



Community, **Compassion**, Courage, Trust, Perseverance, Thankfulness

Chaddleshworth and Shefford Federated CE Primary Schools

'Living life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful end to an incredibly busy term!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Christmas church service at St Mary's in Great Shefford on Wednesday. To hear the traditional carols and the Christmas story shared again reminded us of that very first Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Well done to Robins for their narration and drama of Jesus and Mary arriving in Bethlehem, Kingfishers for their Christmas prayers, and Owls and Red Kites for sharing their thoughts about the meanings of Christmas to them personally.



Extracts from Owls Christmas poetry from Evey, Sophie SJ and Violet,

The meaning of Christmas

Once again it's Christmas time,

Time for us to be

Busy wrapping presents and setting up the tree.

Baubles, crimson and green,

Lights all over, sparkling bright.

It's not about presents,

It's about love and care.



It seems we have so many things to think of and do,

We may forget Christmas has a deeper meaning too:

A meaning that's far beyond,

It means family and love.

God's only Son was born,

God put him here on Earth.

To put new hope around the world,

And share love with all mankind.



Thank you to all our families for their ongoing support throughout the year. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year,

Ms Munday Headteacher www.csfschools.org

Whole School Worship...

Our focus on the Christian value of Compassion was firmly illustrated in the



Nativity story we've shared this week, with threads of community, courage and trust all identified too! We debated who we thought was the most important person in the story from Angel Gabriel delivering the important messages, to Mary carrying baby Jesus, to Jesus himself! However we realised that everyone in the story had an important part to play, and it was God who had overseen everything!



Red Kites Football...

"On Monday evening our Red Kites football team took part in a football tournament at Park House School. They all played really well and tried to put all they had learned in training into practice on the pitch against some strong opposition. The children showed great sportsmanship and were happy to try different playing positions on the pitch. Thank you to all the parents who braved the rainy conditions to support the team and thank you to Mr Simpkin for all his support with the football training sessions before this event." Mrs Oberholzer

Class trip to Littlecote House...

"Owls Class enjoyed a fantastic local trip to Littlecote House this week as part of their learning about the Romans. The children were fascinated to learn that the Roman mosaic was created over 1,600 years ago during Roman Britain and was discovered centuries later after being hidden beneath the ground."

At the centre of the mosaic is Orpheus, a character from Greek mythology, playing his lyre. The mosaic is divided into four sections called quadrants, each showing different animals and patterns. Although some people think these may represent the four seasons, historians are not certain. The images are more likely to show harmony in nature, with music calming the animals."

During the visit, pupils read information signs around the grounds and completed a quiz to check their understanding. They showed excellent curiosity and focus throughout the trip and represented the school brilliantly." Mrs Mirza.



Reading Challenges for children in West Berkshire!

Nationally, The Reading Agency is running their Winter Mini Challenge again this year. Children can join the challenge online at wintermini.org.uk. They are encouraged to read 3 books and review them on the website anytime from now until the 20th February 2026.

Those that leave their 3 reviews will earn a special badge, a certificate and be entered into a prize draw to win a bundle of exciting children's books.





Our local libraries run their own year-round challenge across West Berkshire – Library Star! They are keen to boost this over the winter break to keep children reading whilst they are not at school. Children joining Library Star will be able to choose one of five character bookmarks when



they sign up. They then collect a 'star' for their bookmark with every book returned to the library. They have certificates for any child who collects 10 stars and becomes a star reader! Being a library star is all about finding the joy of reading a good book. Children can read any books they like independently, or with someone else.

Class worship...

How have we all been..." Living life in all its fullness" (John 10:10) this week?

