

DECEMBER
2024

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear families, parents and carers,

Welcome to our December newsletter! This last month has certainly been eventful; the highlights being the marvellous performances by our Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 children in their Christmas performances, as well as our Key Stage 2 children in the Carol Concert held at St Swithun's Church. The children worked so hard to prepare and learn the songs, dance moves, and lines across the school - all showing great courage to perform in front of large audiences. I know they all greatly enjoyed the opportunity to shine; we are so proud of them. My thanks also to all the hard work of the staff team in organising these and many thanks to all the families for supporting your children.

Jigsaw South East collection

Thank you so much for your generosity in our collection at the KS2 Carol Concert. We have collected £269.59 which we have passed on to Jigsaw South East who were incredibly grateful.



Halsford House Cup



Huge congratulations to Earth House team - who achieved the most Core Value awards (counted through Dojos) over the course of the term. Each team achieved an incredible amount of Core Value awards, and should all feel very proud of themselves. Well done!

Earth - 8126 Air - 7127 Fire - 6911 Water - 6821

Quick Links

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Internet Safety: Snap chat

Each newsletter, I will continue to include a top tips poster around an area of online safety. This month is an overview of what parents need to know about Snapchat which was requested by a parent. Please do let us know if there is a theme you would like me to source a guide for.

On our website we have added all the previous themed guides so you can access them anytime.

<https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/internet-e-safety/>

We have also been asked to share the below Guide to WhatsApp which we have received from West Sussex County Council.



Your child's mental health and wellbeing: WhatsApp guide

WhatsApp age restriction is 13+

WhatsApp is a convenient and easy way to keep in touch with others. We know that connection to others is really important in terms of our wellbeing, however we need to be aware that there are also some risks to WhatsApp use, particularly for children and young people.

WhatsApp and emotional wellbeing

To start a chat on WhatsApp, all anyone needs is a person's phone number. If a child has given their number to someone else who then adds them to a group chat, everyone in this group chat will now have access to their number. This means that complete strangers can contact them.

Does your child know what to do if they get a message from someone they don't know?

Who is contacting me?

Be aware of chat lock. Chat lock is a feature which allows WhatsApp users to keep their chats in a separate locked folder, with its own secret code. This allows users to hide conversations, even if someone checks their phone and messages. This could include messages about harmful behaviours such as self-harm and inappropriate sexual content.

Secrecy and chat lock

WhatsApp has a feature which allows messages to be sent and only be viewed once. Unfortunately, this allows users to send inappropriate and abusive content which cannot be re-opened once seen. This means there is no evidence of what has been sent. It also means that if you check your child's phone you won't see a complete picture of what they have viewed.

You can never really know what has been sent or received by your child's account.

Disappearing content

Information sharing on WhatsApp can reach a lot of people, very quickly. This means that false information can rapidly gather momentum resulting in sharing of fake news. Children and young people may not have the critical thinking needed to understand what is real and what isn't. This also means that they may be vulnerable to scams. Internet Matters have produced a [toolkit](#) for parents and carers.

Scams and fakes

Teach them to be cautious

Guide them to ask themselves how likely a message from an unknown number is really from someone they know.

Adjust the settings

You can specify who can and cannot add them to group chats. You can do this in the 'Settings' menu under the 'Groups' tab.

Talk to them openly

Without judgment about what they are sharing and how they contribute. Consider with them how they can use group chats safely and that it is okay to exit group chats if they feel uncomfortable.

What can we do?

Internet Matters: What is WhatsApp – A Guide for Parents

[Internet Matters](#) is a fantastic website with a huge amount of information about internet safety. There are numerous guides for parent and carers, including WhatsApp.

Social Media Survival Guide

A recommended book for children and young people aged 10+ to empower them to stay safe online when using social media.



Thriving in education

For more support and advice, please visit our Thriving in Education [website](#) or scan the QR code.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024



PTA Contributions

Our PTA have worked incredibly hard this term culminating in a fabulous PTA Christmas Fair which raised a fantastic grand total, which will be shared in the New Year. Huge thanks to all the volunteers and to those that took the time to attend. Did you guess which staff member was the Grinch? .. and no it was not me! Thank you also to the PTA for funding a special Pantomime performance of Aladdin for the children by the Stage-ed Theatre company; the children loved it.

Christmas Lunch

Well done to all the children who clearly put a lot of thought and time into the Christmas hat creations; it's always so hard for the staff to pick only two winners especially as they were so creative this year. Well done to our winners: Chloe, Zofia, Alba, Harry C, Emilia, Oren, Florence H, Sam, Ethaniel, Saskia, Amelia F, Isla B, Isla E and Nate. Thank you to the PTA for helping serve and for providing the prizes. See attached for some of the photos of the day.

