



# Long Mountain Newsletter Wednesday 20th December

*'Let Your Light Shine'*

***Matthew 5- 15:16 Sermon on the Mount***

[Tales from the Office Wednesday 20th December 2023](#)



This week and last saw the Christmas Spirit taking over school. We welcomed parents in to watch the Key Stage 1 performance for two shows of our Nativity. All of the children looked so lovely in their costumes whilst saying their lines and busting out their dance moves. We then had our Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch day on Wednesday, all of the staff loved serving the children and hearing all the terrible jokes from the crackers. We ended last week with a lovely Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service in the church, retelling the birth of Jesus via readings and singing; it was great to see the children share the story in the church. Finally, on Monday and Tuesday of this week we had our Christmas parties, all the children came in their party clothes, danced and played party games. I would like to thank the staff for their hard work to ensure that these events went ahead, to put on such events is not done without dedication and a passion to ensure our children have a 'chance to shine!'

My first term has flown by and I have loved every minute of it! I have to thank all the staff, parents, governors and the pupils (the most important people) for all their hard work and support since September. During this term, we have seen many changes at our school in particular our Inspire Afternoons - it has been a real pleasure to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school.

Class Dojo has allowed us to share the excellent behaviour of our pupils and share some of the great things we have been doing in our classes and within school. Our Friday Achievement Services have

allowed us to recognise our Stars of The Week and bring the school community together to applaud all the great things our pupils have achieved.

I have had tremendous support from our parents, especially those individuals on the PTFA. Their fundraising and dedication to ensuring that our children have the opportunity to have activities outside of our school day knows no bounds and I look forward to continuing to work closely with them to provide positive outcomes for everyone.

In the Spring Term we will introduce our House Groups and further develop our School Council to promote 'pupil voice' in our quest to drive forward standards and also to make this a school that puts children's needs front and centre. Also, I am sure we will be visiting venues to support pupils learning outside of the classroom. I have not met a child who does not love a trip to inspire their learning!

On behalf of all our staff, thank you for your lovely gifts and cards, we really don't expect them, but we do appreciate your generosity. We would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas; we hope you all enjoy your precious time with your families and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school in January.

Anders Rowlands

Headteacher

## Stars of The Week



I was lucky enough to catch up with the previous winners last week and also this weeks winners. It was lovely to hear about all of their plans for Christmas and what they are looking forward to receiving in their stockings. It has been a pleasure to share their excitement about Christmas in my office.

Congratulations to this weeks winners :



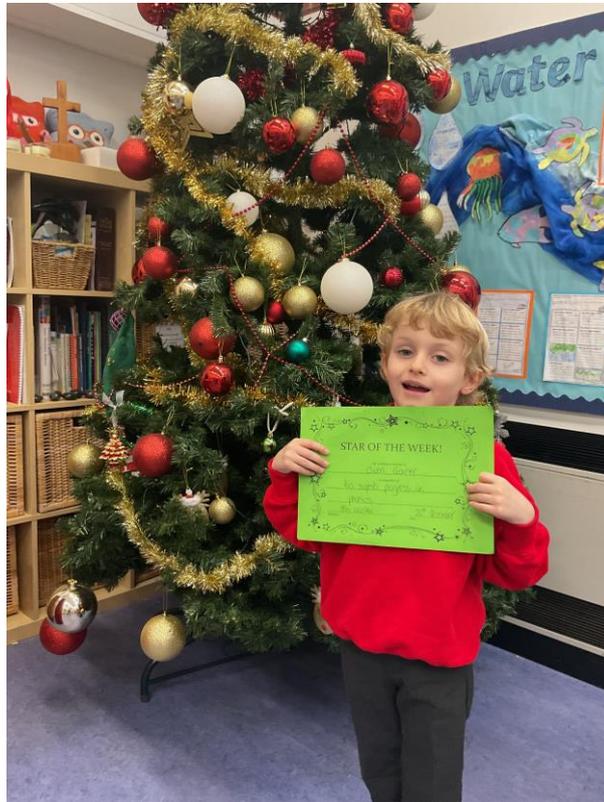
*1 - Well done to last week's winners.*

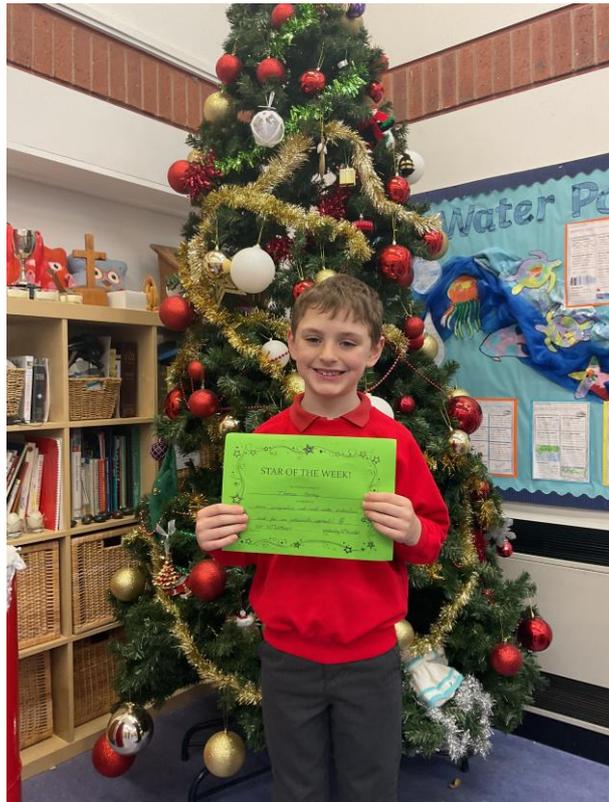
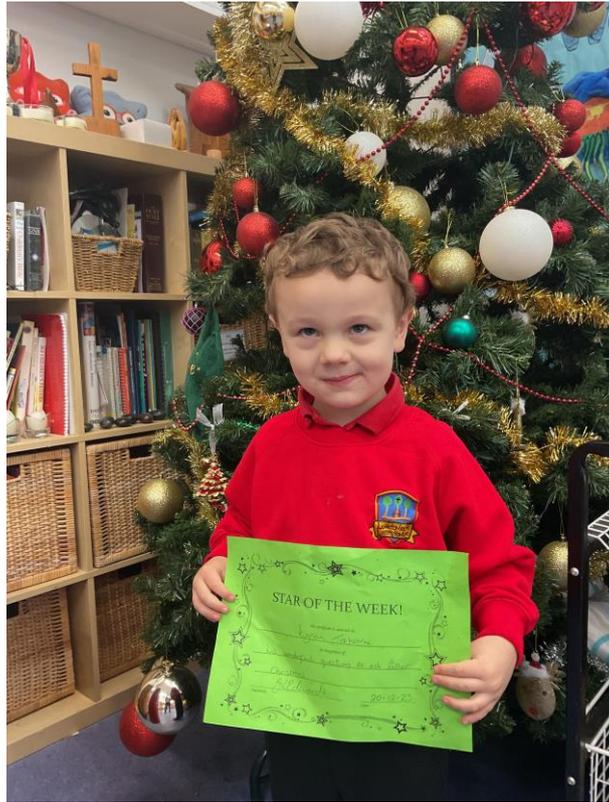
**Class 1 - Owen** for his superb progress in phonics and hard work in class.

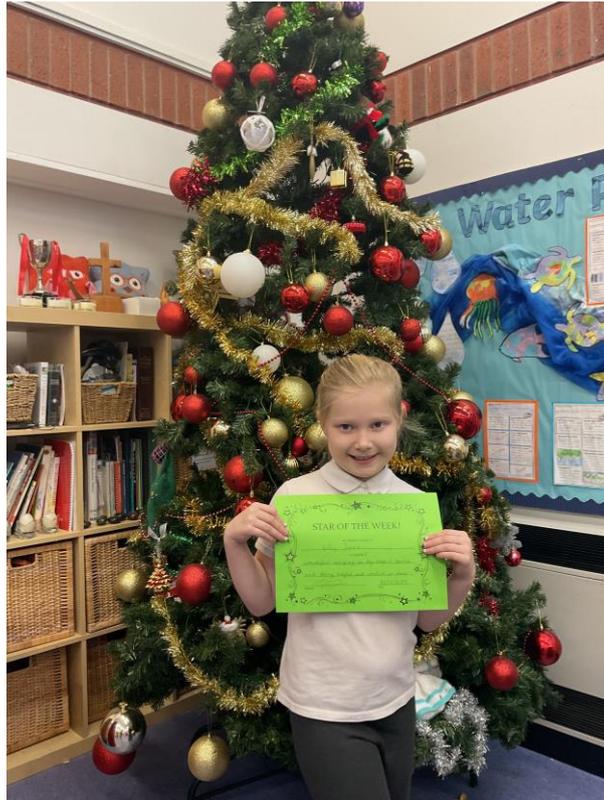
*Class 2 - **Kyran** for his wonderful questions to ask Father Christmas.*

*Class 3 - **Thomas**- for his imaginative and well-written instructions and an enthusiastic approach to class work.*

*Class 4 - **Lily** for her confident singing in Key Stage 2 Carol Service and for always being helpful and creative in class.*







## Class Dojo Winner

Congratulations to :

Class 1 - **Archie P**

Class 2 - **James & Ella**

Class 3 - **Toby**

Class 4 - **Frazer**

Well done everyone this week!

All the points will now be zeroed and it all starts again next week!







## Pre School News

Pre School have had a fun week, finishing off with party games today. We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 4th January 2024.





