

November 2024

**RE: Christmas at Farlingaye**

There is nothing quite like Christmas at Farlingaye. I feel it brings out the best in our staff, students and community, and offers a chance to showcase what makes our school truly special. I thought it would be useful to write and explain both what is happening over the next few weeks, but also the help and support we need for some events, and also how you can be involved too.

There's a lot of information below, but essentially if you are after the headlines there are four things you can do to support the efforts of our community this Christmas:

1. **We need Mince pies:** Please donate! We offer refreshments at our two school concerts, as well as at the Senior Citizen one. Any contributions would be really helpful! We can't have enough!
2. **Contribute to your child's form group hamper:** The Hampers produced by tutor groups are a massive part of the work we do. They are an utterly brilliant offering and go all over Suffolk to families in need, homeless shelters and others. So please can every student contribute to their tutor group's effort.
3. **Donate a small gift for our Senior Citizens Concert:** We like to mark Christmas by inviting in the older local population for a special concert, and it's lovely if they can leave with a small gift. If you have anything you could contribute that would be great.
4. **Come along to an event!** Finally, and most importantly, our amazing singers and musicians need an audience and your support, appreciation and encouragement is definitely needed. It would be so lovely to see as many of you there as possible.

**Events over the Christmas period**

Event	Details
<b><u>Christmas Jumper Day</u></b> Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Anyone can wear a Christmas jumper instead of a school jumper on this day – but otherwise it is normal school uniform. It is of course optional!
<b><u>Christmas Lunch</u></b> Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December & Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	In a change to the advertised menu, the school canteen will be offering Christmas lunch to students on these two dates. This will be the only hot meal on offer, at a cost of £4.25. Please ensure your child has sufficient funds on their account if they would like have this option. Free school meal service will run as normal and the Snack Shack will be available for anyone who doesn't not want Christmas lunch.
<b><u>School Christmas Concert</u></b> Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 6:30pm	Tickets cost £4.50 and will be available online via ParentPay. A letter with full details about this will be sent out separately from the Music Department.
<b><u>Christmas Community Concert</u></b> Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm- 3pm	Our annual Christmas concert for local senior citizens within our community. A separate invitation letter was recently sent out to invite older grandparents, friends or neighbours to this event. This is a lovely concert and many care homes attend.

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**St Marys Church  
Concert**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
6pm

Our traditional Christmas Concert will be held at St Mary's Church in Woodbridge. There is no cost for this, but there will be a retirement collection on the door. This is a lovely evening, with fruit punch and mince pies served.

**Arrangements for the last days of term- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December/ Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December-** In the afternoon on this day, the lower school (years 7, 8 and 9) will watch the Staff Pantomime.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-** Non uniform day for all. In the afternoon, Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will watch the Staff Pantomime.

If you child's year group are not watching the pantomime they will be registered at 1.05pm and dismissed at 1.10pm, but may stay to have lunch if they would like to. Those who cannot go home are welcome to stay in school to study for the afternoon. Please note school and service buses will run as normal. Students can go to friends' houses (with parental permission) and then return to school to catch a school bus if they need to. If you are collecting your child at 1.15pm, please go to the Bus Park to collect them. Please also be aware that it is inevitable that this collection point will be a little chaotic. Please don't arrive before 1.15pm as that then causes the queues when students aren't there to meet the people in their parked cars! Students **MUST NOT** be wandering around Woodbridge unsupervised.

I hope this all makes sense, but please don't hesitate to contact your child's Year Co-ordinator, or myself, if you have any queries.

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend a warm welcome to those who joined our Farlingaye community this year. I hope you are beginning to feel at home here, in a school where we aim to ensure everyone feels valued and settled. The next term promises to be an exciting one, with the reopening of RAAC spaces and new opportunities on the horizon. But before that, it's time for a well-deserved holiday – a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with those who matter most. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Yours sincerely

**Mr P Smith**  
Headteacher