



Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6EX
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Headteacher: Mr A Brannen

St Lawrence Weekly

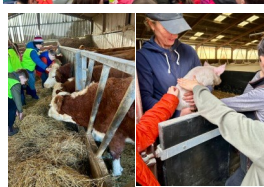
14th November 2025 Volume 24 Issue 5

Headteacher's Spotlight

Our pupils excelled themselves once again at the war memorial on Armistice Day, showing respect and thoughtfulness throughout. I'm very proud of them!

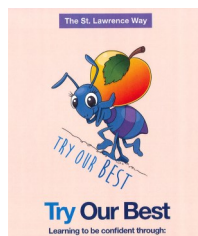
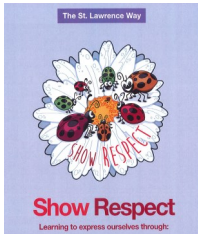
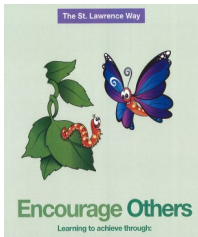


All classes have now been to Red House Farm this term and have learnt so much whilst having fun. Thank you to Helen Forsyth and her team for delivering all the sessions.



Our thoughts are with Miss Connacher who remains absent whilst receiving treatment. She'll be back into see us when she can, though sadly she will be leaving us due to voluntary redundancy at the end of term along with two other TAs who have been with us for many years - Mrs Williams and Mrs Marston. Collectively, these three members of staff have worked for 49 years at St Lawrence's. I applaud them for their commitment and thank them for all that they have done for the pupils.

Today is Children in Need Day and we have raised **£565.00** for this great cause by wearing our pyjamas, cuddling teddy bears and eating cookies. Good effort everyone!



If you want to see more photos of school happenings, please follow us on Instagram: **st_lawrenceprimary**



Please ensure your child comes to school wearing a coat each day. For Forest School sessions, children should be dressed in layers and must bring a waterproof coat. Forest School takes place in all weather conditions (except highwinds) - even when it's raining - so appropriate clothing is essential to keep children warm, dry, and comfortable. Thank you for your support.

We're excited to announce a new PTA app for parents! This tool will make it easier to stay connected, support fundraising, and strengthen our school community. Please take a look at the attached information.

Have a lovely weekend.

Alan Brannen
Headteacher

BONFIRE NIGHT RAISED

£1710

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make, bake, flip, sell, clean, eat and drink all of our yummy offerings!

UNIFORM SHOP

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th November

COMING SOON Friends (PTA) communication made simple!

Classlist

See attached posters for more details!

Christmas Craft Fair

Friday 5th December
3.15 - 5.30pm

NEXT MEETING - ALL WELCOME
7.30pm, Thursday 20th November 2025
The Bucks Head, Church Stretton



Church Stretton Christmas Lights Switch On

Saturday 29th November

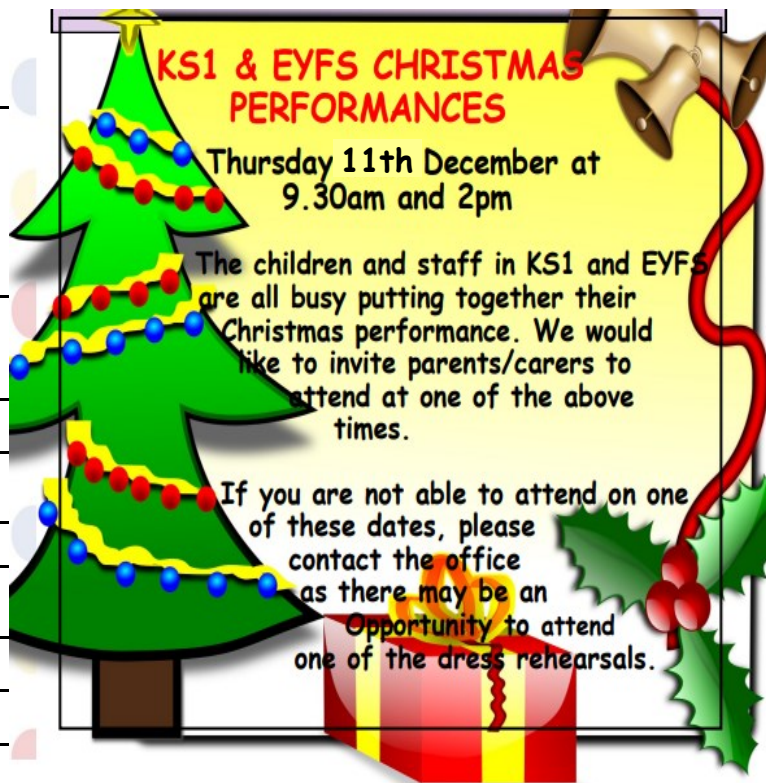
10-3pm	Mayfair Centre Frost Fair
1-4pm	Santa's Grotto Silvester Horne Inst
From 1pm	Stalls & Fair High St
2-3:30pm	Lego Club and crafts Church Stretton Library Drop-in crafts all day, suitable for the whole family
From 1pm	Entertainment in The Market Square
From 4pm	Messy Church at St Lawrence's Church
From 5pm	Christmas Lights Switch The Market Square

