

School Leadership Messages

Mobile Phone Policy

As a reminder please find a link to our mobile phone code of conduct [here](#). It was last formally reviewed in July 2025.

We apply this code fairly and apply reasonable adjustments when making decisions about mobile phone confiscation in particular.

We ask parents to re-read the terms of the code as in the last few weeks our office has received calls from parents, or parents have come to the gates requesting immediate return of confiscated phones.

Parents are informed via email when the phone can be collected and we respectfully ask parents to adhere to the dates as indicated in that communication.

Christmas Lunch



Celebrate Christmas
Friday 12th December

Come and join us for our annual Christmas Lunch on the above date.

Enjoy from our menu below:-
Roast Turkey & Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Honey Roasted Vegetables
Pigs in Blankets, Sage & Onion Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce.
OR
Festive Vegetable Parcel with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Honey Roasted Vegetables, Sage & Onion Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce.

Chocolate Roasted Sponge with Chocolate Sauce,
Christmas Pudding,
Yule Log.

Prices:-
Student £4.00
Staff £4.75

Students can enjoy a delicious traditional christmas lunch or a vegetarian option with all the trimmings and christmas pudding or yule log for dessert.

Lunch will be longer and there will be changes to Period 5. School will end at the normal time of 2.30pm.

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12.12	Christmas Lunch & Festive Clothes



FCC
FORTISMERE COLDFALL CAROLS

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

AUDIENCE CAROLS

FESTIVE MUSIC
performed by the choirs of Fortismere School and Coldfall Primary

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 7 PM

THE CHOIRS OF FORTISMERE & COLDFALL SCHOOLS
CONDUCTED BY FLORENCE PRICE & KATE VETCH
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | N10 2DD
TICKETS £10 | STUDENTS/URBS £5
BOOK ONLINE www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

Feedback at Fortismere [here](#)

Headteacher's Message

As December arrives and we edge closer to the Christmas break, there's a wonderful festive atmosphere building around our school. Our two beautiful Christmas trees, one in South Wing and one in North Wing, have been decorated this week and are looking absolutely magnificent. We're incredibly grateful to 'Christmas on the Hill' who have generously donated one of the trees and to a very kind parent who donated the other one. They've certainly helped to bring that special seasonal sparkle to our school corridors. The festive spirit continues this Sunday evening with our Community Christmas Carol Concert at St Andrew's Church on Alexandra Park Road at 7pm. This year we have a lovely collaboration between Fortismere and Coldfall Primary School, and I'm looking forward to hearing our Youth and Junior Choirs perform Christmas favourites. It's a wonderful way to bring our wider community together and really marks the start of the Christmas season. Looking ahead to next week, we have Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12th December, the same day as our Christmas lunch. The more students who join in, the more fun it is, so please do remind your children to dig out their festive knitwear! It's these little touches that really help get everyone in the mood for the celebrations ahead. Whilst we're embracing Christmas traditions, I'm also delighted to share that our J-Soc will be holding their Hanukkah celebrations on Tuesday. You'll find more details later in this newsletter, and it's wonderful to see our students marking the diverse festivals and celebrations that matter to our community.

On a different note, I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who gave permission for their children to receive the winter flu vaccination. Ms Izzet and her team worked incredibly hard to organise the sessions, and I'm pleased to report that we vaccinated more students than ever before this year. Hopefully, this will help keep those winter viruses at bay across our community in the coming months.

Finally, our Year 12 students had a fantastic cultural evening last night, attending the new production of Othello in central London. The production has received wonderful reviews, and it's always great to see our sixth formers engaging with live theatre

With warm wishes for a festive weekend ahead, and I look forward to seeing many of you at St Andrew's on Sunday evening!

Fundraising & Donations

Want A Christmas Tree Like Ours?

Both of our Christmas trees this year have been donated to the school by generous Fortismere parents.

The North Wing tree is a lovely Balsam Hill artificial tree that a parent no longer needed and kindly gave to the school. We will enjoy this one for many Christmases - thank you!



The South Wing tree is a beautiful real tree from **Christmas on the Hill** (a local supplier of sustainably grown trees) and if you order a tree from them they will make a generous donation to the school (remember to select Fortismere at checkout).

The **Christmas on the Hill** tree is lovely and we can definitely recommend ordering your tree from them. [Order via this link](#) and help raise money for the school.

Extra Curricular & Enrichment

Fortismere J-Soc Invitation

J-Soc Hanukkah Celebration



Tuesday 9th December 2025
1:05pm In the North Wing Hall
Please bring a packed lunch with you.

J-Soc is open to all. If you would like to attend and you are not on the google classroom please email
saune087.309@fortismere.school or see Ms Overs

Drama Department Notices

Pantomime Tickets Now on Sale!

