School Newsletter

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026

Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of November, we look ahead to the final three weeks of the autumn term, which promise to be filled with festive activities alongside the important learning taking place as children conclude their autumn term curriculum units.

We are looking forward to our upcoming **Christmas Fair** and are incredibly grateful to the parents and carers who are generously giving their time, making donations and contributing to making this a special event for our school community.

Rehearsals for our **Christmas performances** are now in full swing, and it is lovely to hear the children practising their songs and working hard to deliver their lines clearly and confidently. Our Key Stage 2 class assembly series this term has also been thoroughly enjoyable, with the children embracing the opportunity to develop their performance skills, build their confidence and showcase their learning.

We recognise that the coming weeks are a particularly busy time of year, both in school and beyond. To help everyone feel informed and prepared, we encourage parents and carers to **keep up to date** with the information outlined in our **weekly newsletters**, shared on our **school social media pages** and communicated through separate emails. Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do contact us directly so that we can provide the appropriate information and guidance.

We look forward to sharing the excitement of the festive season with our school community whilst ensuring that the final three weeks of term remain purposeful, productive and full of enjoyable learning experiences for all our children.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher

Book Advent Calendar Raffle – A Festive Treat for Young Readers!

With 1st December fast approaching, we are delighted to bring back our **Book Advent Calendar Raffle** following its success last year!

We have prepared **three wonderful book advent calendars** for three lucky winners, with prizes tailored to different age groups:



Prize 1: EYFS and Year 1

Prize 2: Years 2 and 3

Prize 3: Years 4, 5 and 6

Each advent calendar contains **24 individually wrapped and numbered books,** ready for the lucky winner to unwrap and enjoy one each day throughout Advent. What better way to count down to Christmas than by discovering a new story every day?

Raffle entries cost just £2 each, and families are welcome to purchase as many entries as they wish. The more entries you buy, the greater your chances of winning!

How to enter:
Entries open: Today!
Where to enter: Through My Child At School (MCAS)
Closing date: Sunday 29th November
Prize draw: Monday 30th November

The draw will take place in plenty of time for our three lucky winners to receive their book advent calendars, ready to start opening them on **1st December.**

We hope lots of families will join in the festive fun and help us celebrate the joy of reading throughout December. Good luck, everyone!



Deadline for entires: This weekend! 29th November!

News from our classrooms

Butterflies Class

This week, the children have been enjoying our **Gingerbread Man story activities.** They had great fun making their own gingerbread men from playdough, carefully rolling, shaping and adding details to their creations. The children also became engineers as they worked together to design and build bridges to help the Gingerbread Man cross the river safely and avoid the fox! They explored materials, tested their ideas and adapted their designs when needed. These activities encouraged creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and lots of imaginative storytelling as the children retold and extended the familiar tale.

We have also enjoyed using the **iPads to take digital photographs of different coloured objects and items from around the classroom and outdoor area.** They carefully explored their environment, searching for colours and discussing what they could see before taking their photographs. This activity helped to develop their confidence with technology, encouraged observation skills and supported their understanding of colour recognition. The children were excited to share their photographs with their friends and talk about the colours and objects they had discovered.

As we approach the festive season, **we are looking forward to practising for our Nativity performance and sharing this special event with you.** A gentle reminder that Nativity costumes are needed as soon as possible so that we can begin our rehearsals in full costume. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a wonderful week and look forward to all the exciting learning and celebrations ahead.







Year 5 Swimming – Spring Term

A heads-up for our Year 5 families that, during the Spring Term, the children will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons at Abbey Pool on Tuesday afternoons.
As in previous years, the school will cover the cost of the swimming lessons, and parents will be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of coach transport. A separate letter will be sent to Year 5 families with further details regarding this contribution.
To help families prepare, all children will need:

- A suitable one-piece swimming costume for girls or fitted swimming trunks for boys
- A swimming hat
- A towel
- Swimming goggles (optional)



We look forward to supporting the children in developing their swimming skills, water confidence and water safety awareness.

All things Christmas!



- **Sunday 29th November** Deadline for purchasing entries via MCAS in to the Book Advent Raffle
- **Wednesday 9th December** Christmas Lunch, book via school grid, by Friday 4th December
- **Thursday 10th December** Butterflies and Dragonflies Christmas performance 2:30pm, tickets to be purchased through MCAS
- **Thursday 10th December** Year 3 and 4 parent and child workshop TimesTables 3:15-3:45
- **Friday 11th December** Christmas Jumper Day (full non uniform day with Christmas Jumpers welcomed and donations to Save the Children encouraged. Donate to Save the Children
- **Friday 11th December** Christmas Fayre 3:30-5pm
- **Wednesday 16th December** Santa Dash event (whole school-Santa hats encouraged!)
- **Thursday 17th December** Years 3,4,5 and 6 Christmas Service at Fen Ditton Church 2pm, family welcome to attend and should indicate their intention to attend here: Fill in form