 churchstretton-tc.gov.uk/council_events



Dates for your diary:

27th November - Singing Club	As Mrs Allen-Brown is attending her daughter's gradation, singing club will take place within school on Monday 24th November. If you would like your child to attend after school club on 27th November, please let us know.
29th November	Singing Club singing at switching on of Town's Christmas lights - Singers please meet Mrs A-B by the stage at 2.45
3rd December	R - Y6 to Theatre Severn Pantomime
11th December 9.30am & 2.00pm	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Performance
15th - 19th December	No Swimming this week
15th December	KS2 Christmas Service in Church (Parents are welcome to attend)
16th December	Christmas Dinner Day
19th December - 10am	Carols in the Square
22nd Dec - 2nd Jan 2026	Christmas holidays
5th January 2026	PD Day - School closed to children
4th - 6th February	Y5 Pioneer Centre Residential
9th - 13th February 2026	Y6 to Arthog residential
16th Feb - 20th Feb	Half - term holidays



KS1 & EYFS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Thursday 11th December at 9.30am and 2pm

The children and staff in KS1 and EYFS are all busy putting together their Christmas performance. We would like to invite parents/carers to attend at one of the above times.

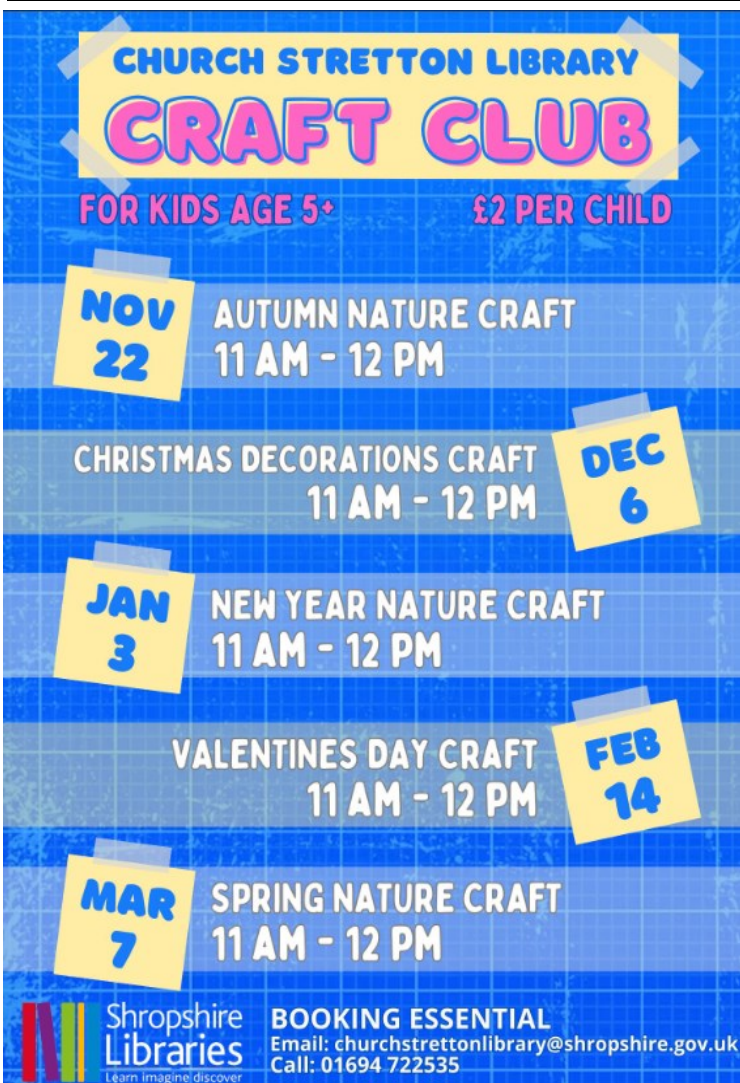
If you are not able to attend on one of these dates, please contact the office as there may be an opportunity to attend one of the dress rehearsals.

