



## Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Ware Road, Tonwell, Herts, SG12 0HN

Tel: 01920 462894

E-mail: [admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman



*'Knowing each child, growing each child, in God's love'*

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Dear parents,

I would like to thank you for your support and patience over the past few weeks as we have dealt with our covid outbreak. I am happy to report that we now have all children back in school. It is important that we continue to be vigilant. Many measures will continue in school until the end of term. Despite some disruption, I am pleased that the children's learning and activities have been able to continue.

We are very happy to welcome a new teaching assistant - Mrs Harrison. She is very experienced and is a retired Headteacher. She will support children across the school.

Children in Oak class have been busy making their natural Christmas decorations as part of the Dragon's Apprentice project. A group of children accompanied me to Adsa, Ware last Sunday to sell their products. Their great sales pitching and charm helped them raise almost £150 for the Herford and District Food Bank! They hope to add even more to that total from after school sales this week.



At Tonwell, we are proactive in finding ways to improve academic learning for our children. We recently commissioned a visit from an English Hub. These hubs are specialists in reading and phonics provision. Their advisor spent the day in school working with Miss Fitzgerald, observing lessons and looking at resources. Here is a short extract from their report: Thank you for your time today and your commitment to helping every child in your school learn to read. Here is a summary of the findings of the strengths of phonics and early reading audit we carried out with you today:

- A phonics lead (Miss Fitzgerald) with excellent subject knowledge and expertise
- Excellent book corners have a focus on a limited number of high quality texts.
- Excellent modelling and teaching of vocabulary in EYFS.

The Hub is also supporting the school to fund the purchase of a brand new phonics scheme and books to support this for our youngest readers.



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Our school has signed up to take part in the Queen's 'Tree-bilee'. To celebrate her jubilee next year, the Queen has asked that organisations get involved in tree planting. Tonwell has had 30 trees delivered. Older children helped plant trees in the school grounds, and also in the field opposite so that our whole community can benefit from this wonderful project.



We are grateful to the Parish Council for donating the beautiful Christmas tree at the front of the school. It is lovely to host it on school grounds so that our school and wider community can enjoy it!

Kind regards,

Mrs Bridgman

### Federation News

I am delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher of the federation and will share more information as we move into the New Year. We have been able to share the exciting news about our school's federation with the children. Please see the attached powerpoint for child friendly information about the expected changes.

### Christmas Service

**Providing we do not have any further confirmed cases of covid in school**, we will be going ahead with our Christmas Church Service at Holy Trinity on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The event will be fully risk assessed. Please collect your child from Tonwell at 1pm to take them to Holy Trinity. Staff will be there to meet you. We are able to safely welcome **2 adults only** per family only and sadly will not be able to serve refreshments afterwards. We ask that face covering are worn (unless exempt) and that you observe social distancing whenever possible. Any families preferring not to attend can collect children from the church at 2.45pm. A recording will be available afterwards for anyone unable to attend. Please note that afterschool club will not run that day.

### Calculations Policy

Miss Nicolaou has been working on presentations for parents to support understanding of our maths calculations policy. This document sets out the steps for how we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in school. You can find her recorded presentation on the website: Parents/Parent Workshops and the full policy at Parents/Policies. We hope you find it useful.

### Buy us a Book

Thank you all for your incredible generosity with our Buy us a Book wishlist. It's fantastic to be able to have these resources. All books purchased will be used in the children's reference



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library to support their wider curriculum learning. There are more books on the list at:  
<https://amzn.to/3xncqg>

### Instagram

Keep looking out for our updates on Instagram and keep on liking our posts. It's lovely to be able to share the children's learning with you and promote our school. We now have over 60 followers and would like to increase that numbers further.

### Coop Fund

A reminder that we have been chosen as a Co-op community fund for the next 12 months. Our cause number is 55334 and anyone with a Co-op membership card living within 15 miles of us can choose us to donate to. Please tell your family and friends!

### Key Dates

Please note that these may be subject to change and some activities will be risk assessed nearer the time to check they can still go ahead.

Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service @ Holy Trinity (we hope!)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day Y1-6 to Pantomime Whole school Christmas Dinner
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa visiting school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	1.15pm End of Term
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school