

Headteacher Newsletter



December 2016

Dear Parents

Our first seasonal term is coming to an end and I feel it is safe to say that it has been very successful in many ways especially in terms of learning. Moving onto Christmas activities and moving away from the structure of the standard timetable is great fun but can be more tiring and I think children and adults are close to exhaustion! Having said that I have recently been showing parents around our school who are interested in their children joining Reception class next year and every class is a model of concentration and hard work. You should be proud of your children working right up to the end of term. Of course we want to celebrate Christmas and we have been singing carols, making cards and even held our Christmas mix up day today. I feel we get the balance just right between celebrating the time of the year and remembering that we are a place of learning.



I mentioned the carol singing and our amazing choir sang at the Faversham Lights and Macknade farm shop and are also singing at St Barnabus church on Monday. Children in years 4, 5 and 6, along with the choir, sang to members of our local community on Monday afternoon and we had a fantastic KS2 carol concert on Thursday afternoon. When they come together the children make an amazing sound and it is clearly another strength of our school.

Thank you to all of you that contributed in some way to the Christmas fayre. It was certainly a success with us raising in excess of £1200. The hamper raffle has become a favourite part of this and so I would like to express my gratitude to all of you that brought in items to go into them. Also thank you to those that entered our BuB Bake Off competition. Mrs Phoenix won the adult competition but was pushed closely by Mrs Anderson's amazing flower decorations. The children's competition was won by Hazel Graham in year 1 with Eliot Swift (year 2) in second.



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the members of the PTFA that make this sort of event happen. Claudine Fulton, Natalie Newnham, Allan Cummins and Stuart Davidson play a key role in organising these events which also simply couldn't happen half as successfully without the dedication and enthusiasm of Lin Love and Anne Collyer. Thanks also go to those that helped on stalls on the day. Thank you.



On the Christmas theme the KS1 nativity was a great success. We have quite rightly had many positive comments from parents about the efforts of the staff although the stars were clearly the children. They were amazing and should be proud of the show they put on for us all.

I am monitoring the attendance figures carefully at the moment as we are trying to exceed 97.3% for this term. We have been unlucky with the sickness bugs that we get this time of the year but are currently just above this figure. If we remain above it there will be a cinema afternoon on Tuesday. Thank you for your help in keeping our attendance above the 'outstanding' target of 97%.

Mia Ennis left our school this term. She has decided to go for a slight change in career and we wish her all the best. It was nice to see her at the school nativity and I'm sure all the children in year 1 and staff across the school will miss her cheerful demeanour. Mia has been replaced by Miss Georgia Twohill who like Mia will be based in year 1. We welcome Miss Twohill to our school and she has already shown to be an excellent member of our team.

A massive 'Thank you' to Tanya Thomas and Sara Tutt for bravely wearing their pyjamas for a whole 12 hours whilst working on Monday in our local village stores. Miss Thomas and Mrs Tutt offered to raise extra

money needed to buy an outside noticeboard for our Anti-Bullying Campaign. So far, the total amount raised is £270, which helps a long way towards the cost of the noticeboard.



We are very lucky to be surrounded by a number of excellent nurseries in the village. Particular congratulations though should go to D Dees nursery who has recently received an Outstanding Ofsted judgement.

I'm sure it is a relief for the staff and a just reward for their hard work. Well done to everyone at that setting.



Please note that Nourish, our school dinner providers, are now able to take payments online. This takes effect from the 4th January and a sheet with further details has also been sent home today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that has helped the school so far this term. This includes volunteer readers, mini bus drivers, referees and all those other roles that we couldn't do without. Also a big thank you to D Dees nursery and Tudor Leathwhite for sponsoring new football kits and to Foundation Property Services for continuing to donate funds towards the upkeep of our mini buses. My gratitude also goes to the staff who have worked so hard this term and continue to find ways to improve the provision for your children.

Finally on behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you once again for your support since September. I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Wednesday 4th January.

Yours Sincerely

Mr S J Way

Merry
Christmas