



# Newsletter



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[www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Issue 167



## Upcoming School Events

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Rainbow Theatre Pantomime
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Class Christmas Parties
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	3.15pm	Christmas Holiday Starts
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	8.45am	Children Return to School
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	8.45am	FoAS Meeting

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Attendance

As per our most recent Ofsted report which stated 'leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that all pupils have good, regular attendance', we will be publishing attendance and punctuality figures each week in the newsletter for each class as well as for the whole school. Each class will use a traffic light system for attendance where green is for 100% - 98%, yellow for 98% - 96% and red for less than 96%.

Our whole school target is 96%. Figures for the whole school:

Week Beginning	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	96.70%	3.30%	0.00%	1.51%

Week Beginning	Class	Attendance	Late	Traffic Light
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Pearl	92.50%	1.25%	
	Ruby	95.67%	0.33%	
	Sapphire	100.00%	2.00%	
	Emerald	96.67%	2.33%	

## Big Sing Feedback

Last Thursday the children from Emerald Class joined schools from the Eastbourne area at Kings Centre for an evening of Christmas music organised by the East Sussex Music Service. They sang beautifully to a packed audience accompanied by one of the Music Service's orchestras and Andrew read a poem.

## **School Christmas Fair Feedback**

The school Christmas Fair, organised by the Friends of Alfriston School, took place last Friday afternoon. It was lovely to see so many of you there supporting the Friends and their fundraising efforts which benefit the children. The amount of money raised has just been announced as an incredible £1086.30, which is truly fantastic and I would like to thank the FoAS for organising the fair and everyone who attended.

## **Pearl and Ruby Classes Christmas Play feedback**

On Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon we were entertained wonderfully by the younger children in their Christmas production of 'Lights, Camel, Action! It's Strictly the Nativity'. The children looked amazing in their Nativity costumes with enthusiastic singing and dancing, along with the occasional theatrical drama! Many thanks go to everyone who has come along to watch the performances, to parents for their assistance in sorting costumes and learning lines as well as to the staff in Pearl and Ruby Classes for all their hard work in organising and directing the productions. Well done to all the children who took part in the shows – I'm very proud of you all!

## **Sapphire Class Trip Feedback**

Sapphire Class visited Newhaven Fort yesterday. Many thanks to the parents who helped and accompanied the trip. The children saw lots of exhibits about life on the Home Front during World War 2, with some very realistic experiences, such as being in an air raid shelter.

## **Christmas Lunch & Film/Games Afternoon Feedback**

The school Christmas lunch took place today. Our thanks go to Alison and Sam, our school cook and assistant, who cooked a wonderful meal which the whole school enjoyed sitting down together to share. The children have then had a fun afternoon watching Christmas films and playing board games. Many thanks also go to those governors and the clerk to the governors, who came along and helped to serve Christmas lunch and support the children in the classes during the afternoon.

## **Flu Immunisation Vaccinations**

The NHS flu immunisations will take place tomorrow for Reception and Years 1, 2 3 and 4, where parental consent has been given.

## **Christmas Pantomime**

Rainbow Theatre will be coming into school to perform their pantomime, Cinderella, to the children on Friday afternoon. This is a highlight of our Christmas celebrations and something the children really enjoy. We are extremely grateful to the Friends of Alfriston School who have very kindly agreed to fund the costs of the performance to the children this year.

## **Class Christmas Parties**

These will take place on Monday afternoon. Children are welcome to bring into school a change of clothes to wear for the party. The school will be providing healthy snacks for the children to have during the party so parents do not need to send in any food for the parties.

## **Last Day of Term Arrangements**

Please can children take home all their belongings at the end of the day on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December as on the last day of term, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, children do not need to bring in their book bags to school. Please can children who have packed lunch bring their lunch to school, for this day only, in a plastic bag that can be thrown away at the end of lunch. This is to reduce the number of items that need to be taken to church. The school will then be going to St Andrews Church for a traditional carol service that starts at 2pm. Family members and friends are welcome to join us. It is assumed that all children will be collected from the church after the service. **Please complete the reply slip below by tomorrow if you wish your child/children to return to school for collection. Please note that this includes the minibus and taxi children too.**

## INSET Days Reminder

Please be aware that we have INSET days on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. The school will be closed to children on these days. Children return to school following the Christmas break on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

## School Lunch

When we come back to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, please note that the lunch options for that day will be vegetable chilli with rice, Quorn sausage and tomato pasta bake, both with peas and cauliflower, or jacket potato with a choice of fillings, with frozen yogurt, fresh fruit and yogurt as the dessert choices. Roast lunch will not be offered on this day.

