



## Normanton All Saints CE (A) Infant School

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'An outstanding example of a Church school' SIAS 2003

'All Saints Infant School is an outstanding school' OFSTED 2007

'The school's performance has been sustained' Interim assessment OFSTED 2010

'The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church school is outstanding' SIAS 2012

'This is an outstanding school' OFSTED 2013

'Outstanding' SIAMS 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

This week we have celebrated the start of the season of Advent. As we have joined in with wonderful celebrations such as decorating our school Christmas trees, wreath making and practising our nativity performances we have thought about how Advent is a special time to start preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. We started the week thinking about the importance of spreading kindness to people who may feel vulnerable or lonely at Christmas time. The children will be soon busy making Christmas cards to send to a member of the community which will hopefully cheer them up and make them feel happy. This is part of Morrison's community project.

Thank you to those parents and family members who attended our KS1 wreath making workshop this week. The money we have raised through this will support Martin House Children's Hospice.

### Nativity performances

Our nativity preparations are well underway and I am sure you are beginning to know the words to some of our nativity songs! As you are aware, our nativities will be held in church and there will be two performances per year group (with the exception of nursery). We are asking that parents/ family members who have a ticket to attend wear a face covering during the performance and also take a lateral flow test before attending.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring these important events can take place safely.

We have the majority of costumes in school but the staff may ask you to provide something for your child to wear, such as a t-shirt to wear under their costumes. A reminder of our nativity dates:

- Nursery- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15am for morning pupils and at 2.15pm for afternoon pupils
- Reception- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10am and 2pm
- Year One- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm or Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10am
- Year Two- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm or Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am
- Spanish nativity- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Year 2 children who are in the Spanish after school club will be leading our Spanish nativity in church at 9.15am. One parent/ family member of only the children performing can attend this event. This is due to larger numbers of pupils who will also be watching.

### Other Christmas events

The following events will be taking place over the next few weeks:

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December- Christmas Den Day. Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather with warm clothing and appropriate footwear. You may want to provide wellies for your child to wear. This is for main school pupils only.
- Reading cafes- Unfortunately, next week our reading cafes will not be able to take place within school. However, please keep a look out on our school Twitter page where Mrs Dixon will be posting videos of her reading some well-loved favourite books for the children to enjoy watching at home.
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day. Your child can come to school dressed in their Christmas jumper and Christmas accessories. This includes nursery pupils.
- Christmas parties. Children can come dressed in their party clothes for their party day. These will take place on: Nursery- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, Reception- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Year 1- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Year 2- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December- School closes for the Christmas break at 2pm for all pupils including our afternoon nursery children. The children will return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.



They pass this way only once so we should aim to litter their pathway with quality experiences

## Reading

We are pleased to see our children enjoying reading books from our new reading scheme. The books sent home, in particular in Reception and Year 1, are matched to your child's current phonic stage of development and will allow them to read words with the sounds that have been taught to them in school. Our phonics home reading books are Word Sparks and Floppy Phonics books. Your child will also bring home a Little Wandle Letters and Sounds reading book. They will have read this book three times within the school week to an adult and these guided sessions will have focused on developing their fluency and understanding of the vocabulary and the text. Our aim is that when your child becomes confident and fluent with applying all their phonics securely and confidently in reading they will then move on to our free readers, which is often when a child reaches Year 2.

Please continue to regularly listen to your child read at home and write a short positive comment in your child's orange reading record book. If you have any questions or concerns with regards to reading and how best to support your child at home please speak to your child's class teacher. Mrs Dixon is our reading lead across the school and she will also be more than happy to offer advice or answer any questions you may have.

Your child will also have a library book which they will have chosen from our well stocked school library. This book is for you to enjoy sharing with and reading to your child at home and these books make wonderful bedtime reads.

Please can I ask that all our books continue to be well looked after. We have had a few incidents where water bottles have been placed in bookbags and books have become damaged.

## Home school communication

Always remember that we aim to have open communication between home and school. If you have any questions or you are concerned about your child, please do speak with your class teacher at the end of the school day. It is always better to share any concerns or worries early with the teacher so that we can help and quickly resolve the situation. On all occasions please remember to speak directly with the school and not via social media platforms.

Our safeguarding team within school consists of: Mrs Stone (Headteacher), Mrs Cowling (Acting Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Ballance (Learning Mentor) Miss Hargrave (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Bellis (Nursery Teacher). A member of this team will always be available if you need to speak directly with them.

Mrs Ballance, our learning mentor and pastoral lead, will be holding parent sessions for any parent who would like to make an appointment. These will be 1:1 meetings with Mrs Ballance and parents can make a telephone appointment or can arrange to come and see her face to face. Parents may like to make an appointment for a range of different reasons, such as advice and support around your child's behaviour, confidence, eating, sleep, routines etc or to talk about any other worries or questions you may have especially leading up to Christmas. Mrs Ballance has a wealth of experience but also knows of other support tools which may help. If you want to make an appointment please send a text message or telephone Mrs Ballance on 07977 961641 to arrange a convenient time.

Thank you for your continued positive partnerships. Wishing you a lovely weekend and we are certainly looking forward to seeing you at your child's nativity very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Amy Stone  
Headteacher



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