Parent Survey

Thank you so much to those parents and carers for taking the time to complete our annual parent survey where we had 101 responses. We have had some lovely comments and some useful feedback. As usual, if you would like to discuss anything with a member of staff, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

I will use next term's Parent Forum on 28th January to go through the results in more detail. Highlights included:

- *My child is happy at this school 96% agree +*
- *My child feels safe at this school 98% agree +*
- *The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved 92% agree +*
- *The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year 97% agree +*
- *When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly 90% agree +*
- *My child does well at this school 92% agree +*
- *My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school 95% agree +*
- *Would recommend this school to another parent 95% agree +*

Website Update

We are delighted to share that we have managed to update our website to enable translation for many different languages.

Please use the tab next to 'useful links'



Christmas Hat Winners 2024





Early Years

In Early Years, we have been exploring how different people celebrate important festivals and have learnt about Diwali, Hanukkah and the Christmas story. We are very excited as Christmas approaches and have been making cards and baubles with our year 6 buddies.

Our role play areas have been transformed into a Post Office and we have been writing Christmas cards and letters. We really enjoyed receiving our replies from Father Christmas!

We have enjoyed learning new Christmas songs with actions and have shown lots of courage to perform them to our families. We are now looking forward to our next learning experience based on Traditional Tales in the New Year and wish you all a Merry Christmas.



Year 1

In Year 1, we have continued to write sentences in our English lessons based on something that has happened in the books we are reading. We have been focusing on using the word 'and' in our sentences to connect two sentences together. In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We have been naming them and

describing them using mathematical terminology. We have also been learning numbers to 20, both as a numeral and written as a word. In DT, the children have made and evaluated their playground



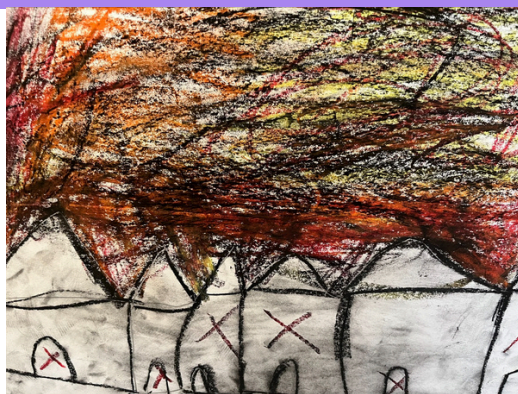
equipment. Many of the children were very impressed with how their model turned out and were proud of what they have done. Have a look at some of the completed models.

In Geography, we have been looking at maps of where we live and identify what is near to us. We have also looked at aerial photographs and described what we can see.

Thank you so much for your support in helping the children learn their lines and the songs for our Christmas show. We were so proud of how courageous they all were.

Over the last week, we have been enjoying taking part in some Christmas activities. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.





Year 2

In Year 2 we have had a very busy few weeks! The children have finished off their learning about the Great Fire of London by writing their own fact files, using all of the information that they have learnt during this half term. They have applied all of their learning about how to write fabulous 'Year 2' style sentences and have made sure they included different sentence starters to make their writing even more interesting.

In maths, the children have been continuing with their learning about subtraction, where they have practised using dienes to support them with exchanging and regrouping when crossing a 10. After Christmas we will be moving on in maths to begin learning about shape.

The children were very excited to have a go at using the apparatus in PE this week, where they had the opportunity to practise their climbing skills using the wall bars. They also demonstrated all of the travelling and balancing skills they have learnt this half term by moving over and under different equipment.

In Art, the children enjoyed using charcoal and oil pastels to create some wonderful pictures, showing the wooden houses on fire during the Great Fire of London.

A focus for January will be reading; both aloud and reading comprehension. We would love to invite parents to volunteer to support with 1:1 reading at school. If you are interested and able to give up some time please contact the office.

We hope all of the children enjoy their festivities during the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing everyone back for more learning in January!

