



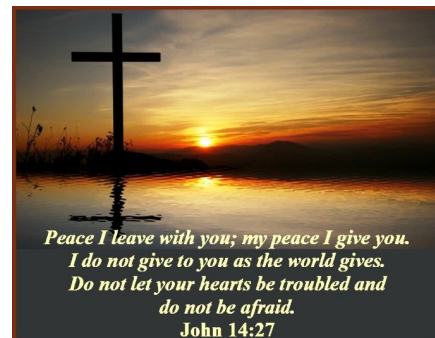
Dear Parents, family and friends of St. Joseph's

As we embark upon another week, I am reminded of the importance of reflection and stillness amidst the busyness of our lives. On Monday, we began our week in worship with a simple yet profound demonstration. I presented the children with a jar filled with water, which, at first glance, appeared tumultuous as sediment swirled within. Over time, the water settled, revealing the sediment at the bottom.

This visual metaphor serves to illustrate the chaos that often envelops our daily lives.

In our fast-paced world, both children and adults find themselves caught in a whirlwind of activities. For our children, there are timetables to adhere to, homework to complete, clubs to attend, and friendships to nurture. Adults, too, are not exempt from this frenetic pace; parents and carers juggle responsibilities that include household chores, meal preparations, communication, shopping, and the myriad of tasks that demand our attention. The pressures of catching public transport, responding to emails, meeting work deadlines, and fulfilling home responsibilities can create a sense of overwhelming urgency.

In this context, I shared the comforting words from the Gospel according to John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." In this scripture, Jesus speaks not of the absence of conflict but rather of an inner peace that transcends worldly concerns. Much like the swirling water in the jar, our lives can become chaotic, particularly as we approach the festive season of Christmas. It is essential to remember that amidst the hustle and bustle, we must carve out moments of quiet reflection. Advent is a time for Christians to celebrate the promise of God sending His son, Jesus, into the world, and it is vital that we remain focused on the true essence of this season.



On Monday afternoon, Class 2 had the delightful opportunity to visit the newly opened Harwich library. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the staff and volunteers who facilitated this enriching experience for our children. Later that evening, I felt a surge of festive spirit as some of our children participated in the HEP carol concert at St. Nicolas Church. Their performances, both in reading and singing, were nothing short of magnificent, and I felt an immense sense of pride in their accomplishments.



Tuesday proved to be a bustling day, marking the commencement of our Christmas lunches. Our Key Stage 1 children relished the festive meal, while Key Stage 2 children enjoyed theirs on Wednesday. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the governors who assisted in serving the meals, thereby enhancing the festive atmosphere. A special thank you is also due to Mrs. Stant and Miss Fielding for their unwavering dedication and hard work in the kitchen.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, Classes 3 and 4 were treated to a performance by the Funnelwick Limb Theatre Company, based at the Harwich Arts and Heritage Centre. The production, titled "The Twelve Yuletide Yarns," was an epic winter adventure that ignited the children's imaginations and transported them into a world of magical stories and poetry, with an escaping carrot, creating a truly memorable seasonal experience.

Thursday was marked by our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to this worthy cause through their generous donations. Additionally, this day marked the conclusion of the Year 6 "We Are Music - Rock School" programme. I trust that the children found joy in this experience, as we are fortunate to have such opportunities for our children to engage with various musical instruments within our community. For those who wish to continue their musical journey, I encourage you to explore the music lessons available through the organisation, which can be accessed via their website: <https://we-are-music.org.uk/>.



Looking ahead to next week, we have an exciting schedule planned. On Monday, the school will observe the Key Stage 1 Nativity dress rehearsal, while Class 4 will visit the Don Thompson Care Home to sing carols. Tuesday will feature the afternoon performance of our Key Stage 1 Nativity, alongside Class 3's visit to Lime Court for Christmas crafts. Wednesday evening will see our evening Nativity performance, which I anticipate will be a highlight of our festive celebrations.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that Friday marks the last day of term. We will commence the day with a Christingle service at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church at 10:00 am, to which all are warmly invited. This will be followed by a carol service at school from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Please note that school will finish early on Friday at 2:00 pm, allowing families to begin their Christmas break.