Tuesday 16th December 2025 Christmas Dinner Day

On Tuesday 16th December we would like children to come to school in non-uniform, wearing a Christmas jumper if possible. Christmas lunch will be served, with Christmas music playing in the hall.

We would like all children to have a Christmas dinner. However, if your child will not be having a dinner, please can you let the office know by 3.15pm on Wednesday 26th November. If we do not hear anything, we will presume your child will be having a school dinner and will be charged for this on your Biostore account.

A Christmas Lunch (Turkey, Quorn fillet or Quiche) and pudding costs £2.70.



CHURCH STRETTON LIBRARY CRAFT CLUB

FOR KIDS AGE 5+ £2 PER CHILD

NOV 22 AUTUMN NATURE CRAFT 11 AM - 12 PM

DEC 6 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS CRAFT 11 AM - 12 PM

JAN 3 NEW YEAR NATURE CRAFT 11 AM - 12 PM

FEB 14 VALENTINES DAY CRAFT 11 AM - 12 PM

MAR 7 SPRING NATURE CRAFT 11 AM - 12 PM

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Email: churchstrettonlibrary@shropshire.gov.uk
Call: 01694 722535

Shropshire Libraries
Learn. Imagine. Discover.

Prayer for the Week

Dear God, help us to be loyal to our friends and to be someone they can trust and depend upon. Thank you, Lord, that you are always there for us and we can trust you to help us when we ask. Amen

Join our school on Classlist

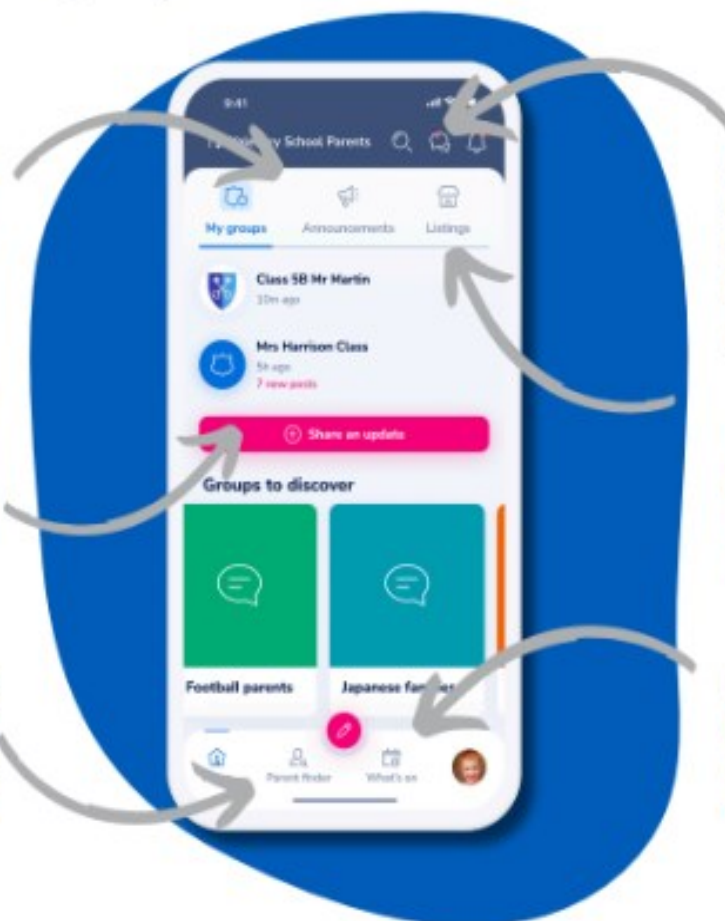
The parent app that brings you into the heart of our school community

- ✓ Get in touch with parents in our school
- ✓ See what's coming up for you and your child
- ✓ Find like-minded friends in our community
- ✓ Organise meet-ups and birthday parties
- ✓ Buy event tickets & RSVP to invitations

I'm in the loop with essential updates

I can ask the parents in my child's class questions

It helps me see who's who at my school and see who lives nearby



Now I know who my child is friends with, I can get in touch with their parents

I can buy and sell pre-loved clothing, books and household items

I can organise my child's birthday and see who's coming

Is Classlist moderated?

Yes! It's moderated by parents to keep our community friendly, welcoming and useful.

Is Classlist secure?

Yes! It's fully GDPR- compliant and private; only verified school parents can join.

How much information do I need to share?

You're in control of your profile info and notification settings!



