WELCOME!**

**Tuesday 11th December, 'The Sound of Music' KS2 Christmas Musical at 2pm and 6pm
in New Hutton Village Hall
with seasonal refreshments & raffle provided by the PTA (after both events)
ALL WELCOME!**

**Tuesday 18th December, The Nativity by R/KS1 at 2:30pm in St John's Church, Old Hutton
ALL WELCOME!**

**Tuesday 18th December, The KS2 Christmas Fair 3:30-5pm in Old Hutton Village Hall
with lots of Christmas stalls, games & fun provided by our KS2 pupils
& seasonal refreshments & raffle provided by the PTA
ALL WELCOME!**

**Wednesday 19th December, the school choir singing Christmas Carols 9:30-11.15am
at the NatWest Bank, Elephant Yard, Kendal
ALL WELCOME TO SUPPORT US!**

Thursday 20th December, Christmas Lunch & parties in school

**Friday 21st December, Christmas Carol Service at 1:15pm in St John's Church, Old Hutton
(& school closes for the end of term after this service, at 2pm)
ALL WELCOME!**

The Sound of Music and Nativity productions

This year, with a larger number of pupils in school, we are changing from our usual whole-school production to split into 2 separate ones for R/KS1 and KS2. As noted above, **R/KS1 (Classes 1 and 2)** will perform their version of a **traditional Nativity play** in church on 18th Dec, with all parents and pre-school invited to come along and watch, and which will be followed immediately by our KS2 Christmas Fair in the village hall. This will make an extra-special festive occasion for the whole school community to share in during the last week of term just before Christmas! **Costumes for the Nativity will be provided by and organised in school** - any questions, please see Mrs Hopkins.

With just under 2 weeks to go to 11th Dec, preparations for the **KS2 musical, our own version of 'The Sound of Music'** based on the true story of the Von Trapp Family escaping Austria during the Second World War, are now well underway. Every child from KS2 is involved, with R, Y1 and Y2 joining the audience to enjoy the matinee performance (2pm). All KS1 pupils who are members of the school choir will also be involved in the KS2 musical, in a special song as part of the 'concert' which happens at the end of the musical. As well as being a celebration of our pupils' many dramatic, musical and artistic talents, this project also forms a key part of this term's WW2 History topic in Class 4, English (reading for performance, speaking and listening, drama, adverts, recounts and reports), Music, RE (learning about the life of a nun), ICT (programmes, posters), Art/DT (props, posters) and makes an invaluable contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including improving confidence, self-esteem and the key skills of teamwork and

communication. Furthermore, our play is linked to this term's Christian Value, Peace, as it tells the story from the viewpoint of a Captain of the Imperial Navy objecting to the war and choosing not to fight.

We hope that as many of you as possible, plus family and friends, will be able to join us at either or both performance/s. The events will each be followed by refreshments and a raffle, kindly provided by the PTA (on 18th Dec, after the Nativity, these will take place in the village hall in Old Hutton as part of our Christmas Fair).

The Sound of Music – more information

All KS2 pupils have a script and/or song words which they should be bringing home to read through and learn. **This is now the key homework focus for the next 2 weeks! Please ensure that all pupils practise their words at home** and that the booklets come into school each day ready for any practices.

Costumes will also be needed, as follows:

- **All pupils in Y3/Y4** are playing the role of 'the local villagers' in 1930s Austria and need to wear suitable costumes, as follows (please feel free to use the film as inspiration for ideas). The **school choir pupils in Y1/Y2** will also need to wear the same costumes:
 - **Girls:** Pinafore dress or skirt with blouse/shirt/top or 'traditional-style' dress, ideally also with a shawl around shoulders fastened with a brooch; long hair tied back or in bunches or plaited with ribbon/s; long socks or tights; pumps or plain shoes
 - **Boys** (and Girls dressed as boys!): dark trousers (not jeans – school trousers are ideal) tucked into long plain socks (to make them knee-length) or shorts with long socks pulled up to knees; shirts tucked in with braces over shoulders (a 'lederhosen-style' outfit); a neckerchief; pumps (not trainers), plain black/dark-coloured shoes; possible extra - a trilby-style hat (with a feather)
- **Some pupils playing main parts** may need slightly different costumes or additional 'bits' – these will be discussed with individual pupils/parents, but if you are unsure or need more information, please ask Miss Harrison, Mrs Birch or myself
 - **Nuns/Mother Abbess:** a full-length plain black dress or top/long skirt and nun-style wimple headdress
 - **Captain/Herr Zeller/Uncle Max:** a smart suit, ideally with a trilby-style hat
 - **Officers:** black trousers and a long-sleeved black shirt.
 - **Maria and Von Trapp Children:** similar to local villagers above - girls need to wear a grey/black pinafore or skirt with a white shirt and long socks or tights; boys need to wear grey or black shorts/trousers with braces/'lederhosen' with long socks pulled up. (They also need a large shawl or winter coat for the final scene).