Year 3

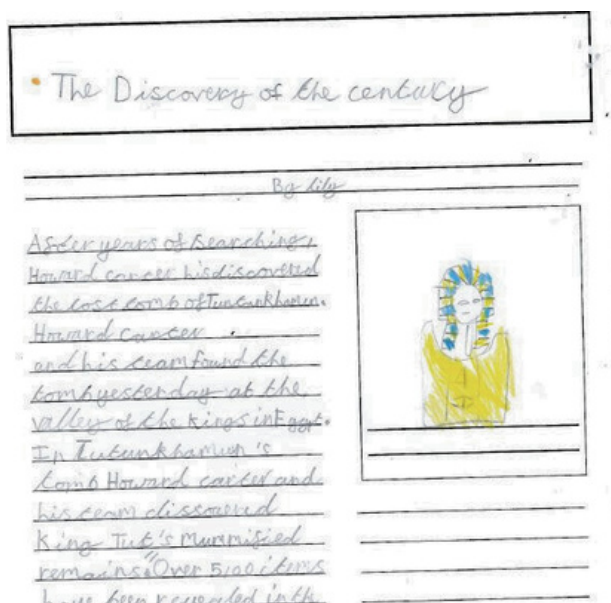
Year 3 have continued to show what superstars they all are!

In Maths, we have been continuing with our division and multiplication unit and in particular looking at the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. We have been using our knowledge of doubling and of the 4 times table to work out answers in the 8 times table. We have also been looking at related division sentences.

In English, we are publishing our newspaper reports about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

We were very excited to look at different sources in History to find out all about the discovery so that we could write our reports.

In Outdoor Learning, we had a fantastic Fabulous Finish when we made Egyptian flatbreads. Many of the children discovered that they rather liked dipping their flatbreads into the salsa! Thank you very much to the parents who came to help.



This week has been an exciting one for the children with the pantomime at the beginning of the week, which they thoroughly enjoyed and Christmas lunch on Wednesday. We are all ready for a well earned break!

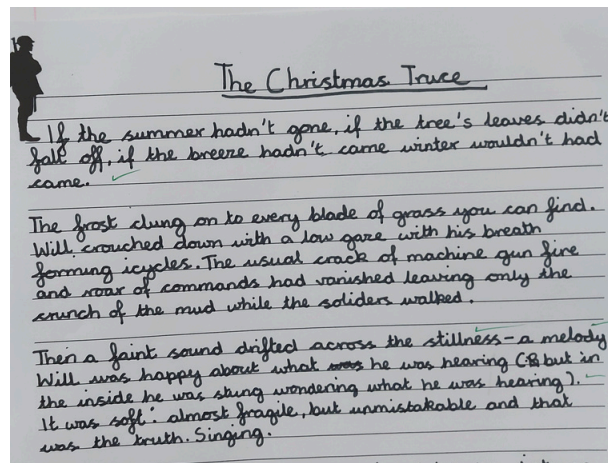
Wishing you a very happy holiday and best wishes for the New Year from all the Year 3 team!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy term continuing our learning on the Romans, Anglo - Saxons and Vikings. We have looked at who they were and why they all wanted to come to Britain. We have taken all this research to enable us to write a non-chronological report all about the Romans, which shared in our fabulous finish gallery. We show cased our very own roman pots which we have designed and sculpted using different techniques to etch in our design. We also learnt how to use a slurry to help join two bits of clay together. Staying on theme, we learnt about roman numerals in maths. We took our learning outside and used natural materials to make numbers but not just any numbers... Roman numbers! We have really enjoyed having Coach Dave this term to teach us gymnastics and have also enjoyed learning the rules and techniques in dodgeball.

Year 5



The children have gained so much from our experience this term relating to World War 1. They have brought their knowledge and skills to research and analysing the conflict and some great writing (both fiction and non-fiction) has come from their learning.

As part of our fabulous finish, the children have painted pebbles and painted scenes from poppy fields of northern France. If your child has painted a pebble, can you encourage your child to hide it in your local community over the Christmas break? Each pebble will represent a soldier going out to war. We want the children to understand the anticipation of waiting to see if their 'soldier' will return.

In Design Technology, the children have been designing and making models of shelters, suitable for soldiers on the battlefield. We have looked at different types of joins to secure them.

Maths continues with fractions - in particular comparing fractions with different denominators. We have then been ordering the fractions by size and using these skills to answer word problems .

We would encourage all children to continue with reading every day for at least 20 minutes over the school holidays. In addition, please can you ensure you have their Rockstars login over Christmas, as learning about fractions is so much easier if you are secure in your multiplication tables.



That just leaves us to wish all our year 5 children and parents a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.



Year 6

Year 6 have completed many festive activities in the last couple of weeks. We looked at the history of the Christmas card and some traditional Victorian designs and completed our own in class. We also decorated our festive winter baubles – thank you to the PTA for providing these for our pupils.

In maths, we even completed some festive tasks relating to coordinates, translation and reflection.