Attendance Data

	Last week	This week	Late Marks
Class 1	99.05%	98.10%	2
Class 2	91.11%	94.81%	2
Class 3	90.59%	93.82%	7
Class 4	91.82%	95.13%	5

Thank you for your continued support and engagement within our school community. May we all find moments of peace and joy as we navigate the festive season together.

I hope you all have a safe, lovely weekend.

Take care – God Bless- Mrs. Golding



Certificate Winners

Class 1: Luca, Marlee-Mai and Junior

Class 2: Sophia, Blake and Tia

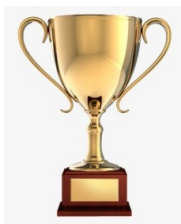
Class 3: Sylvia, Declan, Isabelle and Violet

Class 4: Rafael, Harper and Celine

Mrs Golding's Headteacher Award: Mira,
Matilda and Isaac

Whole School Attendance this week: 95.13%

Winning Class this week: Class 1 - 98.10%



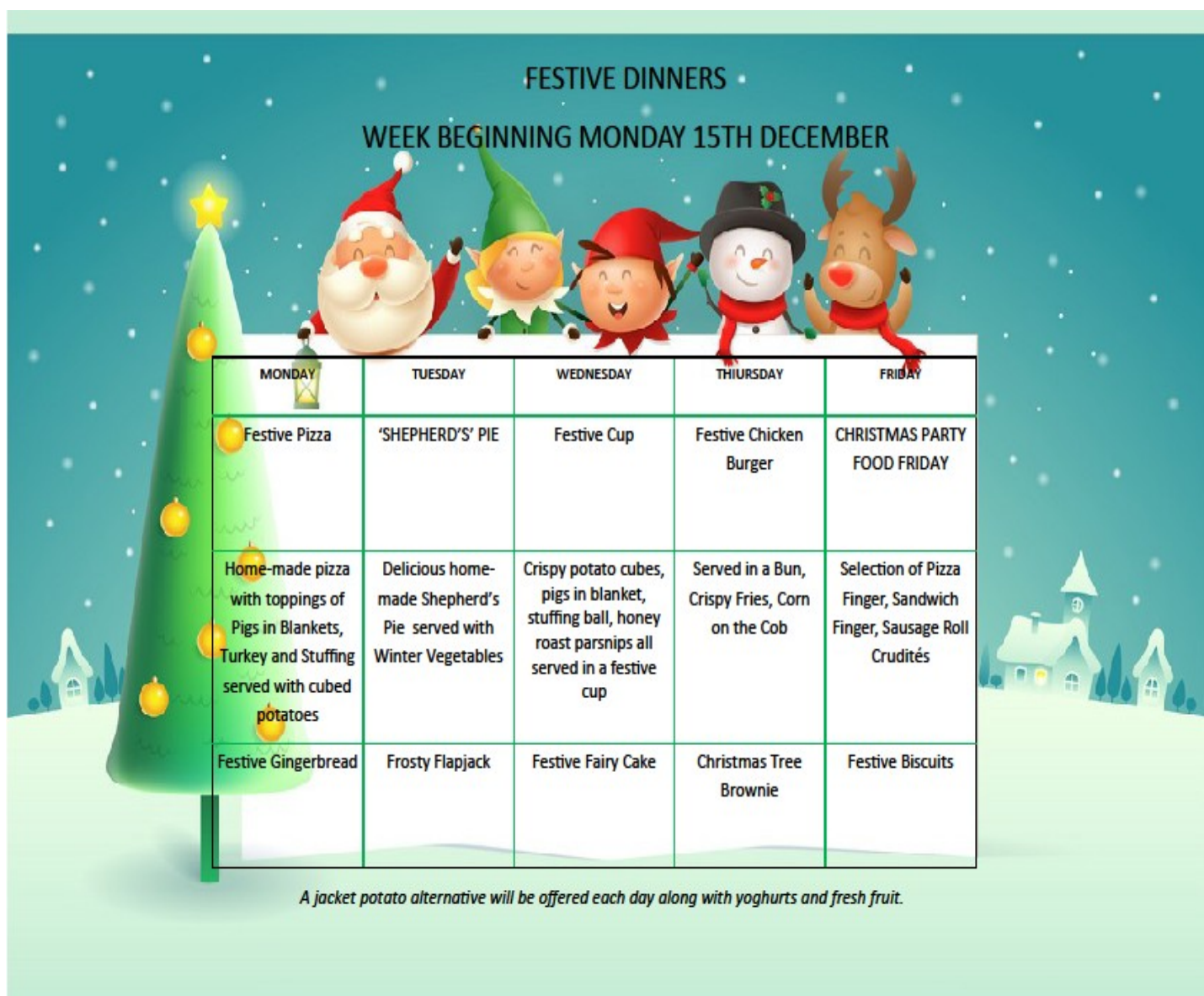
Winning House Team This Week:
St Andrew

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 15th December	1.30pm Class 4 Don Thompson House Carols
Tues 16th December	2pm Class 1 + 2 Nativity 1.30pm Class 3 Lime Court—Christmas Craft
Weds 17th December	6pm Class 1 + 2 Nativity
Fri 19th December	10am Christingle at Church and 1pm Carols at school 2pm School Closes for the Christmas break
Mon 5th January	Non Pupil Day—Children return Tuesday 6th January
Tues 6th January	Children back to school
Thurs 8th January	First Year 1 and 2 Swim session
