

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2017 and thank you for your continued support throughout this busy period.

#### Arrangements for the end of term

- Our **Christmas Dinner** is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Orders have already been placed, so if you send your child to school with a packed lunch and have already paid for a dinner then we will unfortunately be unable to offer refunds.
- **Christmas Mass** will take place in the school Hall at 9.15am on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. It would be great if more parents could come to support this service – you don't need to stand to take Mass, instead you can share in taking blessed bread, as all the children do. The Christmas Mass is especially beautiful, and well worth a visit just to see what happens at our school Mass service. Please do come along.
- The **Infant Performance** will take place on Thursday and Friday 14 / 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. If parents do attend the performance, you will be welcome to take your child home at the end of the performance once they have changed to save you waiting around, if this is helpful to you. Children will be released through the infant doors as normal. Please remember that the front 3 rows of seating will be reserved for year 2 parents and families.
- We have asked a lot of you recently for charity fundraising, so will **not** be formally celebrating Christmas Jumper day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- The school **Pantomime** will be in the school hall on the morning of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please return £3 payment to the office as soon as possible.
- The junior **Christmas Carol Service** will be held at St John's Church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. Please could all junior children arrive at church at 5.45pm. If you child is unable to attend please inform the school office as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made to cover their absence.
- Our class **Christmas parties** are planned for the afternoon of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, the final day of term. On the day of the party the children can come to school in party clothes. Please do not send children into school with toys on that day – the staff have arranged activities to occupy the children. Class teachers will be in touch soon about party food arrangements.
- Children will need to take all PE kits home at the end of term please and return clean and named at the start of the new term.

#### Respect

It came to my attention that in spite of my polite request, a number of parents took photographs and recordings during the summer junior production of ARNIE. This request was made for a reason – we have some children in school who are subject to safeguarding requirements. As such, can I repeat my request that no parent shares images of other people's children on social media. I have advised the parents involved that should it arise that images have been shared, they take further legal action. Please understand that this is for the safe keeping of our children.

#### Epiphany Celebrations

We have decided that this year Newbold Church School will celebrate Epiphany when we return to school in January. Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and signals the conclusion of the Christmas season. As such, on the first day back after Christmas, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, the children will be learning all about the significance of Epiphany, making Kings crowns, learning the carols linked to the Kings and undertaking a variety of different activities. School will provide basic 'crown making' materials, but feel free to send any other resources that your child might like to use (no readymade crowns please!). On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January the children will be invited to come to school dressed as a King, wear the crowns that they made the day before, and proceed up to church for an Epiphany service. We would love parents to join our procession – you can even come dressed as Kings and wear a crown too if you like! If you would like to join in, please congregate in the

School Hall after dropping your child as normal. We will be leaving school around 9.10am, to begin at service at 9.30, and processing back to school at around 10am.

### PTA

Many thanks to all involved in our highly successful Christmas Fair. We had a fun filled evening and raised over £650 for our children. Our PTA carry out a very important role and we would appreciate your support if you feel able to get involved. Please speak with Mrs Bradshaw in the school Office for more information about our next meeting.

### Nativity Service at St John's Church.

Many thanks to the children who took part in last weekend's family service at St John's and for the parent support in getting them there. The next family service is the Nativity Service at 11am on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to be involved and dress up as part of the nativity Scene, please speak to me on the gate as soon as possible.

### Helping in school

We are grateful that so many of you have been able to come into school and work with the children over the years. The children really benefit from the support of extra adults in class. At the moment we are in desperate need of parent helpers to come and listen to the children read, or practise times tables. Just an hour of your time can make a really big difference. If you would like to help, please catch me on the gate in the morning, or contact the school office. We do have tight procedures regarding police checks for child protection reasons and will need you to fill in a form for this.

### Attendance

As you are aware, we have been working hard to improve the attendance rates of the children at NCS. The end of term 'traffic light' letters you will receive at the end of term (via email) will give you an indication as to how your child's attendance is looking so far this year. Since September 2015 the Department for Education class any child who has an attendance rate of lower than 90% as a 'persistent absence' and as such could be visited by our school EWO to offer help and support in ensuring children are in school.

### Severe weather

Please be assured that we will always do our best to keep the school open, but if closing school becomes unavoidable details will be given as below:

- On the school Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/newboldchurchschool/> - please could you like the page to make sure you see all the notifications.
- Text messages will be sent to all parents. **If you have not been receiving these, please let us know as soon as possible.**
- On Peak FM, although this can take some time to come through.

### Dates for your Diary

January 2018		
2/3		INSET Day - No School
4		First Day of Term
4/5		Epiphany Celebrations in school
15		Whitehall parents meeting 5.30pm
February 2018		
5/9		<b>Y6 visit to Whitehall</b>
7		<b>Assembly in church 9.30am</b>
16		Last Day of Term
26		First Day of Term
March 2018		
21		<b>Mass in school 9.15am</b>
23		Last day of Term

I wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Marsh  
Headteacher