

Dear Parents and Carers

Some of our families will have been lighting candles each night as part of **Hanukkah** this week and we wish them love and light this festival in particular.

Well done to our **choir** who sang for the Headingley Library party (relocated to our tipi due to damage to the library wall caused by a car) and then sang again later that day for the families coming to pick up children at hometime. They have made a great contribution to school life this month.



It wasn't only choir that were in good voice on Tuesday as we held our annual **carol service** at St Michael's Church. It was lovely to welcome so many friends and family members to join us as we rang out the bells and celebrated Christmas.



Well done to all those who sang, signed, played the handbells or did readings for us. Thank you to Sister Katharine and Reverend Heston for their input and for the wonderful present of some wooden bells from the Holy Land. After church we came back to school for a slap up **Christmas lunch**, with all the trimmings. Well done to Mrs Marta Woldemichael and her staff for such a



great feast and to Mrs Susan Koyuncu, Miss Carmel Turner and all the school staff who made it such a festive occasion. Congratulations are also due to the team who scored 5 (the highest score) yet again in a recent unannounced inspection by environmental health.

There were further festivities on Wednesday evening when Mr Shuffles and his **disco** entertained children in key stages one and two. (We find that the disco is too overwhelming for many Reception children at this point in the year, but



as we don't want them to feel left out they had their own movie night and party in their classroom instead.) Thank you to FOSOPS for organising the food and drinks and selling the tickets, etc. The **raffle** was also drawn on Wednesday evening and you will have been notified if you won a prize. Every prize donated and ticket bought helps FOSOPS with their fundraising efforts – these are greatly appreciated as we all know how tight school budgets are at the moment! Thank you.



The fun continued on Thursday as each class enjoyed a mini concert in the morning by the musical ensemble **Chestra**. They played firm favourites and less familiar Christmas tunes and created a great atmosphere. This continued into party lunchtime which was also lots of fun. (We love having our Christmas parties in school, but realised a few years ago that it was hard for families to send in party food in an already busy week and it wasn't that great for children to be eating a full lunch and then a full party tea as well. By having a party lunch – whether children are on school dinners or packed lunches – we can keep the party mood going whilst helping keep some balance in food and logistics!)

Each class also enjoyed activities in class that fit the party theme – whether traditional games or other fun pass times.

As children get older we know there is more chance of them receiving a present that is internet-enabled, or that they will be spending time with cousins and friends who may have mobile phones, etc. It therefore seems like a good time to send out the December **Internet Safety Newsletter** to help you keep on top of keeping your children safe online. If any of our

oldest children do receive a **mobile phone** this Christmas please remind them that once children arrive at school a message can be sent home to say they have safely arrived and then they need to be put away. Once in the school building all mobile phones are handed into the class box until the end of the day. If your children try to convince you that everyone in their class has a phone already, they are misrepresenting! In fact, we have noticed a steady decline in the number of children owning phones, particularly smartphones, and we fully support parents in this approach!

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate items for our reverse Advent calendar. Baby Basics were very happy to receive what we have parcelled up for them this week and came to thank the children in assembly this morning. I hope you also have a very **happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**. Enjoy the holiday and we look forward to seeing you on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

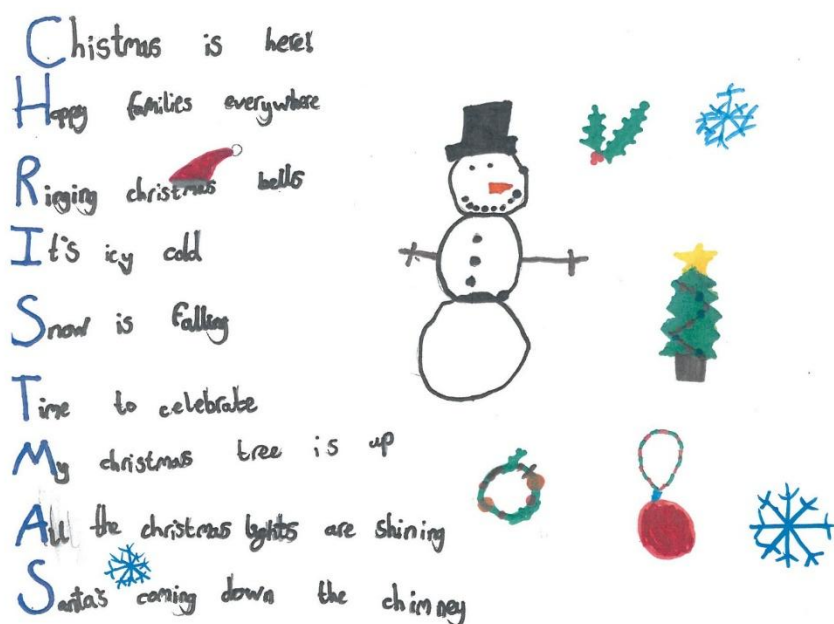
Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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If being organised is one of your new year's resolutions, please store the number 01132755890 for school. It can also be worth storing our emergency number 07345 327469. We only use this if the Internet is down and therefore our phone lines and gates are too. Please be aware that it isn't answered and messages aren't seen at any other times.

By Connie in Year 3



**The Elves and the Storyteller at Leeds Central Library, now until Dec 31<sup>st</sup>**

**A Pay What You Decide family friendly event, recommended for ages 3-7. Tickets are available [here](#)**

The Storyteller was once the host of a dazzling show, with acts full of laughter and song which enchanted audiences far and wide. Nowadays, The Storyteller spends much of their time alone; the acts have long since left, dust and quiet has settled on the well-trodden stage and their love of stories has faded away.

