

December 2023 Newsletter

Singleton Church of England Primary School

"Passion for LearningPassion for life"

Christian Value – Friendship

John 15:12-15. 12 My command is this: 'Love each other as I have loved you'.

Dear Parents,

What an interesting year 2023 has been with many events both at home and abroad, King Charles' Coronation, Cyclone Freddy – (the longest lasting cyclone in history), Pope Benedicts death, Israel–Hamas war but to name a few. I believe that it is more important than ever that we prepare our young people for the ever- changing world in which they live. It has been wonderful this year to see our pupils developing an eagerness to take an active interest in political and social events at their age appropriate level. Our year 5 and 6 children have astounded me with their ability to reflect and debate around news headlines with knowledge and understanding beyond their years. The children continue to make me proud on a daily basis. Our 'Christian Leaders' take their responsibilities very seriously, they are excellent role models leading the way with our values of wisdom, trust, respect, endeavour, love and caring. The Junior Leadership team have risen to the challenges this year. They are confident, brilliant little leaders that are passionate about their school and love having the opportunity to represent the 'pupil voice' contributing as to how we can further improve and develop.

Our successes have been vast in 2023, outstanding academic results that should be celebrated, but more than that, our children are growing into happy, caring, confident individuals with aspirations, ambition and a sense of pride.

Christmas is a time to celebrate, and give thanks for what we have and what we have achieved. But it is also a time to think about others less fortunate than ourselves and at the moment with the cost of living crisis on our doorstep and the multiple war-torn countries there is much to reflect upon. On behalf of all the staff at Singleton School I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

There is so much happening in school over the next few weeks – please keep your eye on the diary dates so that you don't miss anything.



Opening Times

Monday	7.30 am - 8.45am	3:15 – 5:30 pm
Tuesday	7.30 am - 8.45am	3:15 – 5:30 pm
Wednesday	7.30 am - 8.45am	3:15 – 5:30 pm
Thursday	7.30 am - 8.45am	3:15 – 5:30 pm
Friday	7.30 am - 8.45am	3:15 – 5:30 pm

Booking for Acorns closes at 7p.m for the following day. This helps to manage staff and ratios. Without booking the day before, the children will be unable to attend.

All booking information and links are on the school website. Please be aware that fees are subject to change. Acorns offer a 10% discount for siblings. This will automatically be deducted upon booking.

Important Information:

Acorns has its own Facebook page – please have a look at all the wonderful activities that they provide. The feedback from our children is that the club is "amazing". We agree with them!!!

For any further enquiries, contact details are as follows:

Current Fees

Before School Breakfast Club	7.30 am - 8.45 am	£4.75 per child (includes breakfast)
After School Club – full session	3.15 pm - 5.30 pm	£9.50 per child (includes snack)
After School Club – early session	3.15 pm - 4.15 pm	£4.50 per child (no snack)
After School Club following an extra-curriculum activity	4.15pm - 5.30 pm	£5:00 per child (includes snack)

- Sarah Goldie TEL: 07860816175
- EMAIL: sarahgoldie_uk@outlook.com



School Office

If you need to contact school for any reason then the office opening hours are as follows:-

Monday	8.00 am - 4.15pm
Tuesday	8.00 am - 4.15 pm
Wednesday	8.00 am - 4.15 pm
Thursday	8.00 am - 4.15 pm
Friday	8.00 am - 3.15 pm

Tel (01253) 882226

Please note that the office is closed for lunch between **12:00 and 1:00pm**.

Children cannot be collected, without prior arrangement, between these times.

The phone will not be answered at this time, but a message can be left.

Payments to School

Please note all clubs and dinners must be paid for **in advance**.

Dinner Money

You can pay for School dinners on a weekly or half-termly basis. If you choose to pay weekly, you will need to pay a week **in advance**.

Dinner money for this term will be £62.50 please pay this via ParentPay.

