



7th December 2017

Issue: 166

Upcoming School Events

Friday 8 th December	9am	Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly
Friday 8 th December	3pm	Early School Finish
Friday 8 th December	3pm – 5.30pm	School Christmas Fair
Friday 8 th December	After School	No Football Club
Tuesday 12 th December	9.15am	Pearl & Ruby Classes Nativity Play
Wednesday 13 th December	All Day	Sapphire Class Trip
Wednesday 13 th December	2pm	Pearl & Ruby Classes Nativity Play
Thursday 14 th December	Lunch/Afternoon	School Christmas Lunch & Film Afternoon
Friday 15 th December	Morning	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 15 th December	Afternoon	Rainbow Theatre Pantomime
Monday 18 th December	Afternoon	Class Christmas Parties
Tuesday 19 th December	2pm	Carol Service at St Andrew's Church
Tuesday 19 th December	3.15pm	Christmas Holiday Starts
Wednesday 20 th December	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Tuesday 2 nd January	All Day	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Wednesday 3 rd January	8.45am	Children Return to School

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 now 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
27 th November 2017	97.83%	2.17%	0.00%	1.98%

Week Beginning	Class	Attendance	Late	Traffic Light
27 th November 2017	Pearl	96.88%	1.88%	
	Ruby	99.00%	0.67%	
	Sapphire	95.67%	2.00%	
	Emerald	99.33%	3.33%	

Book Bags

Please can children only have one soft keyring on their book bag as when they have several we struggle to get the bags to fit in the drawers! Thank you for your help in this matter.

Bad Weather Procedure

We thought we would update you on the procedure for bad weather. In the event of snow or flooding, the school will take a decision as early as possible about whether to open or not. Please be assured that the decision to close the school is never taken lightly, but is based on the health and safety of children, parents and staff travelling to and from the school, the ability to operate the school safely during the day and the conditions in Alfriston itself. If a decision is made to close the school, this is put on:

- the school website, <http://www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk>
- the list of closed schools on the East Sussex website www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolclosures
- local radio, Heart FM on 102.4-103.5FM and at <http://www.heart.co.uk/sussex>
- an Eschools email or text is sent out
- a notice on the school gate/door (only possible if a member of staff can get to the school).

If the decision is made to open the school, children should come to school equipped to play in the snow – good coats, wellies, hats, gloves and scarves. If the school is open, but your particular circumstances make it unsafe to travel to school, please let us know. In this case absence is authorised. Please make sure the school has up to date contact details including mobile phone numbers and if possible an alternative local contact. Hopefully we will not have to close the school at short notice.

Gardening Thanks

Last weekend a group of parents and carers kindly came and carried out some gardening tasks around the school grounds. We are very grateful to you all for your time and help; the grounds are looking much neater now.

Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly

Today we took delivery of the school Christmas tree which was kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Coleman. We are very grateful to them for this gift to the school. Tomorrow, 8th December, at 9am we will be decorating the school Christmas tree. We hope that the children have been busy making Christmas tree decorations ready to bring in to school for this as we are looking forward to seeing our bare Christmas tree transformed into a beautifully dressed tree by the end of assembly!

Christmas Decorations Day

On Monday the children took part in our annual Christmas decorations day. Throughout the day they were in mixed year groups making all sorts of decorations that we have used to decorate the school. We are now looking very festive – with reindeer, Father Christmas and snowmen!

School Christmas Fair

The school Christmas Fair, organised by the Friends of Alfriston School, will take place tomorrow, 8th December from 3pm – 5.30pm. As a result, school will finish for everyone at 3pm, so please, if you can, arrange to be here for 3pm collection and advise the office in advance if you are unable to be here until 3.15pm. We do hope that as many of you as possible will then be able to spend some time at the fair and enjoy the many activities that the FoAS are organising.

Football Club

Please note that the after school football club, run by Lewes FC, is cancelled on 8th December due to the Christmas Fair.

