



# AD ASTRA INFANT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty



Ad Astra Infant School



[ad\\_astra\\_infant\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/ad_astra_infant_school)



## Christmas message from the Chief Executive Officer



*The fairy lights are twinkling, glitter and tissue paper is everywhere, and George Michael is telling all and sundry he's going to "...give his heart to someone special this year..." and here at the TEACH Trust, we absolutely love it!*

*The smiling faces of all of your wonderful children, make this time of the year simply magical and through all the Christmas performances, the singing, the card making and the Christmas dinner eating, it is your children who put the magic into Christmas and fill our hearts with warmth and good cheer.*

*If you have been lucky enough to see a Christmas performance or have joined us at one of our many music/Christmas events, I hope you have enjoyed the high calibre performances your children, and the adults in school, have worked tirelessly on. I thank you for supporting your children; I thank the adults for their unwavering dedication; and I thank your amazing children for their endless enthusiasm.*

*This year, we are reminded, more than ever, that it is people who make Christmas special and I sincerely hope that every single one of you has the opportunity to spend precious time with the ones you love.*

*On behalf of myself and all the staff and Trustees, I wish you and your children a really happy and peaceful Christmas.*

With very best wishes,

*Kate Carter*

Mrs Kate Carter  
Chief Executive Officer







# Christmas message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful autumn term it has been for all of us at Ad Astra Infant School this year. The children have settled beautifully into their respective year groups and the progress that they have made this term is truly inspirational to see. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of your children, as they learn and grow, and for our positive partnership in helping all Ad Astra children to reach their full potential.

Such a lot has happened since our Early Years children arrived at school for the first time and had their photograph taken in front of our 'first day at school' board. They have made an amazing start to their reading journey; formed many lovely new relationships and have become really curious learners who are excited and engaged with our curriculum. Well done to all of our Early Years children for such a super start to their school career and thank you to all of our Early Years staff for their commitment to and support of the children.

Our Year One children have excelled at transitioning from Early Years to Year One, which is such a leap in so many ways. We have seen the children's independence grow so much, which is fantastic, and they have really embraced their new learning this term. Thank you to everyone in Year One, both children and staff, for such a positive start to Key Stage One. We have had some exciting news in Year One, which I am delighted to share - our lovely Mrs Blake-McKeown is expecting her second baby. She will be beginning her maternity leave at Easter and so Mrs Chandler, who the children already know well, will join Mrs Adams and Dolphins' class for the last term of the year.

Year Two have certainly stepped up to being 'top of the school' and regularly surprise me with how grown up and trust worthy they are. They have represented the school beautifully on more than one school trip this term and had a fantastic time doing it. What a brilliant job you are all doing Year Two - well done to all of you, both children and staff.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have all thoroughly enjoyed the lead up to Christmas with many varied Christmas activities such as designing our own Christmas cards; decorating our school; enjoying our annual Christmas tree assembly; sharing Christmas stories; hunting high and low for the elves; engaging in quite a bit of Christmas singing; visiting the Christmas Present Shop; joining together for our Christmas dinner and jumper day; sharing at least some aspects of our Year 1 Nativity performances and, of course, visiting Santa himself. It has been an exciting and magical few weeks for us all! I would like to take this opportunity to say a MASSIVE thank you to our wonderful FOAA PTA, who have worked tirelessly to provide and support us with many of these special events.

As the Christmas holidays begin, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and lots of quality time with your wonderful children over the holidays. We look forward to seeing all of the children back at school in the New Year refreshed and ready for a really successful 2024.

Best wishes,

*Clare Tantrum*

Mrs Clare Tantrum  
Headteacher







# Christmas message from the Pastoral Care Team



As the end of 2023 is fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to say how wonderful it has been working with your children; welcoming them into school every morning and seeing their happy faces throughout the day.

Pastoral care is here for every child. Our aim is to help all of the children feel settled, happy and secure as they progress through school. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you feel your child has any worries, needs reassurance or support. We are always happy to help.

As Christmas approaches, and our children become more excited, we would like to take some time to think about some of our families who may not be as fortunate as others, even more so, due to the current cost of living crisis.

As the cost of living increases, it is important to be aware of the benefits, payments and support options available to you. There are local and national schemes that can help you with rent, food, energy and more:

## Cost of living support

The government has a national cost of living hub which can be found at [Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help).

## Household Support Fund 3

This funding is to support residents in BCP with the cost of living situation around keeping warm, reducing energy bills and accessing food across the winter. More information can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/cost-living-help-local-council>.

## Citizens Advice BCP

In addition to the funding provided to schools for the flexible food vouchers, residents can also apply for short term financial help in the form of food and/or energy vouchers through Citizen's Advice BCP [Home - Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole \(citizensadvicebcp.org.uk\)](https://citizensadvicebcp.org.uk).