Weds 4th February	School Photos—Desk Top Portraits
Fri 13th February	Last day before the half-term break
Mon 23rd February	First day back after half-term
Fri 27th March	PTA Auction TBC Last day of Spring term
Mon 13th April	First day back for children after Easter
Mon 4th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Mon 11th May	SATs Week—Y6
Fri 22nd May	Last day before half-term
Mon 1st June	First day back after half-term

Week Beginning Monday 15th December

Special Festive Week Menu



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Festive Pizza	'SHEPHERD'S' PIE	Festive Cup	Festive Chicken Burger	CHRISTMAS PARTY FOOD FRIDAY
Home-made pizza with toppings of Pigs in Blankets, Turkey and Stuffing served with cubed potatoes	Delicious home-made Shepherd's Pie served with Winter Vegetables	Crispy potato cubes, pigs in blanket, stuffing ball, honey roast parsnips all served in a festive cup	Served in a Bun, Crispy Fries, Corn on the Cob	Selection of Pizza Finger, Sandwich Finger, Sausage Roll Crudités
Festive Gingerbread	Frosty Flapjack	Festive Fairy Cake	Christmas Tree Brownie	Festive Biscuits

A jacket potato alternative will be offered each day along with yoghurts and fresh fruit.

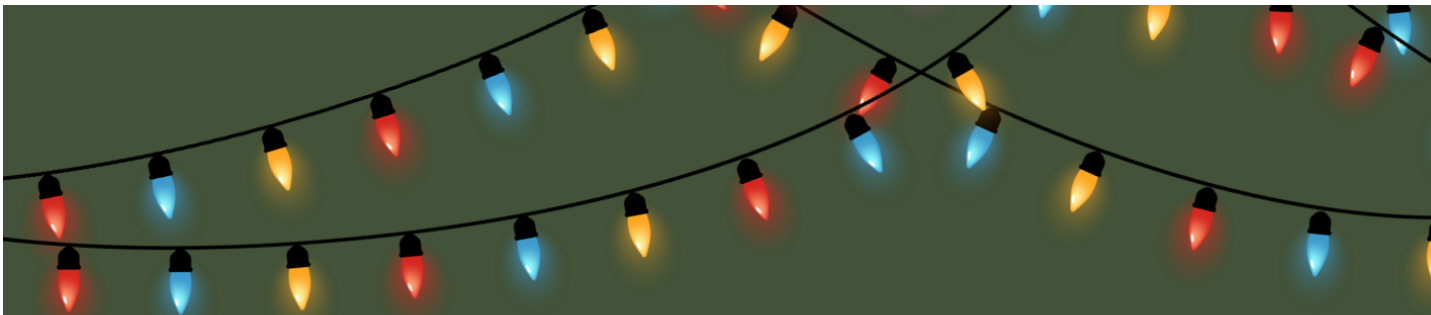
Schools meals are free for children in Class 1 and 2. Paying children in Class 3 and 4 are charged £2.75.

