

When you Wish Upon a Star

It's that time of year again and we are starting to feel very festive. Today is not only the start of Advent, but also the launch of the St Matthew's Christmas Tree Festival.

Each year we take part in a tree decorating competition, where members of the Ashford community decorate their own tree with an individual theme. Our ACE theme for this year is 'When you wish Upon a Star' and every class has come up with their own special Christmas wish.

You can visit St Matthew's from Saturday 2nd December and see our wonderful entry. If you do visit, then please don't forget to vote for our us. All proceeds go to St Matthew's Church fundraising.



Dates for the diary

- 5th December—
Infant Nativity
1.30pm
- 6th December—
Infant Nativity
9.30am
- 7th December—
Infant Nativity
9.30am
- 8th December—
Christmas Jumper
Day
- 13th December—
School Christmas
Lunch
- 13th December—
Junior Carol
Concert at St
Hilda's 6pm—doors
open 5.45pm
- 14th December—
Class Christmas
Parties.
- 15th December—
End of Term—
**SCHOOL CLOSING
EARLY.**
- 18th December—
1st January
**Christmas
Holidays SCHOOL
CLOSED**
- 2nd January—
**INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED**

Christmas Posting Times



ONCE again this year the school post box will be in the lobby for children to post their Christmas cards. Please ensure all cards are marked clearly with name and class. The cards will then be delivered to the classrooms. If you would like a list of first names only to write your cards you can pick one up in the school office.

Parking Around School

PLEASE can we politely request that when stopping your car and parking around school that you do not park on the zig zag lines or the double yellow lines and that you are considerate to our neighbours. Please help to keep everyone safe!



Every Child Deserves a Future



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

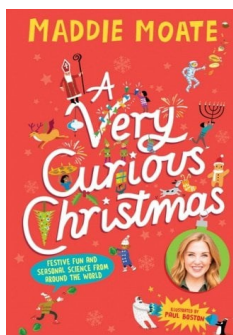
CHRISTMAS jumpers at the ready! We will be wearing our Christmas jumpers next Friday 8th

December. If you would like to participate, we are asking for a donation of £1 minimum which will go to Save the Children. Children should wear their jumpers with their school



uniform. If it is a PE day for your child then they can wear their Christmas jumper with their PE kit.

Christmas Book Recommendations



Have you ever wondered why crackers go bang? Or where Christmas trees come from?

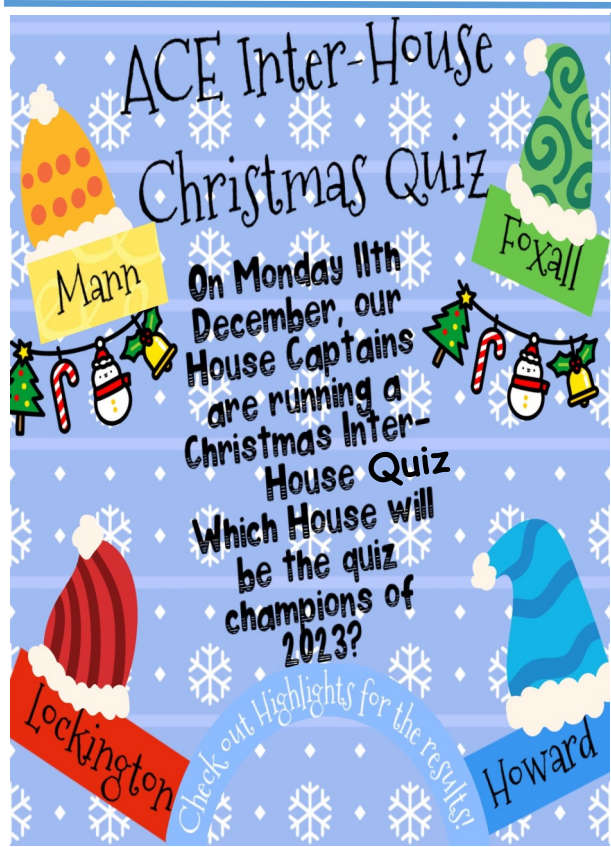
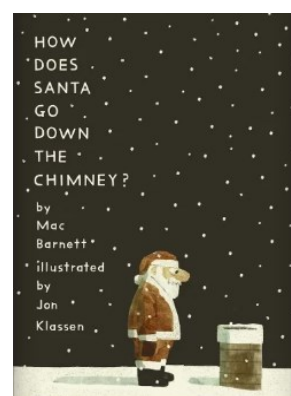
Maddie Moate is here to answer these questions and many more! From how toys work to where gingerbread comes from. You'll explore the science behind fairy lights, snowflakes, reindeer knees AND holly leaves!

You'll discover how different people around the world celebrate the Christmas period, and the curious history behind festive traditions.

Prepare to be amazed at the wackiest Christmas facts - including upside-down Christmas trees, flying panto fairies, and presents delivered by a goat.

The multi-award-winning duo of Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen tackle a perennial question: how does Santa go down the chimney?

When Santa arrives at a child's house on Christmas Eve, does he go down the chimney feetfirst or headfirst? What if he gets stuck? What if there's no chimney? Maybe he slides under the door, as thin as a piece of paper? Or is it possible he pours himself through the tap? What happens once he's inside?





