

EAST HUNSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

20th December 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families

Wow! What a week and what a term it has been! I cannot believe that we are already at the end of the Autumn term and the Christmas holidays are upon us.

As I wrote in a previous newsletter, we are sadly saying goodbye to Laura Verrall in January, Lisa Kelly is retiring (but returning for 2 days a week - hurrah) and Caroline Adams who is leaving us to work for Mencap. We are going to miss them all very much and wish them well in their new and exciting adventures.

In January, Mrs Leanne Atkinson will be returning from maternity leave to teach in Orange Class 2½ days a week with Mrs Forrestal teaching the other 2 ½ days.

What have we been up to?

This week has been Christmas Crazy but absolutely wonderful – I still believe that there is no better place to work at Christmas than a school as it is such a joyous privilege!

On Monday, we had the beautiful nativity led by our gorgeous Reception children. They did so well learning their lines, songs and dances. The words I used to describe the performance were: Magical, uplifting, heart-warming, high standards (to name but a few)! The children in our Reception cohort have already grown up so much since the start of term and we are unbelievably proud of each and every one of them. It really was the best nativity in the land! Well done everyone!



On Tuesday, Year 1 performed their fantastic Carols by Twinklelight concert which was also beautifully performed. It was amazing to see the children sing their songs so confidently and each and every child should be incredibly proud of their performance. Congratulations Year 1!

Tuesday, was also our legendary Christmas party day – where we donned our Christmas jumpers, danced to our disco and ate a yummy Christmas dinner. Tuesday was a very happy day!



On Wednesday, Year 6 had an afternoon of Carols and Christmas crafts with family members (we like to do a little something like this as we are aware that this will be our Year 6 children's last Christmas in a Primary School!) and it was wonderful to see the children make, create and talk to their friends and family.

A massive thank you to all of the staff involved in the performances – all of whom help the children see and reach their brilliant potential.

Also on Wednesday, we held our termly Celebration Assembly. This is such a highlight of the term – celebrating children achieving their Proud Points, outside school trophies but also acknowledging who has won the prestigious Class Community Cup. The cup is awarded to children who have gone above and beyond showing the school values and have been recognised by their peers and teachers.

Well done to our Class Community Cup winners for this term:

SU KS1 Maksim P
SU KS2 Sabirin
RAM Daniel H
RFL/RS Kieran R
1ES Freya G
1CL Penny G

2DW Hana S
2HD Ilinca B
3AP Dominic P
3CW Eva P-B
4AG Rion
4CH Sophie T

5JF Milan P
5KR Alaya H
6BC James P-M
6EN/CL Olivia G

Oh no they didn't!

Then today, the children were treated to a special surprise panto – Cinderella and The Seven Dwarfs! The surprise was that the staff were cast and crew!! The laughter, cheers and joy made every second worthwhile. I cannot thank my staff enough for all they give to your children – the extra hours they put in and the extra miles they go to make sure that they not only learn a lot but they also laugh a lot!

Finally, we ended the day with a festive sing-a-long in our Houses which was wonderful and a great way to end the busy week and term.

All that is left now is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful holiday with your friends and families. A final thank you to my truly brilliant staff for all of their efforts and hard work and to say “Well Done” to our children for working hard, being kind and believing in themselves and others.

I look forward to welcoming you all back on 6th January 2025 (please note that there isn't a training day) for more learning and adventures as we launch the new term with an exciting literacy project... watch this space!

Merry Christmas everyone – see you in 2025!

Ms Pennington



SU NEWS - GREEN CLASS

Green Class have been very much in the festive spirit over the past week with all sorts of wonderful things happening in the run up to the Christmas holiday!

We had a brilliant time at the silent disco with lots of dancing and singing taking place. We then enjoyed performing our class assembly alongside our friends in Year 2...all of the children were fantastic!

We have also been busy making scratch art decorations and taking part in a very exciting Forest School session where we got to toast marshmallows!

Christmas Party day was very exciting as we dressed up in our finest Christmas party clothes and had a good boogie and played lots of fun games as well as getting a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Somehow, we've also found time to make Christmas cards and reindeer food! It has been amazing and full of joy!

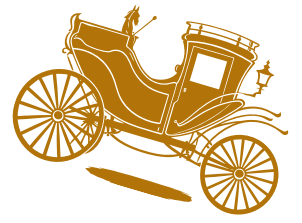
All of us in Green Class would like to wish all families of East Hunsbury Primary School a very Merry Christmas!

