



PAXTON PRESS 20th October 2023



### **YOUR WEEKLY "HELLO" FROM MISS O**

To our wonderful Little Paxton families,

As I am sitting writing to you I am reflecting on how wonderful this half term has been at Little Paxton. This year had started so positively and it really feels like our school is on the edge of something really great. I want to thank each member of our school community for the part they have played in making this term such a success.

It has been so lovely to be able to talk to so many of you on the playground and get to know you better (thank you for stopping and chatting); to celebrate the amazing learning of so many children in different ways and to make lots of memories. I want to congratulate Molly Polfrey for coming first in X, it was lovely that she wanted to share her trophy and medal this week. I've also loved seeing the amazing writing by Oliver in Year 2 and Nick in Year 4, great job boys, keep up the excellent work!

I am so proud of everything we have achieved and would like to publicly thank my amazing team for all of their support and dedication this term, without them, none of this would be possible. We gathered together on Wednesday morning and everyone was still smiling and laughing which was just wonderful to see.

There have been so many highlights this half term! If you come into school then please do stop and look at our new photo timeline celebrating our journey this year so far! A massive thank you to Mrs Turner for making this happen (and for making the rest of the front of school look so colourful and welcoming). Some of my favourite moments have been: seeing so many of you packed into the hall having breakfast together and going green for MacMillan; our staff team building event at Rumble; the positive, calm, happy atmosphere in the school every time I walk round; the number of you who attended parents' evenings and left with a smile on your face and the fantastic feedback we have had as part of our stakeholder surveys.

We have come so far already and I am really looking forward to, as I know the rest of the staff team are, continuing to improve and be the best we can be. More about where we are going as a school will be shared as part of our Come, See and Celebrate evening on the 8th November. There is no need to book, just come along from 6 till 7pm. We hope to see many of you there.

There is much to look forward to in the run up to Christmas, our first SEND parents' evening; our year 4s will be heading to Burwell on a residential; there are many sporting events planned; the return of the Christmas Fayre and Carol concerts, festive singalongs and nativity plays. We can't wait to share it all with you.

I want to wish you all a very happy and restful half term. We look forward to being back together again on the 30th October.

### **This week in school!**

The smell of apple crumble has been filling the corridors this week from the Year 3 children's cooking, we hope that it tasted as nice as it smelt. Each year group will be having a D&T week every term to cover all of the skills of designing, making and evaluating a product. On Wednesday, the school was filled with amazing music in our two iRock assemblies. It was fantastic to hear the children singing along and to watch children put themselves forward to be part of the "band" as you can see from the photographs. Leaflets have been sent home but the office has extra copies if you are interested. There is also much excitement in Year 4 as the **Times Table Rockstars class battle** has commenced, who will be victorious I wonder? Wrens or Kites? Watch this space.



*1 - Irock*



## Something to know about Miss O

I first joined Little Paxton School as a 6 year old in year 2. My first teacher was Mrs Cotton and I left to go to Longsands and trained to be a teacher at King Alfred's in Winchester. I then returned to Little Paxton for my first teaching post with a year 1 class in 2003. Who would have thought I would be writing to you today as Acting Head Teacher. Little Paxton has always had a special place in my heart and it is an absolute privilege to be leading the team and I am incredibly excited about the adventures to come next term.

Can you spot me on my school photograph?



## Messages from Team Paxton



### Message from Miss Peate - SENDCO

As we approach the end of an exciting half term, I want to bring your attention to opportunities that are available to parents of children with SEND within our school community. On Cambridgeshire County Council's SEND Information Hub (Local Offer), you can find a range of activities, from arts and crafts, to workshops and cafés to enjoy with your child. In addition to this, Keysoe Therapy and Well-Being Centre, based at Keysoe International in Bedfordshire, are running a new initiative to offer young people aged 7+ the opportunity to get practical, hands-on experience on topics such as pony handling, equine anatomy and farrier care, so if your child has an interest in horses, this could be ideal. The sessions can be booked as half or full days, take a look at their website: [www.keysoe.com/therapy-and-wellbeing-centre](http://www.keysoe.com/therapy-and-wellbeing-centre).

