



Newsletter 13

4th December, 2015

Happy Friday.....Firstly, an apology...last week I praised our Year 3 hockey stars who represented the school at a tournament on the previous Sunday. What I failed to mention was that there was also a Year 4 team who were equally excellent ambassadors for the school, showed equally good team spirit and did us equally proud. I am very sorry Year 4 Hockey stars, and Well Done!

Christmas music has been floating around the school for a few weeks now, as rehearsals for the phase 1 and 2 Nativities, the choir and orchestra performances all build momentum (it all sounds amazing - I cannot wait!). And now, as it is officially December and the Christmas DVD collection is back out at home, I am finally allowing myself to begin to speak out loud about Christmas. So, after the success of last year, the last day of term is going to be Christmas Jumper Day. Like last year, the children should wear normal uniform, but instead of their school jumper they can (if they wish) wear a festive jumper. You don't need to buy one especially though. There were some fantastic original creations last year with tinsel and baubles aplenty. I am aware that there are several charities that hold Christmas Jumper days, however I am also conscious that you generously give to various charities, including the PTA, throughout the year. Our CJ day is about festive fun and togetherness to celebrate the end of term, but if you do want to give, there will be an optional charity collection box in the foyer.

So, as Christmastime is in the air, let's have a Christmas Fair tomorrow! A huge amount of work has gone into organising it, so please do come along between 2 & 5pm to support if you can. See you there, and have a great weekend.

Andy Bowman

ParentPay Update..... We are pleased to announce that most of our communication is now being sent by email via our new ParentPay system! Thank you once again to everyone who has already signed up. We really appreciate your support.

We aim to have everyone signed up ready to start the new term in January to ensure that you receive school communications promptly - especially important at this time of year with the possibility of weather disruption.

So please help us achieve this goal by signing up to ParentPay as soon as possible. It is quite straightforward and should only take a few minutes. If you have any problems or queries, or need any assistance at all, please don't hesitate to contact the office who will be happy to help you. If you have mislaid your activation letter, we can issue you with a replacement.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Music at the Christmas fair.....We are looking forward to hearing lots of lovely music on Saturday at the Christmas Fair!

Just to confirm times for performers:-

Yr 4 Senior Recorder Club & Guitarists 2.15 -2.45pm F10

Choir 3pm in the Hall

Yr 3 Junior Recorder Club 3.15 - 3.45pm in F10

Orchestra 4.15 – 4.45pm in F10

Orchestra.....Orchestra Club has a new time! After Christmas it will move to Tuesdays from 3.20 - 4.15pm. Children need to sign up in the usual way - there are club letters available on the carousel. We very much welcome new members. If you play an instrument in years 3- 6, it is a fantastic opportunity to play and perform with others and a lovely way to represent your school in concerts and events.

Orchestra Club is run by Jeni Reid and next term, Lloyd Edwards, our fantastic new guitar teacher will be joining the team!

Club news.....On Monday 7th December there will be **no** Music Club and **no** Spanish Club. However Multi skills Club will be running on 7th December, in lieu of 2nd November.

Club application deadline..... Don't forget that the deadline for applications for next term's clubs is **Thursday 11th December**. Please ensure all applications are handed in by then. Unfortunately late applicants cannot be guaranteed a place in their club of choice.



Film Afternoons.....As in previous years we will be organising film afternoons for Phase 1 and Phase 2. These will take place in the last week of term and we will be raising money to send to our link school in Ethiopia. Each class will be showing a different film and the children will have a choice as to which they would like to see. They will be given a drink and biscuit during the showing and we are asking for a contribution of £1 which will go to Atse Bekafa school.

The film afternoons will be as follows:

Phase 2 Wednesday 16th December

Phase 1 Thursday 17th December

PTA News ... Christmas Fair, Sat Dec 5th, 2-5pm

Only one more sleep to go until this year's Christmas fair! There is so much on offer this year, fun games, performances from the choir and orchestra, Santa's grotto, children's cocktail bar with music, lovely things to buy and to make, raffle, tombola ... however, we still need your help with the following please - Donations of cakes for the cosy Christmas cafe in F10 (bring in to school on Friday afternoon or on Saturday) Contributions for tombola prizes, toys, books and presents for parents Children from Year 5 or Year 6 to help on the day with Santa's grotto and with the photo studio next door (any queries on the day please see Angela Collins)

The raffle prizes are superb and range from champagne to yoga and Pilates classes, Mint Room vouchers and even a portable record player! So please buy tickets if you haven't already - you have to be in it to win it!

Thanks as always for your support during this busy time.

Your PTA

MESSAGE FROM REVD PHILIP.....Christmas is coming (in case you hadn't noticed) and I thought I'd give you an idea of how church may be part of your celebrations. Before that, I am planning to have a subtle flavour of Abba in the Christingle service. If you have any suitable Abba-y clothes in dressing up boxes or wardrobes for children or adults, please may I borrow them? Just drop them into the school office - I'd be really, really grateful. Thank you. Right, here they are - have a great weekend. Philip

Friday 18th 9.45 The end of term service. Always a joy.

Sunday 20th 10.45 Family Nativity Service: I'm hoping for live lambs again ... a chance to gather together and consider the Christmas story through our children and young people.

4.30pm at St Mary's Charlcombe: Carols by Candlelight

6.30 at St Stephen's: Traditional service of nine lessons and carols - with lots of candles.

Tuesday 22nd 6.30pm at St Mary's: Blue Christmas, a short, quiet service to remember that Christmas holds sadness as well as joy.

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve 6pm at St Stephen's: Christingle. The usual packed church, the tingle of Christmas with a twist of sweets, candles and Abba ...

11.30pm at St Mary's and St Stephen's: The first Communion of Christmas (midnight mass).

Christmas Day 10am at St Mary's and St Stephen's: Family Communion for Christmas Day.

Diary dates reminder.....

Coming up in December

5th - PTA Christmas Fair 2 - 5pm

9th - Phase 1 Dress Rehearsal

10th Phase 1 Nativity Performances

10 am - parents of Forms 1,3 &5

2 pm - parents of Forms 2,4 &6

11th - Phase 1 Nativity Performance

10 am parents of forms 7 & 8

14th - 18th Week of Christmas parties

15th - Phase 2 Christmas Concert 6 - 7 pm
at the Church

16th - Carols by Candlelight 6pm The Hall

18th- End of Term Church Service 9.45am

18th - End of Term

And finally.....

Congratulations to Florence Rhodes (F5) on completing her Reading Explorer Challenge.

