

Dear Families,

Our festive season is officially underway now it's December and our Christmas trees are being decorated. We have been hard at work rehearsing our nativities and performances to be ready for the coming weeks. We have also had lots of school trips taking place that have been brilliant experiences for the children and remain such an important part of the curriculum as well as developing those all-important life skills. Our football team did a fantastic job when they went to compete at the inaugural TKAT 5-a-side tournament at Dame Janet and got a possible 7 points out of 12!

We are keen to encourage lots of engagement with our families on a range of areas so we held our first SEN session for families recently as well as getting our Parenting Circle sessions up and running too. In addition to these, we are keen to hear from any families who would like to join in the work of our PTA. We have already had some interest and would really like to get this organised again in time for next year's summer fair, which although seems a long way off, will come around quickly. If you would like to take part in these sessions, please ask a member of staff.

As the weather has turned so much colder now, please make sure that all children come into school with jumpers and coats and please write children's names on the labels so we can quickly return them if they are left in the playground.

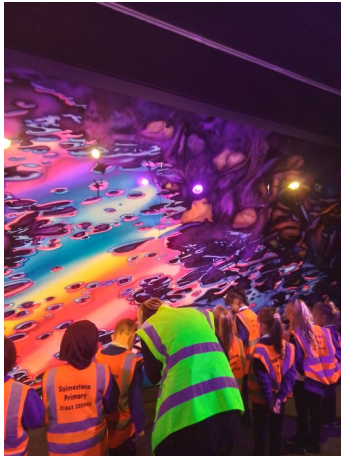
Many of you will know that we are concerned about the traffic outside of school and that we are pushing the council to make safe crossing areas. I continue to speak to council representatives and make the case for improvements so that families and children have a safer journey to school. A reminder of course that our gate is open on the path that runs along the KS2 field both in the morning and the afternoon.

Our school is proving very popular with families and we have done lots of tours for next year as well as most classes being full for students now. If you have a child who is due to go into reception next year, please make sure to apply before the deadline on the 15th of January. Our Office Team are happy to assist if you need any help with this.

The next few weeks will be really busy but also really enjoyable too. I know lots of our juniors are really looking forward to the pantomime visit at the Marlowe in Canterbury and our infants are excited to see the touring pantomime that we are watching with our friends from Drapers Mills here in school. We have Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper days too so please check the calendar dates on the back of this newsletter

Thank you for all your support in making Salmestone such a fantastic school that we are all so proud of.

Mr T Platten



Years 1, 2, 3 & 4 have been on trips to the Turner Contemporary this week. Year 1 & 2 went to see the new exhibition about Dreamland & the sea. Year 3 & 4 went to learn some more about the local artist JMW Turner.

Thank you to all our parent helpers for your support!

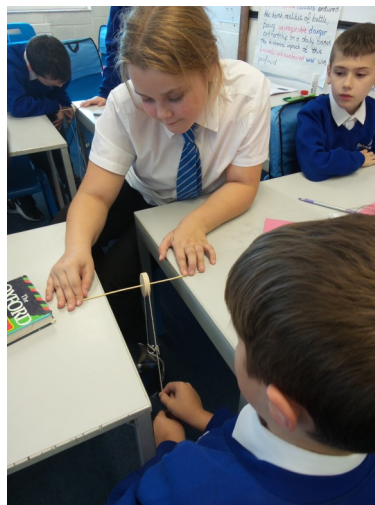


Salmestone Naughty Attendance Elves

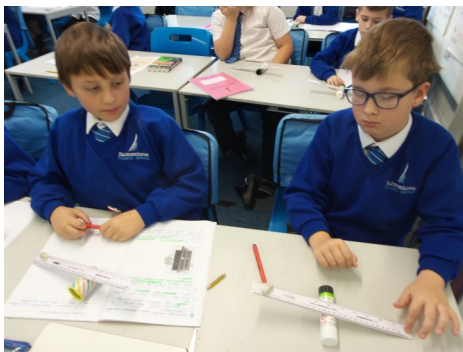


Sugarplum and Snowflake, Salmestone's Naughty Attendance Elves are back! They will visit the class with the best attendance every day in December and cause some mischief! Last night they visited Reception who had 100% attendance yesterday!

This December every child who attends every day in December will win a 100% attendance award pencil and be entered into a draw to win a £10 toy shop voucher. Additionally, they will be entered into a draw for their parents to win Christmas Hamper worth £50!



Andes, Year 5, have been learning about forces in science. To find out the effects of Air Resistance they made different size helicopter's to experiment with. They also made levers and pulleys (simple machines) to measure the easiest ways to move and carry an object.



Diary Dates

December 2023

- 1st December– Year 5 & 6 trip (details to follow)
- 6th– KS2 Pantomime trip
- 7th– Save the children Christmas jumper day
- 8th– KS1 Pantomime
- 12th– KS2 Church Service
- 13th– KS1 Nativity
- 14th– School Christmas Dinner & KS1 Nativity
- 15th– Nursery Christmas Craft family session & Last day of term!

January 2024

- 2nd– INSET Day
- 3rd– First day back of term

Attendance & Lateness for Term 3

Class	Attendance %	Late Arrivals
Nursery	73.02%	12
Reception– Highlands	88.27%	2
Year 1– Pyrenees	91.8%	1
Year 2– Atlas	95.34%	5
Year 3– Rockies	89.75%	6
Year 4– Alps	90.68%	9
Year 5– Andes	88.85%	4
Year 6– Himalayas	88.53%	19
Total for Term 1	90.1%	58

Well done Year 2!



The Parenting Circle

Salmestone is starting its own Parenting Circle. The purpose of the parenting circle is to support families to create a community within the school which explores positive approaches to parenting. These groups offer a chance for parents to share their experiences, ask themselves how best to encourage their children and discover they are not alone.

We still have a few spaces left of the programme due to begin before Christmas. If you are interested please speak with the school office. If you would like more information about The Parenting Circle please visit their website: <https://www.parentingcircle.uk/> - **Spaces are limited!**



Please be reminded that Salmestone is a nut free school. If you provide your child with a packed lunch please ensure there is nothing which contains nuts.

