

Newsletter No 6: Term 2

December 2019

Dear Parent / Carers,

This is our last Newsletter of 2019. I expect that like most of our team here, you are looking forward to a break over the holiday period. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Nativity for Reception and Year 1 and Y3/4 Carol Service this week. In case I miss you, on behalf of Fishponds CE Academy we wish you all a Happy Christmas time and send good wishes for the New Year!

It has been a busy few weeks in school with lots to celebrate!

Christmas Dinner

The children's Christmas dinner went well and all had a great time. Thanks to the team here for going the extra mile in serving and eating dinner with our children.

Singing Event at St Georges

I must say a big thank you to Miss Adams and team for organising our children and teaching the songs for the Bristol Christmas singing event at St Georges. 12 of our children represented our school and sang along with a number of other local Bristol schools. They were accompanied by a small band and certainly made me a very proud Principal by singing so well and showing such respectful behaviour. Thanks also to all the parents/ carers who came along to support!

Friends of Fishponds Academy

A massive thank you must go out to the Friends of Fishponds (FOFA) for all the fundraising events so far this year. I am pleased to say that the Festival of Food raised £300, the non uniform days (x2) raised £450 and finally the school disco raised £360. That gives a total of £1100. So far this year , FOFA have donated £3200 towards the cost of school trips and a further £500. This, along with another generous donation, will help improve reading books in KS1. Thanks everyone for your ongoing support. It makes a huge difference!

Staffing News

Sadly, at the end of Term 3 we will be saying goodbye to Miss Culver who is off to work as an Assistant Head at Mangotsfield C of E Primary School. Miss Culver has been a valued part of the team here for 5 years now and feels it is time to move on. Miss Culver wanted me to pass this message on to you all:

'It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the staff and families here at Fishponds. What a privilege it has been to watch so many of the children grow into brilliant young people! Thank you for always being so warm and friendly. I shall really miss being part of the Fishponds Academy community.' Miss Culver.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing her every success with her new role when she moves on in February.

Sporting Success

Well done to our Y5/6 Dodge ball team who won a local school's competition. We wish them every success at the county competition in the new year!



Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Generosity

We will be focussing on a question each week linked to our term's theme. These are introduced in Monday's Collective Worship and then discussed again during Class based Collective Worship on Wednesday.

16/12/19: How can you be a light through showing a generous attitude this holiday?

Our values for the rest of the year we will be:

- Term 3- Justice
- Term 4- Patience
- Term 5- Trust
- Term 6- Courage

We welcome people of all faiths to come in and share their knowledge and experiences of taking part in the major festivals. If you would like to share your experiences with the children please speak to Mrs Watt (our RE lead). We'd love to hear from you!

Please let the office know if you or anyone on house or changed their mobile number.

It is important that our records are kept up-to-date in case your child is sick or we need to contact you.

Don't forget, school begins at 8.45am!

Did you know you can text us as well as ring us about your child's absence before 9.30am? Please state the full name of your child, their class name or teacher and reason for absence in your text.

Our text number is 07786 208896

Do you know which Apps your children are currently using?

We have recently been dealing with issues arising from some of our children using online Apps at home and things spilling into school. So, with the holidays in mind we thought it might be useful to give an overview of two popular online Apps children seem to be using at the moment and provide advice around how to keep your child safe online.

Tik Tok



From the company that recently bought the hugely popular app, Musical.ly, Tik Tok lets you make and share music videos and its popularity has surged among children and young people.

The APP is rated appropriate for 13 years and over, so this App should not be used by our children without a parent supervising.

The App allows users to create their own music videos, users can select the song they wish to use in their video first, then record themselves miming along to the music for up to 60 seconds. Alternatively, users can record their video first and then select a song. They can then edit and add special effects to their clips

Because Tik Tok is an unmoderated live streaming app, parents should be aware that users can be viewed and contacted by others, including people they don't know. There have been reports of requests for images of a sexual nature from strangers commenting on children's videos.

Users can report abuse by tapping on the three dots icon (...) within the app and following the instructions. To block, go to the user's profile, click the three dots icon in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

WhatsApp



Another app parents are increasingly aware of because they use it themselves, WhatsApp allows groups of users to have a running conversation. It's good fun and can save a lot of time when organising activities – or even what the family is having for tea.

Children and young people use it to share images, organise homework and generally chat with their friends and they can communicate with anyone in their contacts list who has the app. **It was aimed at 13+ but in May 2018, its minimum age was [raised to 16 in Europe](#), including the UK, following the implementation of the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#).**

There have been reports of bullying and inappropriate contact with children by adults on the app. It's unmoderated so young users will need to know how to block upsetting or illegal contact and report users within the app themselves.

For further reading click the links below:

[WhatsApp: a parent's guide](#)

[Staying safe on WhatsApp](#)

As you can see each of these APPs is not rated as suitable for children in primary school, but we are aware that a number of our children are using them. Please be mindful and monitor / supervise what your child is receiving or sending via these Apps. Encourage your child to talk about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. For further links to keeping safe online please visit our school's website under Pupil Pages – online safety.

Come and join us in the grounds of
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, Grove Road

FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER

at 7.00pm for

Carol Singing
round



the
LOW TREE

Join us afterwards for
refreshments in the Church

Merry Christmas
Let's celebrate together

Messy Church Celebration
Sun 15th December 4:00pm

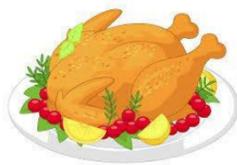
Family Celebration (including crafts)
Tue 24th December 3:00pm

Christmas Day Service
Wed 25th December 10:30am

Carols by Candlelight
Sun 22nd December 6:30pm

Carols in the Cross Hands
(opposite Fishponds Baptist Church)
Sun 29th December 7:00pm

Fishponds Baptist Church
Meeting God Sharing Life Making Christ Known
Downend Road, Fishponds, BS16 5AS
www.fbcbristol.org.uk



Free Meal on Christmas Day !

All are welcome to sign up and come along.



Wednesday 25 December at 12:30pm at Fishponds Baptist Church

Downend Rd (opposite The Cross Hands Pub), Fishponds, BS16 5AS

email office@fbcbristol.org.uk or contact the church office on

0117 9653421 by Fri 20th Dec to book a place

Dates for your diaries , with best wishes from Debbie Coker (Principal)

Tuesday 17 th December after Nativity until 3.30pm.	Friends of Fishponds Raffle (mince pies and hot choc will be served) All funds go to the Friends of Fishponds to support the school!
Tuesday 17 th December Wednesday 18 th December	Rec / KS1 Nativity performance @ 2pm Main Hall Rec / KS1 Nativity Performance @ 4pm Main Hall
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Celebration @ St Mary's (5.30pm) led by Y3 and Y4
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term! Please note – not non uniform day!
Monday 6 th January	INSET Day for staff (School Closed to children)
Tuesday 7 th January	Term 3 begins. Doors open at 8.40am.
Tuesday 14 th , Weds 15 th January	Y3 and 4 trip
Wednesday 29 th January	Whole School RE day
Wednesday 5 th February	Y5 helping with Tree Planting
Tuesday 11 th February	Y3 Sharing Learning
Weds 12 th February	Y4 Sharing Learning.
Thursday 13 th February	Reception Parent Phonic Meeting.
Friday 14 th February	End of Term 3
Monday 17 th –Friday 21 st February	Half Term Break (School Closed)