The Parish of
St Mary the Virgin
STANWELL
&
St Matthew
ASHFORD



Christmas Services

<p>Advent I (3rd Dec. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Parish Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Parish Mass - S. Mary's 18:30 Advent Carol Service - S. Mary's</p> <p>Advent II (10th Dec. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Parish Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Parish Mass - S. Mary's 18:30 Evensong and Benediction - S. Matthew's</p> <p>Advent III (17th Dec. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Parish Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Parish Mass - S. Mary's 18:30 Nine Lessons & Carols - S. Matthew's</p> <p>Advent IV / Christmas Eve (24th Dec. 2023)</p> <p>10:00 Joint Parish Mass - S. Mary's 14:00 Family Crib Service - S. Mary's 16:00 Family Crib Service - S. Matthew's 20:00 First Mass of Christmas - S. Mary's 23:30 Midnight Mass - S. Matthew's</p>	<p>Christmas Day (25th Dec. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Family Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Family Mass - S. Mary's</p> <p>Holy Family (31st Dec. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Parish Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Family Mass - S. Mary's 18:30 Solemn Evensong & Benediction - S. Matthew's</p> <p>Epiphany (7th Jan. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Parish Mass - S. Matthew's 11:00 Parish Mass - S. Mary's 18:30 Solemn Evensong & Benediction - S. Matthew's</p> <p>Candlemass (4th Feb. 2023)</p> <p>09:30 Family Mass & Christingle - S. Matthew's 11:00 Family Mass & Christingle - S. Mary's 18:30 Solemn Evensong & Benediction - S. Matthew's</p>
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The Parish Office | 99 Church Road | Ashford | Middlesex | TW15 2NY
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www.smam.org.uk

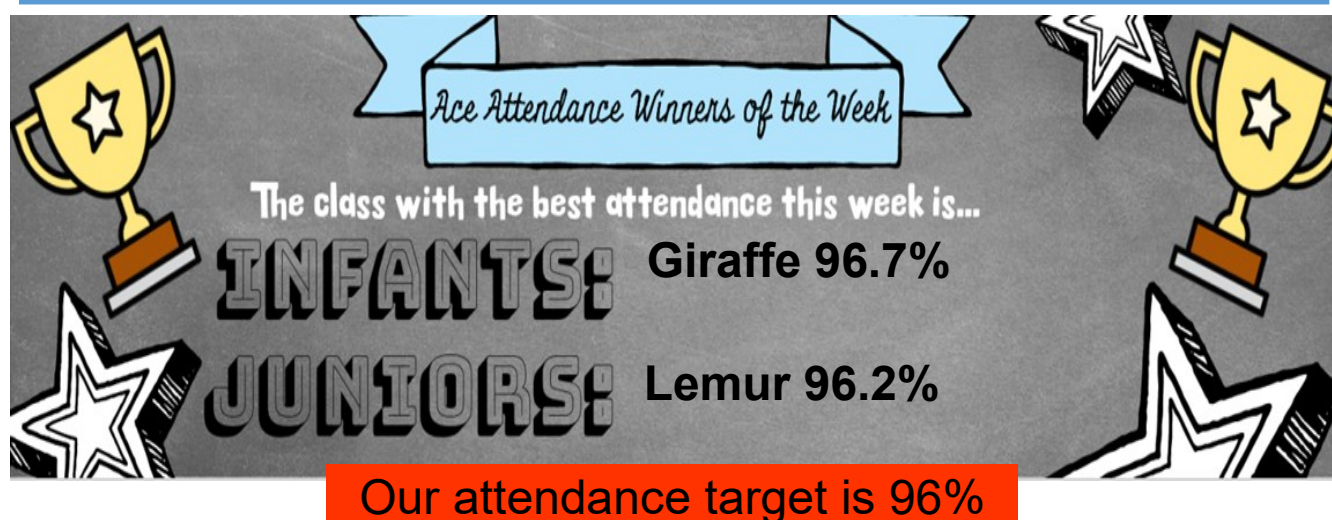


Join the Winter Reading Challenge on The Reading Agency website.

Beating our own Drum!

WE have been lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the HR Taylor Trust to spend on musical enrichment for our children. Therefore, throughout the year all our classes will take part in 6 African drumming lessons taught by a specialist teacher. Along with the money for the tuition we have also been able to buy 15 djembe drums for us to use at school. This is an amazing opportunity for us as a community and the current Year 3's have kicked off our lessons with a bang!

Watch out for updates in highlights about this throughout the year and a chance to take part in some fundraising to help this amazing opportunity.



Our ACE

CELEBRATION STARS OF THE WEEK

	Name	Reason
Koala	Hosna	For fantastic independent learning
	Victoria H	For showing kindness to others
Kangaroo	Ezekiel	For settling in well at ACE
	Freya	For great contribution during RE discussions
Panda	Theeran	For a beautiful watercolour painting of the wise men
	Alice M	For thoughtful contributions to our class worship
Tiger	Chaenna	For an excellent attitude to her work in class
	Axel H	For great attention in Maths when subtracting
Giraffe	Ayaan C	For using suffixes in his writing
	Farah	For her enthusiasm during the Nativity
Zebra	Rupert	For his fantastic writing about the great fire of London
	Anaya	For working super hard in maths this week
Lemur	Amelie M	For always giving 100% in her learning
	Max B	For his enthusiasm in maths when finding the perimeter of a shape.
Meerkat	Arthur S	For improving his home reading
	Indiana R	For her independence in her maths lesson
Rhino	Oli B	For writing a very exciting Iron Man story
	Isla S	For super contributions to air investigation planning in science
Elephant	Krishna	For his positive attitude to all areas of his learning
	Mariam	For creating a fantastic mystery story on the Iron Man
Llama	Ethan F	For a fantastic writing outcome about his Mars Rover
	Abuzar	For some great expanded noun phrases to describe a Mars Rover
Buffalo	Aiden S	For his fantastic artistic interpretation of the nativity
	Sofia M	For her fantastic explanation writing in English
Leopard	Oliva A	For settling into Ace so well
	Antony C	For making a real effort with his maths this week
Panthers	Sarah A	For her brilliant start to ACE
	Jason O	For his brilliant effort in Maths lessons.