

# Dr Walker's C of E Primary School

### **NEWSLETTER**

Friday 13th December 2024

**COURAGE – CREATIVITY - COMPASSION** 

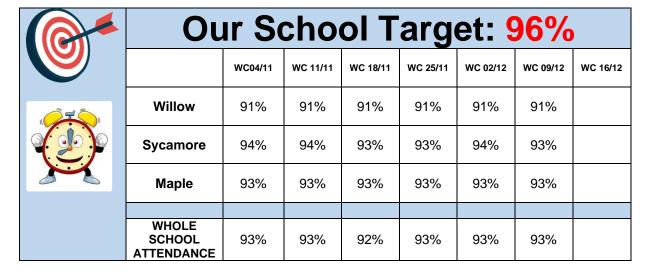
https://drwalkers.co.uk

### Courage - A can do attitude. Creativity - Innovation and adaptability. Compassion - Love and respect.

Head of School	St Nicholas's Church		
What a very busy Autumn term it has been. There has been a lot to reflect upon and many positive changes that have been made.	We are privileged to work closely with our local church, St Nicholas, Fyfield.		
I am delighted to advise that following the Local Authority Standards and Intervention Moderation Board meeting at the end of Autumn Term '24, it was agreed that the Improvement Board is <b>no longer required</b> and an Exit Strategy has been agreed. Having reviewed the progress that has been made to the school's effectiveness, it was agreed that the prioritisation for the school will now be Medium. The school will continue to receive regular visits to provide guidance and support for the school priorities from Sarah Foster, our School Effectiveness Partner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children, parents, wider family members, staff, Mrs Nazif, governors and visitors to the school – as without everyone's dedication and commitment to ensure the future success of Dr Walker's, this would not have been possible.	You are welcome to join for worship at 10.30am on the second and third Sundays of the month, get involved in community activities, or just find a place of peace and prayer in a busy world - the church is often open during daylight hours.  Get in touch		
We still have many exciting things happening for next week – the Movie Day, Christmas Bake off, Christingle, Christmas performances, the church visit,	Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs		
class parties – please ensure that your child is in school every day, and on time!  Mrs Jenny Dean	The Vicarage, Church Street, Blackmore, Ingatestone, Essex. CM4 0RN		
Open the Book performed: - The parable of The Good Shepherd (Gospel of John)	Priest with Responsibility		
The Good Shepherd, John 10: 1-21. "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the	<u>01277 821464</u>		
sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.	Revd Samantha Brazier-Gibbs 07894 948867		
Attendance			

### **Attendance**

### Please help us to turn our attendance table GREEN!



### **Attendance Matters**

### **Attendance Ladder**



### Is my child too ill for school?

Please find attached poster and <u>NHS</u> website guidance.

We are sharing this as part of the new National Framework for Attendance, we now are required to report any child who has 15 days absence due to illness across the entire school year to the Department of Education.

Please be reminded that if your child is off ill you are required to contact the school daily by 9.00am. We also ask when reporting your child's absence, you avoid using words such as 'unwell' and 'not well' as we need to be able to track what illnesses are going through classes; therefore, request that you be more specific.

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is the responsibility of parents, pupils and all members of school staff.

Holiday Absence Fines: With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices we are again sharing the new regulations around term time holidays. Please take the time to read the guidance and take into consideration when planning family trips.



## Essex County Council

Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

### National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

### Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days
- If not paid within 21 days, the fine will increase to £160 per parent, per child, payable between the 22<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> day

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

£160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court

- Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500
- Cases found guilty in a Magistrates Court can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a 'failure to safeguard a child's education'

To help us all to focus on this, we will:

- Submit a daily attendance return to the Department of Education, in line with the legal expectations placed on all schools:
- Build strong relationships and work jointly with families;
- Give parents/carers details on attendance in our newsletters;
- Promote the benefits of high attendance;
- Accurately complete admission and, with the exception of schools where all pupils are boarders, attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow up absence as required by law;
- Celebrate excellent attendance by displaying and reporting individual and class achievements;
- Reward good or improving attendance;
- Report to parents/carers regularly on their child's attendance and the impact on their progress;
- Contact parents/carers should their child's attendance fall below the school's target for attendance.