If you don't have access to the internet to complete the form you can go to your nearest drop-in or outreach session. These are the current drop-in sessions:

### Bournemouth Outreach Hub

· Civic Centre, Town Hall, (BH2 6DX) Monday – Thursday 10am – 2.30pm (Drop-ins only)

### Christchurch Outreach Hub

· Christchurch Central Library (BH23 1AW) Fridays 9:30am – 12:30pm (Drop-ins only)

Citizen's Advice BCP also has other support and advice available. Their Community Advice Vehicle will be visiting various locations in the BCP area in the coming months.

### Energy Advice

Eligible households can also benefit from a visit from an energy advisor who will support them with ways to reduce their bills, access energy saving advice and, in some instances, provide a new boiler depending on circumstances. Full details can be found here: [LEAP Home Visit / Ridgewater Energy](#).

### Access to Food

There are a number of options for accessing community food support and these are detailed on the webpages here: [Access to Food Map - community fridges food banks pantries social supermarkets / BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#). You can also contact us and we can issue a food bank voucher that can be used on a monthly basis.

We would also like to send a HUGE thank you to Tesco Tower Park, Poole Foodbank, Canford Heath Baby Bank who have been amazingly generous in offering gifts and support to our families.

### ParentLine for parents/carers for children aged 5-19 years old (all schools)

Dorset HealthCare: ParentLine confidential text messaging service

Text 07312 263131 for confidential advice and support from a member of the school nursing team.

ParentLine is not an emergency service, for urgent medical attention contact your GP, 111 or 999

We wish you and your children a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing all the children in the New Year.

Best wishes  
Mrs Nikki Penfold & Miss Caroline Hutchins  
Pastoral Care Worker and ELSA





# Early Years



The children have settled well into their school routines and love exploring their continuous and enhanced provisions.



The children have loved starting Forest School this half term.

The children really enjoyed discussing 'what might happen' during an investigation.



The children asked our 'people who help us' visitors lots of questions, which enhanced their understanding of the wider community.



## Year 1

The children have been so busy learning in lots of different ways this term. They've been using paints, tape, dienes, whiteboards and much more! The staff are really proud of the fantastic work the children have done and the amazing progress they have made too!



This term, Year One have been lucky enough to have some absolutely wonderful enrichment activities. The drama workshop allowed the children's imagination to run wild; the music workshop allowed them to experience amazing new instruments; and Paddington's Tea Party was just such good fun!





# Year 2



The children have loved exploring Roald Dahl's many stories and dressed up as their favourite character.



The children used their knowledge of human and physical features when exploring our beautiful local area.

The children thoroughly enjoyed making healthy smoothies and using a knife and a peeler safely.



The children were amazed to find out about the interesting past of Poole Quay and the pirates who once lived there.



## Pupil Voice



Each year, our Early Years, Year One and Two classes elect School Councillors who attend regular meetings where they represent their class by sharing their views and ideas about how we can improve our school. These are some of our elected School Councillors for this year:







# Long Service Awards



Congratulations to the following members of staff for receiving their long service awards this term:

25 years - Kay Spratt

15 years - Kate Carter

10 years - Claire Cross

10 years - Georgina Verrinder

10 years - Emma Walters

What a fantastic achievement and display of dedication and commitment to our TEACH children.



# Whole School Diary Dates



Monday 1st January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd January	Inset Day
Wednesday 3rd January	Year 2 Storyteller Big Bad Wolf – pm
Friday 5th January	NSPCC workshops for year 2 - visitor into school (pm)
Friday 19th January	Non-uniform for MyTime charity
Thursday 25th January	EYFS Grand Ball
	Ducklings 9am
	Caterpillars 10am
	Froglets 11am
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day (children will have class assemblies) School Readiness Workshop 6pm
Friday 9th February	Year 1 - Under the Sea arts, craft, mini performance – parents in PTA Smarties Challenge starts
Monday 12th - 16th February	Half Term
Monday 19th February	Year 1 Sparkly Starter – Dragon Hunt
Friday 23rd February	PTA Smarties Challenge – last day to hand in the tubes
Thursday 29th Feb	Year 2 Plague and GFOL drama day

Friday 1st March	Fraser Photography class photo & Leavers photos
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 – Fire Safety Lesson with Dorset & Wiltshire fire and rescue
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World book day – dress up as a book character
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day gifts home
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Walt Disney Wonders performance Ducklings 9am Caterpillars 9.45am Froglets 10.45am
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief – Red Nose Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Pirate Day (Sparkly Starter)
Tuesday 19 <sup>st</sup> March	Book Fair arriving in school
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Book fair
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Book fair
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Book fair
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Book fair
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Event: meet the Easter Bunny – straight after school Year 1 Knights Tales Drama & Dress up
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Treats Day
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Reports go home
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday

## Pupil Premium

**(TEACH)**  
The Educational Alliance  
of Canford Heath

### Funding to support your child

#### Did you know?

Schools can claim extra money for some children.

This money can make a real difference. It helps us give your child the best support we possibly can.

#### Benefits for you:

- Free school milk
- Free music tuition (1 instrument per year)
- All eligible pupils will receive £50.00 on their School Gateway Online Account to use towards the cost of a school jumper or cardigan, clubs and trips.

If you think your child may be eligible, please complete the form in your child's admission pack, or ask at the school

office.

