

November 2023 Newsletter

Singleton Church of England Primary School

"Passion for LearningPassion for life"

Christian Value – Respect

Luke 6:31 "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

Dear Parents,

The new school year is now well and truly underway, our Foundation Stage children have settled in beautifully and their characters are now blossoming. I have been particularly impressed this term with our Junior Leadership Team. We have such a pro-active group of children who are committed and invested to making our school the best it can be. They are wonderful role models to our younger children and they display excellent leadership qualities.

STEM week was a great success – A BIG thank you to all our STEM visitors, the children learnt so much and had a truly wonderful week. Thank you also to Mr Hogg for arranging and coordinating the week.

Christmas is just around the corner and this is the most exciting and magical time in the school year. We have many exciting events in the pipeline, with Christmas Productions, Fairs and Pantomimes to name but a few. Check out the dates for your diary section so you do not miss anything. Finally, our new TA Miss Morgan has started her role she will be supporting children across school, please make her feel welcome.



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**

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 £97.50 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 Lilley 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 **October** was

97%

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
November

2nd – William
2nd – George
5th – Penelope
6th – Luca F
6th – Rocco
9th – Luca N
19th – Finley P
26th – Etta
27th – Oliver H
27th – Harry B

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS FROM MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER TO TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2023

	Lower School (FS/Y1/Y2)	Upper School (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6)
Monday	Multi-Skills Y2 £21	Multi-Skills Y3 £21 Dance Y4/5/6 £21
Tuesday	Brass (Lunchtime) Y2 £35 Football (Outdoor) Y2 £15 Christmas Reading Club Y1/Y2 (until 4pm) £5	Brass (Lunchtime) Y3/4/5/6 £35 Football Y3 £15 Basketball Y4/5/6 £15
Wednesday	Outdoor Hockey Y2 £12	Outdoor Hockey Y3 £12 Tennis Y4/5/6 £18
Thursday	Singing (Lunchtime) Y2 £35 Yoga & Mindfulness Y2 £15	Singing (Lunchtime) Y3-Y6 £35 Yoga & Mindfulness Y3 £15 Football Y4/5/6 £15

As you can imagine this is the busiest Term in the School Calendar, therefore we have had to cancel the following days, for after school Clubs;

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd November

Tuesday 7th November

Wednesday 8th November

DECEMBER

Tuesday 5th December

Wednesday 6th December

Wednesday 13th December

Thursday 14th December

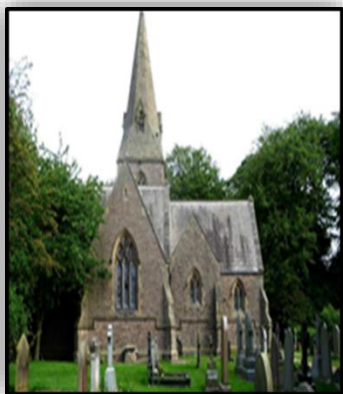
Payment Miss Stansfield will email parents in advance of the new term to outline the clubs on offer. Club places are allocated on a first come first served basis. Sporting Clubs are provided by third party providers.

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.

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) is 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 in the school's main entrance.



October 2023

Foundation

Martha Blacow
George Chamberlain
Jack Colling

Class 1

Matilda Glover
Olivia Hubbard
Alexia Lilley

Class 2

Thomas Colling
Samson Ingham
Penelope Wilson
Arianna Mutema
Sebastian Wilson

Class 3

Alfie Cross
Oliver Hall
Mia Masters



October 2023

Foundation

Etta Leonard, Freddie Webb, Fleur Hay,
Harry Dobson.

Class 1

William Smith, Olivia Stagg,
Jacob Lettherd, Sienna Walwyn.

Class 2

Evie Potter, Ava Hacking, Charlotte
Knapman, Huxley Ingham.

Class 3

Ruby Pitches, Daniel Small, Reuben
Smith, James Smith.



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

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)

November	December	January
2 nd – New Parents Open Morning 9.30am. 2 nd – FOSS Magical Disco (Years 3/4/5/6) 6 th – Foundation Class Assembly - 8:50am 7 th – Virtual Parents evening 8 th – Virtual Parents evening 20 th New Parents Open Afternoon 1.30pm. 24 th – Non-uniform day – Chocolate donation.	1 st – FOSS Christmas Fair 3.15pm. 5 th – Infant Nativity 6pm. 6 th – Infant Nativity 2pm. 12 th – Whole School Trip to the Pantomime at The Grand Theatre – Aladdin. 13 th – Junior Carol Service 6pm. 14 th – Junior Carol Service 2pm. 19 th Christmas Dinner and Party Day. 21 st School Closes at 1.30pm.	8 th – School Opens. 19 th – Parent Workshop with Ms Manns (The Learning Mentor). 23 rd – Life Education Bus 29 th – Class 3 Assembly.
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.



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.

Payments will be added to ParentPay in the next couple of weeks.

Virtual Progress Evenings

VIRTUAL PROGRESS EVENING

This term we will be holding our 'Progress Evenings' virtually. Face to Face meetings will take place in the Spring term.