I have also recently added new information and resources to the SEND area of the website, so if you are looking for more information about a particular SEND need or you would like more resources to use with your child at home, do take a look. Coming later in the year is the opportunity for parents to attend an emotionally-based school avoidance workshop, led by the St Neots Mental Health Support Team that is linked to our school, so if your child finds it difficult at times to attend school, you may find this workshop very useful and they can offer advice and support to families.

This half term, new SEND Support Plans were sent out to parents of children with SEND at Little Paxton. At the first SEND parents evening on 1st November, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's targets for the Autumn term with their class teacher and how you can support at home

as parents. The aim is to keep you fully informed of how your child is progressing throughout the year within the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle as well as the types of provision that are personalised for them.

I look forward to seeing you on 1st November.

Miss Peate

SENDCo

## Paxton Panthers Girls - Match Report



### Paxton Panthers Girls – **Pokemon Cup**

On Tuesday, the Paxton Panthers Girls team attended the Pokemon Cup in St Ives. There were eleven schools competing for the trophy and an opportunity to progress to the county competition.

Little Paxton were in Pool B alongside Bushmead, Holme, Houghton, Warboys and Westfield. We started the group stage against Holme. An amazing team performance resulted in a 2-0 win with Paige and Mimi grabbing the goals.

Our second game was a local derby against Bushmead. A closely fought game with both teams having good chances to win, but Alice was the superstar of the game making some tremendous saves in goal. It finished all square at 0-0.

The third game saw the Panthers up against Warboys. This game was a fantastic team performance in both attacking and defensive areas of the pitch. Two goals from Paige and one from Mimi meant we ran away 3-0 winners and we continued our run of not conceding a goal.

Houghton Primary School were our next opponents. We had the opportunity of watching our opponents in their previous game. It proved to be a great decision because we produced a tactical



masterclass. Paige scored a last-minute goal to give us our third win of the tournament. An amazing performance from our defence and Alice in goal to ensure another clean sheet.

In our final match of the group stage, we played Westfield Primary School. This was our third game in a row with no time to rest and the team were tired. Westfield scored two early goals to win the game 2-0. It was a really great performance against a very good team and eventual winners of the tournament.

Overall, a fantastic team performance from all of the girls. **Well done to Alice, Amy, Mimi, Paige, Milly, Polly, Leah, Hollie, Isla H and Ella-May.**

Mr Pool

## And our sporting success continues!

### Little Paxton through to the second round!

This week our boys football team travelled to Holywell Primary School for the first round of the Dickenson Cup. It was a fantastic performance from both teams but Little Paxton came out on top with a 2-1 win.

A first half corner crossed in by Ollie found Robbie and he headed the ball into the top right-hand corner. Paxton conceded a penalty late in the first half but luckily the ball went wide of the right post. Some excellent defending from Ziggy and Samuel meant we went into half time leading. The second half Little Paxton started on the front foot and grabbed an early goal from another corner. This time Evan poked the ball past the keeper to double our lead. A free kick from Ollie was heading for the top corner but a fantastic save meant the game stayed at 2-0. With minutes remaining Holywell capitalised on a defensive mistake and grabbed a goal back. However, the team worked hard to see the game out and ensured Little Paxton went into the second round draw.

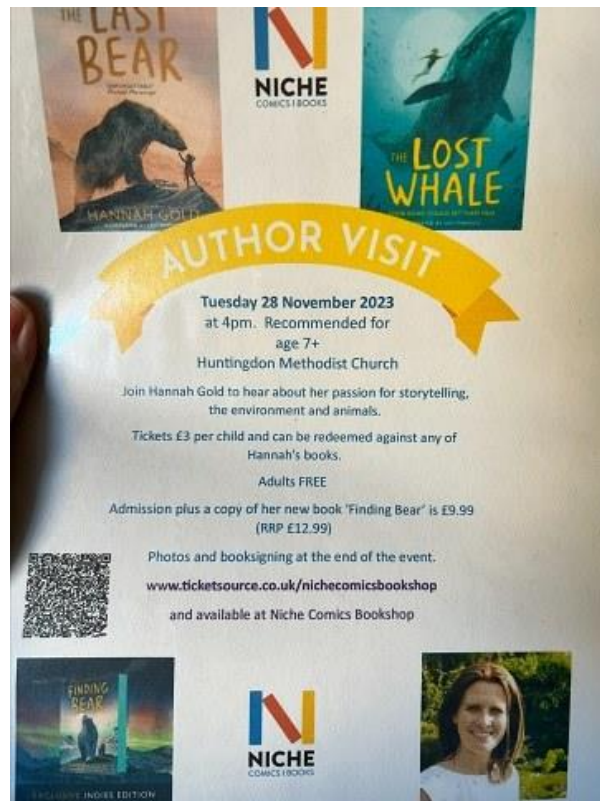
A huge congratulations to all of the players that took part: **Marcus, Robbie, Ziggy, Samuel, Bodhi, Evan, Seb, James, Ollie and Dami.**