N PRODUCTIONS fortismereDRAMA
PRESENTS
Jack AND THE Beanstalk
A PANTOMIME

25 January 2025 2:30pm (Doors 2:00pm)
27, 28, 29 January 2025 7pm (Doors 6:30pm)
£18 Adults / £12 Under 18s
Tickets from:
www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk

@fortismeredrama
North Wing Hall,
Fortismere School,
Creighton Avenue Entrance,
Muswell Hill N10 1NS

N10 Productions and Fortismere Drama present:

Jack and the Beanstalk
A giant problem...
an even bigger adventure!

When the struggling Trott family farm is threatened by a band of ruthless property developers determined to plonk a train station where no one wants one, young Jack Trott leaps into action. After being duped by a shady Bean Dealer Gang and losing beloved Daisy the Cow, Jack finds himself with nothing but a handful of so-called magic beans.

But when a towering beanstalk bursts into the sky, horrifying the bougie neighbours and baffling the local farmers, Jack discovers his only hope is to climb it. Alongside Jill, a cast of lost fairytale characters, and a few surprisingly helpful magical beans, Jack must outwit the Giant's mischievous minions and save the family farm before it's flattened into a railway platform. Packed with belly laughs, big songs, wild magic, and giant-sized surprises, it's the ultimate family pantomime adventure.

Book now and join Jack for the climb of his life! [Tickets available here](#) Our shows always sell out in advance, so buy tickets early and help us fundraise to provide more amazing opportunities and professional equipment for our students.

A Glance Into JATB Rehearsals This Week

We saw our full cast back in the room this week (almost!)... the first time we have all been together in weeks. With approx 8 weeks until show week, we are beginning to rehearse the last few scenes, recap material, and get into our all singing, all dancing group numbers.

If any cast member has missed rehearsals over the weeks, please ensure to double check the rehearsal schedule on our Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime Google Classroom to see when you are needed. Most cast will be needed for all rehearsals throughout December and January!



Art & Photography Notices

LAST CHANCE- Christmas Card Competition

fortismere



The winning artist will receive a bumper pack of Art materials and sketchbook!

Design the school Christmas card for 2025!

This year's theme is '**Light & Hope**'

We are looking for original, creative and colourful designs that promote the theme of Light & Hope. You can use any media including, painting, collage, recycled materials or digital art.

Entries must be handed into the Art department **by 4pm on Monday 8th December**. The winning Christmas card will be chosen by Ms Judge and shared with the school community.



Library

Christmas in the Library

A huge thank you to all the students who have helped, and continue to help, by making and putting up Christmas decorations in the library, even a total Grinch like Ms Pirovano cannot help but feel a little festive! Christmas themed books are out on display, and some Anti-Christmas books are also making their way silently, but relentlessly on to the display shelf - we are making sure there is something to read for everyone!



Have a look at our [Library page](#) which has had a makeover for the season, with music, games, and a themed Advent Calendar.

Christmas Recommendations

If you need a little help getting into the spirit of the season, have a look at some reading recommendations below - they span a variety of genres and themes, but all have Christmas or wintery frosty lands in common. If you want to know more about the book, click on the image below and you will be taken to the [AccessIt Page](#), where you can read a summary, read reviews written by our very own students and then request it!



Library Makeover

The library is undergoing an internal organisational makeover, something a lot of students have been asking for, but that so far has not been possible. We are in the process of organising our book selection by genre; this is a mammoth task, but one that will definitely be worth it in supporting the students' sense of independence when selecting books, and generally in navigating the shelves.

So far, the focus has been on the [Barrington Stoke](#) books, the ones published using dyslexia friendly fonts, making them accessible to a wider variety of readers. The genres have been thought out by keeping in mind what students' requests are, and so they will also translate to the rest of the library. Some of the other books have already been labelled.

Speak to your child and ask if they are confident in finding books in the library and if they aren't encourage them to go and speak to Ms Pirovano for some help.

Historical/ War Fiction

Relationship & Identity

Adversity & Overcoming

Sports

Mystery/ Detective

Horror

Fantasy

Sci-Fi/ Dystopian

Adventure

Music Department

Community Christmas Concert - Sunday 7th December 7pm St Andrews Church

Don't miss the Community Christmas Carol Concert this Sunday! Christmas music, carols, mulled wine and mince pies will all be part of this lovely community event on Sunday at St Andrew's Church on Alexandra Park Road. Tickets selling fast so don't miss out! Our Youth and Junior Choirs will be performing Christmassy favourites like Jingle Bell Rock and will join with Coldfall Primary School choir for Carol of the Bells. There'll be everyone's favourite carols such as O Come, All Ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Tickets £10 and £5 for students are available online [here](#) - there may only be a few tickets available on the door so if you know you want to come along - get your tickets now. Families eligible for FSM can get half price tickets with the coupon code FSM/PP50%.



School Christmas Concerts - Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm

The term will finish with the usual flourish of the school's Christmas concerts, with bands, choirs, school ensembles and solos from throughout the school. Tickets available [here](#) - £10 fundraiser ticket, £8 standard, £3 students/U18s.



