

## Newsletter No:3 – December 2016

### *Creativity, Independence and Respect*

Dear Parents

Well, Christmas is nearly upon us! This last week has gone exceptionally quickly. Our choir took part in the carol concert at the cathedral with the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, Year 3 visited the cathedral for Christmas events and a group of children went ice skating as part of our reward to children for showing care, consideration and courtesy. Last Thursday, we played host for our community lunch inviting over 60 people from the St. Stephen's community to join us for an early Christmas lunch. Entertainment was provided by children at the school who also served at the tables, showing our school values of how we care and respect others around us. Our Christmas fair took place on Friday, thank you to all who came along. This week we will start rehearsing for our Christmas entertainment for the last week of term. We also have our annual visit to the Canterbury Marlowe pantomime on Wednesday. On our last day, Wednesday 21st December, we have a Christingle service led by Cannon Norman, staff festivities for the children and our church carol service at St Stephen's Church ends our term.

We wish all our children, parents, families and friends a very happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Best Wishes

**Mr S. Pywell**

**Executive Headteacher**

#### **Christmas Productions**

These productions will be taking place as follows:-

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December (Years 3 and 4): 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December (Years 5 and 6): 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Everyone is welcome and no tickets are required. Please could children be back at school for 5.30pm for the evening performance. It is vitally important that children participate in both the afternoon and evening performances. There will also be mulled wine and mince pies available before the evening performance. If your child cannot attend the evening performance please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

#### **Christmas Dinner – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

If your child has a school dinner, this will be their meal on that day and no extra money is required. However, if your child normally has a packed lunch but would like a Christmas Dinner, we ask that you send in £2.35 by Monday at the latest (for food ordering purposes). There will also be a vegetarian option available.

#### **Year 4 – Staffing**

During the course of the year we often find ourselves in interesting positions regarding our staffing. Over the next few months we are having to find some temporary cover for several teachers and members of staff that are pregnant. We are writing to inform you of the changes that have and will be taking place over this period. As you may well be aware, Mrs Cutts' role as class teacher of Palm class has been taken over by Mrs Erasmi, who will also be leading Year 3 and 4, as Head of Year. To ensure consistency and the least disruption to your child's learning, Mrs Erasmi has replaced Mrs Cutts in Palm class on a Thursday and Friday and will be sharing this class with Mrs. Chatfield. This we hope, will ensure a smooth transition for the children and cause the least disruption as possible.

Mrs Erasmi has decided that she will be temporarily stepping down from her role as Deputy Head until the end of the summer term. As part of our development programme for Leaders in Schools, Mrs Cutts and Mrs Heaney will be taking on Mrs Erasmi's duties and be sharing the role of Acting Deputy Head until the end of the summer term.

**After School Club**

There are still spaces for the After School Club party. If your child regularly attends and has not booked a place, please see Ruth. **PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE BREAKFAST CLUB AS USUAL ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER BUT NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB.**

**Lost Property**

We are still having a large number of school uniform turning up in lost property with no names on. If uniform is named we will make every effort to ensure that any item is returned to the child. As a school, we are trying to teach children that they are responsible for their own property whatever it may be and whilst we understand the frustrations of a parent when things go missing, it is not always appropriate to take those frustrations out on staff who try to assist you.

**Bikes/Scooters**

Please could we remind both parents and children that no scooters or bicycles should be ridden in the school grounds. We have had several incidents where small children have been knocked over recently. All bicycles and scooters should be pushed once they come through the school gates. Thank you for your cooperation.

**After School Activities/Music Clubs and Homework Club**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND HOMEWORK CLUB IN THE LAST WEEK OF TERM (IE WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER).** Also, when the children come back in the New Year they will need to reapply for the new activities on offer. More details about doing this will be sent out in a separate letter when we return for the new term in January.

**Library**

Please could all Library books be returned to school before the Christmas holiday. **Please note there will be no Family Reading Club this week and next week.**

**Nut Allergies**

Just a reminder, that we are “Nut Free School”. We have a number of people in our school community who have a severe nut allergy and we have noticed that a number of children are bringing in chocolate containing nuts or having “nut spreads” such as peanut butter/hazelnut spread in their sandwiches. Thank you for your cooperation.

**TERM DATES**

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Marlowe Pantomime Trip – back at 4.30pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 3/4 Christmas Production (2pm and 6.00pm)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 5/6 Christmas Production (2pm and 6.00pm)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christingle/Carols at the Church (children only)
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Last day of Term 2</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017</b>	<b>Return to school – Start of Term 3</b>