# The Federation of Antrobus St Mark's and Great Budworth Primary Schools 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13-34







"Keep me safe, my God For in You I take refuge" Psalm 16:1

### Happy New Year!



We look forward to welcoming you back to school in 2025! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and spend good times with your families and loved ones. After the business of the end of last term we had a lot to be thankful for. Christmas in the primary school is such a special and magical time for everyone. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, FOTS and parents for making the last couple of weeks of the Christmas term so special for the children. I hope they will hold onto the memories fondly when they reflect

back on their primary school experience in years to come. Thank you to all who sang their socks off at the carol service, made Christingles with the children, came to watch the nativity – Christmas Counts, supported the FOTS events, wore an elf costume, dashed and sponsored, enabled us to visit the pantomime, donated gifts, baked cakes, cooked Christmas lunches, gave of their time and just supported our little village school. One huge THANK YOU!



We were thrilled that our decorated Christmas tree won first place in the Arley Christmas tree decorating competition. Lord and Lady Ashbrook loved our hedgehog / woodland themed tree. What do you think? Thank you so much to everyone involved in making the decorations especially Mrs Green, Mrs Berry and Mrs Robins for their creativity and imagination and their encouragement towards the children in craft club, who made the decorations and helped to decorate the tree. Thank you!

We raffled off the prizes - tickets to Luminate amongst our school community raising much needed funds for the Northwich Hedgehogs Charity, who you may remember visited school for our first open day, inspiring our children's love of hedgehogs and theme for our Christmas tree this year.





A New Year enables us to look back and turn over a new leaf, make a new start. We are starting our new year with a growth of new pupils and new families, all of whom we would like to welcome into our school family. Please make our new pupils and families feel welcome, offering the hand of friendship, helping them to settle in and make themselves at home. We are delighted that when people visit our school they recognise what a special place Great Budworth is. With this in mind, we hope for our school to continue to grow and for all of the children and families to flourish together. Please do continue to promote our school, share face book posts and post positive reviews where you can.



15<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Last day to apply for your reception class place for September '25 is: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025





School encourages all children to attend school every day, we need your help, as parents, to ensure your child has the best attendance they can. Please note I am not able to authorise absences for holidays taken outside of school holiday dates and fines will be administered following the updated CWAC protocol.

Click on the link below to view

### School Attendance | Cheshire West and Chester Council

The school gate opens at 8.35 and the bell is rung at 8:45 when pupils will line up ready to be collected and taken into class by their teacher or teaching assistant. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at this time unless they are attending worship on a Friday.

Please pass on any messages to the member of staff on the gate, or the staff member taking the children into class.

If you need to speak with Ceri in the office, please use the main school entrance. The gate will be locked once all of the children have gone into class and we start off

the morning with collective worship at 9am in the school hall.

Pupils arriving after 9am will be marked as late and from 9:30 the registers will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Please do endeavour to be on time to school each day. If you need any support with this please let the office know or contact me directly. Your support with this is much appreciated.

## **Collective Worship**

As we step into the New Year, we have lots of things to look forward to in school. Our daily collective worships will initially focus **on 'Turning over a new leaf'**, starting afresh and setting new personal challenges.

The Bible offers many verses that inspire new beginnings and personal growth.

These verses speak to the heart of what it means to start afresh, guided by faith, hope and love – our core school values.

*Jeremiah 29:11*: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

As we move into mid-January, we will be looking at the Christian value of

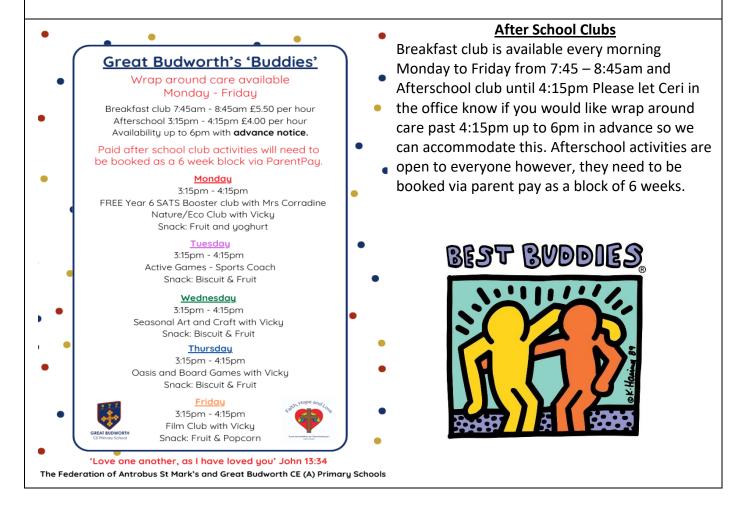
## **Dignity** and what it means.