In writing, we completed our Queen Victoria biographies in which we wrote about her early life, her catastrophic coronation ceremony, her wedding and other events that took place during her astonishing reign as monarch. In history we completed our end of topic post assessment notes and realised that we have learnt a lot about Victorian life. We have had to move the date for the 6CB class assembly, please see the Dates for your Diary for the update.



Boy's Football- 4th December

The 4th December saw the latest round of fixtures for the B League football team. It was a fantastic round of fixtures for the team who went on to beat Copthorne 2-0 and Crawley Down 3-1. All players showed true skill, determination and teamwork across both games and worked brilliantly together when under pressure in the second game. Mr Busse

Eco Council

The results are in for 'Cut your Carbon'. Thank you to everyone for supporting their child through November and sticking with it! An impressive 366 children and their families took part with the following results:



210 Pupils walked to school regularly



148 Pupils went Veggie for a day



142 Pupils turned their heating down



159 Pupils bought nothing new in November

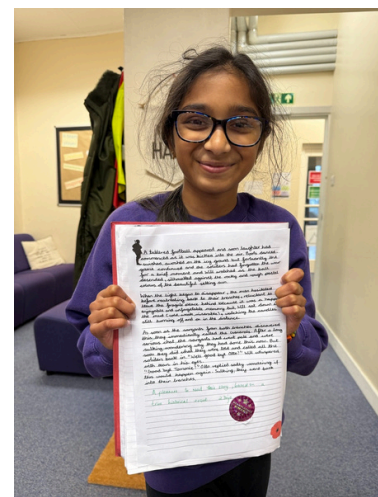
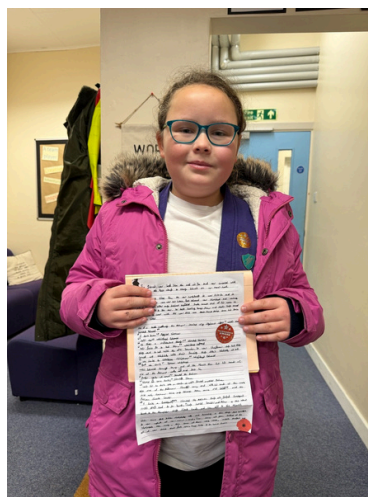
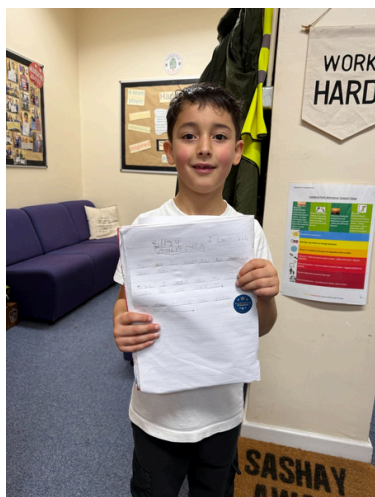


196 Pupils had a shower not a bath



199 Pupils switched off their devices and did something better instead!

Well done to everyone who took part. The results have been handed in and we are in for a chance to win a £4000 wall art mural for the KS1 playground. Good Luck!



School And Family Support Team (SAFS)

We are very proud of the support we offer to children and parents at school. Many needs are met through Quality First Teaching in class, but sometimes children need some additional support.

The SAFS team is a team of professionals who work within school. We meet together in school regularly. The team plan for children who need extra support. There are various needs such as social and emotional, cognition and learning difficulties like Dyslexia, speech and language difficulties, medical issues, English as an additional language, and behavioural needs. The SAFS team review support provided within school and when necessary, make referrals to outside agencies such as our school nurse or speech and language therapist.

If you have concerns about your child and would like some support then please speak to your class teacher in the first instance. They can then ask for advice from the SAFS team if needed. If teachers have concerns they will speak to you and also seek advice.

If you would like more information on the SAFS team, or about our SEND provision in school we would like to invite you to an **information meeting at 9.30 on Wednesday 5th February**. In the meantime, there is more information on the inclusion page of the school website, including parent support and details of the SAFS team. [Halsford Park website - Inclusion](#) Ms Davies- SENCO

Early Years Intake 2025



Do you have, or do you know a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021? If so, they are eligible to start school in September 2025. We have set the dates for our Early Years tours - please see our website for details about booking in a visit.

Early Years Prospective Parents - Halsford Park Primary School Applications can be made online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions up until the deadline of Wednesday 15th January 2025. For further advice or information please contact 03330 142 903. Please spread the word of how great our school is!