As well as your own child's costume, if anyone would like to help us make some simple 'Play Clothes' for the Von Trapp Children we would be very grateful – we have some 'curtain' style material in school from which we would like a couple of pinafores, headscarves, neckerchiefs, sashes etc making - seven items of clothing/accessories in total. Please get in touch asap if you are able to assist us!

Any offers of help with scenery/props/costume-making are also very welcome – please get in touch!

Please let us know in school as soon as possible if you need any help with your own costume. We would like all pupils to bring their costume in to school in a named bag to be checked next Thursday 6th December.

On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th all KS2 pupils (Classes 3 and 4) will spend the whole day (including lunch) at New Hutton. If possible, these pupils should be taken directly to the village hall at New Hutton (rather than school) for 9am, where staff will meet them. They should also be collected from New Hutton at the end of the day on both days. We will liaise with the school bus to ensure that bus pupils are transported to/collected from there also.

On Tuesday 11th all school choir pupils in Y1/Y2 will also join in the practices for the whole day, so need to be dropped off directly at and collected from New Hutton village hall too, as above.

On Tuesday 11th all Reception and Y1/Y2 pupils will join the rest of school at New Hutton after lunch, being transported up to New Hutton by Dan Willan's bus at approx. 12:30pm. They will just need collecting from New Hutton village hall at the end of the day, as above.

Any pupils attending Breakfast or After School Club on Monday or Tuesday will be transported to/from school as needed by school staff.

Please note that, due to these different arrangements, the usual after-school football club for KS2 on Monday will NOT take place on the 10th December.

Our peripatetic music lessons for flute/fife, guitar/drums, singing/strings will also not happen on these days, but we hope to be able to re-arrange them for later in the week – to be confirmed.

If you have any problems with transport to/from New Hutton, or any questions about any of these arrangements, please let us know. Please also sign and return the permission and offer of help slip at the end of this letter asap. Please note that we **MUST** have signed permission to take pupils off site. Thank you.

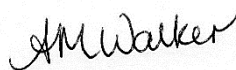
Awesome lunches on 10th and/or 11th December – ONLY FOR KS2 and/or choir PRE ORDERED HOT MEALS

For KS2 and/or choir children, we ask that children either bring a packed lunch for the day (no nuts, sweets or glass bottles please) or that you ask for your **pre ordered**, school lunch choice to be converted to a packed lunch. This will be a choice of sandwich, a biscuit, fruit and a drink. Please complete your preferences on the slip below.

Carol Singing with the School Choir in Kendal

As noted above, we are again taking our **School Choir into Kendal town centre to sing in/outside the NatWest Bank and Elephant Yard this year, on Wednesday 19th December.** This event is by kind invitation of the NatWest Bank, arranged by parent and governor, Claire Toone, with music organised and conducted by our choir leader, Kate Thomas. This was a great success last year and should be another super festive occasion for us, as well as a good opportunity to raise more funds for our chosen charity this term, Help for Heroes. We will leave school at 9:15am to begin singing at approx 9:45am and continue (with a hot chocolate break half-way!) until approx. 11.15am, when we will return to school in plenty of time for lunch. **Please sign the permission slip below (the same one as for Sound of Music).** Everyone is also very welcome to come along, with plenty family and friends to support us (and join in with us if you wish!) in Kendal, anytime between 9:45 and 11.15am.

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Parent/carer offers of help with costumes and/or props

Name of Parent/carer:

Day/s available in week beginning 3rd Dec or able to help at home:

Permission Slip for 'Sound of Music' Practice Days at New Hutton Village Hall – ALL KS2 pupils and School Choir pupils in Y1/2 and for Carol Singing in Kendal – ALL pupils in the School Choir

Name of Child/Children:

I give permission for my child/children to attend practice day/s at New Hutton Village Hall and (if a member of the School Choir) Carol Singing in Kendal as detailed in the letter above.

Signed:

Parent/Guardian

Awesome Family Lunches (Please only complete if your child is in KS2 and/or choir and has an **existing order**.)

Name of Child/Children:

- I would like to **change** my child's order to a cheese / ham / tuna mayonnaise sandwich.
- I would like to **cancel** my child's order and will provide a packed lunch for my child on the day.

Signed:

Parent/Guardian