



## Newsletter 14

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

**Happy Friday!.....** Christmas has well and truly begun. At the time of writing, we are getting ready for our final Phase 1 Nativity performance and what a treat they have been. The children have been magnificent - I don't think I have ever heard children of that age singing with such enthusiasm and joy, and the performances have brought with them many happy, funny and magical moments. Thank you to everyone who came along for creating such a lovely supportive atmosphere in which our children could shine.



If you heard the choir at the Christmas Fayre at the weekend, you will know that they sound fantastic and they have been spreading their Christmas cheer far and wide recently, as their 2015 Festive Tour continues. They performed for the residents of St Michael's Day Centre last week, representing the school brilliantly and putting lots of smiles on faces with their Christmas cheer! Thank you to Miss Maddaford and Ms Flynn for their time and enthusiasm to motivate these young superstars.

And as I just mentioned, last weekend we held our Christmas Fayre. What a fantastic event! Thank you to everyone who came along to support it. It felt like a really lovely celebration of our special school community, and of course raised money which will directly benefit the children. The final amount is still being counted up at the time of writing (that has to be a good sign!) and Angela or I will let you know the total as soon as possible.

As you will appreciate, a huge amount of work goes into organising an event such as this. The preparation and planning is key and time-consuming so thank you to all of the Class Reps who have been contacting and cajoling people to lead the fantastic range of class stalls that we enjoyed. The school was full of helpers during the evening before - decorating, carrying, preparing....and this work continued on the Saturday morning leading up to the Fayre. The stalls were then run (expertly of course) and finally the clearing up began. A huge effort. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to help with any aspect of this - it simply would not happen without you. I would also like to thank Jeni Reid for her work with our musicians - the music cafe was a lovely, relaxed way to hear our musicians performing and Jeni led this brilliantly. And finally to all of the local businesses, partners and parents who donated raffle prizes - thank you so much for your generosity and support.

I am sorry I cannot mention everyone who helped by name, but I would like to personally thank Ann-Katrin Greensmith, Sam Jennings, Nicola Anderman, Joan Gillman and Karen Toogood for the fantastic contribution they made, and of course to the committed, calm and incredibly capable Angela Collins for overseeing the whole operation. Thank you!

Looking ahead to next week, it is Phase 2's turn to bring the Festive magic and we also have Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Parties, School Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day and the end of term service to look forward to. I love Christmas!

Have a great weekend, Andy Bowman

**Carols by candlelight.....** If your child is in Orchestra, Choir or Recorder Clubs and is performing at Carols by Candlelight on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> December we would like to invite you to join us for mulled wine and mince pies in the hall. You will be entitled to 2 tickets for this event which you can pick up from the School Office this afternoon or next week.

**Practice.....**Orchestra, Recorder Groups and Guitarists will have a practise for Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday morning. Please could children make sure they have their instruments and music in school.  
Many thanks.

**Parent Pay...** We have become aware that many of you did not receive last week's newsletter. This is due to a glitch with Parent Pay for which we apologise. We are in communication with them at the moment and hope that we can quickly resolve the teething issues you have flagged up to us regarding communication. Last week's newsletter and all previous ones, are on the website if you want to catch up.



**Clubs.....**Don't forget that today is the deadline for club applications.  
There are no clubs next week or the first week back after the holidays.  
Clubs will restart week beginning **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Inset Days...** We have two Inset days remaining this year, and I can confirm that they will be on 29th April and 27th May 2016, so school will be closed on these days. We will also take Inset days on the 1st and 2nd of September 2016 with the children starting on Monday 5th September.

**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. Please send your contribution in as soon as possible. Thank you.

The film afternoons will be as follows:

**Phase 2 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Phase 1 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Fair - tidings of comfort and joy!.....**Thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Fair such a fun-filled, action-packed event on Saturday. Lots of shiny faces, and the kids enjoyed it too! Amazing musical performances, bustling games room, beautiful creations, Santa's Grotto, toys, mulled cider, cafe, sweets, presents, jam jars, tombola, raffle and a disco-tastic cocktail bar - something for everyone! Thanks to the setter-uppers and clearer-uppers and all those who gave their time, generous donations and talents in between. We have raised at least £3k, still working out the sums!

**Christmas Parties.....**Another week, another party...

Please help yourself to the remaining strips on the board outside the reception classes - these are the food contributions for the whole school's Christmas Parties next week.

If you would prefer to donate cash please hand it in to the office. The PTA fund the sparkly bits (crackers, paper plates etc). Just to remind you the parties take place on:

Mon 14 Dec Reception and Year 2 (F1, F2, F5, F6)

Tues 15 Dec Year 1 and Year 3 (F3, F4, F7, F8)

Thursday 17 Dec Year 4 and Year 5 (F9, F10, F11, F12)

Friday 18 Dec Year 6 (F13, F14)

Thanks for your support

Angela

**Diary dates reminder.....**

**Coming up in December.....**

11<sup>th</sup> - Phase 1 Nativity Performance

10 am parents of forms 7 & 8

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Week of Christmas parties

15<sup>th</sup> - Phase 2 Christmas Concert 6 – 7 pm  
at the Church

16<sup>th</sup> Phase 2 Film afternoon

17<sup>th</sup> Phase 1 Film afternoon

16<sup>th</sup> - Carols by Candlelight 6pm The Hall

18<sup>th</sup>- End of Term Church Service 9.45am

18<sup>th</sup> – End of Term

**Coming up in January.....**

4<sup>th</sup> – Term 3 begins

**Holiday Homework.....**There is no homework being set over the Christmas holiday as we need the Phase 2 and Year 3 homework books on the first day of term for a "book look".

**Lost purse...** We found a child's purse/wallet at the Christmas Fayre that hasn't been claimed. It is orange and blue with a design on it. Please ask at the office if you think it might be your child's.

**And finally.....Christmas Trees!**

Come and buy your fresh, bushy Nordmann fir Christmas tree this Saturday 12th December, from 10am until 1pm in the rear playground (access via the staff car park). We will net it for you to take home. Sizes range from 3 feet to 9 feet and start at £20.

Thank you!

PTA