## Message from Mr Simkin "Calling all bookworms"

Hannah Gold is one of my favourite authors and she's got quite a few fans in Key Stage 2! She's written some wonderful books centred around animals, adventures, and the environment. Y4 and Y6 were recently lucky enough to attend a virtual visit with Hannah, and soon she's coming to Huntingdon in person! If your child loves animals and/or books, this event would be an absolute treat - see poster for details.

-Mr Simkin,

English lead



## Individual School Photographs



Our photographers will be coming into school on Friday 3rd November to take individual photographs of the children and sibling photographs for everyone in school. If you have other children who do not attend our school, you can have a family portrait taken early in the morning. Some slots are still available from 8.30am. Please contact the office if you would like to book a slot.

## Poppy Appeal 2023



We have received a delivery of Poppy Appeal Merchandise and these will be sold by Year 6 during breaktimes in November and will also be available from the school office at the beginning and end of the day.

Slap bands and lanyards will be £1.00, wristbands, reflectors, zip pulls and ordinary poppies will be 50p.

## Message from our Chair of Governors

### Thank you to Miss Owen and the team at Little Paxton

As we come to the end of this first half term, I am sure parents and carers will want to join me in saying thank you to Miss Owen and the team. I know many of you have contacted the school already – thank you for this, it means a lot to this hard working team.

As governors, we feel that Miss Owen, supported by Mr Saxby and Mrs Gatward in the central leadership and the phase leaders have done an excellent job of leading the school in the absence of Mrs Moore. Stepping up can be a challenge, and I am sure you will agree, this is something Miss Owen has done particularly well.

Yesterday, some of our governors joined our school improvement advisor, from Cambridgeshire County Council on a visit to school. Those who attended were pleased to see how well the subject leaders involved were all passionate about their respective subjects and are really clear about the curriculum and the strengths in teaching in each department. It also was noted that they have made a lot of positive changes this half term and have clear plans to make further improvements moving forward. Our school improvement advisor was very complimentary about what she saw.

There has also been positive feedback from parents and carers of prospective new pupils who have attended visits, saying how calm and welcoming the school environment is.

### Update on Mrs Moore

Sadly, Mrs Moore is still unwell at the time of writing, with no confirmed date for return. We continue to contact her and are working to support her. We will make sure we keep parents and carers updated as soon as there is anything we can share.



I am sure you would want to join us in sending very best wishes for a return to full health for Mrs Moore.

After half term, the current acting arrangements with Miss Owen as Acting Head and Mr Saxby as Acting Deputy will continue. Thank you also to Mr Simkin for stepping up as acting phase leader – and doing a great job too.

### **Happy Half term**

I hope the children, who are likely to be feeling tired after a busy few weeks, enjoy the break and send best wishes to you as families too.

I am aware that I mistyped my email address in a previous communication, if any of you had tried to contact me about governance opportunities or any chair related business, my correct email is [mhowells@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:mhowells@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk)

Happy half term and thank you for your ongoing support

Maxine Howells

Chair of Governors

## **Celebrations**





Congratulations to Molly who won an "Aquathlon" event for Year 5s in Bedford last weekend. This involved swimming 133metres and then straight outside in her swimming costume to run 1.2km. She did all of this in 8 minutes 41 seconds. Well done Molly!

### Miss Rose is getting married!

Miss Rose, our Starling Year 1 teacher is getting married on Sunday - let's hope the rain stops!! All Year 1 celebrated with "Wedding" cake yesterday to wish her well. We all send her our very best wishes.



