



MAYFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



Tuesday 27th November 2018



Last week's attendance was **96.21%**
Red (under 92%) Amber (92-96%)
Green (above 96%)

This term our value
is **Generosity**

Open Morning and Open Evening

Thank you to the following
parents for providing
refreshments and a warm
welcome to the new parents
who visited our open morning
and evenings last week:

Mrs Huxtable
Mrs Treherne
Mrs Freeman

We really appreciate your
support of the school and Mrs
Treherne ... your chocolate
brownies were amazing!
Thank you!

Advent Service

Parents/carers are very welcome
to attend our **Collective Worship**
tomorrow morning at 9am in the
school hall. Fr. Nigel will be
leading the worship, focusing on
Advent.



Term 2

Celebration Assemblies

Friday 30th Nov — Nightingales
Friday 7th Nov — Skylarks
Friday 14th Nov — Brass Music

Safeguarding

The school Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DSL) is Miss Warren.
The Deputy DSL is Mrs Martin.
Please let us know if you have any
concerns about the welfare of any
children at Mayfield CE Primary.

Mayfield Christmas Shopping Evening

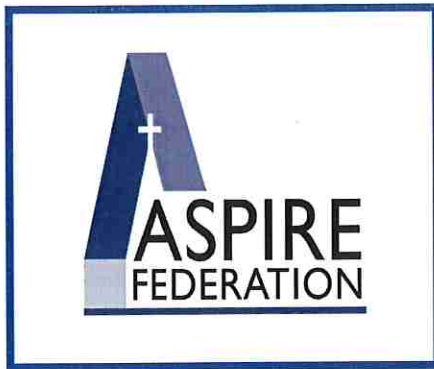
Friday 30th November

The children have been busy creating a festive 'Nutcracker' scene in school. This will be displayed in the window of St. Dunstan's Pharmacy from Thursday 29th November. A huge 'THANK YOU' to Charlotte Reid, one of our regular volunteers, for assembling the art work and writing for us. Thanks also to Marion Robinson for co-ordinating this opportunity. Please do look out for it when passing in the village.



Carol Singing

Mayfield CE Primary School has once again been invited to sing at the village late night shopping evening. KS2 children will have the opportunity to share Christmas songs and carols that they have been learning in school. Mrs Thomas will be leading the singing. If your child is in KS2 and would like to take part, please wrap up warm and meet at 6pm on the steps on the right hand side of the memorial, looking towards St. Dunstan's Church. We will sing at 6.10pm for approximately 15 minutes. Children may wish to bring a small torch as they will have a song sheet for the words. Only KS2 children will be invited to sing on the stage area, but parents and KS1 children are welcome to join in from the side. I'm sure you will know some of the songs. We hope that families will be able to support this event and create a wonderful atmosphere to start the festive season.



Aspire Federation Update

from David Robson

(Chair of Governors)

The recent survey showed that whilst 90% of you are aware about the Aspire Federation arrangements (although only 24% are very aware!), 83% didn't know whether the association had brought improvements or not. It is not surprising then that the same percentage don't know whether a partnership with Saxonbury will bring further improvements or not. In the case of the partnership talks, 44% of you were aware of the discussions going on, which is less than half, but is probably less surprising as, just with Brexit negotiations, confidentiality has to be respected whilst sensitive areas are discussed and information exchanged between the two parties. Nevertheless, the results show that communication on the success of federation has not been as good as it could be and we will look to improve this. Here's a start.

So what is the purpose of federating and why do the governors and school leaders feel there is a need to federate further?

An important reason is looking to the sharing of resources which can lead to cost savings. We all know that the schools are underfunded and the response of government is to ask the schools to look for more cost efficiencies and savings. There is little scope for this within an individual school and so the situation can only be changed either through a change in government policy, which in turn might only be met through a general election, or we have to accept the current financial constraints and look for savings through other initiatives. Forming a federation is such an initiative, allowing certain costs to be shared eg the Executive Head's salary (more on this in the next article) amongst the constituent schools. There are also non-teaching costs, such as in administration, which can be distributed across the schools.

Federation gives us scope to look at alternative ways of working across the schools, investing in technology and new IT systems so that certain tasks are not replicated in each school. An individual school cannot afford to do this. A single small school is unlikely to have all the subject leadership skills amongst its staff so often has to buy into services provided by other schools or agencies. However a collection of small schools is more likely to have a full set in-house and this has the benefit not only of saving costs but also the potential for team building and immediacy of support to a member school where deficiencies might be apparent. Internal team building is good for morale and career development, so it's not just about cost savings.

New employees of a federation are expected to be flexible in their working pattern and location of work so can be deployed around the schools. This gives scope to cover for other members of staff who are absent through training, providing services elsewhere, or inevitably, sickness. We are fortunate in that the four schools associated with the talks are geographically quite close. It's not always the case.

Federation provides an opportunity to establish more clubs and activities for the children or allow them to engage in team sports as the number of children available for selection increases. Also the provision of teaching aid initiatives and other resources eg a federation minibus becomes more feasible.

So cost savings, flexibility, improvement through internal benchmarking, career opportunities for staff and additional activities for our children are the prime drivers for seeking further federation. There is one other, which sadly reflects the current situation in primary education provision, and that is the threat of closure facing our smaller, rural primary schools. The establishment of federations has been shown to be a powerful factor in keeping such schools open and maintain the closer links with local communities which, as the survey showed, you all strongly support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NB—Changes and any new dates are recorded in red font.

TERM 2

Wednesday 28th November at 9am—Advent Collective Worship with Fr. Nigel in school —Parents are very welcome to join us.

Thursday 29th November—NSPCC Donations Collected

Friday 30th November-Christmas Jumper mufti day (Secret Santa donations)

Friday 30th November—Mayfield's Late Night Shopping Evening (Carol Singing)

w/c Monday 3rd December—Book Fair

Tuesday 4th December—NSPCC Assembly to explain how our donations will be used to help children

Wednesday 5th December—KS1 Nativity (Pipits and Bramblings)

Thursday 6th December-KS1 Nativity (Pipits and Bramblings)

Friday 7th December- Friends Christmas Fayre 2-5.30pm

Wednesday 12th December -EYFS Nativity (Robins)

Friday 14th December—Open Afternoon from 2.30pm

Friday 14th December—Friends Christmas Disco (KS1 4pm, KS2 5.30pm)

Monday 17th December—Friends Secret Santa morning

Monday 17th December at 6pm —Aspire Federation Christingle Service at St Dunstan's Church

Tuesday 18th December—School Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 19th December—Last Day of Term 2 (3.15pm)

TERM 3

Thursday 3rd January—INSET DAY—School Closed for pupils

Friday 4th January—INSET DAY—School Closed for pupils

Monday 7th January—First Day of Term 3 for pupils