But Pip, and their excitable apprentice Dorrit, are Elves on a mission! A mission from Father Christmas himself. A mission to spread joy. Pip has never failed a mission, but this one is proving very tricky; The Storyteller seems to have lost all their magic and sparkle.

Can Pip, Dorrit and their expert Elf team re-ignite The Storyteller's love for stories, songs, and laughter and spread joy in time for Christmas?

An original take on the classic fairytale, The Elves and the Storyteller features playful storytelling, original songs, friendly audience participation and a warm welcome to all. Watch the promotional trailer [here](#).



we are  
**child  
friendly  
Leeds**

presents your 2025...

# Winter Guide

to free/low cost\* activities  
happening across Leeds

**CFL blog...**

Scan the qr code to  
view the details and  
the link to book on.



-  Nov - **Temple Newsam Farm Festive Trail**  
4 Jan Explore the festive trail around Home Farm.  
Book additional experiences including Father Christmas, story sessions & craft workshops.\*
-  2 Dec - **12 Days of Elfmas Trail - Leeds City Museum**  
- 4 Jan Wander through the museum to find Christmas surprises with unique elf characters.
-  6 Dec - **Christmas at Kirkgate Market**  
23 Dec Enjoy festive markets, musical performances, panto shows, and free Santa meet and greets.
-  6 Dec - **Fidget Theatre - The Elves & the Storyteller**  
31 Dec Leeds Central Library invite you to A Pay-What-You-Decide playful storytelling, original songs, friendly audience participation.
-  6 Dec - **Starry Winter Trail at Kirkstall Abbey**  
24 Dec Discover the Abbey Ruins with our magical trail and see if you can spot all the stars.
-  20 Dec **A Very Pom Pom Christmas**  
- 4 Jan Join us for festive crafts and family films by fairylight at Leeds Industrial Museum.\*
-  Nov - **Santa's Grotto & White Rose Ice Rink**  
24 Dec Festive meet and greet with Santa, SEN sessions, an outdoor play area & Ice Rink.\*
-  Nov - **Leeds Christmas Market**  
21 Dec Visit Leeds city centre - free to enter but charges apply for food, activities and rides.
-  All Year Round **Leeds Local Offer - SEND Things to do**  
Provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents or carers with information, services and activities that are available including school holiday provision.

## Winter Experiences with a cost...

-  Nov - **Leeds Ice Cube, Skating & Christmas Markets**  
31 Dec This year Millennium Square & Leeds City Centre features the stunning outdoor ice rink, Christmas market stalls and the popular festive funfair.\*
-  Nov - **Northern Lights Leeds at Temple Newsam**  
31 Dec Take a 1 mile long walk through 14 illuminated zones with interactive elements and immersive soundtracks completed by a Christmas Village.\*
-  Nov - **The Christmas Experience at Lotherton**  
4 Jan Breeze Leeds opens Lotherton's enchanting halls, grounds and gardens with twinkling light displays and interactive installations and a visit to Santa.
-  Nov - **Pantomimes and Festive Shows in Leeds 2025**  
11 Jan Visit a panto, Christmas carol concert, theatre productions or a magic show? From Sleeping Beauty to Aladdin, there is something for everyone.\*

Mumbler's Guide  
to Festive Events,  
Winter Walks &  
More...



## Sign up for free to Healthy Holidays Leeds!

School-aged children and young people eligible for income-related free school meals can take part in amazing, FREE activities and holiday clubs - with a healthy meal over holiday periods.



 **Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

## DIARY DATES

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning for prospective parents
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y4 this time please)
20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 3 working with local poet, James Nash
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Special poetry assembly for Y3 parents, 2:30pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families. Lunar New Year theme.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Health checks YR and Y6
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Reception Class pizza-making trip (TBC)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class maths meeting 2:15pm online (TBC)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Canals and Rivers Trust water safety sessions
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Fire Safety Visit to Year 5
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Pancake Sale after school (Shrove Tuesday in half term)
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> February HALF TERM School closed to children. There will be an activity club running at Shire Oak.	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families.
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am TBC
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
7 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week (we extend this for the fortnight)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	French Day in school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Pizza Club starts (which day TBC)
16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> March onwards	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story begin
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> April EASTER HOLIDAY School closed to children. There will be an activity club running at Shire Oak.	
22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c/ 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability for Year 6
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y6 this time please)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	FOSOPS ice cream sale after school
TERM DATES: <a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates</a>	

\* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.





# CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL'S

## November

Tuesday 25th, **Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On.**

Church open at 5pm, Carol singing 5:15pm, Lights switch on at 6pm.  
Refreshments available afterwards.

## Community Christmas Tree Festival Weekend

Friday 28th, 7pm - 10pm,

Saturday 29th, 10am - 4pm,

Sunday 30th, 11:30am - 5:30pm

Sunday 30th, **Advent Carol Service** - 6:30pm

## December

Monday 1st, **Cre8ive Christmas Concert** - 7:30pm

Saturday 13th, **Sankta Lucia Concert** by Leeds Guild of Singers -  
3pm

Sunday 21st, **Nine Lessons and Carols Service** - 6:30pm

Wednesday 24th, **Family Christingle Service** - 4pm, **Midnight Mass** -  
11:30pm

Thursday 25th, **Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day** - 10am