Neil and the Green Class Team





EHPS Staff Pantomime



Cinderella and the Seven Dwarfs

Disco the Elf



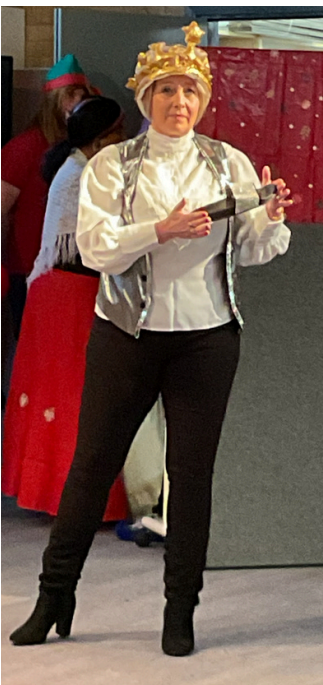
Cinderella



Cinderella's stepmother



Prince Charming



Grumpy, Cinderella, Fairy Godmother, Bashful, Happy, Footman





Footman, Fairy Godmother, Dopey, Stepmother, Beautifully challenged sister 1, Beautifully Challenged Sister 2, Grumpy, Cinderella, Royal Herald, Disco the Elf



Doc, Happy, Bashful, Sleepy, Sneezzy, Footman 1, Footman 2

Fairy Godmother, Bashful, Happy, Footman 1, 2, 3





Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas items with their child's design on them. You raised £254.



To help our school, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in mainstream or the SU please order a school lunch for 16th January on School Grid even if your child usually has packed lunch and won't eat the school lunch. They can still bring in and eat packed lunch as usual. Part of our school budget is decided on how many infant lunches are ordered. School lunch for EYFS & KS1 children is free so you will not be charged. Our meal provider puts on an extra special menu on Census Day. This time it has an Australian Outback theme featuring Didgeridoo Dogs, Coral Reef Wrap and Canberra Chips.



VISIT OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) TO SEE OUR [BOOK ADVENT CALENDAR](#)

All through December, leading up to Christmas Day, we will post a book which has a wonderful Winter or seasonal theme.



DO NOT

walk across the car park or enter via the main gates (use the pedestrian ones) as these are for vehicles.

PLEASE HELP US RAISE £2000 BY CHRISTMAS

Every donation, no matter how small, helps us towards our goal



Changemakers

Project Playground

THE CHANGEMAKERS NEED TO
RAISE £2,000 BY CHRISTMAS.
PLEASE SCAN THE QR TO MAKE A
DONATION.

[Click here to
donate](#)

BOOK GIFT IDEAS

Stuck for a gift idea? Take a look at our handy book gift guides



[Books for 3 - 5 year olds](#)



[Books for 5-7 year olds](#)



[Books for 7 - 9 year olds](#)



[Books for 9 - 11 year olds](#)

Help bring Paddington Bear to Northamptonshire!



Would you like to be part of an exciting opportunity to bring a Paddington Bear statue to Northamptonshire as part of the Paddington in Peru promotional campaign?

This unique initiative provides one last chance for a new UK location to host the final Paddington Bear statue, celebrating the beloved character's adventures while showcasing local landmarks and cultural sites.

Where would you like to see the Paddington Bear statue? Could you imagine Paddington:





- Supporting local traders at the revitalised Northampton Market Square
- Whizzing around the iconic Silverstone racetrack
- Enjoying marmalade sandwiches at Daventry Country Park
- Exploring history at Sulgrave Manor

This is your chance to play a part in boosting our area's profile, attracting tourism, and celebrating our unique identity through Paddington's legacy.

How to take part

Could you write a creative message to Paddington, explaining why your chosen location in Northamptonshire would be the perfect setting for his next adventure?

Entries should include:

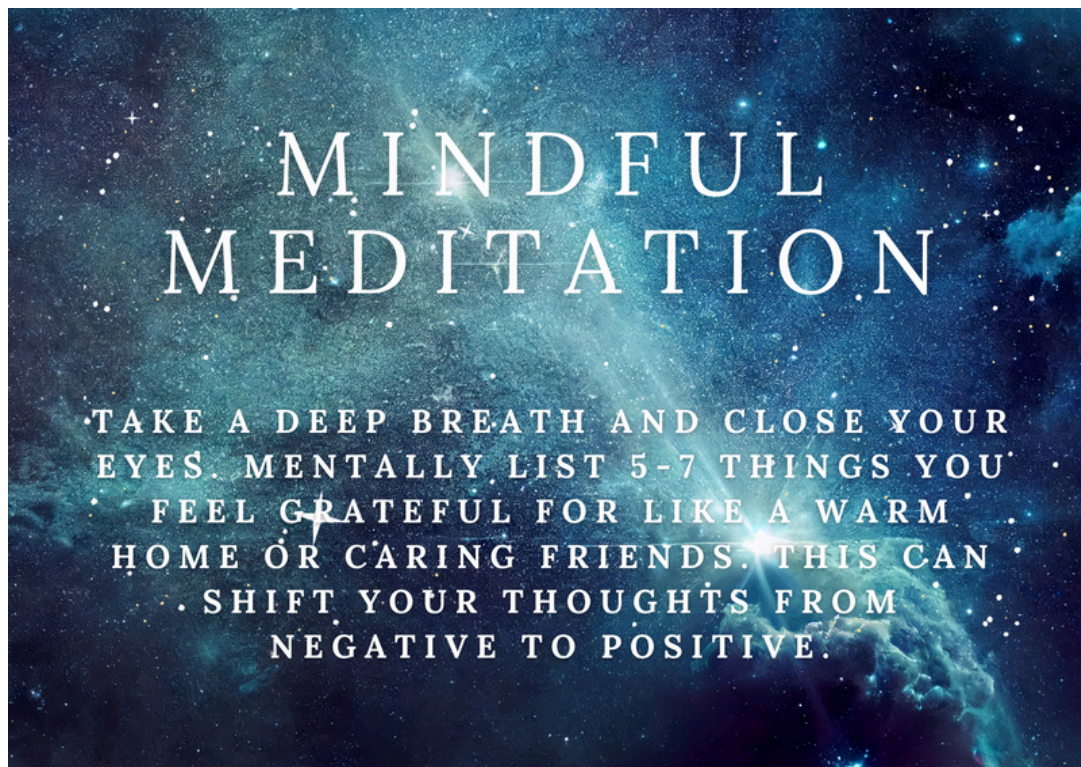
-  **Your name**
-  **Parent's email address**
-  **The location you'd like to see Paddington in**
-  **A short message to Paddington of no more than 100 words, telling him why this Northamptonshire place would be the perfect setting for his next adventure.**

Please submit entries via the official [Paddington in Peru campaign page](#) by **midnight on Sunday 5 January**, and help make Northamptonshire part of Paddington's exciting journey!



EHPS HOUSE POINTS TOTALISER

	Whittlewood	Harlestone	Everdon	Salcey
This week	130	119	147	127
Grand total	2167	1834	2078	1922



Apply for a school place

Is your child's 4th birthday on or before 31 August 2025?