## Violin Lessons and Brass Lessons & Assembly

Violin lessons with Mrs Cane-Hardy and brass lessons with Mrs Kearley have now finished for this term. They will re-start on Monday 8th January. On Monday 15th January, there will be a violin and brass assembly at 2.30pm, to which parents and carers are invited. The following week, on Monday 22nd January, Mrs Kearley, the brass instrument teacher, will hold a meeting for parents after school who are interested in brass lessons for their child/children.

## News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS)

Email [friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com)

We are absolutely thrilled and delighted to announce that we raised a staggering **£1086.30** at the **Christmas Fair** last Friday! Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had so much support with the planning, preparation, organisation and execution of the event that we were quite overwhelmed. Everybody helped in some way, and we don't just mean the committee members, school staff and helpers (who were wonderful as always) but we were reliant on everyone donating goods for the hampers, giving up their unwanted teddies or jars, buying the raffle tickets, baking cakes & cookies and just coming to the event itself with their children and their wallets and purses. This is what makes the difference and this is what raises the money...THANK YOU!

Over the course of each academic year we work hard to **raise money** to plough back into school – smaller annual amounts like paying for the Key Stage 2 fruit or the Year 6 'leavers' book', larger annual amounts like paying for the Panto this week, or paying for all the swimming lessons as well as larger expenditures still such as helping to finance the early years outdoor play area, P.E/outdoor play equipment or help with improvements to the library. We will sit down soon to discuss how we plan to spend the money we have been raising this year and we will let you know what we plan to spend it on as soon as we can.

The **canvas bags** went home this week. We took orders for 96 bags and ordered a few spare (which have subsequently been sold). The bags look marvellous and we are sure they will make fabulous Christmas presents. The bags didn't make us a great deal of money (approx £70) as we were determined to price them fairly but I hope you'll agree that they are a wonderful keepsake. As we have had quite a few requests for extra bags we have established that we can order more but only if we have a minimum order of 25. If you would like a bag, or an extra bag - or more - then please comment on the Facebook page or text Eleanor on 07872634286 ASAP. Please note that they will not be back before Xmas.

Thank you for your support at the **refreshment stall** at the Pearl & Ruby Classes Nativity performances - we raised £128.

Our next **100 Club** draw will be this Friday, 15th December, with a new improved prize pot of £36.50.

Do get in touch via our **Facebook page or email** – our address is [friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com)

Our next **meeting** is an unscheduled super quick one tomorrow, Friday 15th December, to have a quick debrief about the Christmas Fair and our first meeting of next term will be Friday 5th January. We hope you can join us in the library at 8.45am.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Love Eleanor and the FoAS committee 🍷

This is the final newsletter of this term, so, on behalf of all the staff at our school, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher

## Community Events

**Rotary Photo Competition** – Seaford Rotary Club are holding a Young Photographer Competition which is the first stage of a national competition run by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland. The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to experiment with photography, use digital or traditional methods of photography, show interpretation of their chosen topic and express their ideas through the medium of photography. The competition is open to students in full time education and is divided into 3 age groups (as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017): junior (7 - 10 years), intermediate (11 -13 years) and senior (14 – 17 years). The task is to produce a portfolio of 3 photos based upon the theme, ‘A Different Perspective’. There will be prizes awarded to each age group. Entries must be accompanied by the official competition entry form and will close on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The forms are available at [www.seafordrotary.org.uk](http://www.seafordrotary.org.uk) or from Fotobox at 22 Broad Street, Seaford. There is no charge to enter.

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## REPLY SLIP – Carol Service Arrangements – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

To be returned to the school office by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Only to be completed and returned to the school office if you wish your child/children to return to school for collection. This includes children who will be using the minibus and taxi.**

I would like my child/children to return to school for collection after the carol service on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Child/children’s names.....

Class(es).....

Signed.....Date.....

Print Name.....