

Headteacher Newsletter



December 2018

Dear Parents

We are coming to the end of an incredibly busy term and I'm sure all of you are as equally excited about the arrival of Santa as the children are! Obviously there will be one or two arrangements to put in place before all the fun starts which is why Christmas isn't always the most relaxing of breaks. It's much the same in school. Nativity plays, carol concerts, mix up day and the like all take quite some organising but, as I'm sure we all agree, it's worth it in the end.

As well as these past few weeks, it has been a very busy term. Mrs Cottenden and I have shown a number of new parents around our school for September 2019 and it is in talking about our school during these tours that we become incredibly proud of all we achieve here. It has been a very positive time since September and I am particularly grateful to all the staff for their support following my change of role to Executive Headteacher throughout this interim period. Mrs Cottenden, the leadership team and everyone else have shown great flexibility during this period and I also thank you for your support too. It is always such a pleasure to see friendly faces at the gate when I am here in the mornings and whenever I'm with the children I'm delighted by their happiness, enthusiasm and knowledge.



As a school we have a particular focus on reading this year, both in terms of improving our outcomes and developing a love of reading within the children. When we return to school on Thursday 3rd January we will have two days of project based work all around reading for pleasure. Each class will use books as a stimulus for a range of creative work, encouraging enjoyment around reading.

As you will know from reading the weekly BuB news, we have had success in various sporting competitions most recently winning the Wake and Shake competition last week. I find this to be one of the most hotly contested competitions we enter and there tends to be real prestige in winning it. I'm sure the competition as a whole is a film waiting to be made!! The most striking thing about participation in any event is that we do so with a smile on our face and our children never fail to deliver on that front.

Thank you to everyone that came to the Christmas fayre or contributed in some way. Of course a huge thanks goes to the PTFA. Our main aim is always for the children to enjoy it and in some ways any money we make is a bonus. Having said that it looks as if we raised about £900 and that money is used for the little extras, many of which are requested by the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a change in our governing body. Allan Cummins has stepped down as parent governor and I would like to say a big thank you to him for his support and all that he did for the school. He is still involved with the PTFA and once again provided the mulled wine and mince pies at the Christmas fayre. Allan has been replaced by James Perkins who has two children in the lower end of the school and who I am sure will again be a huge asset to our school. Thank you to James for volunteering to take on this role.

Other Notices:

Congratulations to Joseph in year 1 for winning the Christmas tree competition. Joseph's wonderful angel now sits proudly on top of our tree in the school hall. Well done Joseph.

Foster in year 3 has been selling wind chimes to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK and Young Dementia UK. He raised an incredible £300 so a huge congratulations to Foster.

We are finding that a number of children are going for eye tests and dentist appointments during school time. These are often after the afternoon registration so the child is technically not absent but of course does affect their learning. Where possible, please make routine appointments after school or during the school holidays. Thank you.

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to Laura's Reverse Advent Tree this month. It was an amazing response. All collected items will be taken to the Food Bank to be distributed to those in need over the Christmas period.

Dates for your Christmas diary...

The **KS2 carol concert** takes place on Friday afternoon at 2pm. Everyone is welcome and tickets are not required.

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.



We are having our **Christmas Jumper day** on Monday (NOT Friday) and as long as they are wearing a festive jumper the children can wear non-uniform for a donation of £1 for Save The Children. This day will also be our **Christmas Mix Up** day in which the children from all year groups are mixed together, visit different classes and take part in festive activities. Just to add to the excitement, the school **Christmas dinner** will also take place on Monday.

The last day of term is on **Tuesday 18th December** and we return on **Thursday 3rd January**. Have a very merry Christmas and hopefully there will be the odd moment to relax too.

Thank you as ever for your support and I'll look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Mr S J Way
Executive Headteacher

Merry

Christmas