If you decide that you no longer want your child to have a school dinner or you want to take up the school dinner option, you must give the office a **weeks' notice**, as all food is ordered a week in advance.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please inform the office by 9.20am and **leave a message** on the answerphone.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Information about PE and Extra-Curricular activities

- Please make sure that your child has additional kit for any after school activity, as P.E. Kit **must not** be worn.
- It is important that for sports such as football and hockey your children have the correct kit (clearly labelled with the child's first and last name) as these clubs **will always** take place outdoors (e.g. Football boots, shin pads, waterproof etc.)– Please ask Mrs James if you are unsure what your child needs.
- Mrs Stansfield will oversee the smooth running of the clubs and ensure that children are passed over to parents/ carers at the end of the session.
- All children attending extra-curricular clubs should be collected from Class 3's door. Please pick up your child promptly at **4.15pm after clubs**.
- Please make sure that you pay for clubs in advance. If this does not happen then your child will not be booked on the course. All payments are via the 'ParentPay' system.
- Please note that as we continue to receive the Sports Grant in the year 2023 / 24 we will continue to supplement the cost of the extra-curricular activities once again this year. However due to increases in costs there will be a slight price increase to £3:00 per session (£4.50 for tennis).



The overall attendance for **November** was 96%

For more information about attendance and holidays in term time, please check out the school website.

If you need support with attendance and punctuality please contact Miss Manns, our Family Learning Mentor.



Happy Birthday to the following children
December

4th – Emmeline Long

5th – Nancy Lee

8th – James Hacking

13th – Oliver Robinson

29th – Arianna Mutema

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

FROM MONDAY 15TH JANUARY TO THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2024

	Lower School (FS/Y1/Y2)	Upper School (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6)
Monday	Handball Y2 £12	Handball Y3 £12 Dance Y3/4/5 £12 Numeracy Booster Class Y6
Tuesday	Brass (Lunchtime) Y2 £20 Football (Outdoor) Y2 £12	Brass (Lunchtime) Y3/4/5/6 £20 Football (Outdoor) Y3 £12 Multi skills (Outdoor) Y3/4/5 £12 Literacy Booster Class Y6
Wednesday	Tennis Y2 £18	Tennis Y3 £18 Outdoor Hockey Y4/5/6 £12
Thursday	Singing (Lunchtime) Y2 £20 Speed Stacking Y2 £12	Singing (Lunchtime) Y3-Y6 £20 Speed Stacking Y3 £12 Football Y4/5/6 £12

New Clubs may be added during the Term, when we have new staffing in place.

Payment Miss Stansfield will email parents in advance of the new term to outline the clubs on offer. Club places are allocated on a first come first served basis. Sporting Clubs are provided by third party providers.

Healthy Snacks Policy

We ask that you ensure that you continue to support this; the Governing Body made this decision because we have a number of children with allergies and we also promote 'Healthy Eating' in our school. If other snacks are sent in, they will be returned home.



Parish and Community links



Family Communion

Our Family Communion service is held every Sunday at 9.30am. On the first Sunday of the month this is followed by coffee and biscuits served in church.

Children

Junior Church runs on the second Sunday of every month at 09:30am. (Contact Fiona Small for information; 07913 901015)

There is also an 'All-Age Family' service at St. Chad's on the first Sunday of every month at 10:00am (lasts about 45 mins).

Note: Qualification for application to Saint Aidan's on faith grounds is that parents attend church twice a month - all the services listed above would count.

Christmas Services

Carol Service: Sunday 17th December 4pm.

Christmas Eve: 4pm Crib Service, 11 30pm Midnight Communion.

Christmas Day: 9 30am Holy Communion.

Parental Workshops 2024

Parent courses and workshops

The staff have once again organized parental courses/ workshops as we have done in the past. This year we are going to run the courses online as we know from feedback that the majority of parents find this easier. We would actively encourage parents to try and join these workshops as they really are useful. If you are interested in any of these please let Miss Stansfield know so she can reserve your place and send you the links.

All Parents – In school

- **Friday 19th Jan 2024 – 2:15 – 3:15pm** - Learning Mentor support sessions - Social / Emotional / Behaviour support. Everybody Welcome for a cup of tea and a chat.
- We have lots of useful leaflets and these sessions are good opportunities to chat with other parents. Miss Manns will also go through the Solihull Approach and developmental milestones as well.

Lost Property

We seem to have a lot of lost property already in school this term. Please ensure that all your child's uniform (this includes coats and Extra-Curricular sport kits) are clearly labelled. We will only be keeping lost property for the full term, because as you can imagine we haven't got much space to store it all in school. Please check the lost property box at reception



November 2023

Foundation

Harry Dobson, Fleur Hay, Alice Kelly, Etta Leonard, Emmeline Long, Margot Rhodes, Harriet Smith.