Human dignity is a fundamental concept in Christianity. It refers to the belief that **every person is made in the image of God**, and as such, has inherent **worth and value**. This concept is central to the Christian understanding of the nature of human beings and the nature of God.

> Below is a link to a video you might like to watch with your children. <u>https://youtu.be/IDQnXvDbL7E</u>



Our weekly class-based worship will the focus on No Outsiders, where we unpick key themes based around the protected characteristics including: diversity, race, equality, gender, disability.





## Friends of the School - FOTS

A huge thank you to our FOTS for organising such a fabulous variety of fundraising events during Autumn term including: Autumn Lights Trail, Elf dash, wreath making, Christmas raffle and the Christmas fair.

FOTS will update us all soon on the total monies raised but just the Christmas fair alone raised £1200. It is a staggering amount for such a small village school to have raised so thank you to each and every one of you who supported these events and a huge thank you to Emma and her FOTS team for their expertise and for volunteering their time to organise and hold these events, all of which raise funds for the children in school now. We are very grateful to you all.

This year funds raised by FOTS will be supporting our pupil attending our enrichment activities such as the B Tales performances, the trip to



the pantomime and in supporting the cost of transport, as well as equipment and updating resources in school, which our school budget cannot stretch to.

Our newest project has been the creation of a history timeline which is located outside on the playground wall so pupils can see it during breaks and lunchtimes. It includes local history such as: Great Budworth School, St Mary and All Saints Church – Great Budworth, Anderton boat lift and the Lion Salt works at Marston. The timeline is a great way to develop a sense of chronology and for the children to understand the historical periods, Kings and Queens and events that shaped Britain and the World today.

Please keep your eyes out for the next FOTS events for the spring term, which we will be informing you of in the coming weeks.

#### <u>Uniform</u>

Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled and that PE kits are to be worn on PE days: Tuesday and Friday. This will help to ensure all pupils are prepared for their weekly PE sessions and that any misplaced uniform can easily be found.

A reminder that School PE kit/ uniform is: white tee shirt, Navy blue shorts/ joggers/ leggings, trainers worn with school sweatshirt or cardigan. No football kit is to be worn.

Our preloved uniform is available, and we have samples in the school entrance hall. Please ensure you cover over any existing names on preloved uniform and replace them with your child's name. This will help staff identify the owners of missing items.

### **Gentle Reminders**

Nail varnish is not to be worn in school and all earrings must be a simple stud which can be removed in PE lessons or covered with tape.

Smart watches which track steps are permitted but any smart watch with the ability to take a photograph or play games are not to be worn in school following our safeguarding protocol.

We do not encourage children to have mobile phones in school however, on occasions, we would only expect pupils in Year 6 who walk or cycle home independently to need to have a mobile or any children who are being collected by a different parent. Mobile phones must be switched off and handed into the class teacher on arrival to school where they can be kept safe and handed back out at home time. Staff will ensure mobiles are stored away safely during the school day again, falling in with our safeguarding protocol.

## Key Diary dates

Please find below some key diary dates for events during the Spring Term. We endeavour to give you as much notice as possible but please note that these may change and more may be added as the weeks go on

<u>Date</u>	What's happening
	Week 1
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School Re-opens for the Spring Term
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	From Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January Forest Schools will restart with Mr Holland. Please ensure pupils come to school dressed appropriately for all weathers. Wearing a school jumper or cardigan is still expected.
	Children in year 5 & 6 will also start their swimming sessions each week, on a
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday afternoon at Brio, Northwich for 12 weeks. Year 4, 5 & 6 Hockey @CHSL 3:45pm
	Week 2
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Application deadline for Reception 2025
	Week 3
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Librarian training day Years 5&6
	Week 4
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading and Phonics Information Meetings for parents in KS 1 & 2
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Chinese New Year
	Week 5
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Number Day @ Great Budworth
	Week 6
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Northwich Dance Festival 3 Pupils from Year 3 will be selected to take part in the dance festival which includes all the Northwich Education Partnership Schools. A member of staff will accompany the pupils for the day and parents are invited to join for the performance at 6pm *More information will follow*
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Valentine's Day School Closes for Half Term
	Half term
	Week 1
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	INSET DAY
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School opens for Spring 2

