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@StStephensPri



Newsletter 15

20th December 2019

St Stephen's Primary Church School

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Service... If you were able to join us in the church this morning for our Christmas Service you will know that it was wonderful. Reverend Philip has returned from sabbatical and was on brilliant form! You will also know that rather than sitting and watching from the gallery, you ended up being a really special part of the service, circling the children and adults in the main part of the church and entertaining us with a Christmas story and songs. Thank you for helping to create a truly magical moment for all of us in school and thank you Reverend Philip and the volunteers at the church for welcoming us so warmly.

Phase 2 Christmas Concert... On Tuesday evening we were treated to a fantastic performance by our Phase 2 children. The singing filled the church, with our year 4s and 5s throwing their hearts into every word and our year 6s shone like the stars they are, managing nerves, overcoming technical glitches and performing with joy and enthusiasm. Here are some memories from the night...



Carols By Candlelight... On Wednesday it was time for Carols by Candlelight – our annual festive gathering which gives the children chance to perform, and the adults a chance to enjoy some festive refreshments and belt out some carols. We enjoyed performances from our recorder, ukulele and keyboard players, Mrs Bremner's Choir Club and of course our Christmas Choir whose recent tour drew to a close with their usual festive energy. Lots of adults helped to make it such a lovely evening: Mrs Bremner and Mr Edwards (who stepped into the deep end in Mrs Reid's absence), lots of members of staff who set up the hall and served refreshments, Miss Maddaford who has worked really hard with the Christmas Choir and Ms Flynn who as well as working with Miss Maddaford to lead the choir, organised the programmes, tickets and refreshments. Thank you!

Spot the Teacher Competition... As you may remember, at the Christmas Fair there was a competition to see who could match the most number of teachers to their baby photo. It caused lots of discussion (and interrogation of teachers) on the day and there were eight winners, each of whom guessed 4 teachers correctly. So congratulations to Katia, Natasha G, Rosa, Lucy, Matilda P, Gracie and Matilda M. There is an 8th winner who as yet, ironically, is unidentified! Thank you to Kate Davies for organising – prizes will be given out in the new year.

Oh yes she is... If you're heading down to the panto over Christmas, keep an eye out for our very own Becky B who is performing in it. She has been performing since the start of the run and is gearing up for another few weeks yet. Well done Becky!

The start of Term 3... will be on Monday 6th January. On our return we will be launching our new curriculum and I will send home information about what this will involve for the children. We also have an exciting new maths resource to launch which we have been working hard on and I hope will be really useful. But for now, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

See you in 2020, Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



B&NES will not be collecting Christmas trees in the New Year, however Dorothy House will be collecting and recycling trees for a donation. Leave the effort of getting rid of your Christmas tree to us! We all 'joyfully' choose our Christmas tree and transport it home ready to dress for the festive period. However, after 12th night when its needles are dropping, the thought of taking it to the household recycling centre or chopping it up to fit into your bin is less appealing. We more than doubled last year's fundraising total for our annual Christmas tree collection raising £27,261.51. Volunteers collected over 2,360 trees in 2019. The good news is for 2020, we will be expanding the project to cover even more postcodes! The Christmas tree collection has grown considerably since our first collection in January 2017, which raised £6,395.90. Once again, we will be sending out teams of volunteers to collect your trees over the weekend of 10th, 11th and 12th January 2020 for a donation to the hospice. The trees will then be chipped and shredded and the chips recycled.

About this Collection

Please support your local hospice and help us to continue providing FREE palliative and end of life care to the community. Here's where your donation will make a difference in providing fund for vital patient care-

- By donating **£13.50** you could fund half an hour of vital nursing care
- You could pay for a session of art therapy for a patient by donating **£19**
- By donating **£30** you could pay for an hours' time of a Nurse working on our Inpatient Unit
- Your donation of **£63** could pay for a Hospice at Home Carer's bag.

Our volunteers will be collecting in the following thirteen postcodes:

BA1 BA2 BA3 BA4 BA11 BA12 BA13 BA14 BA15 SN12 SN13 SN14 SN15
Collections will take place between Friday 10th January and Sunday 12th January 2020. Please ensure your tree is outside your house by 8am on Friday 10th January to ensure a speedy collection and clearly marked 'Dorothy House pick up'.

How you can sign up you tree: Visit the Justhelping website: www.charityxmastreecollection.com

- Check that your postcode is covered by our collection
- Select you donation amount
- Follow the online instructions about where to leave your tree

We are always on the lookout for people that would like to support either by providing a collection vehicle or by lending a hand to collect the trees. *Please note we do not receive money for the chippings of your tree.* **We have a limited capacity for the number of trees we can collect, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Registration closes at 12pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020. For further information or to volunteer please get in touch:** steph.cox@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk or 01225 721 480

To all Parents / Carers and Class Reps...

The PTFA Committee would like to say a special thanks to all of you for your support this term; from purchasing Christmas cards, event tickets, uniform, raffle tickets, mince pies, mulled wine, coffee and hot-dogs to donating cakes, toys, presents, prizes, party food, money, and most of all, TIME, CREATIVITY, EXPERTISE and PATIENCE!! Well done to all of you in helping raise a massive **£7,300!!** Thank you and we wish you a happy, peaceful Christmas!

Next meeting **22nd January 2020**, 7pm - Join us! (Venue TBC)

DIARY DATES 2020...

Coming up in January...

6th – Children start back at school
7th – Reception 2020 Open Day visits 9.45 – 11am
22nd – PTA Meeting 7pm – Venue TBC
23rd – Early Years Maths Meeting 6 – 7pm

Coming up in February...

4th - Newbarn Meeting 6pm
14th - End of Term 3
17th – 21st - Holiday
24th - Beginning of Term 4

After School Clubs...

Just a reminder that there will be NO After School Clubs during the first week of Term in January.

Happy Christmas!

Ms Flood