*Thank you
Mrs Colley*

St Joseph's are occasionally asked to promote activities from local groups, such as the Swimming Pool, the Sports Hall, Church Groups etc....

Such activities are not quality assured by the school and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.

Our website can be accessed at
<https://www.st-josephs->



Festive Light Up

Santa Ride and Christmas Party

Grab your Santa suits, light up your bike and join us for a festive ride along the seafront.

We will then ride back to the Harwich Arts and Heritage Centre for a Christmas party, with hot chocolate and gingerbread men!



Saturday 13th December
2pm - 5pm
Dovercourt Cricket Club



Book on now! Email us at
harwich.dovercourtepp@theaws.org
or call us at 07749 491791.





MISS FINNEY TUTORING

ages 3 - 11

Tutoring group spaces are
available in the following

subjects:

-Phonics

-Mathematics

-English

-SATs Preparation

-Phonics Screening Test

Preparation

Offering tutoring in a small
classroom environment for
children ages 3-11.



For further information, please contact:



07398091022



vfinneytutoring@outlook.com



[@miss.finney.tutoring](https://www.instagram.com/miss.finney.tutoring)





We have asked the Teachers to produce a 'wish list' of items they
and the children would like for their classrooms.

Christmas Wish List

The gifting wishes will be tied to the school gates (colour coded for each class) from as early as next week, if you would like to take part, take a label or 2 home with you. Wrap up your selected gift and return to reception by Wednesday 17th December making sure the Class Name label is securely attached to the gift (Please label the gift from Santa)

The following Day, Teachers and Children will open and enjoy their class presents together and hopefully Santa will be on hand to make the special delivery.

Parentkind
Member Association



Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



libraries.essex.gov.uk




Essex County Council

ESSEX YEAR
OF
OPPORTUNITY

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply hang back and listen in.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the last year'*

Jo (parent)

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back'*

Louise (parent)

'Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 6th January**, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the **Zoom** link.





About Boys

Course 5-11 years

FREE!



Online Live Course

A 4-session course created specially for Mums of Boys 5 -11 years old.

Discover and Learn:

- ✓ Clearer understanding of your son's needs
- ✓ Practical tips for boundaries and discipline
- ✓ More confidence in your parenting journey

If you're facing tricky moments or simply want to feel more equipped, this course will help you build a stronger, more connected relationship with your son.

Date: 13/1/2026 - 3/2/2026 (4 Weeks)
Date: 14/1/2026 - 4/2/2026 (4 Weeks)

Time: 9:45 - 11:45
Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type 'All About Boys' in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





Managing Big Emotions

Online Live Course

FREE!





Managing Big Emotions

Online Live Course

✦ What You Will Learn

- Emotional Control: Strategies to help children recognize and regulate their emotions and impulses.
- Sensory Management: Practical tools to support children in meeting their sensory needs.
- Conflict Resolution: Techniques to guide children in problem-solving and handling disagreements constructively.

Date: 13/01/2026 - 20/01/2026 Time: 19:00- 21:00

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "BIG EMOTIONS" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





Sibling Rivalry

Online Live Course

FREE!



Join our LIVE interactive course designed to help parents build stronger connections with their children and gain practical parenting support. You will Gain:

- Tools to better understand your child's emotions and behavior
- Strategies for positive communication and conflict resolution
- Guidance on nurturing resilience and confidence in your children
- A supportive space to share experiences and learn together

Date: 12/01/2026 to 19/01/2026
Date: 13/01/2026

Time: 09:30 - 11:30
Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "SIBLING" in the 'Find a course...' box



