



Caddington Village School Newsletter

December 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are looking forward to the Christmas break—it has been a very long and busy half term!

Our half term started at an extremely fast pace, with the inspection from Ofsted on our first day back at school. We were pleased to be judged as “Good” in all categories—personal development, behaviour and welfare; outcomes for pupils; teaching, learning and assessment; early years provision and leadership and management. The full report can be read by using the link on our school’s website.

As the first week seemed to rocket, so did the ‘Friends of Caddington School’ firework display, an exceptional display of colour filled the skies. It is always a huge success and involves so many people in the local community. It’s testament to the planning and hard work from the members of the PTA—huge, huge thanks to all who helped—from serving burgers to selling tickets.

Members of the school council represented the school at the village green for Remembrance Day, the children were a credit to you and us as a school.

Year 6 completed their mock SATs in December, we would like to thank the children for concentrating and trying their very best. The children were asked for feedback about the week and we have portrayed their thoughts in a ‘Word Cloud’ - the bigger the word, the more it was mentioned! (See below).



It was lovely to see so many of you at The Christmas Fayre as well as our Christmas performances and end of term celebration assemblies; all the children should be so proud of the contributions they have made to our school this half term. Thank you so much for all of your help and support.

We look forward to seeing you on January 5th and to another year of learning—we will be welcoming Miss Johnston back as Mrs. Kennedy following her wedding at the end of this year—Congratulations and warm wishes from all of us at Caddington. On behalf of the staff and pupils, have a very peaceful, relaxing and joyful Christmas and New Year break.

Sue Teague



SOLAR PANELS

To date, our Columbus solar panels have generated 8,787 Kwh of three phase electricity—the equivalent of running a 10W low energy light bulb for 300 years, or even running a 2,000W electric fire constantly for 1.5 years.

It represents an annual saving of over £930 on the school’s electricity bill and producing this amount of electricity also generates payments through a feed in tariff. For producing 8,787Kwh, the school would be paid £1,242.00. So the panels have already been a huge financial success.

We have also saved over 5 tonnes of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere so we are also doing our bit for the planet. A second installation is currently taking place on MacArthur building, making our school even more efficient and eco friendly.



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Regular attendance at school is essential for pupils to achieve their potential. It is proven that attendance impacts on achievement. 2013- 2014 statistics from Central Bedfordshire Schools shows that-

- 89% of children who had 100% attendance in Y6 achieved age related expectations and above in the SATs
- Only 70% of children who had an attendance of 90% in Y6 achieved age related expectations in their SATs
- 49% of children who had a very low attendance average of 85% and below in Y6 achieved age related expectations in the SATs

Please remember that a child is classed as a Persistent Absentee if their attendance falls below 90%. A child who has 90% attendance at the end of a school year has missed 4 weeks of learning. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their children regularly attend school and that they are punctual. Poor punctuality can have a negative impact on your child’s attendance figures.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your child to promote good attendance and punctuality habits.

EYFS NEWS

We are delighted with the progress and learning that has taken place within the Early Years Foundation Stage this term. Reception pupils have thought about who are our ‘superheroes’ and what they do for us. Following on from our ‘Self’ work we are now able to say why we are ‘super’ as well. This was evident in both the Nativity plays and our end of term Celebration assembly. Nursery have settled beautifully, made lots of new friends, and now know about their senses and clever things that their bodies can do. We were delighted by their Nativity performances and were amazed at how brave they were performing, with such enthusiasm, in front of an audience. We thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a peaceful break.



KEY STAGE 1 NEWS

The Autumn term seems to have flown by with lots of good learning and fun in Key Stage 1.

We have been focusing on our SELF ESTEEM this term at Caddington and the children have been making you all feel very proud by performing their Nativities and Celebration assemblies with confidence and beaming smiles. Their hard work paid off and even when wigs were falling off, the show went on!

In Year 2, the children have been learning about Intrepid Explorers and have been following the footsteps of Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. They also showed off their sewing skills by making explorer glove puppets and then explaining what went well and what could be even better.

Year 1 have been learning about the countries that make up the United Kingdom and practising their number bonds to 10. In Design & Technology, they have been making and evaluating their own moving pictures.