If attendance is below **95%** / causing concern, and/or where punctuality is a concern, we will; Write to you;

- Arrange a meeting so that you may discuss the situation with our Senior Attendance Champion.
- Create a personalised action/support plan, such as an attendance contract, to address any barriers to attendance and make clear each person's role in improving the attendance patterns of your child;
- Offer signposting support to other agencies or services, if appropriate;
- Refer the matter to the Local Authority for relevant legal sanctions, if attendance deteriorates following the above actions.



### This week's Attendance Cup Winners

Sycamore and Maple won the cup this week with 93%%





### Picture news



# LET'S REFLECT

Wicked, the hugely successful Broadway musical, has recently premiered worldwide as a film. Wicked shares a different perspective of the events in the magical land featured in 'The Wizard of Oz', prior to Dorothy's arrival. It is the story of Elphaba (a misunderstood witch), who later becomes the Wicked Witch of the West, and her friendship with Glinda, who becomes the good witch. Karis Musongole, aged 10 from Manchester, plays the young version of Elphaba.



Individual Liberty

We have the freedon to choose and pursue the hobbies and interests we enjoy. We respect the choices of others and support them in finding and sharing their talents.

### Class news

### WILLOW CLASS

In RE, Willow have been exploring the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with incarnation, and its part of the Big Story of the Bible. They sequenced the story and re-told the story by going on a 'Baby Hunt'. They began to understand that Christians celebrate Christmas to remember the birth of Jesus.



### We're Going on a baby hunt

We're going on a baby hunt (rock the bab)
We're going to find a special one (searchin,
hand, move head looking)
What a beautiful night (big arms in the sky)
We feel blessed (pravine hands together)

Look there! A donkey
A soft grey donkey
We can't go over it
We can't go under it

We'll have to get on it. Elippety clop, clippety clop, clippety clop.

We're going on a baby hunt Ve're going to find a special one What a beautiful night

Look there! An angel.
A sparkling, holy angel.
We can't go over them
We can't go under them
Oh yes!

We're going on a baby hunt We're going to find a special one What a beautiful night Look there! A shepherd. A scared, silent shepherd We can't go over them We can't go under them Oh yes!

We're going on a baby hunt We're going to find a special one What a beautiful night

A bright, glittering star.
We can't go over it
We can't go under it
Oh yes!
We'll have to follow it

We're going to find a special one
What a beautiful night
We feel blessed.

Look there! 3 wise men 3 royal, wise men We can't go over them We can't go under then We'll have to ride with them. sumpety bump, bumpety bump, bumpets bump (camels) We're going on a baby hunt We're going to find a special one

> Look there! A stable. A dark, lowly stable We can't go over it

Who's that?
One small manger
Two bails of straw
One special baby
It's Jesus!

### **SYCAMORE CLASS**

Sycamore class have been working on their revising skills this week, looking at ways to improve their written accounts. They also began a new writing unit on Thursday, working towards writing a list poem. They have continued their work on clay and will be painting their pinch pots shortly. In French, the children have been summarising all the work they have done in their unit on transport by creating posters, using their IT skills to enhance their work. It has been wonderful to see how excited the children are each morning to come into the classroom to find out where the Elf on the Shelf is which is making us all feel very Christmassy! Thanks for another hard-working week, Sycamore class – keep up the effort for the rest of the term – we're nearly there!



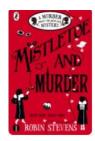




### MAPLE CLASS

This week in Reading, we are looking at the very exciting theme: CHRISTMAS! We looked at extracts from the following books and movie trailers:







As we did some work on Christmas books and movies, we talked about some Christmas traditions from all over the world...