It's time to apply for a Reception place

Application Deadline: 15 January 2025

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions

SCHOOL TRANSITION INFORMATION

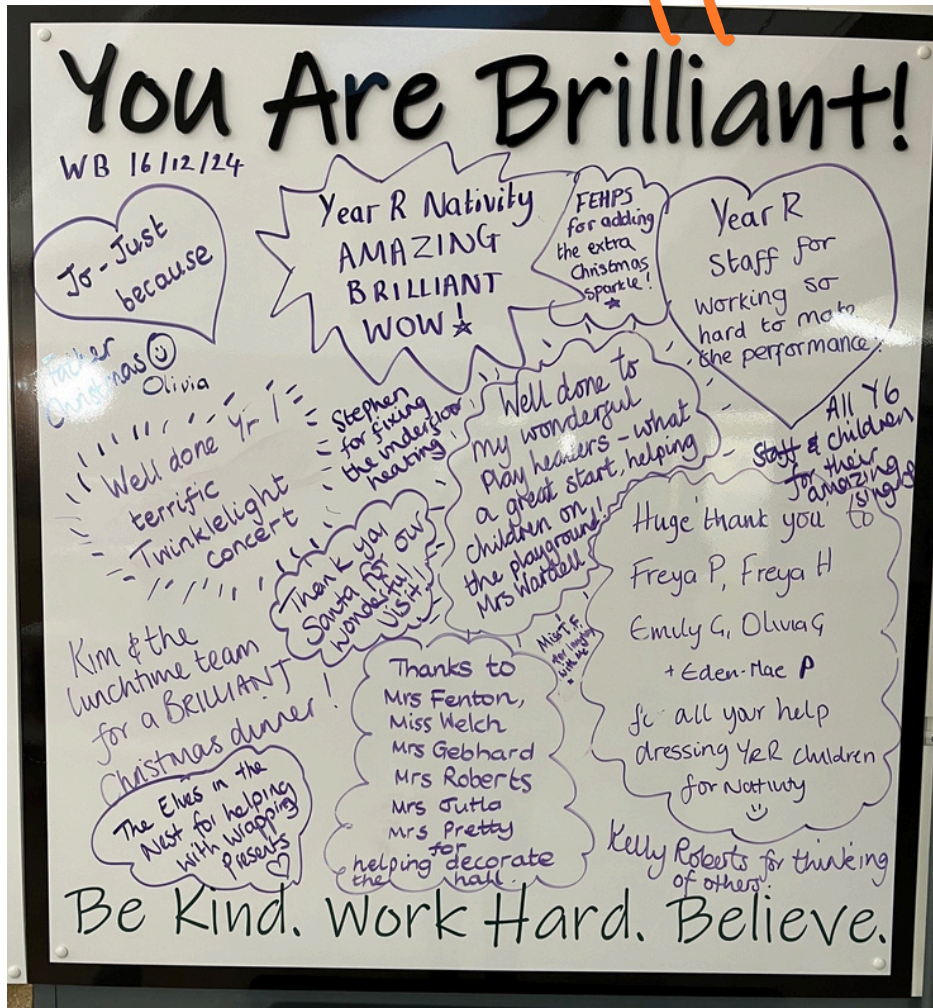
Reception Places September 2025

For children who turn 4 from 1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025

Online Applications close • 15th January 2025 - Midnight

National Offer Day • 16th April 2025

Who's been brilliant this week



How many can you complete during the Christmas holiday?

Have you started a scrapbook to document your activities?



Great Hunbury Primary
My friends

Name: _____

My 70 THINGS TO DO

Attendance News

Whole school average attendance this week was

95.15%

We are aiming to be at **96% +** every week.

	Weekly Attendance	Year Group	Weekly Attendance
Reception	91.60%	1	97.53%
2	94.97%	3	97.70%
4	95.83%	5	94.83%
6	93.79%		

Walk in Wednesday dates

29.01.25	Walk in Wednesday 3 - Reading	08:30-9:00	Classroom
12.03.25	Walk in Wednesday 4 - Easter Crafts	08:30-9:00	Classroom
07.05.25	Walk in Wednesday 5 - Reading	08:30-9:00	Classroom
18.06.25	Walk in Wednesday 6 - Science	08:30-9:00	Classroom

BE KIND

WORK HARD

BELIEVE

#weareEastHunsburyPrimarySchool #wearebrilliant



E-Safety & Wellbeing



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING**
It's concerningly common for young people to spend more 'doomscrolling' (trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious). Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to look at it with a clear purpose. Instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.
- 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT**
It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.
- 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS**
Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of advantages to using social media. Encourage young people to find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a just interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also discuss why certain things shouldn't be open-access, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.
- 4 REDUCE SCREEN TIME**
Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screen time; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- 5 FILL THE VOID**
Monitoring and reducing screen time can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even feel withdrawn symptoms when asked to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what other activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screen time, rather than temporarily opting to watch their phone when it's being monitored.
- 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS**
One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day when they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the apps in their phone's settings.
- 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD**
Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 8 DIGITAL DETOX**
Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction in screen time and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.
- 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR**
Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – and it's also good that you're also discussing social media, it can turn screen-time reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.
- 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"**
Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many reasons that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screen time is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

10 Top Tips



Model good behaviour



Be clear on the "why"



Live in the real world



Reduce screen time

[Click here for more information](#)

12 Top Tips



Try some Christmas crafting



Carol Karaoke



Enjoy a Christmas Story



Have a games day/evening

[Click here for more information](#)

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are a tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like ping-pong phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

- CHRISTMAS CRAFTING**
Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at home-made cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add to uniquely personalised cards to the Christmas tree.
- NATURE QUEST**
Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge your self and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.
- CAROL KARAOKE**
Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a festive celebration with family and friends.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE**
How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmas past? Grab your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.
- TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING**
Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.
- WRAP IT UP**
Take time to get inventive with some fabulous gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parceling up those presents into a creative adventure.
- WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND**
Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The leaves can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and extend the crisp winter air together.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF**
Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive treat that all of you can enjoy.
- ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY**
Christmas is a perfect time for storytelling. Get cosy and lose yourself in a bedtime book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris Van Allsburg or Tom Felcher.
- SNOWY SCULPTURES**
If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a snowy snowman-building competition!
- GAMES NIGHT GALA**
Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free game night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!
- GOODWILL TO ALL**
You and your family could spend a few minutes participating in a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness is the meaning of Christmas and the best of all about.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION](#)