Class 1

William Smith, Blake Suleyman, Thomas Bramley, Arthur Young, Violet Evans, Lily Fox, James Hacking.

Class 2

Theo Tomlinson, Ralph Wieszka, Daniel Birks, Huxley Ingham, Harry Fox, George Bebbington, Sebastian Lyons.

Class 3

Finley Piggott, Mia Visvanathan, Rocco Fusco, Gabriella Wills, Nancy Lee, Sienna Rushworth, Luis Rigby.



November 2023

Foundation

Layla Baker, Harry Barlow, Jack Colling, Alice Kelly.

Class 1

Michael Green, Phoebe Patterson, Annabelle Lyons, Ralph Shearer.

Class 2

Matilda Ashworth, Annabel Smith, Samson Ingham, Charlie Wills.

Class 3

Luis Rigby, Will Tomlinson, Jensen Abrahams, Molly Montgomery.



Diary Dates and Holidays

HOLIDAYS 2023 /2024

Autumn Term 2023

Open: Wednesday 6th September 2023
Half Term: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2023
Closes: Thursday 21st December 2023 at 1.30 pm.

Spring Term 2024

Open: Monday 8th January 2024
Half Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2024
Closes: Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Open: Monday 15th April 2024
May Day: Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024
Closes: Friday 19th July 2024

Total number of openings – 190 days

Inset days

1st, 4th and 5th September 2023
 22nd December 2023
 22nd July 2024

HOLIDAYS 2024 /2025

PROVISIONAL DATES

Autumn Term 2024

Open: Thursday 5th September 2024
Half Term: Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October 2024
Closes: Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Open: Monday 6th January 2025
Half Term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025
Closes: Friday 4th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Open: Tuesday 22nd April 2025
May Day: Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025
Closes: Friday 18th July 2025

Total number of openings – 190 days

Please note these are proposed dates and need to be agreed by the full governors in December

Inset days

2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2024
 21st and 22nd July 2025

Dates for your Diary - (3 months in advance)

December	January	February
5 th – Infant Nativity in School 6pm. 6 th – Infant Nativity in School 2pm. 7 th – Worship Church 9am – All Welcome 7 th – Christmas Jumper Day 12 th – Whole School Trip to the Pantomime at The Grand Theatre – Aladdin. 13 th – Junior Carol Service in Church 6pm No Clubs Today 14 th – Junior Carol Service in Church 2pm No Clubs Today 19 th – Christmas Dinner and Party Day. 20 th – Prize Giving 8:45 am 21 st – School Closes at 1.30pm.	8 th – School Opens. AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START NEXT WEEK 15 th – X Factor competition starts 15 TH – Year 6 Maths Booster Class 3.15-4.15 16 th – Year 6 English Booster Class 3.15-4.15pm 19 th – Parent Workshop with Ms Manns (The Learning Mentor): 2:15pm. 22 nd – Year 6 Maths Booster 3.15-4.15pm 23 rd – Year 6 English Booster 3.15-4.15pm 23 rd – Life Education Bus. 29 th – Class 3 Assembly at 8.45am. 29 th – Year 6 Maths Booster 3.15-4.15pm 30 th – Year 6 English Booster 3.15-4.15pm	5 th – Class 1 Assembly at 8.45am 5 th – Year 6 Maths Booster 3.15-4.15pm 6 th – Year 6 English Booster 3.15-4.15pm 8 th – X – Factor Final. 9 th – School Closes at 3.15pm. 19 th – School Opens. 19 th – Maths Booster 3.15-4.15pm 20 th – English Booster 3.15-4.15pm 23 rd – FOSS non uniform – Easter Egg / Chocolate donation. 26 th – Class 2 Assembly at 8.45am 26 th – Maths Booster 3.15-4.15pm 27 th – English Booster 3.15-4.15pm

Please note that we try to inform you of diary dates/changes to dates well in advance so that you can plan. We will not necessarily send out specific letters for every individual event as dates and times are quite clearly indicated in the monthly newsletter which gives up to 3 months' notice. Miss Stansfield usually does try to send out reminder texts/Facebook notices as an additional support to parents, but this may not always happen during busy periods.

Absent for Medical Appointments

If your child has a Medical Appointment, please provide the School Office with a letter or screenshot of a text message, showing the appointment date and time, for our records – Thank you.



Pantomime at the Grand Theatre



The annual visit to the Grand Theatre will be on:-

Tuesday 12th December.

