



Newsletter 14

15th December

Merry Christmas!

We have just arrived back at school following our Christmas Service. Thank you for coming if you were able to join us. The children sang brilliantly and Reverend Philip was on top form and led a truly joyful service featuring the 'Olde Lansdowne Chocolatey Nativity-y' which featured such lines as 'Herod was up to his old twix' and '...he called them all teasers' (read it out loud – it's a cracker). It was such a wonderful celebration of togetherness and left us all with a wonderful warm festive glow. Huge thanks to Philip, Debbie (Reverend Dabbie!), Mike, Peter and the ladies who kindly made tea and coffee for afterwards.

Christmas Tree Sale... As you probably noticed, last Sunday was cold. *Really* cold. However that didn't stop Nic, Celia and Lisa standing at the back of the school selling Christmas trees. Thank you to the three of them for braving the cold to provide this much-loved service to the community whilst also raising money for the PTA.

Phase 2 Christmas Concert... If you joined us for the Phase 2 concert on Tuesday I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. We had been worried about whether the children's singing would fill the church but we needn't have been - the singing was wonderful. The Year 6 children carried the main speaking and dancing parts and it was impossible to single any one child out as they all played their part brilliantly. I am very grateful to the staff team who worked so hard to pull it all together and to Mrs Cross who came up with the idea and wrote the script. She is already thinking about next year!

Carols by Candlelight... Our festive celebrations continued on Wednesday with the always popular Carols by Candlelight. Thank you to the team of staff who made it possible on the night, to Miss Maddaford who has worked so hard with the choir this year and Ms Flynn who as well as also working with the choir led the evening so brilliantly. I am also really grateful to Mrs Reid for all of her hard work with our fabulous musicians.

Parties... A traditional feature of this final week of term is always the Christmas party. An hour of party games in the classroom flows into party snacks in the hall. The children loved their parties this week, only possible because class reps co-ordinate a team of volunteers to help. Thank you so much for making these parties possible!

Snowman performance... What a treat we had on Thursday when Crescendo Concerts arrived with a beautiful set, magical lights and the most wonderful puppets to tell us the story of The Snowman, all set to a live piano performance of the original soundtrack. It was beautifully done, and wonderful to be able to share this high quality theatre with the children, so thank you for your support with this.

St Stephen's at the BBC (sort of)... On Sunday it's BBC Sports Personality of the Year, and as you may be aware, England cricketer Anya Shrubsole is nominated for the top award alongside Mo Farrah, Lewis Hamilton and Johanna Konta among others. What you may not know is that Anya is actually an ex St Stephen's pupil, so please do let your children know and let's get behind Anya on Sunday! *And yes, in case you are wondering, of course I'll be inviting her in to do an assembly!*

Thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to our special school community. I would like to wish each of you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



Clubs.....

Unfortunately we've got to cancel Years 4-6 Spanish due to lack of take up. All other clubs are going ahead. If you haven't heard about a club you have applied for, please take this that you have got a place in the club.

Have a great Christmas and see you on January 8th for the start of Terms 3 & 4 Clubs.

Liz Flood

From REVD PHILIP....Have a great Christmas!

And make it even better by including time in your church in the celebrations. Allow yourself a different rhythm and deeper reflection on the season.

This Sunday

10.45am SS **Scruffy Nativity** - come along and be a part of the story. Meet at 10.15 to practise the songs.

6.30pm SS **Nine lessons and Carols** - beautiful traditional.

SM **Carol Service** - traditional and reflective.

Tuesday

7pm SM **Blue Christmas** - quiet and reflective space for those who hold the sadness of the season.

Christmas Eve

6pm SS **Christingle** - big and fun, candlelit and beautiful ...

11.30pm SS/SM Midnight Mass - the lovely welcoming of The Day.

Christmas Day

10am SS/SM **Christmas Family Communion** - time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Theatre visits....We all enjoyed yesterday's show and looking forward to the E-Safety visit in the New Year. If you have not yet made a £2.75 contribution to cover both shows, we would be very grateful if you could sign into Parentpay and make your contribution if you are able to. Many thanks for your support.

Menu change....

Just a reminder of the menu change on Wednesday 3rd January.

Dinner will be traditional pork sausage with mashed potato, vegetables and gravy, due to being the first day back after the holiday.

Diary Dates.....

Coming up in January....

2nd – Inset

3rd – Children back to school

Coming up in February....

6th Newbarn Meeting 6pm

9th – End of Term 3

19th - Beginning of Term 4

WB 26th – Book Fair

Coming up in March...

1st - World Book Day and Dress up Day

7th and 8th Parent Consultations

13th - Phonic Check Info Meeting 2.30pm Y1 parents

13th - KS1 Assessment Eve 6pm Y2 parents

20th - KS2 Sats Eve 6-7pm Y6 parents

23rd - Easter Service in Church 9.45am

23rd - End of Term 4

Bath Central Library....The Code Club will run free of charge in Bath Central Library starting on January 10th. There is a poster on the school noticeboard poster giving more information.

Bath Cricket club....are holding Christmas Cricket Camps from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd December for Cricketers ages 6 to 13 years. For more information contact Jonathon Green on 07852 706254 or email Jonathon.green@bathcricket.com

And finally...

Merry Christmas to you all from everyone at St Stephen's Primary!

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy