



# Mary Exton News



Autumn Term Newsletter 5

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

Dear All,

We've had such a busy term, I don't think any of us can believe its December already! Please ensure that the children are dressed appropriately for the weather and following the correct school uniform requirements. Schools across the authority at this time of year are reminded to update our severe weather plans. Details will follow shortly! Preparations for the Christmas Performances in Reception and Key Stage 1 are well underway and thank you to those who have already booked tickets using the online app. The Governors would also like to say thank you to those who took time to speak to them either on the playground before school or during the coffee morning. They enjoyed their day in school talking to the children as well as observing lessons and learning.

## Upcoming school dates which you may like to join us:

- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** - KS1 Christmas Dress Rehearsal (9.30am)
- **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - KS1 Christmas Performance (6.00pm)
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - KS1 Christmas Performance (2.00pm)
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Reception Nativity (9.30am)

## Upcoming PTA Dates for the Diary

- Xmas Event – 3:30-7:00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> December – *please see the signup sheet in the main entrance – all help gratefully received to help make the event a success. Please do come along and support us?*
- Xmas Film Night – 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Jumper Day – 19<sup>th</sup> December
- Adult Disco at Hitchin Football Club – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

## Staff Update

We would like to announce that Mrs Sarah Miles will be joining us at the beginning of January 2019 as Reception Teacher and will be working alongside Miss Isher. As you are already aware, Mrs Stewart will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Taylor will be ensuring that time is spent with Mrs Stewart prior to her departure to make sure that she is up to speed with any outstanding SEND issues.

Mrs Walters is currently still away from school, but Mrs Stewart will be providing teaching in Year 5 until the end of the Autumn term, or until such time as Mrs Walters returns, whichever is sooner. Mrs Brocklehurst is providing teaching in Year 4 on a Monday and Tuesday until the end of this term. Arrangements regarding Year 4 for January 2019 will be confirmed as soon as they have been finalised.

## Twitter & Website

Thank you to all of you who have joined us on Twitter and we hope you have found the information useful. It is a closed account so that only those associated with the school are able to join. As we appreciate twitter account names can often not be easily decipherable, so if your user name is not particularly recognisable, please send a request and then email [office@maryexton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@maryexton.herts.sch.uk) FAO Mr Woolston.

All our school events, forms, letters and calendar are available on the school website, so please check there for any details you might be missing at <http://www.maryexton.herts.sch.uk/>

### **Christmas Card Post-Boxes**

The post-boxes for the children to post their Christmas Cards to each other will be available in the entrance foyer from next Monday (10<sup>th</sup> December) onwards. Please sure that the envelopes are marked clearly with the addressee's name and their class.

### **Parking Outside School**

Please be advised that we have received a complaint from a local resident about parking outside school. Parents have been observed parking on grass verges, leaving unsightly wheel marks; dropping children off in the narrow stretch directly outside school and opening car doors into the road to let children out; parking opposite the school car park entrance to drop children off, causing an obstruction. May we remind parents/carers to be considerate of our neighbours and local residents and park responsibly. Ultimately is the safety of the children and we need to ensure all parties are behaving responsibly. Thank you.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Thank you to everyone who has sent family based decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival which is being held this weekend in Holy Saviour Church on Radcliffe Road! Please remember to go and visit. The Festival is a magical event where different Hitchin schools, businesses and communities are each invited to decorate a Christmas Tree. The Festival opens with a special preview and concert on the Friday night, and closes with a service of thanksgiving on the Sunday night, and the Church expects to welcome over 2,000 visitors over the Festival weekend. The Church will be open from midday until 6:00pm on both Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December and we hope to see you there.

### **Children in Need**

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Children In Need event. It was a fun packed day with **£426.71** being raised for good causes. Highlights included a pyjama day, crazy hair, teachers dressing in school uniform and a sponsored pie in the face for staff. Your generosity is very much appreciated in providing support to the many who are less fortunate than ourselves.

### **Year 5 Residential**

Thank you to all the staff involved with enabling Year 5 to get away last week. The children had a great time and films created in the TV Studio were brilliant! There will be an opportunity for the Year 5 parents to view these shortly. We would also like the Year 5 parents and carers to complete a short online survey for us as this was the first time we have taken a Year 5 class on a residential visit. Details of the film showing and survey will follow shortly.