This year the Panto is Aladdin. There has been an increase in costs for the coaches this year (due to the rising fuel prices) and we are really grateful to our wonderful FOSS for very kindly paying for one of the coaches.

This will mean that we are able to keep the cost down to £20 per child. Please could all outstanding payments for the Panto be paid on ParentPay by 7th December at the latest as we need to pay the Grand Theatre and the coaches.

Christmas Dinner and Parties

Our Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday 19th December

All children are welcome to have a school Christmas dinner. If your child is on a packed lunch and you would like them to have a school dinner on this day please speak to Mrs. Reeves in the Office. The cost of a Christmas dinner is £2.50. Those children who already have a school meal will already receive a Christmas Dinner.



Our Christmas Parties will also take place on this day. Children are allowed to wear party clothes – so please come to school in party clothes!

Please make sure that children wear suitable shoes and bring a coat, as they will have outdoor playtimes as normal.



Miss Manns is going to run Parent Workshops again this academic year. They are very much an informal coffee and a biscuit type event and we encourage parents to come along.

This year after feedback from parents and staff the focus is going to be on the following:-

- Supporting your child with emotional health and well-being.
- Supporting with behaviour.
- Supporting with resilience.

These workshops are intended to be a supportive session. We will go through the Solihull Approach looking at the importance of reciprocity, containment, resilience and the relationship between a parent and a child.

We will chat about behaviour, looking at behaviour management strategies, consistency, boundaries structure and routines. Finally, we will discuss behavioural developmental milestones.

The next session is planned for
**Friday 19th January 2024 –
2:15 – 3:15pm**

Please let the office know if you can attend.



FOSS (Friends of Singleton School) Updates

Up and coming events

Event	Date and time
Easter Raffle	Each year we do an Easter Egg / Chocolate raffle for the children. The FOSS team make lovely chocolate hampers for each class. The raffle tickets are sold via ParentPay. The non-uniform day for this event will take place in February 2024.
Non-uniform day	Friday 23 rd February – FOSS non-uniform – Easter Egg / Chocolate donation.

All families are automatically a member of FOSS (Friends of Singleton School). FOSS are a small team of parent volunteers that work incredibly hard behind the scenes organizing events. They are always looking for volunteers and encourage parents to become involved. You don't have to be available to help with every event, they welcome any support even if it's just behind the scenes support. The more money that FOSS raise the more exciting projects we can do for the children.

If you can help in any way, please email friendsofsingleton@outlook.com

Prize Giving



Our Autumn Term Prize Giving will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 8:45am in the New Hall

For those parents new to school we have a Prize giving celebration at the end of each term.

Children receive awards for the following

- Christian Values
- Progress
- Ethos
- Creativity
- Effort and Achievement

If your child has won an award then Mrs. Reeves will contact you. Please do not tell your child as we like them to be surprised on the day.

Christmas Diary Dates



Christmas is fast approaching and that means many diary dates. Please make sure you make a note of the production times.

This year there will be two Infant **Nativity performances in School**

- **Tuesday 5th** - Nativity 6pm
- **Wednesday 6th** - Nativity 2pm

This year there will be **two Junior Carol Concerts in Church**

- **Wednesday 13th** Junior Carol concert 6pm
- **Thursday 14th** Junior Carol service 2pm

Tickets are on sale (via ParentPay) priced at £3:00.

All the money raised through the selling of tickets to the Christmas events is used to buy things for the children. For example at Christmas, we buy: -

- Prizes for the Christmas Parties.
- Crackers for the Christmas Dinner.
- A present for every child from Father Christmas.
- Drinks and sweets / biscuits for the Grand Theatre Panto.
- As well as purchasing props, production licenses etc.



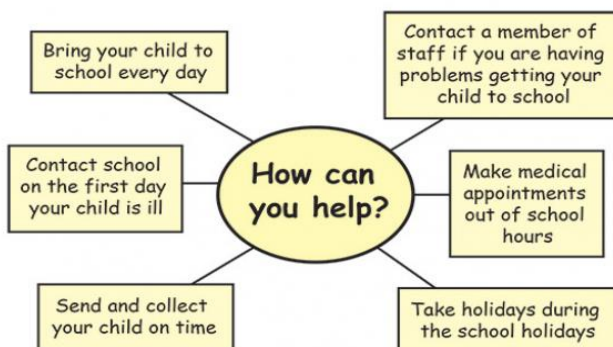
The Importance of good attendance



Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which is this the number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

Your children get 14 weeks holiday a year!

