



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2022 - I can't actually believe I'm writing that! I'm sure many of us will be looking forward to 2023! Despite the challenges, we have all achieved so much together - by supporting each other, looking after others and being what we are renowned for - being a family. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for everything you have shown to us as well - kindness, understanding and patience.

We have many things to celebrate - Year 6's visit to Conway, PTFA events, MacMillan Coffee Morning, football and cross-country success, music club's fabulous performances, Children in Need Countryfile ramble, theatre visit and, of course, our fabulous Christmas performances in Church last week.

Please remember that we finish at 1.30pm on Friday and you are welcome to join us in Church for our Christingle Service at 11.15am.

It is a real honour and privilege to be a part of such a fantastic school, village and community. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mr Lewis

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



## Clubs - Spring Term

Our aim is to start clubs in the first week back after our Christmas break (starting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January). Some of the clubs will stay the same but there will also be some new additions and changes. Information will be sent out before we finish for Christmas.

## Lateness and Absence Reporting

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in the number of children arriving late in the morning. The gates are opened at 8.40am and the school day officially start at 8.55am. The register is taken at 9.00am and, any children arriving after this has been taken (but before 9.15am), will be registered as Late (L code). After 9.15am, children will be registered as a U (Late after register have closed). The gate will be closed at 8.55am and any children arriving after this time will need to be brought in through the front door and signed in, on our system, by the adult dropping off - this will be compulsory.

Mrs Blears and Miss Hurst are also spending an increasing amount of time following up absences. As stated in our attendance policy, parents/carers should "Call the school to report their child's absence before 9.15am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence and advise when they are expected to return."

Many Thanks

## Calendar

Following feedback through the Parent Council, we have started looking at the efficiencies of our communication. We are working on a communications strategy that we will publish in the new year but in the meantime, we have populated the calendar on the school website with all the dates and events we have (so far) to the end of the summer term. I will be adding more on next week. You can follow this link or scroll down the home page and find the calendar towards the bottom - [http://](http://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/events)

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Trustees (Governance)  
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- Two (or more) Trustees needed for small rural academy with big ambitions, one to potentially be the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and one must be elected by parents.
- Smallwood CofE Primary Academy Trust is a small Primary School in Cheshire East, the Trust has plans to grow over the next year with ambitious plans for future expansion of its services. It is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), registered charity operated as a company limited by guarantee.
- The board of directors of the company are also trustees of the charity. To help us grow we need experienced members of the public to join our Board. We are particularly keen to recruit members of the local community with experience and who have one or more of the following skills:
  - Finance and Audit
  - Primary education, and
  - safeguarding
- Board meetings are held six times a year with extra time needed for committee work.
- The Board is responsible for setting the strategy and policies of the School/Trust and guides and supports the Chief Executive and his staff. Details of the constitution and past meeting can be found on the school website <http://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/>
- To find out more about joining the Board, please contact the CEO/Headteacher at [head@smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk)



## Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

If your child is in receipt of income related free school meals, they are automatically eligible for the [Household Support Fund](#).

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit

Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

We suggest you do make a claim for free school meals even if your child is in key stage 1, even though they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals as the school can claim additional funding known as pupil premium, worth £1345 per child, for new equipment, resources and other essentials.

All applications should be made through Cheshire East and will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**We return on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**