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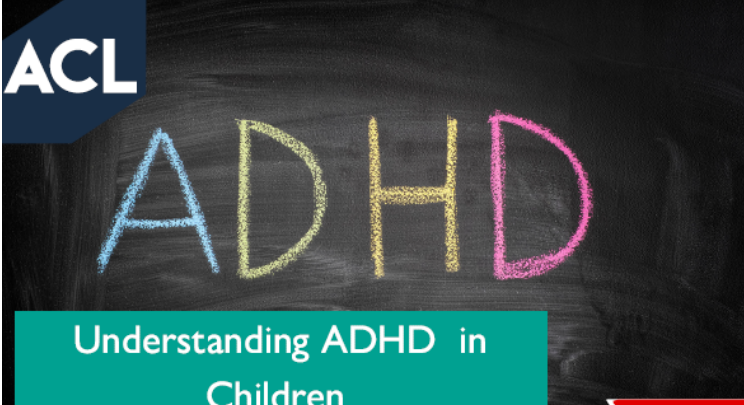




Understanding ADHD in Children

ONLINE COURSE

FREE!



Join us for this 1 week online course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodiverse children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

Date: 9/1/2026

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "ADHD" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Supporting Neurodiverse Children

Online Live Course

This 6 week course will provide you with an opportunity to discuss with tutors and peers about how challenging parenting a SEND child can be. You will receive practical tips and advice on how to make family life just that little bit easier. This is an adults only LIVE course so you need to log in at the given time.

Date: 08/01/2026 - 12/02/2026 **Time:** 09:30- 11:30

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "Neurodiverse" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Support your Child Attend and Enjoy School

Online Course

'Supporting Your Child To Attend and Enjoy School' provides parents/carers with an opportunity to become part of a community that understands and supports you. This adults only 6 week course, will provide time to share experiences and learn tips and ideas to help children to attend and enjoy school.

Date: 14/01/2026 to 25/02/2026 **Time:** 19:00 - 21:00

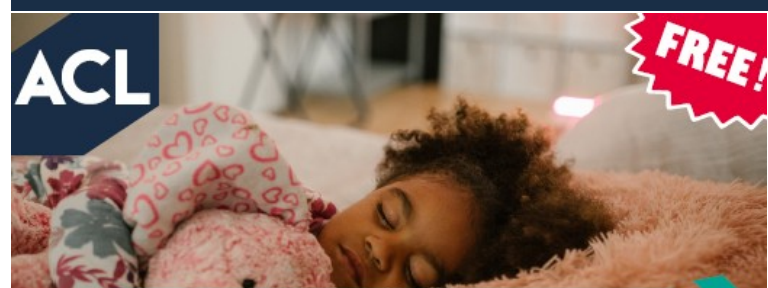
Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type 'SUPPORT SCHOOL' in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Sleep Workshop

Online Live Course

For Parents, Carers & Grandparents
Join us for a 2-hour interactive workshop designed to help you understand:

- 🌙 The importance of sleep for young people's wellbeing
- 🧠 How sleep impacts mood, learning, and overall health
- 🛏 Practical strategies to support healthy sleep routines at home

Date: 9/01/2026 **Time:** 09:30 - 11:30

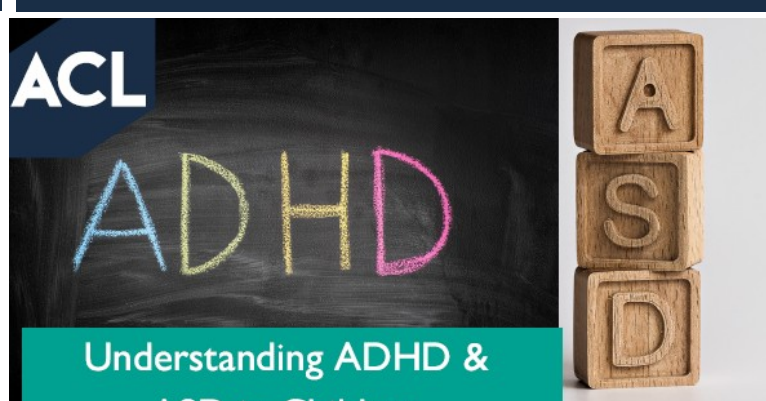
Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "SLEEP" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Understanding ADHD & ASD in Children

ONLINE COURSE

Join us for this 6 week online course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodiverse children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

Date: 8/1/2026 to 12/2/2026 **Time:** 18:00 - 20:00

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "ADHD and ASD" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





Harwich Library
Saturday's 2.30pm-3.30pm



Ask us how to book a session!