There are **38 weeks** in the year when schools are open, and **14 weeks (175 days)** when families can visit family overseas; go on holiday; travel; pupils can work, take educational trips, attend non urgent medical appointments.....**So is your request for leave exceptional?**



When a Child Arrives Late:

- It interrupts concentration.
- It wastes valuable learning time.
- The teacher repeats information / instructions whilst others have to wait.
- The late child is at an immediate disadvantage because they may have missed important teaching points, missed discussions where ideas are shared and will be generally unsettled.
- Children feel stressed and anxious about having to walk into their lessons late, some children find being late very distressing.
- **Please note school starts at 8:40 and the expectation is that all pupils enter school at this time.**

A polite reminder about drop off and collecting on time before / after school and after clubs.

- Parents will drop off / collect children (or arrange for this to happen) **punctually** – if parents are late then the children will be placed in Kids Club and there will be a charge. Please note there is an expectation that you collect promptly at 3:15 (or 4:15pm if your child participates in an Extra – Curricular activity).
- Late collection is monitored by Miss Manns (Family Learning Mentor).



Safeguarding Information for parents

Singleton Safeguarding team

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

- **Amanda Clayton** (Head) – Lead DSL
- **Leonie Millward** (SENCO) – DSL
- **Kate James** (Online / PREVENT) – DSL
- **Susan Manns** - DSL

Governors with Responsibility for Safeguarding

- **Alec Davies** – Chair of the Governing Body / Safer recruitment
- **Keith Walker** – Chair of the SHE committee / Safer recruitment

Safeguarding DBS lead

- **Rachel Reeves** (Office Manager)
 - Rachel keeps and maintains a log of all staff and volunteers who have DBS clearance to work with children and the Governors review, and general safeguarding in school monthly.

Prevent Lead

- **Kate James** (Y5/6 Teacher)
- **Alec Davies** (Governor)

Useful information / Publications for parents

Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership

Each month we will provide some links or publications to download that will cover a wide range of current Safeguarding information for parents taken from the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Website. (CSAP)

This month we are focusing on **'Online Sexual Harrassment'**



Dame Rachel de Souza DBE Children's Commissioner for England undertook the largest ever survey of children – 'The big Ask' – to understand children's lives. The findings concluded that there were significant issues around sexualized bullying and child on child abuse and that most children wanted support and more importantly wanted the support to come from their parents or carers.

Talking to our children can be hard, we can feel uncomfortable, not just because of the sexual nature of the topic but also because our children know more about technology than we do. But children want to talk to their parents about this so it is important that as parents we have the knowledge to give the answers our children need.



Did you know

- Over half of 11–13-year-olds have already seen pornography.
- Many children view porn unintentionally for the first time – 62% of 11–13-year-olds say that their viewing of porn was mostly or more unintentional.
- Parents' perceptions of how much porn their children are watching does not match the reality: only 25% of parents think that their child has seen porn – compared to 53% of children who have.

There is a fantastic guide – produced by the children's commissioner that provides a wealth of supportive information for parents. Please click on the link below to read.



https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_dec_2021.pdf



Christmas Finish times

We close for the Christmas Break on Thursday 21st December at 1:30pm – **We ask that you please collect your children promptly.**

Acorns Singleton is staying open until 3:30pm – if you wish to book a place, please use the link below

<https://acornsbreakfastandafterschoolclub.kidsclubhq.co.uk/cust#/auth>



Primary School Applications

Important dates

The arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary schools in September 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

1 September 2023 - Apply from this date

- School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

15 January 2024 - National closing date for primary applications (statutory).

- During this period all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the published admissions policy. Where there are more applications than places available, decisions are made as to which children should be offered the available places. We will liaise and exchange information with all other admission authorities including neighbouring local authorities. The allocation and offer of a primary school place is finalised.

16 April 2024 - Offers issued to parents.

(The national offer date is 16 April, if this date falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, offers are sent the next working day).

If you are not happy with an initial offer, the appeals period starts from your receipt of the offer. [Appeal information](#) will be issued later as this allows some time for reserve lists to operate.

Appeals which we receive after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where possible. We cannot guarantee this however, and late appeals may have to be heard after the agreed date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venue, etc.

