



Dear parents,

What a cold snap! There has been a lot of warmth and brightness in school with Christmas performances, letters from Father Christmas arriving for Class 1 and 2 and a visit from Sparkle the elf today. I have been delighted with the number of children coming to my office to share their improvement in writing too—a smashing end of term. I wish you a fun filled Christmas with your loved ones—enjoy the extra time together. All the staff and I look forward to working together with you in 2019!

Our Christmas tree

Many of you have commented on the super Christmas tree that stands proudly near the entrance to the school hall. Every year Trevor Davis and Ms Jo Jackson, former parents, donate the tree to the school for all to enjoy—a lovely gesture. The children enjoyed decorating it and after the end of term it will be passed on to be reused in our community. Our heartfelt thanks to Trevor and Jo.

School Choir

The School Choir were delighted to sing for the residents of the Grange recently. They sang a range of Christmas songs with enthusiasm and smiles. The children enjoyed talking to the residents over a biscuit and squash too. Thank you to Mrs Hynes for organising this special opportunity and for the parents who helped walk the children safely to the venue—without help with walking we wouldn't be able to provide such opportunities, it is really appreciated.



Nativity: The Inn-Spectors

The children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One led a wonderful nativity last week. The children performed with confidence and clearly enjoyed singing and acting. The music was varied and induced much toe-tapping and humming from the audience! The children reminded us of the importance of loving everyone at Christmas—even inspectors! A wonderful Christmas treat—thank you children and staff.

We'll meet again

Key Stage Two children led a wonderful production which revealed the life of evacuated city children over the war years. Costumes, images and news bulletins from the era really set the mood. The solo and group singing was moving and enthusiastic and the acting helped us all to empathise with the challenges for families at the time. Watching the confidence of the children grow over the performances was a delight. Fantastic job Key Stage 2 children and staff.

The collections from the Nativity and We'll Meet Again raised just over £600 which will be shared between School Funds and Clic Sargent (who support children, adults and families facing cancer). Thank you for giving generously.

We'll Meet Again Photographs

Thank you for respecting the wishes of parents by not filming/taking photographs of the KS2 production. We have taken photographs of the children in costume and you can access them using the dropbox—information will follow in the New Year. When the photographs are available, we request that you do not share the photographs on social media/internet but enjoy them as a family.

Class 2

At the end of December we say a fond farewell to Mrs Childs who will be leaving her role in school as class teacher. We all recognise the contribution Mrs Childs has made to KS1, her care and commitment to every child is exceptional and she will be missed in this role. Mrs Childs will take up the post of part time teacher for pupils with SEN at a special school—an area of strong interest) and become the Sports Leader for our School. We are delighted that Mrs Kavanagh will be joining our team to teach Class 2 in January 2019. Mrs Kavanagh is an experienced KS 1 teacher, who has led English, computing and been KS1 lead in her present school. Do give her a warm welcome when you see her in January—she is thrilled to be joining us.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a tremendous afternoon of festive activity and entertainment. The children enjoyed making lots of products to sell including tiffin, peppermint creams, hot chocolate snowmen, very smart sock penguins and t-light holders. Gifts were purchased for Christmas and games played. The children were delighted that Father Christmas was able to join us too. A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Curtis for organising the event and the amazing PA team who baked cakes, painted faces, served pizza, manned stalls and packed away—you are a fantastic team. Thank you to the wonderful group of adults and children who braved the chilly weather to run some stalls outside too.

Governor Visits

It has been lovely to welcome Governors into school this term: Mrs Trim to discuss English, Mr Dougan to discuss PE, Mrs Spencer to discuss premises and planning for the new reception canopy and Miss Napthine to discuss computing. During their time on site Governors talk with children, teachers and subject leaders about the area they are focussed on. Our Governors do a fantastic job of supporting and challenging the school in our strive to be even better. They give their time and skills generously and the staff team would like to offer our thanks to them.

We are particularly thankful to Miss Napthine as her term as Governor comes to an end. We are grateful for the expertise and time she has given the school over many years. She has led the Finance Committee with skill and has been a real asset to the Governing team. She will be missed and we wish her well with her next steps.

Christmas Wreath Making

The school hall was awash with greenery recently! The PA held a Christmas wreath making evening, much to the delight of other parents. Instructions on how to make wreaths were given and the end results were wonderful. Everyone left happy and ready to adorn their homes. A huge thank you to Mrs Monkman, Mrs Blomfield and Mrs Townsend for raiding local hedgerows and sharing their skills— you ran a wonderful evening.

Dates for your diary

I have listed below some of the key dates for your diary:

December

- Thurs 6th - School Choir singing at The Grange—1.30 pm
- Thurs 6th - Parents Wreath Making evening 7.30—9.00pm
- Fri 7th - Christmas bazaar 3:30-5pm
- Thurs 13th - KS 1 Christmas performances 2pm & 6pm
- Fri 14th - Flu immunisations for Rec—Y5
- Tues 18th - Christmas lunch for children
- Weds 19th - KS 2 Christmas performance 6pm
- Thurs 20th - KS 2 Christmas performance 1:30pm and 6pm
- Fri 21st** - Christmas jumper day—optional
- **Last day of Autumn Term 2 for children**

January 2019

- Mon 7th - **First day of Spring Term for children**
- Weds 9th - Class 4 Dance Day—parents welcome at 2.45
- Thurs 10th - Y3/4 Swimming sessions commence
- Fri 25th - Popcorn night—KS1: 5.45pm-7.30pm

February 2019

- Fri 1st - Popcorn night –KS2: 5.45pm-7.30pm
- Thurs 14th - Last day of term for children

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together