Build amazing parent communities

Connect - Celebrate - Collaborate

Does your child struggle with their sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

Sleep Tight Group Monday 12th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Thursday 15th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

Sleep Tight SEND Group Monday 23rd February 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually Via MS Teams

Sleep Tight Group Tuesday 24th February 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Crowmoor Primary School

The groups run for 5 weeks excluding the school holidays

SEND groups are for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 250950

Find out
more here



Shropshire
Council



Know someone who struggles with reading?
Read Easy Shropshire Hills want to help
Free, confidential, one to one volunteer
coaching for adults living in and around
Church Stretton

Call Steve on **07707 762 653** or email
shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk



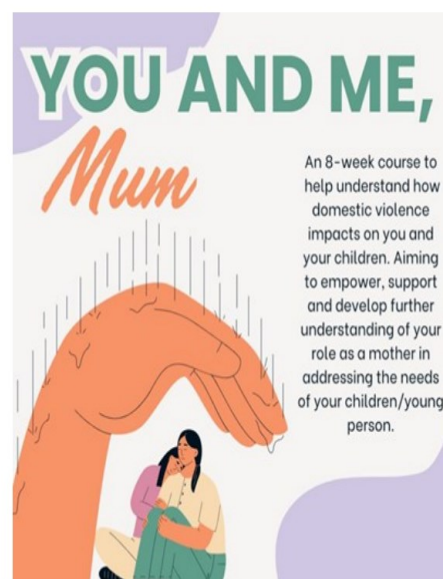
You and Me, Mum Group

This 8-week course will help you understand how domestic violence impacts on you as a parent and how it affects your children. The course objectives are to empower, support and develop further understanding of your role as a mother in addressing the needs of your children and young people

To book and secure your place on this course please call
01743 250400

Every Wednesday from
Wednesday 14th January 2026 – Wednesday 11th March 2026
09:30-11:30am
Venue: Shrewsbury SY1

Facilitated by
Early Help and Support Team with Shropshire Domestic Abuse
Service



Ageing Well in the Strettons



Tuesday 11th November at 2.30 pm, URC Hall, Church Stretton

Speaker Graham Haynes - a Shropshire lad, a Church Stretton resident and post-graduate researcher at Bangor University.

According to the 2021 census data, Church Stretton's population is heavily skewed towards older residents, yet despite this, our health seems to be robust, with above average numbers of residents reporting to be in good or fair health.

Is there something about our community that may be contributing to this scenario?

Graham will present findings from his research about the role of community in facilitating older people to age well, in a rural context. These will include the views of older people who have taken part in a small-scale study based in The Strettons.

It is advisable to book your place, as we expect a large number of people wanting to attend this event.

You can book by email admin@strettonlibraryfriends.org.uk

or Telephone/ Text 0771 049 1951

ADMISSION: £5 on the door

Understanding your child

From toddler to teen

- Would you like to know more about your child's development?
- Do you need help and support to understand your child's behaviour?
- Would you like a chance to meet with other parents and carers with children of a similar age?

Join us for one of our free virtual or face to face groups, our next groups start:

Understanding Your Child Group 12th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am St Giles Primary, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 13th January 2026 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm Little Explorers, Ditton Priors

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 14th January 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm Severdale Academy

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 14th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm St Lawrence Primary, Church Stretton

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 9.00am to 11.00am Clee Hill Community Academy

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 15th January 2026 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 16th January 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am Highley Primary School

All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

SEND groups are for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email
Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at:
inourplace.co.uk/shropshire



HELPING YOUR CHILD THRIVE IN THE EARLY YEARS



BY REDUCING SCREEN TIME

You are not to blame

Phones and tablets are everywhere, and they are designed to grab attention. But did you know that too much screen time - for both parents and children - can make it harder for little ones to develop key skills they need to **grow, learn, and connect**?

Too much screen time can:

- 1 Delay speech and communication**
Young children learn to talk by hearing real voices and taking part in conversations. Screens often reduce these important moments of connection.
- 2 Make it harder to handle emotions**
If screens are used often to calm a child down, they may miss out on learning how to cope with frustration, boredom or big feelings in other ways.
- 3 Impact feeding**
Screen use during feeding can make it harder for babies to connect with their parents and for their needs to be noticed. It can also affect how children learn to try new foods and recognise when they're hungry or full.
- 4 Reduce active play**
Children need to move, use their hands, and explore. Long periods of screen time can limit this, affecting coordination, strength and posture.
- 5 Impact focus and attention**
Fast-moving videos can make it harder for children to focus on slower, real-life tasks, such as playing, reading, or listening.

Why this matters

In the first five years, your child's brain is growing faster than it ever will again. These years lay the foundation for how they think, move, talk, and build relationships, which are important for being ready for school.