The virtual progress evenings will take place as follows

- Tuesday 7th November
- Wednesday 8th November

You will be able to book your own time slots via the link sent to you and you will be able to choose which date is more convenient

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!



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 Jan 2024 – 2:15 – 3:15pm

Please let the office know if you can attend



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 Church

- **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 will be on sale towards the end of November 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.

Up and coming events

Event	Date and time
Magical Disco	Thursday 2nd November - FOSS Magical Disco, from 3.15 – 4.45pm for Classes 2 and 3.
Non-uniform days	24th November – non-uniform day – Chocolate donation  <p>Mrs Millward is organising a Chocolate tombola and sweet stall at the Christmas Fair as this is always very popular with the children. She would be very grateful for any donations of sweets / chocolates so that we can make lovely Christmas sweetie bags for the stall as well as tombola prizes.</p>
Christmas Fair	1st December 3:15pm – New Hall

November and December are busy months for FOSS events, so please put the dates in your diary. FOSS will send out separate letters with full details of significant events.

The Christmas Fair is fast approaching it will take place on: -

- **Friday 1st December at 3:15 pm**

We always need volunteers and also welcome any fresh ideas. This is a really popular event and we look forward to all our families supporting. If you can help out in any way, whether it be on the day helping with set up and running stalls, or behind the scenes, please let the FOSS team know. We always need cakes for our cake stalls and raffle prizes – so if you can't help out on the day but could donate some cakes or volunteer to try and get donations for raffle prizes, we would be very grateful.

'Thank You' to Clare

The Chair of FOSS - Clare Yates, is stepping down this month. She has championed a team of Parents and raised an amazing amount of money for the school in her time as Chair. We would like to say a massive 'Thank You' for her dedication and time that she has given to this role, over the last 5 years.



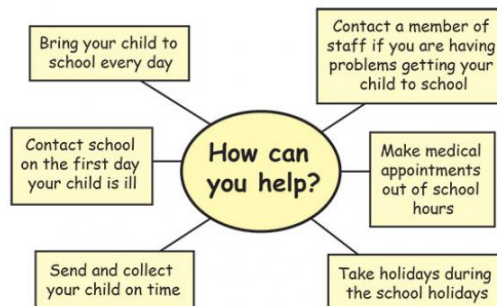
The Importance of good attendance



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

- 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**

Late:

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 'Viral Scares' online**

Reports of online scares or challenges encouraging harmful or suicidal behaviours can be alarming and confusing. Here we look at how you can speak to your child about scares and challenges, and how to respond if they have seen one.

Stories and warnings often circulate online about online scares or suicide challenges which are alleged to have encouraged children to engage in harmful activities. Most have been found to be hoaxes, fake news or wildly exaggerated stories.

Seeing or hearing about this content can be distressing for both children and parents.

What to do if you've heard about a viral scare/suicide challenge?

As a parent, there is a lot you can do to support your child. It's important to help your child feel safe by staying calm.

- If your child has not yet heard about the scare, don't bring it to their attention by naming it or trying to explain it. You don't want to frighten them, and the last thing you want is for your child to feel curious and try to look for the scary content online.



- Instead, remind them that if they ever feel worried about something they see online - or hear about from friends - worries them they can come to you or another adult they trust for help.
- Make sure they know if they do see something upsetting or worrying, they are in control. Tell them that they can [report it to the platform](#) they are using and close down their app or browser – and you can help them with this.
- Use this as an opportunity to check that privacy settings are enabled on the apps they use and [set parental controls](#) to filter out inappropriate content.
- Continue to have open and honest conversations with your child. Keep up-to-date with what they are doing online, celebrate the positives, and keep talking about how they can stay safe.

What to do if your child has seen, or been involved in, a viral scare or suicide challenge?

- Understandably you may be distressed or angry if you hear that your child has seen, or been involved in, a viral scare/suicide challenge. It's important to stay calm, take their concerns seriously and reassure them that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Reassure them that it is not real and that it has been put online to frighten people. [BBC Own It](#) have made a video which explains this clearly for young people.
- Remind them that when they do see something upsetting or worrying that they are in control. They can report it to the platform they are using and close down their app or browser.
- Talk to them about other sources of support – speaking to you will have helped, but further support from other sources could also help. There are [lots of organisations](#) out there can provide this.



It is with great sadness that we say Goodbye to our lovely Mr. Hogg. Mr. Hogg has only worked at Singleton School for a short time – but he has most definitely made his mark!

He has been a valued member of our team bringing energy and enthusiasm to our little school. He has made the very difficult decision to move back home to be nearer to family – because in February 2024 Mr Hogg is going to become a Daddy!

Whilst we are very sad to be losing such a valuable member of our Team we want to wish Mr Hogg much luck in his future. He will be greatly missed and leaves very big boots to fill!

We are currently in the process of recruiting – we will update you once we have more information.



Applying to Secondary Schools

Important dates

The arrangements for the transfer of pupils to secondary schools in September 2023 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.

31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary 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 secondary school place is finalised.

1 March 2024 - Offers issued to parents

(The national offer date is 1 March, 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.

Applying to Primary Schools

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.

