



Arunside Announcements



Week Commencing
Monday 15th December 2025

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Productions



Thank you to all the parents who came to watch their children perform in their Christmas productions this week.

It is such a treat to see and hear them taking part in the festivities and working as a team. The behaviour has been impeccable and it is wonderful to see. They all deserve a big round of applause!



Rock Steady Christmas Concert



Hopefully parents of those taking part in Rock Steady classes thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Concert this morning. We have certainly enjoyed listening to them practice over recent weeks.



Christmas Carol Services



We look forward to welcoming our families to join us at St Mary's Church (Causeway, Horsham) for our Y3 & 4 Carol service on Tuesday 16th December and Y5 & 6 on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm. Children will be departing school at 12.30pm to walk to the church for a 1pm rehearsal on the days of their service, so please ensure they come prepared with a warm coat.

At the end of the service, children may be collected from the church. In order for us to do this swiftly, we ask that families exit the church promptly to wait outside and children will then be dismissed by their

class teachers via the front exit. Please do not take your child until they have been signed out by their teacher. Please note, all belongings will remain at school. If your child is to be collected by someone else other than their parent/carer, please can this be notified to the school office by 9am at the latest on the day of the service to ensure class teachers have this information with them on departure.

Any remaining children who are not collected at the church, will be accompanied back to school by the teachers for usual 3.20pm pick up at Arunside.

We will be collecting for the Salvation Army on both days, if anyone would like to make a contribution to this worthy cause.



Christmas Reading Challenge

Children in Early Years, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will bring home a Christmas reading challenge during the last week of term. Please encourage your child to complete the activities and keep them reading over the holidays. Children should return these to school during the first week back. The class who returns the most will be treated to a short film with snacks.



Family Reading

A reminder that today was the last session of Family Reading - there will not be a session on the last day of term.

Forest School

Friendly reminder - Oak class will need their Forest School kit on the **FIRST DAY BACK** after the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Cards

This year we will once again be adopting our eco-Christmas card giving celebrations and ask that children just bring in one Christmas card for the whole class to enjoy, rather than one each for all their friends. The teachers will make time to read out the cards in class and celebrate the Christmas wishes together.



After School Clubs

Forest School, Young Voices, Dance Club and Ms. Broadhurst's Art Enrichment Club have already finished for Autumn Term.

Teacher-led clubs finishing **next week** are:

- Mr. Ginns Multi Sport,
- Crafty Christmas Club,
- Colouring Club (this is a make-up session due to a missed session earlier in the term)



There is still some availability for Code Club with Mr Heath and Culture Club with Mrs Jacks in the Spring Term for students in Years 5-6. Bookings for these are to be made on MCAS.

Lodge Hill Deposits

Reminder to Year 4 parents that deposits are due in on Monday 15th December.

PE Timetable for First Half of Spring Term 2026

We include a copy of the timetable in this edition of Arunside Announcements, and it can be located on the school website via this link : [PE Timetable](#)



Baby News!

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Jacks is expecting a baby! We are sure you will join us in offering our heartfelt congratulations and will make the most of the time we have with her before she goes on maternity leave in Summer Term.



Library Books



Please could you remind your child/children to bring books back. The library will still be open for the children to come in and read every day. It has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying our library this year and so far we have loaned over 1200 books!

Parent Governor Election Results 2025

Congratulations to our New Parent Governor Laura Patan. It was a close election with two very strong and capable candidates. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote. The Governing Board look forward to welcoming Laura to the team in 2026!



Horsham Football Club



Horsham Football Club have very kindly donated 100 family tickets to watch Horsham FC play Chesham on Saturday 20th December 2025 at 3.00pm If you would like a family ticket, please visit the school office.



Christmas Jumper Day

Rowan class were in the festive spirit this morning!





Key Dates for The Diary



Date	Details
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Years 3 & 4 Carol Service 2.00pm
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Years 5 & 6 Carol Service 2.00pm
Monday 5th January 2026	Inset Day
Mondy 23rd February 2026	Inset Day
Monday 23 rd - Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 4 Lodge Hill Trip
Monday 13th April 2026	Inset Day
Monday 1st June 2026	Inset Day
Monday 6 th July 2026 - Friday 10 th July 2026	Year 6 PGL Marchants Hill Trip



Arunside PE Timetable Spring 1



	EYFS		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Monday								PE		PE		PE or Swim		
Tuesday				PE		PE					FS Oak	FS Oak		PE
Wednesday		PE				PE Clover			FS Sycamore	FS Sycamore				
Thursday						PE Dandelion	PE		FS Hazel	FS Hazel				PE
Friday	PE									PE		PE		

How to get your children excited about reading this Christmas!



from  HarperCollinsPublishers

December's magic and anticipation make it ideal for weaving reading into your celebrations. With school holidays ahead, you have the perfect opportunity to create wonderful reading moments with your family.

The festive season naturally focuses on family and togetherness. Sharing stories strengthens bonds and emotional connections, builds children's confidence and creates lasting memories. Research also shows that children who continue reading during school holidays maintain their literacy skills and return to school with stronger vocabulary and comprehension.