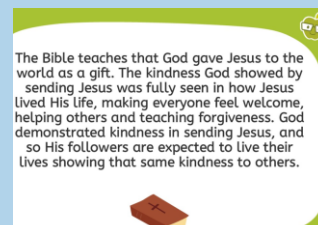
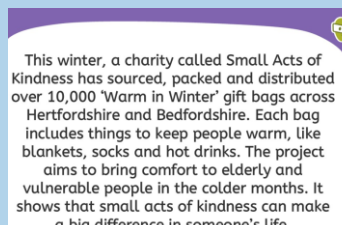
	In Robins...	All of EYFS, "Singing the song in church when Reverend Matt was lighting the (pink joy Advent) candle in church. It took a long time and it was funny!"
		Albie, "Pulling crackers at Christmas lunch!"
		Lowena, "Seeing all the decorations."
		Benjamin, "Jesse read a funny joke that was in a cracker!"
		Tilly, "Going on the minibus for the first time."
		Darcey, "Wearing my Nativity costume in church."
	In Kingfishers...	Margo, "It was the best show ever!" (The Robin Hood pantomime)
		Isla, "I loved seeing real actors in the pantomime."
		Spencer, "I'm looking forward to seeing my elves back at home after their adventures to the North Pole!"
	In Owls...	Seb, "This week I have lived life in all its fullness by toasting bread on the fire during forest school and also scored 5 tries against Marlborough in rugby."
		Harry, "I went on a school trip to Littlecote House to learn about the Roman mosaic. We explored the grounds and discovered how the mosaic was made thousands of years ago using tiny pieces of stone called tesserae."
	In Red Kites...	Eleanor, "The pantomime set was amazing!"
		Alfred, Sullivan and Joseph, "Christmas lunch was the best ever!"
Our school adults...		Ms Munday, "Seeing everyone embrace and enjoy the different Christmas activities and opportunities in school. From our Christmas performances, to making Christingles, also our Christmas church service, then our Christmas lunch together and finally all the fun and laughter at the pantomime!"

Picture News and the BIG question this week...



The BIG question...

What does kindness look like?



Class Blogs

Click on the class bird to link to the class blog pages sharing your child/ren's learning this week...



Robins



Kingfishers



Owls



Red Kites

PTFA news and updates...

Another BIG thankyou to our amazing PTFA for our whole school trip to the pantomime this week! We all had a great time and loved the drama, song and giggles throughout the show!



Diary dates... (New dates are added in green)

December 2025	
January 2026	
Mon, 5 th	Term 3 begins
February 2026	
Wed, 4 th	Candlemas Church service, all welcome, 9.30am start at St Mary's Church, Great Shefford
Fri, 6 th	NSPCC Numbers Day 2026
Fri, 13 th	Last day of term 3
Mon, 23 rd	Term 4 begins
March 2026	
Fri, 27 th	Last day of term 4
April 2026	
Mon, 13 th	Term 5 begins
May 2026	
Fri, 22 nd	Last day of term 5
June 2026	
Mon, 1 st	Term 6 begins
July 2026	
Tues, 21 st	Last day of term 6
Term Dates - Chaddleshworth St. Andrew's & Shefford - C.E. Federated Primary Schools	

Parent and carer community news and information...



JOY
Services
For All Ages
This Christmas

**For unto us
a child is born!**

07 Dec Carols Round The Tree
10:30 am - St James, Lichamptstead
A service of Advent music and readings
followed by refreshments.

14 Dec Carols Round The Tree
8pm - Lichamptstead Green
Join us as we light the Christmas Tree and
sing carols before drinks in the Village Hall.

21 Dec Community Christingle
10:30 am - All Saints, Brightwell
You will remember this year a great way to
share the meaning of Christmas.

24 Dec Christmas Catechism
10:30 am - St Mary's Great Shelford
The Christmas story, Catechism story,
readings and carols from St Mary's.

25 Dec Live Nativity Crib Service
8pm - St Mary's Great Shelford
Come dressed in your favourite nativity
clothing as we celebrate the Christmas
story in live action.

Christmas Day Communion
8am - St Mary's Great Shelford
10:30 am - All Saints, Brightwell
All welcome at this all-ages communion
service. Even bring your favourite present!

See @westdownland for the complete
list of services and events in December



JOY
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES
IN THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

30 Nov Advent Sunday Carols
10:30 am - St James, Lichamptstead
A service of Advent music and readings
followed by refreshments.

07 Dec Carols Round The Tree
8pm - Lichamptstead Green
Join us as we light the Christmas Tree and
sing carols before drinks in the Village Hall.

12 Dec Carol Service
7pm - St Stephens, Shelford Woodlands
A service of carols and readings with
live instrumental accompaniment and good cheer.

14 Dec Community Christingle
10:30 am - All Saints, Brightwell
You will remember this year a great way to
share the meaning of Christmas.

14 Dec Contemporary Carols
7pm - St Mary's, Fawley
Readings and Carols with a live band. This is
an experience not to be missed.

16 Dec Carol Singing In The Five Bells
7:30 pm - The Five Bells, Witham
We'll bring the carol sheets, you bring
the voices and we'll make the most of it.

18 Dec Carols Through The Avenue
8:30 pm - St Mary's, Great Shelford
Join us for a service of carols and festive drinks
in the Avenue.

19 Dec Phoenix Brass @ the Pop Up Pub
7pm - St James, Lichamptstead
Which can be more Christmas than carols
with a glass of wine or beer in the pub?

20 Dec Christmas Carol Service
3pm - St Thomas, East Shelford
Carols, readings and refreshments in the
beautiful 12th Century church.

