



St Chad's Church in Wales

VA Primary School

'Always looking to the future'

Established 1676

Headteacher/ Pennaeth
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Dear Parents, carers and the Hanmer community,

As we head towards the Christmas break, I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful staff, families, and children. The effort, care, and commitment you've shown this term has been incredible. I have been truly grateful for everything you do.

Looking ahead, I feel honoured to continue leading our school. The feedback we've received from our questionnaire and our Come and Explore days and challenge afternoons has been so valuable, and it's inspiring to see how strong our partnership is. I'm excited to build on this spirit of collaboration as we move into the new year.

A huge congratulations goes to our staff, who have worked tirelessly to give our children the best education possible. It's been wonderful to see how quickly everyone has settled into the school year and how dedicated you are to putting the children first. As we approach the festive season, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest. You've earned it — recharge and get ready for the exciting term ahead!

This term has been full of festive joy. We've loved theatre trips to *A Christmas Carol* and *Tales from Acorn Wood*, as well as magical experiences in Wonderland and a Victorian Christmas at Blists Hill. Our Christmas Fayre was a highlight, with Classes 3 and 4 showing off their creativity by running Victorian-style stalls and raising an impressive amount for the school.

Our traditional Christmas tree walk, was slightly wet, but as heart-warming as ever, with older children helping the younger ones — a true reflection of the caring spirit at St Chad's. A special thank you to Lady Hanmer and her family for this unique experience and for donating our beautiful tree.

The Christmas Carol Service at church was another magical moment. Singing carols together in such a special place really brought the festive spirit alive. Thank you to Mrs Brodie for playing the organ and to everyone who made the service so memorable. Our Know Your Church Workshop was also a delight, with children making cards, Christingles, and learning about the meaning behind the Twelve Days of Christmas.

We've continued our tradition of performing Christmas plays in church, which has added so much atmosphere. The Foundation Phase Nativity, *Bethlehem Bake Off*, was full of charm, especially with the children's angelic singing. Classes 3 and 4 impressed us all greatly with their performance of *Oliver*, tying in beautifully with their Victorian studies. Thank you to



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families for helping with costumes and lines, and to our staff for making these productions so special.

Christmas dinner was a big hit, enjoyed by all the children — thank you to Mrs Mottram and Renatta for making it so delicious.

I'd also like to thank our school governors for their ongoing support. Their voluntary work is invaluable in helping our school thrive. And finally, a huge shout-out to our amazing children, who fill our school with laughter, positivity, and love every single day. You are the heart of St Chad's.

As we look forward to celebrating our 350th anniversary in 2026, I feel truly blessed to be part of this special school. On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you all a magical Christmas filled with joy, family, and friends. May the New Year bring happiness and success.

We're excited to welcome you back on **Tuesday, 6th January 2026**, along with our new Early Education children. Enjoy the festive season, and thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas!

Kind regards

N Locker

Nicola Locker