### Finland Christmas Tradition: Christmas Sauna

In Finland, families traditionally visit the sauna on Christmas Eve, followed by a festive feast. The sauna symbolises cleansing before the celebrations.

### Japan Christmas Custom: Fried Chicken Christmas Dinner

In Japan, Christmas dinner means Fried Chicken! Christmas isn't widely celebrated in a religious sense, but many families enjoy a festive meal from KFC!

### Venezuela Christmas Custom: Get your skates on!

In the week leading up to Christmas, Venezuelans attend a daily church service called Misa de Aguinaldo (Early Morning Mass). In the capital, Caracas, it is customary to travel to the church service on roller skates.

### Rewards

### **Courageous optimism**

It takes courage to hope for a better future. We champion a 'can do' attitude and encourage our pupils and colleagues to tackle challenges with resilience and perseverance as they reach for ambitious targets.

### **Boundless Creativity**

Through captivating discoveries in the classroom and eye-opening adventures in the outside world, we give pupils freedom and promote varied learning experiences which stimulate innovation and develop adaptability.

### Heartfelt compassion

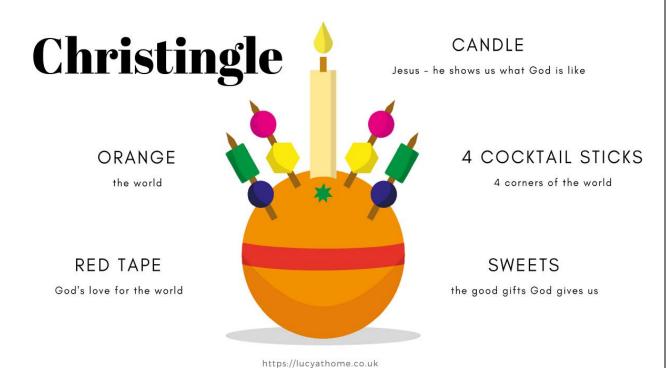
We show love and respect to each member of our community as we nurture a powerful collective spirit. In humility we embrace difference and individuality, show forgiveness when necessary, and are united by compassion.

Willow Class	COURAGE	Alfie – For bopping the night away at the school disco!
	CREATIVITY	Poppy – For using great imagination to create props and games.
	COMPASSION	Harry – For embracing differences and being considerate of others.
	STAR OF THE WEEK	Anais – For working hard to achieve.
Sycamore Class	COURAGE	Lincoln – for valuing and sharing emotions.
	CREATIVITY	Luna – for always having fantastic ideas in discussion work.
	COMPASSION	Eila – for thinking about the needs of others.
	STAR OF THE WEEK	Amelia-Rae – for huge enthusiasm in everything she does in school.
Maple Class	COURAGE	Tilly – For a great, positive attitude towards her learning.
	CREATIVITY	Phoebe – For coming up with great ideas in class.
	COMPASSION	John-James – For always being willing to help others.
	STAR OF THE WEEK	Maisey – For being such a kind and caring member of Maple class!

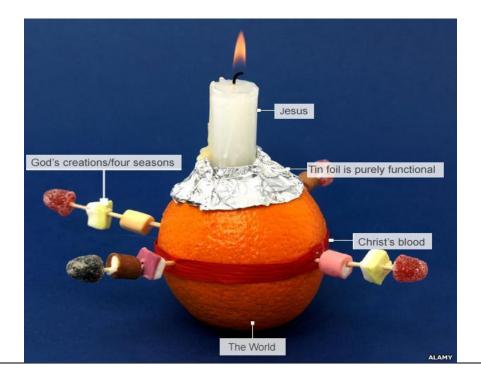
### Christingle



The idea of the Christingle began in Germany in 1747 where, at a children's service, Moravian Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus. The modern form was introduced by John Pensom of The Children's Society in 1968. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.



You are invited to make your own Christingle to take to the Church Service on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Please ensure that your finished Christingles are in school by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.



### Well Done!

Dotty and Lucas had their grading for their karate red belt on Sunday, they were awarded a merit achieving their red belt status.