The children were asked to predict what Miss Rose's wedding dress would be like and we hope she will be as happy as the bride in this picture!

## Workers of the week



Congratulations this week to .....

**Super Starling - Ruby** - She brightens our classroom just by being in it =. She has been working so hard on her writing and phonics and wows us with her determination to always be her best!

**Wonderful Woodpecker - Eleanor** - she really impressed us with her phonic knowledge this week!

**Remarkable Raven - Avaani** - She has really impressed me with her beautiful handwriting and amazing ideas in her Non-Chronological Report about Aliens!

**Perfect Pigeon - Winnie** - she was a superstar in the rock music assembly and we were really impressed with her alien report too

**Marvelous Merlin - Ethan** for being hard working in maths, his Nrich problems were all correct - Well Done!

**Knowledgeable Nightingale - Evie-Mae**, for always showing the Little Paxton way

**Clever Kite - Phoebe** - she is committed to doing her best. She is a delight to teach, bursting with ideas in English and applying them to her work.

**Ready Wren - Isla** - for paying wonderful care and attention to her work. She always shows our school values and she is a pleasure to teach!

**Fantastic Fisher - Zara** - because of her fantastic attitude to learning this week, particularly in science with her end of unit leaflet.

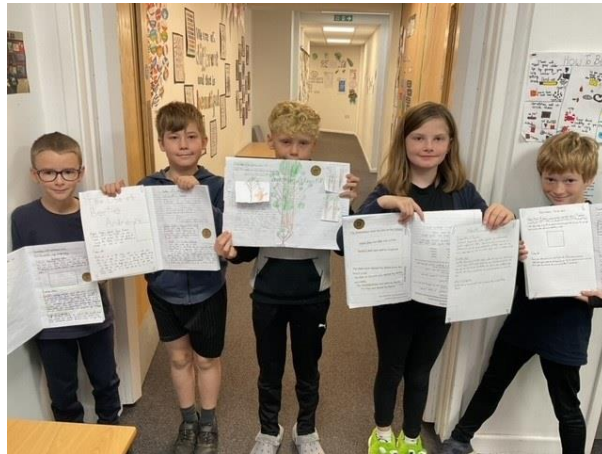
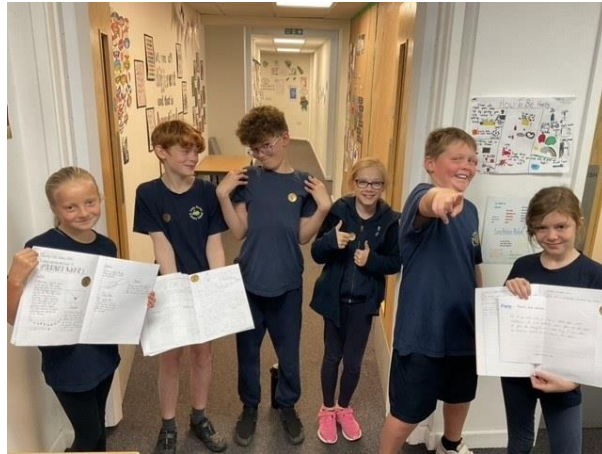
**Dedicated Dove - Libby** - She was written a lovely biography about a character in our class story.

**Heroic Hawk - Rhys** for being engaged and enthusiastic particularly during his grammar sessions.

**Rocking Robin - Leah** - for always being ready to learn and being fantastic!







## Reminder - Flu Sniff





If you have not yet booked - please follow the link to book your child on.

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/cambridgeshire>

The nursing team will be attending school on 5th December. **They CANNOT administer the sniff to your child without the online consent.**

**This is not something we are co-ordinating from the office but if you have any trouble with the actual form we can help.**

Please speak to the school office if you have any issues

Reminder LPSA AGM and Discos





## LPSA AGM

**Monday 13th November  
6-7pm in the  
School Hall**

**Does your child like using laptops in class?  
Did your child enjoy the school disco last summer?  
Do you like getting Mother's and Father's Day gifts?**

**These and more were all provided by LPSA  
volunteers.**

**Please consider joining the LPSA.  
The LPSA must have members taking  
on key roles, so they can continue  
doing its great fundraising.**

### LPSA Member -

a member attends committee meetings, helps  
with events and votes on how the money  
fundraised supports the children in school.

