

Newsletter ~ Term 2, Week 6

Christmas Nativity Performances

A huge 'congratulations' to all the staff and pupils of our infant department for a joyful and enthusiastic rendition of the Christmas story this week. The children sang, danced, narrated and acted beautifully and parents, grandparents and friends should be rightly proud of their achievements. Well done to all.

KS2 children are busy preparing for their Carol Service, which takes place on Tuesday evening at the church at 7pm. If your child has not been provided with a costume from school, s/he will need a pair of dark trousers or leggings to wear with a school T-shirt for the dress rehearsal on Tuesday morning and performance in the evening.



On Tuesday evening, please do not come to the church any earlier than 6.30pm, as it will not be open before this time. Children will come dressed in their costumes / outfits and need to be delivered to the entrance of the church hall, where staff will be ready to supervise them. Children need to take off their coats, shoes and socks and give them to parents as they enter the church hall.

Charitable Giving

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Children's Hospice, which came to a grand total of **£262.49**. We will be collecting for Blood Bikers at the end of the KS2 Service this year. If you are not familiar with this charity, it consists of volunteer motorcyclists who courier emergency blood supplies for the NHS and who save many lives through their work. The children have chosen all the charities we are supporting this year; our charities are often chosen for reasons very personal to the community, so we know you will give generously as you always do.

A reminder that, in return for wearing a Christmas jumper on Wednesday 19 December, we are asking for a suggested donation of £1 to support Cancer Research. In addition, one of our year 5 reps, Clara, has successfully asked Tesco to sponsor some raffle prizes for us and she will be selling tickets round the classes for 10p each all through next week.

Safeguarding

As you know, we have very strict safeguarding protocols here at school and the laws and regulations that bind us bind any club or organisation that your child attends outside school. As a parent or carer, you have the right to ask safeguarding questions of these clubs and organisations. The government has published a set of draft safeguarding questions that you might find it useful to ask. These include:

- Are all staff DBS checked?
- Is there a child protection policy?
- Who is the named designated safeguarding lead?
- Has the designated safeguarding lead had relevant training?
- If the club allows children access to the internet, are there filtering or monitoring systems in place?
- Is the physical environment safe?
- Is there a designated first aider?
- Have you been asked to fill in parental consent forms or provide emergency contact details?
- Are other adults coming into the club who are not staff members / is there clarity around the roles of different adults in the setting?
- Is there a health and safety policy and fire escape plan?

Forest School

We are starting forest school sessions in our school grounds after Christmas and the plan is for each class to experience a six-week block of lessons this year, starting with our year 4 and 5 children. A more detailed letter for these two classes will be sent out early next week.

Well Done...

...to the year 5 netball team, which competed with gusto, skill and great sportsperson-like behaviour at Grove School on Tuesday afternoon. They were up against teams of year 6 children from other schools and came second overall. Congratulations to you all – we were very proud of you!

We also say thank you and well done to the year 6 pupils who entertained the residents of Pegasus Court on Tuesday afternoon. Mr Groves says he has never had year 6 pupils who have sung so tunefully and enthusiastically as our current year 6, so again – well done!



New Gates Procedure

Our new fencing is now complete and we are going to try out some new procedures next week, which will affect access to the school site at the beginning and end of the school day and if you need to come into school during the day. Please bear with us as we embed the new procedures – there are bound to be ‘teething problems’!

One of the main changes is that **all gates will be locked at 3.45pm**, which means that there will be no access to the school field or playgrounds after this time. We know how much you and your children enjoy using the school site after school, but an off-site procedure needs to be in place before we can open our after-school child-care provision and fully comply with safeguarding requirements.

Please refer to the procedure sent as an email attachment with this newsletter.

Bad Weather

If we need to close or partially close the school because of snow or bad weather, we use the following methods to keep our parents informed as soon as possible in the morning:

- updated welcome message on the school telephone 01275 855373
- updated status on our website
- email message to those parents who have verified their email address on ParentPay
- Sims text message to those parents who have signed up to text messaging in ParentPay.

Parents can also check the North Somerset Council website www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption and listen to local radio stations.

Next Week

Monday – Reception / KS1 Christmas Party

Tuesday – KS2 Christmas Carol Service 7pm

Wednesday – Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Friday – School mass in hall 10am – all welcome – followed by volunteer party

And Finally

The third candle on our Advent wreaths is the rose-coloured one and reminds us that this Sunday is ‘Gaudete’ or ‘joy’ Sunday.

