



Headteacher's Weekly Update: Friday 5th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a great week as we begin this season of Advent.

Flying High Together: Wednesday was a real highlight this week. In the morning and early afternoon, I was joined by a fellow headteacher to review teaching and learning across school and they were really impressed by how focused and engaged all the children were in their learning. He was also pleased to see how regularly the children think back to previous learning and have a chance to think more deeply in each lesson. We want to continue to fully utilise the power of partner and peer talk in lessons to help children become confident experts in their learning.

Then on Wednesday afternoon, we hosted our **Power for Good Speech Grand Final** with the winners from each class delivering their speech to the whole school. They all did incredibly well in what is no easy task and inspired us with a range of themes and ideas, from Simone Biles to taking care of planet Earth, from looking after stationary to loving our enemies. The KS2 school councillors alongside our Chair of Governors, Liz Wagner and I ultimately crowned Alice in Year 3 as the overall winner for her speech on working together to overcome bullying. Thank you to Mrs Goodman for organising and running this oracy competition; we look forward to further speaking and listening opportunities later in the year.

Romsey Abbey Christmas Fair: Well done to the fabulous school choir and singers from KS1 who delighted all of us who attended the Romsey Abbey Christmas Fair last weekend. They were brilliant and their smiles and enthusiasm were a wonderful early Advent encouragement. Thank you again to Mrs Maxey.

Parking Issues: We know parking near the school at drop off in the mornings and collection at the end of the day can be difficult sometimes. We know a number of you are eager to do something about this and we are keen to continue looking for ways to solve this with the council. If you have specific examples of difficulties and the impact of parking restrictions in the area then please email Liz Wagner, our Chair of Governors, with the details so that we can talk through with the council possible ways to improve the situation for all concerned. You can contact Liz on elizabeth.wagner@romseyabbey.hants.sch.uk

Christmas Family Celebration Event: We will be holding a Christmas Family Celebration event on **Tuesday 16th December between 3:30pm and 4:30pm** and you are all most welcome to join us for a bit of Christmas cheer as a school family with games, Father Christmas, mince pies and biscuits and the thrills and spills (not literally) of a Christmas Tombola. Thank you for your generous donations for the Christmas Tombola today. If you didn't manage to bring something in today but would like to donate please do just drop a bottle (not literally) or box of chocolates into the office and we'll add it to the tombola prizes. Thank you for those who have offered their help for the event. We are still looking for more volunteers to help set up that afternoon and help run a stall or serve drinks. If you are able to offer some help please do email adminoffice@romseyabbey.hants.sch.uk to express your interest. We look forward to hearing from you. And if you cannot help out this time, do come along and enjoy the event.

Hand Hygiene: It is that time of year when seasonal viruses and infections tend to peak in schools. We are working hard to clean surfaces regularly and encourage excellent hand washing and hygiene. We would be grateful if you could do so at home too; children often need reminders of what good hand washing looks like and the importance of washing hands before eating in particular.



We are walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love Trust and Forgiveness

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Year R 2026 Applications: We are in the window for parents to make applications for Year R places in September 2026. The deadline for applications is the **15th January 2026** so always wise to get this sorted before Christmas so it doesn't get forgotten. If you know of any parents with children due to start school in September 2026 please do encourage them to book in a tour with me and get their application complete. The links below take you to the place to apply and provide video guidance on what you need to do. Thank you

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/Online-application-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi7j34AXtw4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxVvclX2o_s

Dates for your diary: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qagv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit?tab=t.0

Prayer: I'll finish with a prayer which you are very welcome to join us in praying as we continue to journey through Advent towards Christmas.

Dear God,

As we prepare our homes and calendars for Christmas, prepare our hearts and minds to receive the hope and light you gave to the world in the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as space was found in the stable for Jesus' arrival, may there be space in our hearts for the peace that Jesus offers.

Amen

Have a great weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Harris

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Mr Mark Harris

Headteacher

Romsey Abbey Church of England Primary School

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"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"