### Chair -

the chair is the glue that  
holds the LPSA together.

(this can be a joint role  
with a second person  
taking on Vice Chair)

### Secretary -

the secretary keeps  
everyone informed.

### Treasurer -

the treasurer keeps  
records of the finances.

(this can be a joint role  
with 2 people taking on  
the responsibility)



**spooky  
DISCO**

**Friday 3rd November**  
**£3.50 per child**

**EYFS, YR1 and YR2 4:00-4:45pm**  
*Glow stick, squash and packet of sweets*

**YR3 and YR4 5:00-5:45pm**  
*Squash and crisps - tuck shop details coming soon*

**YR5 and YR6 6:00-7:00pm**  
*Squash and crisps - tuck shop details coming soon*

Pay online via the QR code or exact cash into the drop  
box in an envelope with your child's name and class by  
Wednesday 1st November



## Christmas Card Orders **Deadline looming**



You should have received your child's Christmas card design earlier this week.. The deadline for orders is **29th October**. If you have any queries during half term please contact Lynette on [littlepaxtonsa@gmail.com](mailto:littlepaxtonsa@gmail.com) or 07837925383.

## Individual appointments with Education Inclusion Adviser Charlotte Dean



9th November 2023

14th December 2023

To make an appointment, please email [charlotte.dean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.dean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) - she will contact you to confirm a time.

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

## Reminder of dates coming up



**HALF TERM** - Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

**NEW DATE \*Wednesday 1st November** - Hilltop Parents Evening - Zoom - 6pm (details to follow)

**Friday 3rd November** - Individual photo day

**Friday 3rd November** - Discos see details above

**Wednesday 8th November** - COME SEE AND CELEBRATE - 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

**Monday 13th November** - Weights and Measures in school for Foundation and Year 6 children

**Monday 13th November** - LPSA AGM - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

**Friday 17th November** - Children in Need (non uniform day)

**Burwell residential** for Year 4 - Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd November

**Tuesday 5th December** - Flu Sniff for all years

**Monday 11th December** - KS2 Christmas Concert - St James' Church - evening - times to be confirmed

**Tuesday 12th December** - Key Stage 1 Christmas Production - 1.30pm

**Tuesday 12th December** - KS2 Christmas Concert - St James' Church - evening - times to be confirmed

**Wednesday 13th December** - Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner Day

**Wednesday 13th December** - Christmas Fayre - 3.15pm - 6.00pm - **Whole School Christmas singalong** - 5.00pm -6.00pm

**Thursday 14th December** - KS1 Christmas Production - 9.30am

**Friday 15th December** - Early Years Nativity Tea Party for parents - 2pm

**LAST DAY OF TERM** - Wednesday 20th December

(There may be additions to these dates and possible changes)

### Final Reminder - Donated outdoor clothing



We have had a large quantity of really good outdoor clothing donated to us from the Grafham Water Centre. Please pop to the office any time and see if there is anything suitable for your child for the winter or for their trips to Burwell or Hilltop. We will be disposing of this after half term. Everything is free so definitely worth a look.



## Reminder - Starting School



We know that parents of pre-school aged children are starting to think about joining us next year!

We will be opening our doors to warmly invite them to see our amazing school and to find out a little more about what we have to offer.

Our sessions will be from 9.45am to 10.15am - this is so that you can see the children learning and you can see how well our current foundation have settled in so quickly.

Wednesday 29th November

Wednesday 25th January 2024

Please email [office@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@littlepaxton.cambs.sch.uk) to book a slot.

## OUT OF SCHOOL

### Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Oliver M, one of our Merlins will be performing in this VAMPS production, a great family trip out.

**IAN FLEMING'S**  
**CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY RICHARD M. SHERMAN AND ROBERT B. SHERMAN  
 MUSIC BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SONY/ATV PUBLISHING. ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY JEREMY SAMS.  
 BASED ON THE MGM MOTION PICTURE. LICENSED SCRIPT ADAPTED BY RAY ROGERICK.

