

Merry Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers,
Although we will be back in school on Monday and Tuesday of next week, and term does not end until home time this coming Tuesday, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of the season, a very 'Merry Christmas' and all the very best for a happy 'New Year'. Thank you all so much for your support this term and for all of the positive praise and thanks given.

From Fens Staff

Parking

As communicated before on many an occasion, we ask that parking around the school community at drop-off and pick-up times is done in a courteous manner. Please take into account resident need and access at busy times.
Thank you.

Last Day of Term

A reminder that on Tuesday, children can wear Christmas jumpers, other Christmas clothing, or non-uniform of choice on our last day. If you would still like to make a donation to 'Save the Children', this will be gratefully received and can be sent in with the pupils. Thank you.

Being A Parent

The 'Being a Parent' team will be holding a course for parents on an evening from January 2024. The course is aimed at parents to discuss and share ideas of parenting with other parents. A number of parents from the Fens community have previously shown an interest in this but have been unable to attend due to work commitments. This course will run at Rossmere Family Hub from 17th January for 8 weeks and will be on from 4:30-6:30. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Pugh.

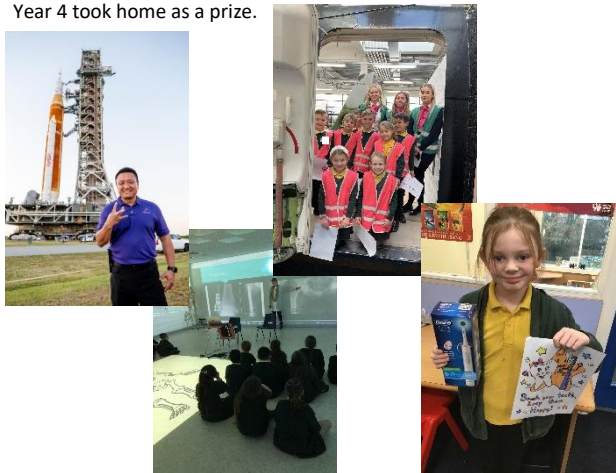
Aspire2Be

Year 5 children were lucky enough to virtually meet Howard Hu, a world-leading NASA space engineer. We enjoyed taking part in challenges which have inspired our children to reach for the stars when thinking about their own futures.

Our Year 5 children met Hayley and Rebecca who are both Radiographers for the NHS. The session was packed full of discussion and activities that allowed our children to develop and showcase their science knowledge and link their curriculum learning to this exciting career path.

A number of our Year 3 children were invited to take part in an Aspire2Be Christmas themed visit to Hartlepool College of Further Education. The children enjoyed a range of Christmas crafts and games, and a flight to the North Pole to hand deliver their letters to a very special person.

Thank you to Elliott McCarthy Dental Practice for visiting our Year 4 children yesterday. The children learned first-hand how their curriculum learning links with the roles within dentistry, while developing their science learning. We are also grateful for the very generous gift of an electric toothbrush that one lucky winner from Year 4 took home as a prize.



Christmas Parties

Our parties have been a great success and the kids have had a wonderful time! Thank you all for your wonderful and generous food donations and for contributing to another fantastic event here at Fens.



Diary Dates

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December – School remains open for all pupils (with an end of term treat for all on Monday!).
Wednesday 3rd January – School reopens for the start of the spring term.

Newsletter

Friday, 15th December

Staffing

When we finish on Tuesday, we will be sending our best wishes to Mrs Murphy and her family, for her upcoming maternity leave. When we return in January, we will be welcoming Miss Timlin to Y4, who will be covering class maternity for Mrs Todd. Miss Timlin has been in school for a large part of the last few weeks and has enjoyed meeting her new class ahead of the new term. Mrs Todd and Mrs Carey will still be in school for a few weeks, when we return after Christmas, before their respective maternity covers begin.

Christmas Choir

Our amazing choir have been out in the community this week spreading the best of the season to the Rossmere and Brierton Care Homes. They will also be attending Holy Trinity Church Tree Festival at 2pm on Saturday afternoon. Thank to all staff involved, led by Mrs Sibly and our wonderful singers! Thank you also to Mrs Todd, staff members and some of our hard-working School Council pupils, who attended the church yesterday to help set up the tree.

Christmas Fair and Raffle

It was great to see so many of you in school for our fair last night. It was another great example of the Fens community coming together following our Christmas performances. Don't forget that our raffle will be drawn on Monday and winners will be contacted following this.
Good luck!

Christmas Fundraising

This comes with a huge thank you to the Fens community. Including the Christmas Disco, Christmas Fair, Christmas Raffle and ticket sales from our Christmas Productions, you have helped raise a fantastic **£3302.17** for school funds. All of the monies raised will go towards further exciting experiences for our pupils going forward. Thank you all!

Summer Half-Term Holiday 2024

We would, again, like to remind you of our arrangements for the summer half-term holiday of 2024.

We have, as we did during previous years, organised all five of our PD days into one week - this time for the first week of June 2024, which is the first week of the last half-term of this academic year. This week follows on from the official half-term holiday (Whit Week).

This means that instead of school being closed for just one week, it will be closed for two weeks. As a result, school will close on Friday 24th May 2024 and will re-open on Monday 10th June 2024, giving just over two weeks off.

If you have considered family holidays, this fortnight provides a great opportunity without your child taking time away from school.

[Approved - Hartlepool School Term dates 2023-2024 \(1\).pdf](#)
fensprimaryschool.co.uk

Merit Winners

Congratulations to this week's winners. As we revisit our Commando Joe's RESPECT character curriculum values, this week's winners have demonstrated outstanding 'Excellence and Communication' and have also had 100% attendance!