## Christmas At Long Mountain

Please look through some of our pictures of the events that we have been doing in the final few days of this term.

















## Christmas Dinner Lunch Mat Winners



We challenged the children to design their own Christmas Jumper themed place mat for Christmas Dinner last week. It was very hard to judge as there were so many great designs and all the children showed great imagination. All of the winners received a prize for their hard work and creativity.

Nursery - Rose

Reception - Daisy

Class 2 - Ella

Class 3 - Florence

Class 4 - Archie S

## Reading The Game Ticket Winners



Congratulations to Toby and Willow for being awarded the 'Top Reader' for their class. Coach Neil had dropped off two family passes to Mr Feltham a few weeks ago to give away to the children who have been working extra hard with their reading. It was a tough decision of who to pick, but Mr Feltham chose Toby and Willow for their excellent effort and progress in their reading. We hope they enjoy their Shrewsbury Town FC tickets and see some great football.

I am of course very jealous of the two winners, as I haven't yet managed to 'snag' myself any tickets for the Shrewsbury Town v Wrexham on January 6th. I did think about offering a swap of a packet of biscuits, but I think they would drive a much harder deal!

## Free School Meal Applications

A lot of parents are unaware that they can claim free school meals for their child. If you are receiving any of the benefits below could we encourage you to apply for free school meals, not only do they get a free school meal each day but the school receive pupil premium to help support your child and provide free school meals until the end of Primary school, if parents circumstance don't change this will continue through Secondary School. We also want to encourage Key Stage 1 parents to apply as the Universal Free School meals stop at the end of Year 2.

## Who qualifies for government free school meals?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of pension credit
- Child tax credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working tax credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit

In addition, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- Since 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants have continued to receive free school meals whilst universal credit is rolled out. This applies even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time
- In addition, any pupil gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 (who qualified under the benefits/low-earnings criteria) will be protected against losing free school meals until March 2025
- After March 2025, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of universal credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (ie primary or secondary)

To apply online copy and paste the link below:-

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

## Outside Achievements

Phoebe took part in a performance at St Chads on Saturday with her footlights ballet group, she was so brave getting up in front of everyone, this is her 3rd year of doing it. In March she will be in a big production at Theatre 7.

Toby has just achieved wave 4 in swimming and is moving up to blue hats.



## Outstanding Money

Thank you to those parents who keep up to date with their payments on school money, we really do appreciate it. Unfortunately we have £2860.85 outstanding dinner money, trip money etc. All

outstanding balances need to be cleared by the end of this term. Moving forward when your child's outstanding balance for dinner money gets to £20.00 we will be following our policy and contacting parents to pay the outstanding balance or bring in a packed lunch for them. We appreciate that costs are rising and we are always willing to work with parents to support them, so please contact the office if you need to speak about this matter.

## Key Dates

*Wednesday 20 December - School breaks up for Christmas*

*Thursday 4 January 2024- School re-opens*

*Monday 5 January 2024 - Assessment Week*

*Wednesday 8 January 2024 - Reception children Eye test*

*Friday 9 February 2024 - Break up for Half Term*

*Monday 19 February 2024 - School re-opens*

## PTFA Update



A big thank you from all the PTFA for everyone's help this term with fundraising- supporting film night and the raffle.

Our Christmas raffle raised over £1,100! In no small part due to superstar Becky Williams selling 296 tickets. Thank you to everyone who bought/sold tickets and to our amazing businesses and individuals who donated prizes. Merry Christmas everyone!



## School admissions - Reception 24

### Applications to Reception class 2024

The deadline for applications for your child(ren) to start school in Reception in September 2024 closes on **Monday 15 January 2024**.

Please ensure that you make an application online via the Shropshire Council's portal - [Synergy - Homepage \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

Please note that if you do not make an online application, your child **will not** be allocated a school place.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact the School Admissions Team via email [school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk)

## December Dates for your Diary

### All Saints Church, Worthen

**Saturday 23rd December at 4.00p.m.**

**Annual Carol Service at the Church**

Come and let's look towards Christmas Day ~ Refreshments served

**Sunday 24th December ~ Christmas Eve ~ 3.00p.m.**

**Children's Crib Service**

Come and join us as we share the Christmas story in words and music and of course costumes.

**Monday 25th December ~ Christmas Day**

**10.30a.m. Holy Communion**

# **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!**

***Saturday 9th December 2.30 - 4pm  
Christmas Crafts and Fun afternoon  
Hope Village Hall***

***Sunday 10th December 3pm Hope Church  
Traditional Carols by Candlelight***

***Sunday 17th December 4pm Shelve Church  
Christingle Service for all ages***

***Sunday 24th December 9am Hope Church  
Christmas Eve Holy Communion***

***Christmas Day 9.30am Shelve Church  
Christmas Holy Communion***