A Note To Reflect Upon

A little note to reflect upon......

# AN AUTISM CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas.and all through the house...

The noises were different, with more people about.

I don't like not knowing, what to expect

I need my routine and space to reflect.

I want to keep eating, my usual food

Not talking to visitors, doesn't mean I'm rude.

I love all my presents and having no school,
But it can feel overwhelming, with new rituals and rules.

I may not react, like other children do
But I really am grateful, for my presents from you.
So be gentle with me, be patient and kind
And remember your world, looks different to mine.



### SCS Clubs January 2025

From January, SCS Clubs will run on a Monday and Tuesday After School, Monday will be Gymnastics and Tuesday will be Dodgeball. SCS have agreed to carry on with the "pay as you go" basis, if required. Please see links below to book your place.

Monday **Gymnastics** – <u>Dr Walkers Gymnastics Y1-6 (5 - 11yrs) at Dr Walkers C of E, Ongar |</u> SportsCoachingSpecialists | Powered by ClassForKids

Tuesday **Dodgeball** – <u>Dr Walkers Dodgeball club (5 - 11yrs) at Dr Walkers C of E, Ongar | SportsCoachingSpecialists | Powered by ClassForKids</u>

### **Essex ActivAte**



Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food (#HAF2024) programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education. Additional funding is provided by Essex County Council to extend the offer to low income working families who also require support during the school holidays. **This programme takes place during the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays**. Where possible, Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council provide additional support families during the smaller half terms as well.

The programme aims to support the physical and mental wellbeing of primary and secondary school children, through engagement in a wide variety of enrichment and physical activities, and provision of a nutritious, school standard meal.

Working with a network of trusted local delivery partners, Active Essex run FREE face to face clubs during the school holidays for children and young people who are **eligible for benefits based free school meals**, **as well as those from low income working families who would benefit from this extra support**. We are also able to extend this support to children and young people who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation, on a case-by-case basis, please speak to the club provider to discuss if this is an option.

Each Essex ActivAte club will deliver a variety of fun physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Alongside this you can access family support and fun activities to keep children active and entertained at home. Check out our Family Support page below to get started!

For more information on our programmes, click here.

### **All After School Clubs**

Please book your space on the Clubs for January 2025, the deadline for bookings is on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The Clubs are as follows:

Monday – SCS Club Gymnastics Tuesday – SCS Club Dodgeball Wednesday- Lego and Board Games Club Thursday – Arts & Crafts Club

### PTA

If you would like to get involved in the PTA, or have any questions. Please contact Friends of Dr Walkers on drwalkers24@gmail.com



### **Naughty Elves**







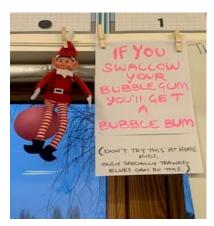












### Year 4 MTC - June 2025



Your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check (MTC) in **June 2025**.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may

need additional support.

Read more guidance from the STA here

In the meantime, please practise regularly with your child using the link below, which is similar to the DfE testing

https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/

### **Christmas Tree Visit**



Madison & Jake visiting our very special Christmas tree in Ongar!

They were very proud to see their baubles on the tree.

### **Our Beautiful Christmas Tree**



Our beautiful donated tree has been decorated by our Prefects.

They have done a wonderful job!

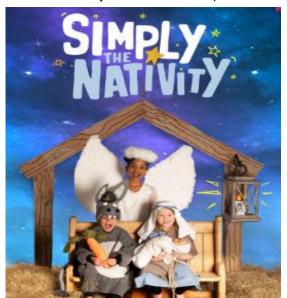


### **Christmas Performances**

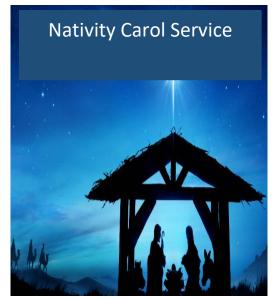
Our Christmas Performances will be on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

These will be performed IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Willow Class & Sycamore Class will perform ...



