

Headteacher Newsletter



Dear Parents

December 2017

We finish the term with cold and wet weather but I like to think that the class rooms remain warm and welcoming for the children. As ever the children have worked hard this term and we are keen to get the balance right between celebrating Christmas and continuing our focused teaching and learning.

Of course the EYFS/KS1 nativity was fantastic and the children really seemed to enjoy it. It was well received by the parents and on behalf of the teachers involved I would like to say thank you for your help with costumes. The end of performance collection raised **£180 for Save the Children** – thank you to Hazel and Jake for gently reminding the audience to donate before they left!



Today (Thursday) we have had our KS2 carol concert and as I write I know the practices have gone well so am confident that it was a great occasion. On Monday next week we have a Christmas mix up day during which children from every class will be mixed up and will complete Christmas based activities. The pupils enjoy this and I always feel that the coming together of children across the school so successfully reflects the community feel that we have here. There are **Christmas Carols at St Barnabus church** on Monday evening at 6:30pm which the choir are singing at and which everyone is welcome to attend. The choir are also singing for the elderly at The Big Bite event at the village hall on Friday lunchtime.

The children will also have a Christmas service in school on Tuesday led by Reverend Helen. Tuesday is also the day of our non-uniform reward for those children that have avoided the bugs and days away and managed 100% attendance. In term 2 last year we had 84 children with 100% attendance whereas this year, at the time of writing, we have 115. This increase is excellent and hopefully will show the local authority attendance service that we are doing what we can to improve our figures. We will continue to review our approach to improving attendance which at the moment is not as high as it should be.

On Friday we are taking part in the national **Christmas Jumper day** and, as long as they are wearing a Christmas jumper, the children can wear non-uniform. There is also the Rock Steady concert taking place on Friday afternoon which parents of the performers are welcome to attend.

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to our Reverse Advent Tree this month. All collected items have now been taken by the Food Bank to be distributed to those in need over the Christmas period. **The village shop** also donated a bag of essential toiletries for which we are very grateful. Over all, we collected over 20 large bags of Food items, toiletries and Christmas items and believe your generous donations have demonstrated our collective worship values of thankfulness, community, peace, hope and joy.



Our Christmas fayre was a great success and the children enjoyed it. Thank you so much for your donations, especially those that contributed to the Lin Love and Jo Goode's amazing Christmas Hampers. A special mention should go to **Millie Newman** from year 4. She organised her own stall and made a profit of over £50. She then donated the whole amount to the PTFA! Well done Millie, and who knew slime could be so popular?! The bake off didn't prove quite so popular but the entries that we did have were fantastic. Well done to **Morgan Anderson** for winning the junior competition and congratulations to Helena Phoenix for winning the adult category.

At Christmas some of the older children may get mobile phones and other handheld devices for the first time. Please ensure that you take some time to talk to your children about the need to be safe when using these and Ms Godfrey has created some guidance to help with this. However please also remind children of the dangers of WhatsApp and Snapchat as each year we seem to have problems with friendship groups and unkind messaging. This relates to Facebook too and, as with most forms of social media, unkind comments always seem to get back to the person being commenting on. I know this through comments made about our school and I don't even have a Facebook account! It is also unwise for any children to be part of WhatsApp groups that contain people that they do not know.

It is with sadness that I report the **Jes Boyle** is standing down as a governor of our school in January. Jes has been a governor for 8 years and has been chairperson for most of this. She has been a critical friend to the school throughout, seen many an Ofsted inspection and led the school through a number of difficult days and out the other side. She was also instrumental in 'selling' the school to me and my subsequent appointment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her support and guidance since my arrival here.

Rupert Kerrell has been elected as the new Chair of Governors and I am sure in the new year he will write brief letter introducing himself for those of you that don't know him.

Finally we use 'pupil voice' to gain an understanding of what we are doing well and what we can improve. This is led by Miss Creigh and she has collated a number of pupil comments which provide a good reflection of what has been going on in our school this term.

Have a lovely Christmas break, enjoy spending time with each other and I look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Thursday 4th January**.

Thank you for your support

Mr S J Way
Headteacher



Merry
Christmas