



December 2016 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Friends,

This newsletter is all about the run up to Christmas, it is a very busy and very rewarding time for all staff and children. I'd like to encourage all of you to get involved in our school activities wherever you can.

Classes 1 and 2 will be doing a Christmas play this year – they will be performing “A midwife Crisis” for parents and families on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th at 2.30. They will have a dress rehearsal for the school and toddlers early in the afternoon on the 12th. Admission to the afternoon performances will be by ticket we will use the same ticketing policy that we used for the key stage 2 summer performance – each family has an allocation of up to 3 tickets, the first ticket will be free and any other tickets will cost £2.50 each. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 5th December (3.30), with any surplus being made available from Friday 9th. Miss Boon and Mrs Lascelles will be writing to you with further information this Friday (02.12.16).

Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be holding a candlelit service of carols and readings on Wednesday 14th at 6.30 in All Saints Church. You are all very welcome to join us for this act of worship.

Class R will perform a Nativity tableau on Wednesday 14th in the school hall, they will be supported with Key Stage 2 carol singing and storytelling. Reception parents and families, please join us at 9.30 for what will be a delightful session. Mrs Millard will be writing to you on Friday (02.12.16)

Christmas lunch is on Thursday 15th December, you have already had a letter about this. Final numbers by Monday 12th please.

Report cards for the Autumn term will be going home on Thursday 15th. Thank you for your responses to the reporting and consultation question from the last newsletter – they have been shared with governors, the overwhelming response from you was that you were satisfied with current arrangements. You will receive an explanatory letter with the report though we have made only minor adjustments to last year's format. The spring term parent consultations are scheduled for the 17th and 18th January. We will be holding another Open School evening on Wednesday 7th December from 6.00.

We will have Christmas parties on Friday 16th. Please note that there will not be an after school care club on the 16th and that we expect all children to be collected at 3.30.

I need to remind all parents that this week is the last week for after school clubs, with the exception of Musical Theatre who will be performing their version of A West Side Story on Wednesday 7th there will also be a final Hockey Club session on that day.

In the parent governor election Mrs T. Cox received most votes and was duly elected.

Please see over the page for important information regarding the school playground.

Playground

At a meeting earlier this week the school's governors expressed the opinion that our playground was not a safe play area and took the view that it should not be used until proper remedial work had been done to increase the friction coefficient on the rubberised surface.

This is an ongoing problem, the original contractors installed a surface that was appropriate for play but, ironically given that it was a Sport England grant, not suitable for physical activity. They were asked several months ago to correct the problem but haven't done so stating technical reasons. Our concern is that while this cold, wet weather persists the playground will remain too slippery and that it is unacceptable for children to be put at risk. I think all of you at some stage will have had similar concerns.

Given that the decision has been taken we need to consider a range of alternative measures:

- We will use the field, grassed areas and the small 'quiet' area outside the hall doors for our playtimes.
- Please send your child to school with appropriate footwear for play on the field – wellies, walking boots or second-best trainers are ideal.
- Children who do not have field-proof shoes will be able to play on the tarmac by the hall doors.
- All outdoor games lessons will be on the field – so children must have trainers, plimsoles are not suitable.
- There will not be a teacher on duty at the start of the day, please bring your child to the classroom, check that they have all they need and say goodbye – we do not have space for a lot of adults in the classrooms – children will not go out to the playground to play before the bell rings.
- Please plan to collect your child at 3.30 as usual from the playground, we will encourage them to take extra care, do please reiterate that message at home.

I apologise for any inconvenience these arrangements may cause but I'm sure you understand and support our reasons for taking this action.