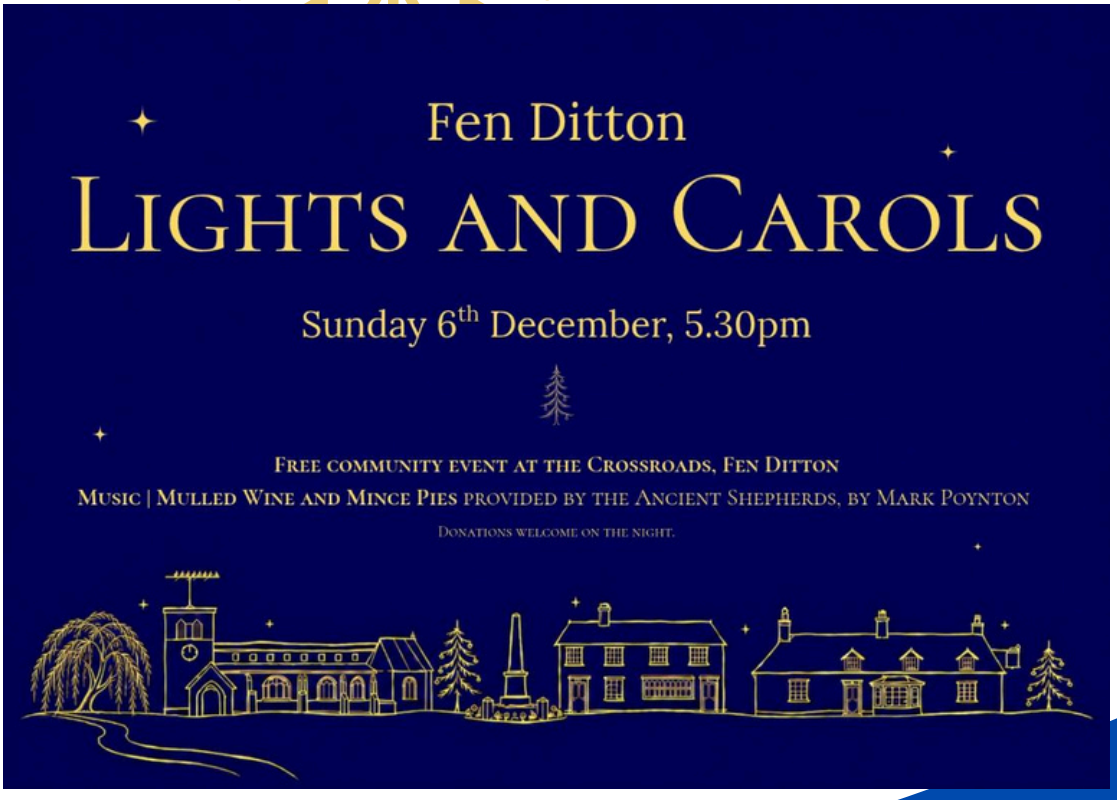
Please also complete this Consent Form as despite the service being a local walk we need specific consent as we are going to a religious building, any children unable to attend will join Years 1 & 2 for the afternoon.



- **Thursday 17th December** Last day of term, school closes at 3:30pm, apart from Premier After School Club attendees

Local Events





Key Dates/Events



Events - Autumn term

There are several curriculum events being held during school time that your child will be able to tell you about and we will share in the newsletter and on social media. Below are a list of only dates that we feel are most important for parents to be aware of or may require some support/action. We hope it is helpful to have these dates in advance.

NEXT WEEK

- **Monday 30th November:** Winners of Book Advent Calendar Raffle announced and prizes given

DECEMBER

- **Thursday 10th December:** Parent and Child Workshop Year 3 and 4 - Times Tables 3:30-4pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Fair 3:30-4:45pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Jumper Day Donate to Save The Children
- **Thursday 17th December:** Last Day of Term - School closes for Christmas

pinpoint
for parents by parents

Pinpoint Cambridgeshire is running two free online evening sessions for parents and carers:

🌟 **New to Pinpoint?**
A friendly introduction to Pinpoint Cambridgeshire, our parent carer forum, and the support, information, and opportunities available to families.
New to Pinpoint & Wondering What We Do?
😴 **Under 5s and Sleep**
A session designed for parents and carers of younger children, exploring common sleep challenges and offering practical tips and strategies to support healthy sleep habits.
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/under-5s-sleep-tickets-2002794209394
Both sessions are free to attend and provide an opportunity for families to connect, learn, and ask questions from the comfort of home.

Fen Ditton Primary School PTFA

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE

Affordable, sustainable and a great way to pass on good-quality school clothing.

- Lots of sizes available
- Some items feature the school logo
- A more sustainable choice for our school community



Every 2nd Wednesday of each month - after school

11th November 2026
9th December 2026
13th January 2027
10th February 2027
10th March 2027
14th April 2027
12th May 2027
9th June 2027
14th July 2027

Donation to the PTFA

Scan me

Pre-loved today a brighter tomorrow

We also welcome donations of old uniform!

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Autumn 1 Term Starts – Friday 4 September
Autumn 1 Term Ends – Friday 23 October
Half Term - 26 October - 30 October
Inset Day – Monday 2 November
Autumn 2 Term Starts– Tuesday 3 November
Autumn 2 Term Ends – Thursday 17 December
Inset Day – Friday 18 December
21 December – 1 January – Christmas Holidays

SPRING TERM 2027

Inset Day – Monday 4 January
Spring Term 1 Starts – Tuesday 5 January
Spring Term 1 Ends – Friday 12 February
Half Term - 15 February - 19 February
Spring Term 2 Starts – Monday 22 February
Spring Term 2 Ends – Thursday 25 March
Friday 26 March – Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2027

Summer Term 1 Starts – Monday 12 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 3 May
Summer Term 1 Ends – Friday 28 May
Half Term - 31 May – 4 June
Summer Term 2 Starts – Monday 7 June
Inset Day – Friday 2 July
Summer Term 2 Ends – Wednesday 21 July



Click here to follow us on Instagram!



Find the term dates for 2027-2028 here

ANGLIAN LEARNING