BE KIND

WORK HARD

BELIEVE

#weareEastHunsburyPrimarySchool #wearebrilliant

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Activity	Time
JANUARY		
16.01.25	Census Day (Reception - Yr 2 please order school lunch)	
28.01.25	Yr 6 SATs Information meeting	4.30pm - 5.30pm
29.01.25	Walk In Wednesday Reading	8.30am - 9.00am
29.01.25	Yr 3 trip to Oxford Museum of Natural History	All day
FEBRUARY		
03.02 - 07.02.25	Childrens' Mental Health Week	
07.02.25	FEHPS Family Bingo Night	5.30pm - 7.30pm
11 & 12.02.25	Year 6 Parents' Evening	3.50pm - 6.30pm
14.02.25	Year 3 & Purple Class Assembly	9.30 - 10.30am
MARCH		
5 & 6.03.25	Mainstream Parents' Evening (not Yr 6)	3.50pm - 6.30pm
05.03.25	SU Parents' Evening	3.50pm - 6.50pm
05.03 - 07.03.25	Bookfair	After school
12.03.25	Walk In Wednesday Easter Crafts	8.30am - 9.00am
17.03 - 21.03.25	Neurodiversity Week	
21.03.25	Chocolate Mufti	All day
21.03.25	Odd Socks Day for World Down Syndrome Day	
28.03.25	Year 1 Class Assembly	9.30am-10.30am

29.03.25	Easter Cafe	11.00am-1.00pm
APRIL		
02.04.25	Autism Awareness Day - Wear Blue (No Charge)	All Day
02.04.25	SU Show	10.00am-11.00am
22.04 & 23.04.25	Earth Days	All Day
MAY		
07.05.25	Walk In Wednesday Reading	8.30am - 9.00am
12 - 15.05.25	Yr 6 SATS	Mornings
15.05.25	Endangered Species Census Day	
22.05.25	Year 4 Spring Assembly	9.15am - 10.00am
22.05.25	Reception Sports Day	10.15am - 11.45am
22.05.25	Year 6 Sports Day	1.30pm - 3.00pm
23.05.25	Year 5 and Yellow Class Assembly	9.30am - 10.30am
JUNE		
02.06 - 13.06.25	Yr 4 Multiplication Check	
w/c 09.06.25	Yr 1 Phonics Check	
11.06.25	SU Sports Morning	9.30 - 11.30am
16.06.25	Class photographs	All day
18.06.25	Walk In Wednesday Science	8.30am - 9.00am
25.06.25	Yr 4 to National Gallery	All day

26.06.25	Sports Day Year 1	9.30 - 11am
26.06.25	Sports Day Year 2	1.30 - 3pm
27.06.25	Sports Day Year 3	9.30 - 11.00am
27.06.25	Sports Day Year 4	1.30 - 3.00pm
28.06.25	Whole School Summer Fayre (Country dancing & Maypole by Years 2, 5, Purple & Yellow)	10.00 - 1.00pm
30.06 - 03.07.25	Yr 5 Bikeability	
30.06 - 04.07.25	Careers & Aspirations Week	
JULY		
04.07.25	Reception & Blue Class Assembly	9.30 - 10.30am
04.07.25	Brilliance Exhibition	TBC
08.07.25	Music Gala	5.30pm - 7.00pm
09 - 11.07.25	Yr 3 Residential Everdon	
10.07.25	Sports Day Year 5	9.30 - 11.00am
15.07.25	Yr 6 Leavers' Performance	6.00pm - 7.30pm
16.07.25	Yr 6 Leavers' Performance for toddlers to attend	5.00pm - 6.30pm
17.07.25	SU Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly	9.30am-10.30am

21.07.25	Year 6 Leavers' Party	7.00pm - 9.00pm
22.07.25	Mainstream Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly	10.00 - 11.00am



Come join your church celebrations
'real reason for the season.'

Further information can be found on our website.

Saturday 30th November 11am – 3pm
Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 1st December 7pm
Official switching on – Christmas Tree Lights

Sunday 8th December 3.30pm -5pm
Family Fun event

Friday 13th December 7pm
Christmas Choir concert



Sunday 15th December 10am
Confirmation/Family service with Bishop Debbie

Tuesday 17th December 7pm
Beer & Carols (The Collingtree Pub – NN4 0UE)

Wednesday 18th December 7pm
Carols round the Christmas tree

Sunday 22nd December
Christingle service – Briar Hill 3:30pm
Lessons & Carols – St Benedict's 6pm

Christmas Eve 24th December
Christingle service – St Benedict's 3:30pm
Midnight Mass 11:30pm



Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day
10am Family service

www.stbenedictschurchnorthampton.uk

Mobile 07564 605275 (voice only, do not text)

vicar@stbens.uk or admin@stbens.uk

Parish of Briar Hill, Camp Hill, East, West
Hunsbury & Hunsbury Meadows.

December Kindness 2024

SUNDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

MONDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

TUESDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

WEDNESDAY

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

THURSDAY

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

FRIDAY

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

SATURDAY

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together