What can help:

You do not need to do it all at once

Small steps matter. This isn't about guilt, it's about giving your child the best chance to grow and thrive. What your child needs most is you: **your attention, your voice, your time.**

- 1 Make time for screen-free activities** like play, outdoor time, or reading.
- 2 Keep screens off** during mealtimes and before bed.
- 3 Watch or play alongside** your child when screens are used - this helps support learning.
- 4 Keep screens out of bedrooms** overnight - yours too, if possible.
- 5 Be a role model** - children copy how adults use phones and tablets.



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS



VISIT HPFSS

This leaflet has been developed by experts at Health Professionals for Safer Screens, led by Dr Kelly Brown, Consultant Neonatologist and Olivia Dann, Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist.

FREE STREET CRICKET

CRAVEN ARMS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Halos Craven Arms Community
Centre, Newington Way, SY7 9PS

Every Tuesday except half-term
week, September 9-December 9

4.30-5.30pm

For ages 8-15

FREE

YOUTH - AGED 8-15



**AUTUMN 2025
EVERY TUESDAY**

CONTACT:

sacha.lee@cricketshropshire.co.uk



**CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET**

chancetoshine.org/street

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- DISSEMINATE ABUSE CONTENT**

AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic depictions of individuals in compromising or abusive situations. This content can be spread rapidly, causing reputational damage and emotional distress.
- DECEIT**

AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic depictions of individuals in compromising or abusive situations. This content can be spread rapidly, causing reputational damage and emotional distress.
- EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION**

AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic depictions of individuals in compromising or abusive situations. This content can be spread rapidly, causing reputational damage and emotional distress.
- DISSEMINATION**

AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic depictions of individuals in compromising or abusive situations. This content can be spread rapidly, causing reputational damage and emotional distress.
- IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS**

AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic depictions of individuals in compromising or abusive situations. This content can be spread rapidly, causing reputational damage and emotional distress.

Advice For Parents & Educators

- TEACH HOW IT WORKS**

Help students understand how AI-generated videos are created and how they can be identified.
- TALK ABOUT TRUST**

Encourage students to be cautious about sharing personal information online and to verify the identity of individuals they interact with.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS**

Encourage students to ask questions about the content they see online and to think critically about the information they receive.
- STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS**

Help students understand how to use privacy settings on social media and other online platforms.

Meet Our Expert

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**

10 Top Tips For Parents and Educators GUIDING YOUNG VOICES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Helping improve the lives of young people is a noble goal, but it's important to be aware of the risks of young people's voices being used in ways that could harm them or others. This guide offers ways to help young people make a positive difference.

- CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES**

Encourage young people to share their unique perspectives and experiences.
- MODEL RESPECT**

Encourage young people to treat others with respect and kindness.
- SPOT THE SIGNS**

Help young people recognize signs of bullying or harassment.
- VALIDATE FEELINGS**

Encourage young people to express their feelings and emotions.
- TEACH ALLYSHIP**

Encourage young people to stand up for others who are being treated unfairly.
- PROMOTE REPORTING**

Encourage young people to report any incidents of bullying or harassment.
- ENCOURAGE KINDNESS**

Encourage young people to be kind and helpful to others.
- USE YOUR VOICE**

Encourage young people to share their thoughts and opinions.
- BUILD COMMUNITY AND BELONGING**

Encourage young people to feel like they are part of a supportive community.
- SUSTAIN THE CONVERSATION**

Encourage young people to continue to engage in positive conversations.

Advice For Parents & Educators

Meet Our Expert

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes are a popular form of online communication, but they can also be used to spread misinformation, harassment, and other harmful content. This guide offers ways to help young people understand the risks of memes and how to use them responsibly.

- SPREADING MISINFORMATION**

Memes can be used to spread false information or rumors.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Memes can contain explicit or offensive language and images.
- MAKING MESSAGES**

Memes can be used to make fun of or harass others.
- HIDDEN HARMS & LOSS OF SENSITIVITY**

Memes can be used to spread hate speech or other harmful content.
- PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**

Memes can be shared and saved, creating a permanent record of the content.

Advice For Parents & Educators

- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**

Help students understand the risks of memes and how to use them responsibly.
- TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY**

Encourage students to think critically about the content they see online.
- MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES**

Encourage students to be respectful and kind to others online.
- FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE**

Encourage students to consider the feelings of others when using memes.

Meet Our Expert

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**



Join us for our annual

Christmas Crafts Fair

Friday 5th

December

3.15pm until 5.30pm
in the school hall

There will be crafts, games,
a raffle, food and drinks...

Plus the return of Santa's
Secret Gift Shop!!

Dec.

5

2025

See you there!