Weekday Instrumental and Vocal Lessons - Important Reminder!

The deadline for payment for the Spring Term is Monday 8th December - please help us to publish the timetables for lessons nice and early by paying on time! Lessons will start the first week back at school (5th January onwards). Invoices for School of Rock, Junior Choir and Saturday lessons will be sent out by the end of next week.

Careers & work Related Learning

Year 10 Work Experience Planning

Year 10 students attended an assembly on work experience last week. All Year 10 students will be undertaking a 5-day work experience from 29th June to 3rd July 2026. There will be an online meeting for parents and carers towards the end of January where more details will be shared. In the meantime, Year 10 students have been made aware that they should start researching now for places where they would like to do their work experience and let their form tutor know.

Sport & PE Notices

Haringey Girls Football League

Our Year 9/10 team kicked off in the first qualifying game of the Haringey Cup on Monday afternoon at Highgate Wood School. The weather was cold, dark and miserable and the competition was fierce! We opened the scoring but HWS were quick to level things up again. It was end to end and Salma finished a lovely set up from Farrah to put us ahead. Once again HWS came back quickly and then took the lead. Farrah was quick to respond and we were level again! More of the same in the second half and despite Morgan's great goalkeeping and Farrah's hat-trick, we ended up losing 7-5. A great match and well played everyone.



Volleyball Champions!

Congratulations to our Girl's Volleyball squad who were crowned champions of Haringey this week. Masal Canli who has just joined Fortismere was player of the tournament, she has an amazing serve! Well done to everyone involved - you all played so well as a team.



Middlesex Cup Update

The Senior X1 travelled to Lea Valley this week for the third round of the Middlesex Brigg Cup. They were great and won the match 5-1. A super result - well done all.



Just Like Strictly!

We have our very own Latin American Dance Champion in Year 8 - Naila Francis Rosselson. We've watched some videos and her dancing skills are a joy to watch. Naila has been dancing since she was 3 years old and travels around the world with her dance group taking part in festivals and competitions. She is very talented indeed - it's just like watching Strictly!



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 8 December	U14 Girls Middlesex Cup v Chiswick home 2pm. Y7 v Highgatewood Away
Tuesday 9 December	Haringey Netball Finals APS 12.30 pm.
Wednesday 10 December	6th Form Netball v APS 2 pm Sports Hal
Thursday 11 December	Haringey Netball Finals at APS 12.30 pm

Sixth Form Notice

Year 13 - UCAS Deadline

As a reminder to Year 13 students and parents, Fortismere Sixth Form's internal UCAS deadline is today, 5th December. By this point, we expect Year 13 students applying to university to have completed their UCAS form, uploaded their final-draft personal statement, paid, and submitted their application to the school.

As students have been reminded in assemblies and tutor time throughout the term, this internal deadline ensures the Sixth Form team, including tutors, has sufficient time to check applications carefully, provide references, and send everything to universities before the end of term. Please take a moment to check in with your young person this weekend and, if needed, support them in submitting their application before Monday. A huge thank you to all the tutors and teachers who have been working hard to support Year 13 students with these applications and well done to all of those who have already submitted theirs!

Ms Common

Student Fundraising

Ambassadors Supporting Muswell Hill Foodbank

Following the success of the recent Wrap Up Winter Coat collection (we collected and dropped off over 120 warm coats), and the Knitted Teddies sale (£55 for Cancer Research) our Student Ambassadors are now moving on to their next charity project. This time they are supporting our local community by collecting donations for the **Muswell Hill Food Bank**.

We need your donations of tinned, packet and dry food:

Year 7: Biscuits, Chocolate, Tinned Beans

Year 8: Pasta or Pasta Sauce

Year 9: Tea, Coffee or Sugar

Year 10: Rice or Tinned Tuna

Year 11: Long life juice or Tinned Soup

Year 12&13 Breakfast Cereals or Tinned Custard and Rice Pudding

Students should bring donations to the **South Wing Foyer on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th December** either before school, at break or at lunch time. Thank you so much for your support.



**FORTISMERE SCHOOL
FOOD BANK
COLLECTION**

Supporting Muswell Hill Food Bank

Bring your donation on:
**Thursday 11th December
or Friday 12th December**
Drop-off: South Wing foyer

What to Bring:
Year 7: Biscuits or chocolate OR tinned beans
Year 8: Pasta OR pasta sauce
Year 9: Tea/coffee OR sugar
Year 10: Rice OR tinned tuna
Year 11: Long-life apple/orange juice
OR tinned soup
Years 12 & 13: Breakfast cereals
OR tins of rice pudding/custard

Thank you for supporting
our local community!

The poster features illustrations of various food items: a tin of biscuits, a tin of beans, a tin of rice, a tin of tuna, a bottle of milk, a jar of sugar, a tin of custard, and a mug of tea. The background is decorated with festive bunting and stars.

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

