



We Maths

We are all  
writers ...



We are growing  
our learning

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## Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

# Newsletter

Volume 61, Issue 12

Newsletter date:

Friday 28th November 2025

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### Term Dates

Monday 2nd September—Friday 19th December (Autumn Term).

Monday 5th January—First Day of Spring Term.

### Diary Dates

Saturday 29th November—PTA Christmas Fair at AF 12.00p.m.—2.00p.m.

Thursday 11th December—AP1 Reports to Parents.

Tuesday 16th December—Year 6 Ancient Maya Dress up Day.

Thursday 18th December—Whole School Pyjama/Christmas Dress Up Day—No charge just fun.

Friday 19th December—Last Day of Autumn Term

### EYFS Christmas Production—'The Nativity'

Tuesday 9th December & Wednesday 10th December @ 10.00a.m. @ AF

### Tear 2 Christmas Production—'Don't be Afraid'

Monday 15th December and Tuesday 16th December @ 1.45p.m. @ T

Wednesday 17th December @ 10.00a.m. @ T

(Separate letters have already been sent out to parents with regards to the productions and tickets)

### PTA Christmas Fair

Please don't forget our PTA Christmas Fair is tomorrow Saturday (29th November) from 12.00p.m.—2.00p.m. at our AF site.

Please come along if you can.



### AF Kitchen—Very Important

I am delighted to inform you that, following on from last week's update, we have now sent out a revised dinner menu for AF site. Those of you with children at both sites will notice that this menu differs slightly from the T one.

This is because we do not have the same facilities in the kitchen pod at AF that we have at the T site so we cannot replicate the meals. As we move into January, we will look to begin to bring the two menus back in line.

Please do have a look at the menu for AF. You will notice that we will be providing hot meals again from Tuesday going forward.

Please also note the date of the school Christmas lunches at both AF and T. Once again the PTA, are buying crackers for all children for this festive treat. The cost of the Christmas Meal is £2.50 for children which is a bargain.

### Mobile Phones—www.smartphonefreechildhood.org

Just a reminder, as we approach the festive season, that mobile phones are NOT allowed to be brought into school by children as the school operates a mobile free zone for children.

On the front page of the website, we have published the letter we sent out to parents at the end of the Summer Term explaining why the school was going 'Smart Phone Free'.

As a school, even though 'Smart phones' are not allowed in school, we still have children affected and influenced by what they say and do at home on their phones. These include but are not exclusive to:

**Mental health**—Teenage anxiety, depression and self-harm rates have skyrocketed since 2010 – when kids started getting smartphones. Evidence shows a direct link between early smartphone use and declining mental health.

**Attention**—The average teen now receives over 200 notifications a day – fragmenting their focus and making it harder to concentrate on schoolwork, hobbies or real-life friendships. Constant distraction is the new normal.

**This is really a long way of saying. Don't buy your child a phone for Christmas, they really don't need it.**

This is the impact—

**Opportunity Cost**—Compared to any other generation in history, children growing up in the smartphone era spend less time outdoors, less time playing, less time reading, less time moving and more time scrolling, alone.

### EYFS Admissions 2026

The statutory national closing date for EYFS applications is 15th January 2026.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

The shop to order the Christmas cards has reopened for last minute orders and will close again Monday 1st December 12pm. If parents have misplaced their design they can email the PTA or message on Facebook for help.



### Multi School Council Ambassador (Rupert)

Congratulations to Rupert who has become a Multi School Council Ambassador.

The multi schools council gives children a voice in Essex looking at how we can break down the negative stigma often shown towards children who have SEND or Mental Health difficulties.

It's a prestigious role, so very well done and thank you to Rupert.

[www.multischoolscouncil.org.uk](http://www.multischoolscouncil.org.uk)

### Rights Respecting Schools

**Article 28 (right to education)** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

### Advent Assemblies

Huge thanks to the Rev Smith's and their new curate Jo, who came into both T and AF sites this week to talk with the children about Advent. Advent is all about preparation and getting ready, which is where Advent calendars come from.



### Year 5 (Year 6 Residential 2026) Awards

Star— Winter (MM), Jumbo— Imogen (MLM), Chariot— Hugo (MM).	
Eagles— Whole Class (CC), Circus— Whole Class (MM), Roses— Whole Class (MM).	
Mercury— Weronika (CC), Claudius—Iris (CC), Romans—Ivy (CC)	
Paxman— Aliyah (CC), Iceni— Aubrey (CC), Dutch— Ifeji (CC)	
Castle— Indie (CC), Cavalier— Hickson (CC), Garrison— Alice (CC).	
Oysters— Josie (CC), Magnets— Ayesha (MM), Raedwald— Isaac (RR) & Kane (MM).	
Trinovantes— Millie (CC), Lathes— Anna (MM), Cymbeline— Isaac & Lillie (CC).	
Attendance— Circus	