Regular reading at home continues for many and we consolidate this in class with weekly Guided Reading sessions that allow us to monitor your Child's reading progress. Your notes in the 'Next Steps' column of the School Planners are invaluable and allow us to plan our Reading sessions effectively. Please encourage your child to bring their planner in daily as is expected. Finally, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and New Year and to say a big thank you for your support this past term.

KEY STAGE 2 AND 3 NEWS

It is hard to believe that Christmas is here. As always so much has taken place in Key Stages 2 and 3 this half term. Amongst the many things which have taken place we have had visits in school from Sustrans, who are working with us to be more sustainable, pupils have had a chance to ride on the Sustrans bike whilst generating energy to make smoothies. Mencap have been in school to teach about mental disabilities as part our anti-bullying week, this was a very engaging and interactive workshop which really got our pupils thinking. We have taken part in Children in Need, as always getting fully behind this charity. The Eco team had a visit from the Eden project and spent a day working on various Eco projects - you can find out more about this on the website.

Year 6 have had their Mock Sats which started each day with a fabulous breakfast prepared by Mrs Smith and her team. The Year 6 pupils enjoyed the various fun activities which were put on during the week and now know that the week in May is nothing they need to worry about.

Many of you attended the Celebration Assemblies where we have celebrated many subjects of the curriculum as well as presenting brand new Reader of the term and attendance awards. Pupils sang beautifully at the Church Christmas service whilst being reminded of exactly why we celebrate Christmas and are now ready for Christmas dinner and parties on the last day.

Next half-term continues with all those extras we put on with a sponsored Maths challenge, visits from the NSPCC and also the Police to talk about E-safety. We will also have Parents evenings and Celebration assemblies where we will focus on Maths. On behalf of all KS2 and 3 Staff we wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you at our various events next term.

LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

Miss Underwood is raising money for Little Princess Trust so that she can donate her lovely, long hair to be made into a wig. Real hair wigs are being given by this charity to children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatments or conditions such as alopecia. Miss Underwood will be delighted to reach her target of £350 before Christmas, which is the cost of producing a wig from real hair. Donations can be made via text by texting "WIGI 66" followed by the donated amount (e.g. £2, £5) to 70070.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015-2016

Fri 18th Dec	End of Term
19th Dec–3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	Teacher Training Inset Day
Tue 5th Jan	Children Return to School
5th–6th Jan	Nursery Home Visits
Thu 7th Jan	Nursery Opens
Thu 7th Jan	7pm E-Safety workshop
Thu 21st Jan	Maths Parent Workshop
Mon 8th Feb	2.45pm R & KS1 Celebration Assembly
Mon 8th Feb	3.45pm–6.00pm Parent Consultation Evening
Tue 9th Feb	2.15pm Yr3&4 Celebration Assembly
Wed 10th Feb	2.15pm Yr5,6&8 Celebration Assembly
Thu 11th Feb	5.00pm–7.00pm Parent Consultation Evening
Fri 12th Feb	Whole School Mufti for Charity
Fri 12th Feb	End of Half Term
15th–19th Feb	Half Term
Mon 22nd Feb	Children Return to School

Please see your child's home school book for more detailed dates. The school website 'events' tab also has details of forthcoming events.

FRIENDS OF CADDINGTON VILLAGE SCHOOL

Thank you to all our amazing helpers for events that have happened this term. Fireworks were spectacular as ever and raised a whopping £1693. Excellent organisational skills from the winning team headed up by Neil Butler and Lynn Russell - very professional job guys, same time next year? We were also joined by many local villagers who assisted in keeping the event safe and orderly, in particular we were most grateful for the presence of members of the Caddington neighbourhood watch scheme.

Santa's elves were busy last week helping the children to do top secret jobs at lunch times - we couldn't do it without you...you know who you are! In total your efforts help magic up £448!

Speaking of elves, the REAL Santa was flown in from the North Pole to spread a little Christmas sparkle at the wonderful Christmas Bazaar which was extremely well attended. Many of the stalls run and organised by pupils with the supervision of their wonderful teachers, getting us into that festive spirit with a crack! Well done to our new chair (hardly new to the Friends), Leanne Hardy.

Our organisation does fantastic work for the school, run entirely by volunteers who give up their time to enhance the experience of school life for our children educationally and socially. It is very rewarding and can be lots of fun, but we desperately need new members to keep going with the programme of events that we run every term. If you feel that you could contribute to the team, please email us direct on pta@caddington.cbeds.co.uk or let the school office know and they will put you in touch with us.