On behalf of the whole staff team, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing support

With very kind regards

Mrs Claire Spencer - Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

December		April	
20th	Last Day of Term	4th	3WR Class Assembly
21st- 5th	Christmas Holidays	4th	Last Day of Term
January		5th- 21st	Easter Holidays
6th	INSET Day- School Closed to Children	22nd	Return to School
7th	Children Return to School	May	
17th	6DS Class Assembly	2nd	2BG Class Assembly
23rd	<i>Change of Date</i> Year 4- Hindleap Warren - Parents Meeting 2.30pm	5th	Bank Holiday- School Closed
24th	5JM Class Assembly	9th	2LS Class Assembly
28th	Parent Forum 9.05am	23rd	INSET Day- School Closed to Children
February		24th- 1st	Half Term
5th	SAFs Information Meeting- 9.30am	June	
14th	Last Day of Term	2nd	Children Return to School
15th- 23rd	Half Term	13th	<i>Change of Date</i> 6CB Class Assembly
24th	INSET Day- School Closed to Children	20th	4DN Class Assembly
25th	Children Return to School	24th	Class Photographs
28th	3RD Class Assembly	27th	4JW Class Assembly
March		July	
7th	1GS Class Assembly	4th	Early Years Class Assembly
14th	1MS Class Assembly	11th	Early Years Class Assembly
19th- 21st	Year- Hindleap Warren Residential	22nd	Last Day of Term
28th	5IG Class Assembly	23rd- 31st	Summer Holidays

Community Events

Your Space
THERAPIES
Secure attachments
Robust learners • Building futures
WWW.YOURSPACETHERAPIES.ORG



ANXIETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS WEBINAR
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025, 10AM- 12 MIDDAY


LEARN PRACTICAL TIPS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH ANXIETY IN THIS ONLINE EVENT!

Are you feeling overwhelmed by your child's anxiety? Join us for this online event where Your Space Therapies will provide you with practical tools and strategies to help you support your child. Emma Connor, Child Psychotherapist will share valuable, easy to implement strategies to navigate through challenging situations and promote your child's well-being. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and connect with other parents and carers facing similar experiences. Register now and equip yourself with the tools to better understand and manage anxiety in your child.

Price: £27.80

For more information and booking please scan the QR code:



 Scan me!



**TOPHAT'S
CHRISTMAS
WORKSHOP**

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF
DANCING, SINGING, DRAMA,
GAMES AND CRAFTS!

**MONDAY 23RD
DECEMBER** • **9:30-2:30PM**
£30 PER CHILD

**TO SECURE YOUR SPACE EMAIL:
SUSSEX@TOPHATSTAGESCHOOL.CO.UK**

**Location-
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RH17 6BJ**

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Important:


- Offer only applies to parent orders placed online between 00:01 on 31/12/24 to 23:59 on 05/01/25
- Offer cannot be claimed on orders placed prior to, or after the above period
- Discount does not apply to delivery charge
- Offer only applies to parent orders placed online using the promo code: NY15
- Partial refunds will not be given if you place your order during this period but fail to correctly apply the promo code



YOU ARE INVITED TO

OURCAMPS

JUMP INTO JANUARY CAMP



Dates: 2nd & 3rd January
Time: 9am - 3pm
Age: 5-11 Yrs
Price: Spaces are free/limited for those eligible to benefit related free school meals.

You will need to book on through Holiday Activities using your 16 Digit Code.

Location:
 Dornandale Primary, Clinton Hill,
 Dornandale, Surrey, RH4 6PE

"Every child with a funded booking will receive an exciting activity pack and a full kit of new parka including everything they need for two days of fun."

Scan to Book On:





www.ourcamps.org | schoolcampsinfo@ourparks.org.uk | 07306297789



YOU ARE INVITED TO

OURCAMPS

JUMP INTO JANUARY CAMP




Dates: 2nd & 3rd January
Time: 9am - 3pm
Age: 5 - 13 yrs
Price: £26 per day + £5 for Lunch (optional)

Spaces are free/funded for those eligible to benefit related free school meals

Location:
 Dornansland Primary, Clinton Hill,
 Dornansland, Surrey, RH7 6PS

"Every child with a funded booking will receive an exciting activity pack and a nutritious food parcel, providing everything they need for two days or fun."

Scan to Book On:






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COME AND JOIN US

★ THE BLUEBELL FAIRIES
ARE COMING BACK ... ★

please come along and join the party for one day of **FREE***
dental exams during Christmas half term, on Friday 3rd January

2025 - Give us a call to book your appointment
*AGE 12 AND UNDER

BLUEBELL DENTAL

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