



NEWSLETTER

21st December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter! Please see below for this week's news and information.

*****INSET DAY 7TH JANUARY 2019 *****

News from around the Classrooms

Whole School Carol Service



This morning the whole school took part in a carol service. There were readings and performances from the choir, ukulele group and a 'sing and sign' group. The carol service ended with a very exciting rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'!



EYFS & KS1

EYFS and KS1 Christmas Party



The children in EYFS and KS1 had a lot of fun yesterday at their Christmas party. They joined in with singing, dancing, pass the parcel and musical statues before enjoying their Christmas party food with their classmates. A lot of fun was had by all!



EYFS Christmas Cakes



The children in Ducklings and Hedgehogs have been very busy this week preparing for Christmas. On Monday, they worked together to cook up a batch of 45 Christmas cakes, before spending yesterday morning icing and decorating them to give as presents. We hope all of



the EYFS parents enjoy their cakes!

KS2

Year 5/6

This week children in Years 5 & 6 have been looking at the epic poem: Beowulf, which contains lots of mythical creatures including a dragon! They used clay to make their own dragon eyes, here are some examples:



Christingle Service

Both the infants and juniors took part in a Christingle service this week. Thank you for all



your help at home making them with the children, they were so proud to show off their creations. The hall looked stunning when all the candles were lit. The service was very special and we all resolved to take the light of Christ within us and seek to share that light with others.



St. John's Carol Service

Wow! Wow! Wow! What an incredible evening. All children from St Gregory's, St Mary's and of course St John's performed in front of hundreds of people, showing off a range of talents.



Our very own choir performed 'Love Shone Down' and what a performance it was. We were all in awe of their talent and bravery in front of so many people. Eloise and Freya both read very long and tricky readings, which they delivered with expression and clarity. I was a very proud headteacher! Thank you to all the parents who supported this special occasion.

Thank you to everyone involved, especially our incredible choirmaster Mr Jackson.

Rocksteady

The Rocksteady bands amazed us last year and continue to excel this year. The bands performed to the whole school showing bravery and talent. The children absolutely loved watching them all. It really was a memorable end to a busy, festive few weeks. Well done to all of the children involved - you were incredible. If your child is interested in joining a band, please contact Rocksteady.

Christmas Dinner

The children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner on Thursday, cooked on site by our



wonderful kitchen team. All accessorised with party hats, crackers and a cheesy joke or two! Thank you to all the adults who helped make it such a lovely whole school event.



Notices

Playtimes

We are currently developing playtimes at school to make them a more fun and active experience for the children. One of the things that we are going to introduce after Christmas is 'Fun Friday' where the children can bring their scooters into school. At lunchtime they will be allowed to play on the astro on their scooters, the children will be able to set up small obstacles and ramps. If you have any equipment that you may be able to donate to the school for the children to use we would be very grateful. Also, if you are handy with scooters and you are willing to offer your Friday lunchtime 12.10pm – 1.10pm, we would also like to have a 'scooter garage', where the children can learn to look after their scooters.

We are also developing play on the main playground and have created zones for the children to play in. The zones are:

- A dance area with a CD player
- A big games area - for chess and/or draughts
- A quiet area, by the library for drawing and crafts
- A games area for basketball/netball (new tall basketball posts are on order)
- Potentially opening up the garden area.
- The astro on a rota for football and Fridays for scooters.

The children will lead each zone; the children who are zone leaders will wear bibs which say Play Leader.

Year 3/4 Reading books

Calling all parents of the children in Year 3 and 4. We have some wonderful new Reading scheme books which the PTA have so generously bought for us. We want to keep them looking brand new for as long as possible. Are you able to volunteer some time, either at home or at school, to help cover the books in sticky backed plastic? Once they are done, we shall be able to increase the variety of books we can offer to the children. Please see you child's class teacher if you can help - the more, the merrier!

No Nutella!

Please can we ask that children do not bring in Nutella in their sandwiches – we have children in school with severe allergies and we are a nut free school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Celebration Assembly EYFS & KS1

There will be no EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly in the first week of term.

Celebration Assembly KS2

There will be no KS2 Celebration Assembly on Friday 11th January due to the whole school mass at St John's Church.

News from St Alphege's

Please see attached for this week's Church Bulletin from St Alphege's.

Please note that the Polish Christmas Eve Supper has had to be cancelled due to illness.

Christmas Mass Times

Please see attached for Christmas Mass times at St John's, St Alphege's and St Peter and Paul's.

Dance Umbrella Club

Don't forget to sign your child up for Helen Smith's Dance Umbrella Club next term, the club is open to children in Years 3-6, please complete and return the attached slip with payment to Helen Smith, c/o the school mail box.

PTA News

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported the events so far this year! Money from the Disco and Raffle is currently being counted and we look forward to sharing how much we have raised for this and for Christmas Cards in the new year!

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and look forward to some new events in the new year.

Hamper for Julian House

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the hamper for Julian House. Two of their representatives came this morning and collected the hamper and were very grateful for the kind donations.



Dates for Your Diary

7 th Jan 2019	Inset day
8 th Jan	Start of Term 3
10 th Jan	KS1 Athletics parents' meeting 9am, info to follow
10 th Jan	Otters Class to Mass at St Alphege's
11 th Jan	Whole school Mass at St John's Church, 10:00am
17 th Jan	Tae Kwon-do demo in KS1 assembly
18 th Jan	Tae Kwon-do demo in KS2 assembly
30 th Jan	EYFS Circus skills workshop (more details to follow)
15 th Feb	End of Term 3
25 th Feb	Start of Term 4
5 th April	End of Term 4

The inset days for the rest of this academic year are as follows:

- Friday 24th May 2019

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Best wishes

Angela Bennett
Head Teacher

Christmas Mass Times

St Alphege's

- Mon 24th Dec** 5pm Children's Vigil Mass – children welcome to come dressed as shepherds/ angels/stars etc
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- Tues 25th Dec** 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

More information in the attached Bulletin.

St John's Church

- Mon 24th Dec** 5.45pm First Mass of Christmas
9.30pm Polish Carol Service
10.00pm Polish Vigil Mass
11.45pm Carols and readings
12.00 Midnight Mass
- Tues 25th Dec** 10.00am Christmas Day Mass
12.30pm Polish Christmas Mass

Please see attached flyer for further information.

St Peter & Paul Church

- Mon 24th Dec** 4.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
11.30pm Carols and Reading before Midnight Mass
- Tues 25th Dec** 10:00am Family Christmas Mass

Please see attached flyer for further information.

Please see the church websites for further information.

**DANCE UMBRELLA DANCE CLUB (YEARS 3 – 6: STREET & CONTEMPORARY)
(2018-19 Terms 3 and 4)**

Year Group: Y3 – Y6

Club Leader Contact:

Day: Friday lunchtime (11th Jan – 5th April, except 18th Jan)

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 (Y1-2) 12.30 -1.00 (Y3-6)

Location: Music Room

Cost: £30.25 (for 11 sessions)

I would like my child in class.....

To take part in HELEN SMITH'S DANCE UMBRELLA DANCE CLUB

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to HELEN SMITH

I give permission for the club leader to contact me on the following contact number in the case of a session being cancelled:

Any medical information:.....

Signed.....

Please place this slip with payment in a sealed envelope addressed to HELEN SMITH and return to the office as soon as possible