



# Whole School Newsletter

December 2024

### This month, ask your child:

- *What have you learnt in your topic this term? Get those knowledge organisers out and prepare for Big Class Quizzes!*
- *What can you remember about Advent and the Christmas story? What connections can they make to other faiths?*
- *Which books are you going to read over the Christmas holiday to keep up your amazing progress? Which maths facts could you practice a tiny bit each day?*
- *Can you sing me some of the Winter Concert songs? 🎵🎵*

### Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

EP is entering the festive period, with the temperature dropping and singing voices raising all our spirits. We are very excited about our **Winter Concert** and welcome you all to the Acland Burghley hall on **Wednesday 18th December at 2:30pm**.



We appreciate all you do to encourage and support your children in learning songs and poems (if they are poetry readers), and how much you, like us, value the arts. There is something extremely special about singing and performing together, and we saw this in Year 4's wonderful Roman's Assembly yesterday. Being part of something larger, supporting each other, and experiencing group creativity is something that every child - every person! - should enjoy.



Coming together as a community is what it is all about this afternoon at our Winter Fair! We are so grateful to all of you - our PTA - and to our PTA Chairs and Treasurer, for organising this to raise much needed funding to maintain excellent provision for your children. The online auction continues after the fair ends – more details on the next page.

Thank you too for an amazing disco, which raised £1,470!

From decades of experience of teaching at this time of year, our staff team know how to make the most of every moment of learning, right up to the end of term, balancing academic subjects with singing and performing. At a time when days are shorter and darker, everyone is busier and perhaps more tired, it is really important for the children to have as much rest and sleep as possible, and for us all to be kind to ourselves and each other so that we feel resilient and calm.

With warm wishes for the holiday season ahead!

Natalie Stevenson and Sally Hill





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The beautiful hampers made up from your donations and the generous contributions from local businesses and friends are on offer in our online auction. Use the QR code below or through the link below to bid – bidding ends Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December!

<https://app.galabid.com/epwinterfair2024/items>

### THE EP WINTER FAIR 2024 SILENT AUCTION IS **NOW LIVE!**

Please take some time to look through the amazing Hampers and items up for grabs. All the money goes to keeping it EP! The auction will close at 8pm on Monday 16th December.



- 1** scan the QR code or go to <https://app.galabid.com/epwinterfair2024/items>
- 2** Register (very quick through google login)
- 3** Start bidding! You can place as many or as few bids on one or more items. You will only be charged if you win the item.
- 4** You will be notified by email if you are outbid, and will have a chance to increase your bids right up until closing at 8pm on Monday 16th December



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### Key Information and dates for your diary

As we are in December and the festive season begins, we have several reminders about the two weeks ahead of us. As is always the way at EP, we continue to teach our full curriculum up to the last day of term, but amongst this we have several special events, listed below, planned for the last week.

**Our Christmas Lunch** is on **Tuesday December 17th** the whole school enjoys a Christmas dinner together, with traditional or veggie options. If your child usually eats a packed lunch and would like to join by having a school meal on this day please complete the form linked.

<https://forms.gle/psvUCUgoZqz9kep29> If your child currently eats school dinners, there's no need to complete the form, but the link also contains the menu. There is no associated cost. Please sign up this weekend.

**Our Winter Concert** will be held at Acland Burghley on Wednesday **18th December at 2:30pm** (doors open for parents and guests at 2:20pm). This year we would like children in Year 1-6 to wear either a **red, green, black or a white top** for the concert. For Nursery and Reception, please **wear white or light grey**. Please don't go out and buy something new!

**The EP Variety Show** is held in the morning on the last day of this term, **December 20th**. Two acts have been selected from each class and will perform in the variety show competition. Parents are welcome to attend this amazing show of talent and more details of timings will follow.

### Important dates

Term dates for 2025-2026 are at the end of this newsletter. A reminder that there is no authorised holiday outside of term time and that, in line with national guidance, fines may be issued for unauthorised absence.

### **Autumn Term**

- Tuesday 17th December -Christmas lunch for children and staff
- Wednesday 18th December - 2:30-3:30 pm **Winter Concert** at Acland Burghley School
- Friday 20th December - after registration **Winter Variety Show** and **last day of term**
- **Christmas Holiday** - Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January inclusive - the last day of term is Friday 20th December with school finishing as usual at 3:30pm (no Club EP)

### **Spring Term**

- Monday 6 January - **Back to school** for all children. **No INSET day**
- **Monday 6 - Friday 17th** Year 5 **swimming** block
- Thursday Jan 30 - Bingo Night!
- Friday 31 January - Stay & Play
- 17th - 21 February - **Half Term**
- Monday 24 February - **Staff INSET day**
- Friday 28 February - Stay & Play
- Thursday 6 March - **World Book Day** - children can dress up as their favourite book character
- Thursday March 7 - **Bingo Night**
- Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 March - **Parent Progress Meetings**
- Friday 4 April - **Egg Race** and last day of term
- Spring Holiday - Monday 7 - 18 April plus Bank Holiday Monday 21 April





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### Summer Term

- Monday 5 May - Bank Holiday
- May 12-15 Year 6 SATs tests
- Half term Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May
- Monday 2 June - INSET day
- Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 July Parent Progress Meetings
- Friday 4 July - Nursery Sports Day
- Tuesday 8 July Sports Day Rec- Year 6
- Friday 18th July - Last day of term ending 1:30pm





## ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025-26

<b>AUTUMN TERM 2025</b>	
<b>Term starts for children:</b>	<b>Wednesday 3 September 2025 (Staff INSET days Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 September)</b>
<b>Half Term:</b>	<b>Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October</b>
<b>Term ends:</b>	<b>Friday 19 December at 3:30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Holidays:</b>	<b>Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026</b>
<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>	
<b>Term starts for children:</b>	<b>Tuesday 6 January 2026 (staff INSET day Monday 5 January)</b>
<b>Half Term:</b>	<b>Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February <i>plus</i> staff INSET day Monday 23 February</b>
<b>Term ends:</b>	<b>Friday 27 March at 3:30pm</b>
<b>Spring Holidays</b>	<b>Monday 30 April – Friday 10 April 2026</b>
<b>SUMMER TERM 2026</b>	
<b>Term starts for children:</b>	<b>Monday 13 April <i>plus</i> Bank Holiday Monday 4 May</b>
<b>Half Term:</b>	<b>Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May <i>plus</i> staff INSET day Monday 1 June</b>
<b>Term ends:</b>	<b>Friday 17 July at 1:30pm</b>