Creating memorable reading experiences doesn't require elaborate planning or expense. With a few creative touches, you can transform December into a celebration of stories that your children will treasure.

Establish festive reading traditions

Read on to discover a range of fun ideas for creating festive reading traditions that produce lasting memories and give children something to anticipate each year. Whether book advent calendars or reading the same story each Christmas Eve, simple traditions make reading feel as special as any other holiday ritual.

Christmas offers a unique opportunity to slow down, spend quality time together, and create magical moments around books. Start planning your reading adventures now and discover just how magical the combination of books and family time can be!



To find out more about why reading is so important for your child, go to collins.co.uk/BookSquadParents

Transform December with a book advent calendar

Forget chocolate – create a book advent calendar as a countdown to Christmas! It will build excitement and anticipation and make reading feel as special as any Christmas treat.

Wrap up books – old and new, borrowed or bought, for the best Christmas memories

Choose how long you want to do this for – you could do a countdown throughout December with 24 books, or for the week leading up to the big day with just 7 books, or 12 books for the 12 days of Christmas. Tell your child you are going to spend time reading to and with them on those days. Children will treasure having your time and attention and sharing stories with you.



How to create your book advent calendar

- Wrap your books (they don't have to be new - you can wrap books you already have, or include a couple of new if you like, for budget friendly Christmas, look in charity shops, even borrow them from the library or friends)
- Number each package, then place them under your tree or in a special basket
- Each morning, your child unwraps one book
- Consider adding a small, related gift – even an existing toy or household item works! For Christmas stories, wrap a carrot for the reindeer, a biscuit for Santa, or a bauble for the tree

Mix short picture books with longer ones to suit different energy levels and attention spans. Include interactive books with puzzles or activities for busy days. Don't forget family favourites – children love revisiting beloved stories, and familiar books provide comfort during seasonal excitement. Include poetry books, joke books, or children's cookbooks for variety. Anything goes! For children, the excitement comes from the unwrapping and the time together with you, when you read to them, or, with older children who can read, when you share the story-telling (if your child wants to!)



Create cosy reading nooks for the holidays

Embrace winter's cosy vibes by creating special reading spaces that feel magical and inviting. Transform ordinary corners into reading wonderlands that make picking up a book feel like an adventure.

Building your festive reading corner

- Gather soft blankets, cushions, and fairy lights to create a warm, enclosed space
- Add a basket of carefully selected books within easy reach
- Include a special reading lamp or torch for reading under covers
- Incorporate winter treats like hot chocolate or festive snacks
- Position your nook near a window during daylight or close to your Christmas tree in the evening

Make the space feel special and separate from everyday activities.



Make reading part of gift-giving

Books make wonderful presents but are often overshadowed by flashier gifts. This Christmas, make books feel as exciting as any toy by presenting them thoughtfully.

Creative ways to gift books

- Include a reading promise note: 'I promise to read this to you and it will be our special time together'
- Pair books with related small gifts – a pirate book with an eye patch and treasure map, or a cooking story with child-safe baking tools
- Write personalised notes explaining why you chose that particular story
- Create "book and experience" gifts – a nature book with a promise to visit local woods, or a baking story with ingredients for making biscuits together

Swap screen time for story time during family gatherings

Rather than defaulting to films when family comes together, introduce a family reading session instead. When relatives visit or during cosy holiday afternoons, have adults and children pair up for shared reading time.

Making family reading sessions work

- Designate a 30-minute “family reading time” when everyone finds a comfortable spot to read together or quietly alongside each other
- Older children can read to younger siblings and cousins, grandparents can share their favourites, and parents can rediscover books from their youth

Create reading partnerships between generations. A teenager might enjoy helping a younger sibling or cousin through their first chapter book, while grandparents often have patience for repetitive picture books that parents find challenging.

Choosing the right books: select Christmas or winter-themed stories to maintain festive atmosphere, but don't limit yourself to seasonal tales. Consider books with layered meaning that engage both children and adults. Classic tales and beautifully illustrated books that spark conversation work particularly well.



Tell a story with audio

Too busy cooking Christmas lunch or managing family commitments to read every day? Consider audiobooks as a way to embrace family reading over Christmas.

How to use audio this December:

- Play stories aloud while decorating, cooking, or doing other festive activities
- Include audio in your book advent calendar – shorter stories work well for building anticipation
- Consider story collections from popular children's authors:

Wonderful Winter: Packed with snowy adventures and surprises, ideal for the run-up to Christmas!

Cosy Christmas: Funny festive stories from a monster searching for the perfect gift to a carol-singing unicorn!

These audiobook collections and many more are available from major retailers including Audible, Apple, and as part of Spotify Premium subscriptions.



Half price family ticket to The D-Day Story Portsmouth

Please present this ticket on the day to receive your discount.

One day changed the world

One great day out



Visit The D-Day Story on Southsea seafront, the only UK museum dedicated to the momentous events of 6 June 1944.

Visit the museum between Saturday 27 December 2025 and Saturday 31 January 2026, show this voucher and receive 50% off a family ticket.

thedaystory.com

Walk up tickets only, not valid on 27 January 2026. Not to be used with any other offers or discounts.