Maple Class will perform ...



Time 9:30 am

Time 11:00am

### **Church Service**

Our Church Service is on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. At 1:15pm



Dear Families,

You are all warmly invited to join us for our annual Church Service, led by Rev. Sam Brazier-Gibbs at St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at 1:15pm.

### **Christmas Post Box**

Our Christmas Post Box is ready to receive any Christmas Cards that the children may have.

The prefects will be tasked with sharing out the cards to classes.





### **School Disco**

The children had so much fun at the disco. A huge thanks to the PTA – Mrs Burling, Mrs Doran and Mr DJ Laurence for organising the event and to staff for remaining at school to supervise.





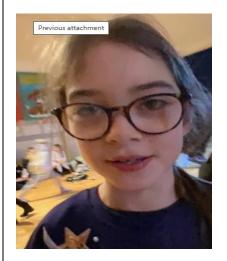




















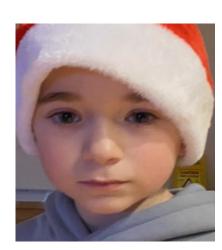












































### Bake off

# CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF

IS COMING TO

DR WALKERS



14

20M





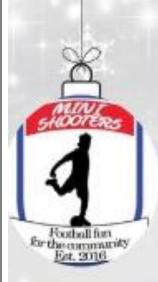
PARENTS/CARERS/GRANDPARENTS
WILL BE INVITED INTO THE SCHOOL TO
VOTE ON WHICH ONES THEY THINK
ARE THE BEST DECORATED



E2.00 ENTRANCE FEE
ON THE 16TH DECEMBER
IN THE SCHOOL HALL,
HOT DRINKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR A
DONATION







# ONE DAY CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL FUN CAMP MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER



1 DAY: £25 (deposit to be taken at time of booking)

> 9:30 - 15:00 9:15 DROP OFF

AGES 4 - 12 (SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - 7)



MEDALS AND TROPHIES TO BE WON

⊕FA QUALIFIED & DBS CHECKED COACHES

**®SIBLING DISCOUNT OFFERED** 

SHOOTERS FOOTBALL, RAYLEY LANE, NORTH WEALD, CM16 6AR



TO BOOK YOUR CHILD ON OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US:

Jack- 07398267338 SSA-enquiries@outlook.com

Anthony- 07469 717386 info@mini-shooters.club

### PE Top players











# Well done to our top players!

Willow class

Sycamore class

Maple class







Eleanor and Anais

Knightley and Eila

Maisey and Harley

Maths - TTRS

**EVENT LIVE!** 

Mrs Vorster created a new challenge:

Daily open times:24 hours a

Please go on TTRS to ensure we get another win under our belt!

### Maths



Have you used the White Rose Maths app yet?

### What's the app about?

This first version of the app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils. Individual one-minute tasks focus on adding and subtracting — and on 'Subitising', the skill of instantly recognising the number of items in a group without counting. Multiplication and division topics are also now available!

### How do we use it?

Children can choose any topic they want to try. They then answer a unique series of questions (so it's a different set of questions every time). If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button will give a helpful clue by showing the question in a different but familiar way.

When the one minute's up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done.

It is free to download on:

APPLE APP STORE

GOOGLE PLAY STORE

AMAZON STORE

### **Arts and Crafts Club**

A festive feel to Art Club this week and all the children enjoyed making special Christmas cards for Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas and Cousins!



### Christmas jumper day

Our school was so colourful for our Christmas Jumper Day!





Sycamore Class



**Maple Class** 



We raised £20 which will go to Save the Children.

Dr Walkers Open Day

Dr Walker's C. Of E. Primary School

# An Exceptional Place to Flourish

A Church of England Primary School for children 4 to 11 years

Everyone is welcome to visit our wonderful small community school and speak with our staff about the exciting opportunities we provide our children.