**9TH - 12TH NOVEMBER**  
**PRIORY CENTRE, ST NEOTS**  
**BOX OFFICE THEVAMPS.ORG // 01480 388922**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY 7:30PM SATURDAY 11AM, 3:00PM & 7:30PM SUNDAY 3:30PM  
 TICKETS £16 ADULT // £14 CONCESSION // £50 FAMILY  
 TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE

**VAMPS**  
 OF ST NEOTS

**BEACON**  
 MAIN SPONSOR

*noda*  
 Be inspired by amateur theatre

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

## The Norris Museum Events

Upcoming Half Term events here at the Norris Museum.

On **Monday 23 October**, we will be having clay workshops inspired by the Muddy Hoard, our new exhibition of a Roman coin hoard found in Huntingdonshire in 2018 (our biggest acquisition ever!). This event is recommended for ages 7+ due to the hand strength needed to use the pottery wheel, but younger attendees are welcome if parents are happy for them to just make pinch pots or coil pots.

On **Wednesday 25 October** we are having an Archaeology Day, where real archaeologists will be on site at the museum with some of their equipment. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet

archaeologists, learn all about what they do, and even try out some of their equipment yourself. Our Archaeology Day is free of charge (donations appreciated) and is open to all ages, and no booking is required.

On **Friday 27 October**, from 10:30 - 12:30 we will be having Roman object handling and pottery wheel demonstrations at the museum. This is also free of charge and is actually a part of our Feel Good Fridays Programme, which is a regular event open to all on the 4th Friday of every month. When these events fall during school holidays we ensure that they are family friendly and we welcome families to attend.

# The Muddy Hoard

## Family Clay Workshop

Make your own Roman coin hoard, inspired by the Norris Museum's new Muddy Hoard exhibition. Use air-drying clay to design your own Roman coins and create your own pot to keep them in - and even have a go on a potter's wheel!

**Monday 23 October**  
**Two workshops:**  
**10am - 12pm**  
**1pm - 3pm**  
**£6.00 per person**

Recommended ages 7+ due to the hand strength required to use the potter's wheel



**THE NORRIS MUSEUM**  
Wherever Your Curiosity Takes You

[norrismuseum.org.uk](http://norrismuseum.org.uk)  
01480 497314  
41 The Broadway, St Ives PE27 5BX





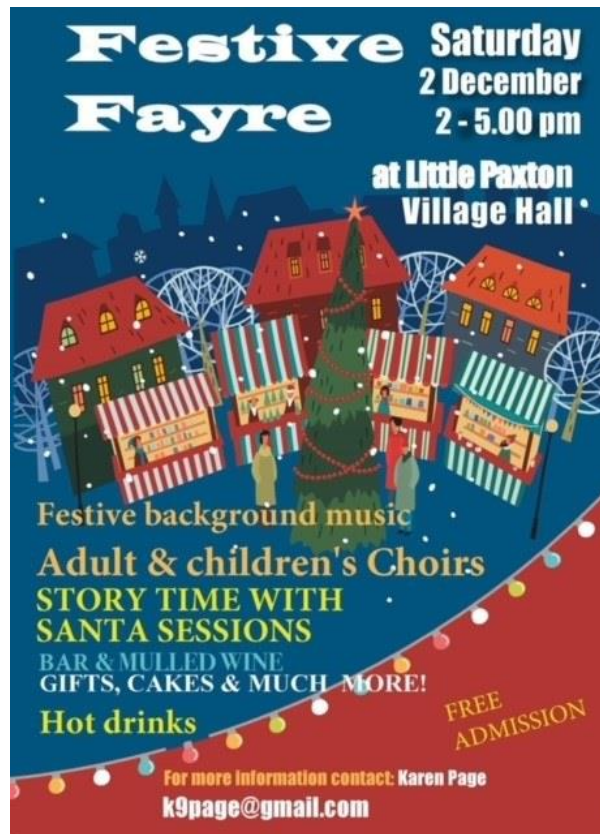
## Barracudas



## Paxton Fayre

Look out for our very own Mrs Bishop who will be having a stall full of amazing handmade sewn Christmas decorations, presents and stockingfillers.





## Sparrow and Lark First Class Photo

Look out for next weeks Hunts Post on 18th October to see our wonderful Early Years children! If anyone has a copy they can drop into school after half term we would be grateful.

## Team Paxton

Wishing you an amazing half term!