### **Hitchin Partnership**

This year, as we did last year, we have pledged to support Hitchin Partnership in supplying items for their Christmas Hampers. As a school we have pledged to collect 60 boxes of Mince Pies (the same as last year) which will be added to the Hampers.

Please could any donations be bought to school by Tuesday 11th December. Could we also ask that you check the best before dates, as they will not be distributed to the families in need until the 21st December.

Thank you all again in advance,

### **Hitchin's Christmas Shoebox Project**

Thank you for all who donated towards the 2018 Christmas Shoebox Appeal in support of the charity Link to Hope. Rev Henton-Pusey collected our shoeboxes and they have all been packaged ready to be distributed to people known, through the Link to Hope community projects and through trusted local partners, to be in need in the countries of Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania.

### **Christmas Productions**

A letter will be sent today via Schoolcomms explaining how parents of children in Years 1 and 2 can book tickets for the Christmas Production. Booking will be via the Parent Evening System and will eliminate the need for parents to come in and purchase their tickets. We will not be charging parents for tickets this year, but will have a Donation Box where you can make a deposit if you would like to.

### **PTA Film Week**

Please remember that another PTA film show will be presented on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall between 3:30 and 5.00pm. The film showing is Arthur Christmas, which is rated as a U film. Please complete the permission slip, which was sent by Schoolcomms last week, and put the slip and your payment in the PTA box in the entrance foyer by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember that late submissions may mean that your child may not be counted for refreshments.

### **Writing Workshops**

Thank you to those of you who came along to the Writing Workshops last month. We hope that you found the sessions worthwhile and were able to see the expectations of progress from Reception to Year 6. In the Spring term we will be holding further workshops with a similar format– watch this space.

### **Staff Briefing**

As a reminder, we have Staff Briefing on a Monday morning between 8:30-8:45am. The briefings allow all staff to receive weekly updates in a timely manner. During this time the School Office will not be manned. Please ensure that you are utilising the office post-box in the main entrance, or alternatively, a member of staff will be back in the office by 8:45am.

### **Clubs**

You will shortly be receiving the Spring Terms Clubs list. In advance of the letter going out next week, if you would like to volunteer any time to run one of the clubs then please let us know. Unfortunately, Tennis Club will not be running during the Spring Term, as there has not been enough interest. We will hopefully be able to start it again in the Summer Term, when the better weather will mean they could play outside.

### **Match Funding Scheme**

Further to the joint letter from the PTA and myself last week about Match Funding, we are very pleased to be able to confirm that we have already received a commitment from one parent's employer of £1,000! As you can see, this scheme could be a large source of income for us, providing much needed resources for the children in Mary Exton. So, please do have that conversation with your employer to see if they are involved in a Match Funding Scheme. Thank you.

### **Easyfundraising**

As we approach the time of year where there is a great deal of online shopping taking place, please think of us and help Mary Exton raise free funds today by shopping online via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Different retailers donate a different percentage, and so far we have raised over £500 by using Easyfundraising. It's simple to use and doesn't cost you a penny! Please use the link below.



*Angharad Paterson*

Headteacher

<b>W/B</b>		<b>Gold Book</b>	<b>W/B</b>		<b>Gold Book</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>	Year 1:	Milo and Alex	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>	Year 1:	Rhia and James
	Year 2:	Atharv and Navleen		Year 2:	Stanley and Maisie
	Year 3:	Zurie and Teddy W		Year 3:	Ollie and Evie
	Year 4:	Matilda and Layton		Year 4:	Poppy and Ele'na
	Year 5:	Horatio and Kieran		Year 5:	Abigail and Leela
	Year 6:	Emily and Archie		Year 6:	Shiven and Freya
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>	Year 1:	Isabella and Ricky			
	Year 2:	Bella and Aadya			
	Year 3:	Holly and Leo			
	Year 4:	Elise and Molly			
	Year 5:	<i>Burwell House</i>			
	Year 6:	Eleanor and William			