21 Dec Christmas Catechism
10:30 am - St Mary's Great Shelford
The Christmas story, Catechism story,
readings and carols from St Mary's.

21 Dec Nine Lessons and Carols
7pm - All Saints, Brightwell
A service of contemplation and music for
those who find Christmas overwhelming.

22 Dec The Longest Night
7pm - St Mary's, Fawley
A service of contemplation and music for
those who find Christmas overwhelming.

23 Dec Carol Singing In The Ilex
7:30 pm - The Ilex, Chesham
A service of carols and readings with
live instrumental accompaniment and good cheer.

24 Dec Carols by Candlelight
8pm - St Margaret's, Catterick
Carols and readings in the beautiful church,
in aid of the Church Conservation Trust.

24 Dec Live Nativity Crib Service
8pm - St Mary's, Great Shelford
Come dressed in your favourite nativity
clothing as we celebrate the Christmas
story in live action.

24 Dec Midnight Communion
10:30 pm - St Matthews, Witham
The most beautiful Christmas service of all.
Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

25 Dec Christmas Day Communion
8am - St Mary's Great Shelford
10:30 am - All Saints, Brightwell
All welcome at this all-ages communion
service. Even bring your favourite present!

Follow us for more info
f @westdownland

FACE School Membership Plan Good for parents, staff and Ofsted



contact Jane
info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk
facefamilyadvice.co.uk



January 2026 Timetable	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 50 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at: facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)	
Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm



Let's Play
FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR FUN DAYS
SWIMMING (INDOOR & OUTDOOR), MULTI-SPORTS, SOFT PLAY, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE,
PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

Friday 19th, Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd December & Friday 2nd January



Northcroft Leisure Centre
Northcroft Lane, Newbury RG14 1RS
9.00am – 4.00pm
Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) – 12
FROM £27.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings & full week booking - please see booking page for details.
We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!
Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.

FREE FUNDED HAF SPACES AVAILABLE



Scan the QR code for more information,
call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk

f @LPlayUK @LetsPlayUK



Christmas AT SHAW HOUSE

Winter Public Opening

6, 13, 14, 20 & 21 Dec | 11am – 3pm | Free
Inspired by Christmases gone by, we invite you to admire decorations through the House representing different eras, from Tudor times to the present day. A reindeer trail will be available for younger visitors at a suggested donation of £2.

Christmas Fair

Sunday 7 Dec | 11am – 3pm | £2 adults, £1 child
Browse over 70 stalls selling locally made gifts, food, drink, decorations and craft. Warm up with mulled wine and seasonal treats from the café and outdoor caterers. Plus a themed craft in our Activity Room and a reindeer trail (trail suggested donation of £2). With vintage music from Gramofon.

Wreath Making

9 & 10 Dec - 10am & 6.30pm | 11 Dec - 10am | £55
Master the technique of mossing your own wreath and then add foliage, dried fruits and cinnamon sticks, fir cones, baubles and sparkles! Price includes a hot drink and mince pie.

Midwinter Revels

Thursday 11 Dec | 7.30pm | Adult £15, Child £5
A celebration of Yuletide Past guaranteed to warm the cockles of the most Scrooge-like heart, featuring Christmas carols, winter folk songs, toe-tapping tunes.

A Visit from Beauty and her Prince

Sunday 14 Dec | 11am, 1pm & 3pm
£10 per child, one accompanying adult free.
The royal couple will delight young audiences with a fun sing-a-long, themed games and story time.

Christmas Carol Concert

Friday 19 Dec | 7.30pm | Adult £12, Child £6
Newbury based chamber choir, Cantemus, will be giving a concert of festive music telling the Christmas story from Advent to Epiphany along with an opportunity for the audience to join in with some of the well-known pieces.

Children's Magic Show

Sunday 21 Dec | 11am, 12.30pm & 3pm
£8 per child, one accompanying adult free
Featuring Mr Muddle the charming, if muddlesome, magician who captivates and amazes children with his comical slapstick magic.

Movie in the Hall: Frozen

Tuesday 23 Dec | 10.30am | Adults £5 Child £3
Fearless optimist Anna teams up with rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven in an epic journey to find Anna's sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the Kingdom of Arendelle into eternal winter.

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on



West Berkshire
LIBRARIES

Become a library star!

Choose from one of our five character bookmarks when you borrow from the library and collect a star stamp for every book you read.

E-books, magazines and audiobooks count too. Read alone or share your book with others. We have certificates available for everyone who becomes a library star by collecting 10 stamps.

Share the joy
of reading!



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