Pearl and Ruby Classes Christmas Play

This year's nativity play, 'Lights, Camel, Action! It's Strictly the Nativity', performed by Pearl and Ruby Classes, will take place next week on Tuesday 12th at 9.15am and Wednesday 13th December at 2pm. Please can we remind you that any children attending the Christmas plays as a member of the audience should remain with their adult throughout and not approach the children taking part in the production. The FoAS will be providing refreshments at the performances, but not during the show itself. These are for the audience only and should not be purchased and given to the school children.

Sapphire Class Trip

Please remember that all children in Sapphire Class will require a packed lunch on Wednesday, 13th December, for their trip. Please refer to the original letter sent home for full details.

Christmas Lunch & Film/Games Afternoon

The school Christmas lunch takes place next Thursday, 14th December. Children are able to bring in a festive hat, hair bands, etc, to wear for lunch that day. After lunch the children are able to watch a Christmas film or play quiet board games. Children in Sapphire and Emerald Classes are welcome to bring in a game from home but it must not be electronic or noisy as they will be playing it in class while others are watching the film in the same room. Please note that children are responsible for any games that they bring into school, so please don't send in precious games as we cannot guarantee bits won't get lost or damaged. Thank you.

Last Day of Term Arrangements

Please can children take home all their belongings at the end of the day on Monday 18th December as on the last day of term, Tuesday 19th 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 if you wish your child/children to return to school for collection. Please note that this includes the minibus and taxi children too.**

Christmas Pantomime

Rainbow Theatre will be coming into school to perform their pantomime, Cinderella, to the children on the afternoon of Friday 15th December. 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 this performance to the children this year.

Class Christmas Parties

These will take place on the afternoon of Monday 18th December. 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.

Violin Lessons

Violin lessons with Mrs Cane-Hardy have now finished for this term. They will re-start on Monday 8th January.

INSET Days Reminder

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

School Lunch

When we come back to school on Wednesday 3rd 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.

News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS)

Email friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com

It is the **Christmas Fair** tomorrow, Friday 8th December from 3pm -5.30pm. We have a wonderful afternoon planned and we do hope you will stay to join us. We will have a refreshment stall with homemade cakes, mince pies, sausage rolls and tea, coffee, hot chocolate & soft drinks, a 10-1 chocolate tub raffle stall, a teddy tombola, a sweeties in the jar stall, a bric-a-brac stall and face painting; activity tables include making marshmallow snowmen, soap decorating, making reindeer food, making a Xmas present for your dog, air drying clay modelling and a craft table. Outside traders include 'Forever Living', photography, jams and chutneys, wood crafting, jewellery, tie dye, 'Partylite' and Christmas wreaths from Flowers by Tara Jane. All this as well as Santa's Grotto (if you have booked for your child to see Santa then your children's invitations have gone home today) and the much anticipated raffle (extra raffle tickets will be on sale at the fair). Most activities for children cost between 50p and £1. We are expecting the fair to be busy at 3pm but things should soon calm down and feel more relaxed by 3.30pm. At this point the children can enjoy a craft activity and you can enjoy a cup of tea. If you have offered to bake something for us to sell at the refreshment stall – or haven't offered and would like to bake us something - then please bring your goodies in either first thing in the morning tomorrow or at the end of school (no nuts please). If you can offer to help with anything at all tomorrow it would be much appreciated.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came last Sunday to our '**school winter gardening session**'. A busy couple of hours was spent doing several gardening jobs within the school grounds – it was hard work but great fun - and we hope you can see the improvement.

Monday was our **Wreath Making Evening**. Once again a huge, huge thank you to Tara Begley from Flowers by Tara Jane, High Street, Seaford, for hosting this event so brilliantly for us. It was a wonderful evening which resulted in 27 beautiful handmade wreaths and the evening made £270 for the school.

Our next **100 Club** draw will be on Friday 15th December with a prize pot of £36.50

Do get in touch via our **Facebook page or email** – our address is friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com

Our next **meeting** is a very quick one tomorrow, Friday 8th December, just making sure we are on top of things for the Christmas Fair. We hope you can join us in the library at 8.45am.

Love Eleanor and the FoAS committee 😊

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher

REPLY SLIP – Carol Service Arrangements – Tuesday 19th December

To be returned to the school office by Friday 15th 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 19th December.

Child/children's names.....

Class(es).....

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

Print Name.....