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Friday 19th December 2025

# December 2025

# Newsletter

Issue Number - 3

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their support at our Christmas Fayre!

An incredible £2841.93 was raised!

We could have not done this without you! Thank you!

We would like to wish everyone a lovely and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We look forward to seeing everyone again on

Tuesday 6th January 2026!

(Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET Day)



# A Message From Mrs Jones

I would like to thank the whole Shamblehurst Community for their kindness, empathy and support over the last month. We have been touched by your generosity, not just to staff, but also to our wider community and support for the Baby Necessities.

We say goodbye to Phoebe Jones today who is off on her travels. We wish her all the very best and hope one day she will return to teaching so that other children can enjoy her magic.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Warm wishes,  
Mrs Jones  
Headteacher





# Christmas Puzzle Page

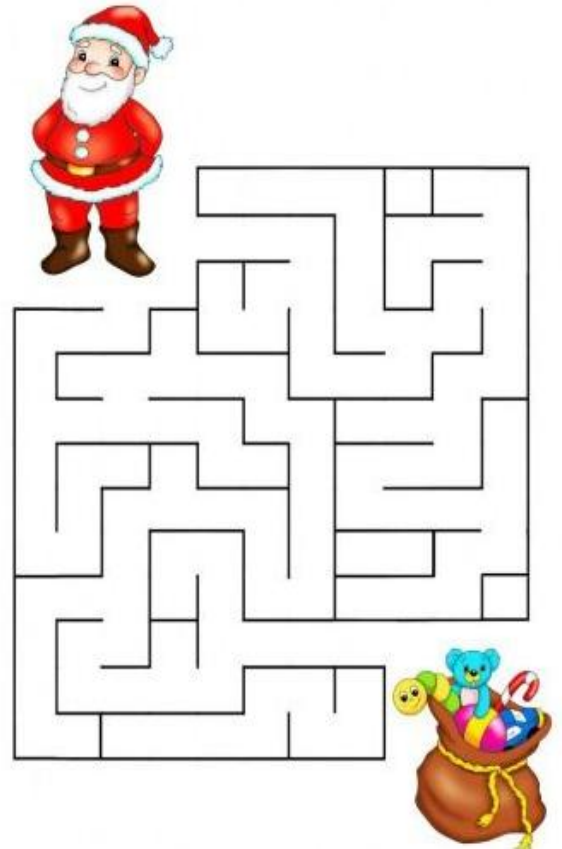
## Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.

c h r i s t m a s s  
t o s d t r e e u t  
w l a m a a s v l o  
i e c a l t t h i c  
n g k r e n n g g k  
k n h a s a e i h i  
l a i t n s s e t n  
e g u s i o e l s g  
g l i t t e r s z m  
f r u d o l p h l l

tinsel  
sack  
lights  
Rudolph  
glitter  
angel  
stocking

presents  
Santa  
tree  
sleigh  
Christmas  
twinkle  
star



## Joke Corner

**Q: Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing?**

**A: Because they always drop their needles!**

**Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?**

**In a snow bank!**



# Christmas Top Tips!

For most families, Christmas is a joyful occasion, an opportunity to spend time together and enjoy a bit of overindulgence. But for families of children on the autistic spectrum, it can be a different story.

The festive season can be bewildering for many children with autism. The house is full of noise and people, the normal routines have been abandoned, and outings mean coping with crowds, lights, and unfamiliar sights and smells.

If your child has autism, the temptation may be to veto Christmas altogether, but when there are other children to think about, it's not always that simple. Many parents talk about the pressures of juggling everyone's needs, and trying to keep the whole family happy. Parents of children with special educational needs have been sharing their tips for surviving the festive season on [Scope's online community](#).

## **Prepare ahead**

*Prepare your child for the changes coming up. Start early, talking to them about what to expect.*

## **Create a plan**

*Print off a week-to-view calendar page and add a picture of your planned activities during the Christmas holidays (divide into morning, lunch, afternoon, etc.) to help put your child at ease about the plans for the week.*

## **Make special time for your kids**

*It's easy to get overloaded with Christmas preparations at this time of year, so make some special time for your kids, giving them 5 to 10 mins of undivided attention every day. Let your child take the lead, tune into their world and see it through their eyes.*

## **Use the festive season as a teaching opportunity**

*Help and encourage your child to give gifts. This provides an excellent opportunity to work on social skills, like thinking of other people's needs and interests, and being kind and helpful. I support my daughter to make gifts for her family and friends. She also looks forward to actually giving out the presents as well.*

## **Decorate gradually**

*Don't put up the decorations when your child is sleeping – if possible, get them involved. Try to introduce changes into their environment gradually, starting with the Christmas lights for (supervised) sensory play.*

## **Create a Christmas-free zone**

*Leave one room in the house, perhaps your child's room, free from anything to do with Christmas, so they can come back to the room as a 'safe place' when necessary.*



### **Spice up the playdough**

*Add cinnamon to your child's playdough to gradually introduce the new smells.*

### **Gift ideas**

*If family and friends are struggling for ideas for Christmas presents, email them a link to a website of sensory toys or ask for cash which you can put together to buy that (probably) expensive toy!*

### **Prep your extended family**

*Talk to family members ahead of time. Discuss your child's specific needs, and gently but firmly tell them what your plans are. Be sure to let them know that this will make the whole experience better for everyone. Ask for their support.*

### **Pack a comfort objects backpack**

*Fill a backpack with things your child finds comforting or enjoys playing with – toy cars, a stuffed animal, a CD and CD player, or a few books. If they get overstimulated, find a quiet corner or a back room and pull out the backpack.*

### **Don't hope for the best, make an action plan**

*I used to worry about my son's behaviour when spending time at family members' homes over the festive season. Basically, I'd take him and hope for the best! However, I've found that planning and preparation in advance hugely helps. I work with my family and we make sure we have a calm room or a space he can go to for when it all gets too much. I put his favourite blanket in there. Having some time alone, or just with me, keeps meltdowns to a minimum.*



### **Hold off on the perfume**

*One thing that people with autism often complain about during Christmas is the many different perfume smells coming from visiting adults – ask your family and friends not to shower themselves in scent!*

### **Wrap up something familiar**

*Luke can't really cope with opening presents, or will unwrap one or two then run away. So we wrap up his favourite big monkey which he always finds funny!*

### **Give your child a job**

*I always give my sons, who both have ASD, 'jobs' to do at Christmas – they take coats, offer nibbles round and so on. Giving them something to do reduces their stress about having lots of people in the house.*

### **Don't rise to criticism**

*Ignore well-meaning 'advice' from family members. Remember, it bothers you more than it does your child! You know best what your child needs, and providing it is your responsibility. Try to stay focused on your child's wellbeing and let everything else wash over you.*



### **Create an itinerary**

*I give my son a programme of events so he understands, for example, that people stand around and chat a lot when they meet up at Christmas, and that is part of the occasion.*

### **Don't stand on ceremony**

*Putting food onto large plates/ bowls and letting the family help themselves has saved my sanity during Christmas dinner. My adult son with ASD is very fussy about different foods being on the same plate. This way, he chooses what he wants to eat and will try one thing at a time.*

### **Avoid marathon unwrapping sessions**

*Don't feel all the presents have to be opened on Christmas morning in the traditional way. Our son would get so overwhelmed he couldn't cope, so we find it much easier to give him a few gifts at a time over Christmas and Boxing Day. He opens them all in the end without any tantrums and is much calmer and happier, meaning we all have a far more enjoyable time!*

### **Get gifts ready to go**

*When we give our daughter a gift, we make sure all packaging is removed, batteries are in, and it is set up ready to use as soon as she's unwrapped it. For someone with limited attention and suspicion of new things it can make the difference between acceptance and rejection.*

### **And breathe...**

*If your child reacts badly to stress, staying relaxed and low-key over the Christmas period is one of the best things you can do to keep your child's behavior in line. Save the tantrum (yours!) for when you get home.*

Our school calendar on our school website is regularly updated - please ensure this is checked if you are unsure.

All our communication is sent via email - please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details.



After school clubs do not start until the week beginning Monday 12th January 2026.

KS2 Singing Club: Showtime! Will start on Thursday 8th January 2026.

Due to several children having severe nut allergies, we have a 'no nuts' policy at Shamblehurst.

This includes Nutella in sandwiches!

**THE GIFT OF FOOTBALL**  
**THIS CHRISTMAS & FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**  
 AGES 5-13  
**SOCCER SCHOOLS | BARGATE**  
 POWERED BY BARGATE

**SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK SOCCER SCHOOLS**

OR VISIT:  
<https://www.southamptonfc.com/en/christmas-holiday-and-february-half-term-soccer-schools>

## Tubs to the Pubs



PLANNING on indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period? Both The Shamblehurst Barn and The Barleycorn pubs in Hedge End are taking part in a scheme to recycle empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs.

Residents can drop off clean tubs to the pubs between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. They'll be collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers. Money raised from the Tub2Pub scheme will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support. The tubs can't be recycled via the domestic green recycle bin.

**Thank you for your support**

To Shamblehurst Primary

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Your collection total £120.90

District total \_\_\_\_\_

**Mountbatten Players** Supporting Mountbatten Hampshire

A Spectacular Family Pantomime by Chris Chandler-Davis

**Sleeping Beauty**

**The Berry Theatre**

Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th January 2026  
 Wildern Lane, Hedge End

Amateur Theatre with a Professional Outlook

**Jamzdance.co.uk**  
 @jamzdance  
 07929 095405

**STAGE KIDZ** PRESENTS

**Christmas FUN DAY!**

A JAM-PACKED DAY OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC- SINGING, DANCING, ACTING, CRAFTING, PLAYING GAMES AND FEELING FESTIVE WITH FRIENDS!

**MONDAY DECEMBER 22ND**  
 9AM- 3PM  
 AGE 4- 16 YRS  
 WILDERN SCHOOL

\*JAMZDANCE.CO.UK