### **Open Days**

Tuesday 7th January 2025 Wednesday 8th January 2025 Time 10.20am to commence at 10.25am-10.45am Collective Worship and School Tour







### **Prospective Parents**

Join our collective workshop assembly , followed by a school tour

"Though your beginning was small, your Future will flourish indeed'. Job 8:7

# **CONTACT US**

Walker Ave, Fyfield, Ongar, Essex CM5 ORG 01277 899298

www.drwalkers.co.uk



Though your beginning was small your future will flourish indeed.

Job 8:7

### **Christmas lunch**















### **Lego and Board Games Club**

A very festive feel to the last Lego and Games club of the year with everyone wearing their colourful Christmas jumpers. The Lego models are getting more detailed and Chess skills were being practised this week.



**Prefects** 

On Thursday, the prefects had tea with Mrs Nazif



As a result of the meeting, we can confirm that Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December will be MOVIE DAY!!

A letter has been sent to all parents.



### Dr Walker's School Uniform

Girls are permitted to wear grey trousers during the colder weather, should they wish to; however, these are to be appropriate tailored school trousers and <u>NOT</u> leggings, jeggings or tracksuit bottoms, or they will be asked to change into our pre-loved items at school.

### **School Uniform items**

- White shirt (not polo). Girls can wear a white blouse.
- Grey shorts or grey trousers.
- Tartan skirt / checked kilt.
- Purple and white summer checked dress/pinafore.
- School tie.
- Purple jumper.
- · Plain white or grey socks.
- Plain white or grey tights.
- Black shoes / black trainers / black ankle boots with no heels style shoes (these should not have colour on them and be plain).
- A coat plain colours and styles are encouraged. No denim coats allowed.



**Christmas Free School Meal Vouchers** 

Essex County Council provide meal vouchers funded by the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund.

The vouchers can be used at a number of supermarkets and local shops, details of which you'll see when the voucher is accessed. They can only be used to purchase non-age-restricted items and will carry an alert to warn of this. Further details of the scheme are set out below.

If your child hasn't previously received free school meals but your circumstances have recently changed, please speak to the school in the first instance.

### Who is eligible to receive food vouchers?

Children and young people in education up to the age of 19 who are in receipt of Free School Meals are eligible to receive vouchers for the holiday period. Those in Key Stage 1 and Reception who currently receive Universal Infant Free School Meals but would be eligible for need-assessed Free School Meals if they were older are also eligible to receive holiday meal vouchers.

### What will I receive if my child has been identified as eligible?

Parents and guardians of children and young people identified as eligible for the scheme will receive a text message or an email from ECC's voucher provider Wonde. This message will contain a link to 'redeem a voucher'. **Messages will be received on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

You will be taken to Wondes' school vouchers' page where you will need to enter your details and confirm your email address before being asked to select the retailer you wish to receive a voucher for. You will then be given a PIN and the option to view the voucher. Having confirmed the PIN, you will be issued your voucher. The voucher barcode can be printed off or scanned on a smartphone for use in-store.

Details of the process and more questions about Wonde can be found on their website here https://help.evouchers.com/hc/en-gb

### **Processing Vouchers**

The following link will give you advice on how to set up your account.

www.evouchers.com/support

Important dates		
17.12.24	IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCES Christmas Nativity Performance (Rec – Year 3) 9.30am Carol Service Performance (Year 4 – 6) 11.00am	
19.12.24	Church Christmas Service – 1.15pm. All welcome	
20.12.24	Class Christmas Parties (pm) – More information to follow	
20.12.24	Break up for Christmas	
SPRING TERM 2025		
06.01.25	School Closed Inset Day	
07.01.25	Welcome back to school	
07.01.25	No Clubs This Week	
13.01.25	Clubs start back this week	
13.01.25	SCS Club Dodgeball on a Monday	
14.01.25	SCS Club Gymnastics on a Tuesday	
15.01.25	Lego & Board Games Club on a Wednesday	
16.01.25	Arts & Crafts Club on a Thursday	