



Mary Exton News



Autumn Term Newsletter 6

19th December 2018

Dear All,

Thank you all for your continued support towards the school over the past term. We continue on our forward journey and a great deal has happened again over the past term. We have welcomed the new faces to Reception as well as in other year groups. We have said goodbye to those moving away or relocating with new roles, as well as welcoming new faces to the team. There have been many behind the scenes changes and systems which have been reviewed and updated, and we have also managed to embrace Twitter and additional online booking systems! Year 5 went on a residential visit for the first time and films were created in the film studios. There have been many visits and trips and we have all enjoyed learning together. Cakes were made and decorated for McMillan, Different activities took place for Children in Need, and overall a substantial amount of money has been raised for both our school and Charity.

The performances over the past couple of weeks have been fantastic, and have certainly started the festive season for us and our Christmas Dinner yesterday was fantastic – thank you to the wonderful kitchen team!

We hope that you are able to join us for our informal carol concert on Friday afternoon. If you would like to join us then please come to the school hall for 1pm with your singing voices at the ready, and don't worry there are no dance moves to join in with this time!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Most importantly I hope that you are all able to spend quality time as a family.

Please remember that we close tomorrow at 1:45pm, and that we have an INSET day on Monday 7th January and we will see you all back on Tuesday 8th January.

Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to all who have contributed to our tree for the festival. The theme was 'family' and can now be seen in the main entrance near the school office. Thank you to Miss Graddon and Mrs Day for co-ordinating and decorating it for us.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to the Poppy appeal this year, we raised £32.48.

Phonic Assessment 2018

As some of you may have seen on our twitter account recently, we have received a letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP congratulating us all on our outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check. Well done to everyone!

Staff Update

As announced previously, Mrs Sarah Miles will be joining us at the beginning of January 2019 as Reception Teacher (Monday – Wednesday) and will be working alongside Miss Isher. We also welcome Mrs Brocklehurst as she joins the team in Year 4 until the end of the academic year, working alongside Mrs Choudhury. We are also pleased to see Mrs Walters back with us, and there will be an opportunity for parents evening early in the new year for Y5 parents.

At the end of term we are saying goodbye to Miss Krishman as she moves to a new school to continue her Sport's Apprentice training and we wish her well for the future – her dancing skills for the school play will clearly be missed! We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Sharif who has been part of the premises team for over 5 years. We wish you both well as you move to new opportunities.

As you are already aware, Mrs Stewart is leaving us and Mrs Taylor will be our SENCO from January. Mrs Stewart and Mrs Taylor have been working closely and will continue to do so until Mrs Stewart leaves next week. There will be a number of opportunities to meet with Mrs Taylor in the new year in her new role.

Severe Weather

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the School's procedures in the event that severe weather or another emergency forces us to close the School. This is not a decision we take lightly and in the interest of parents and also for staff who have to travel from a distance we will try to make this decision by 7.30 am. We will send a text via the Schoolcomms system to all parents, and also, the Everbridge system will be notified. By registering for the School Closure Notifications System, you will automatically receive any notification. This may be either that the School is open or closed. This is the system which is used by Hertfordshire County Council. To sign up to the Everbridge system, please visit:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

This link will direct you to the 'sign up' page. Please click on the 'sign up' button located on the grey strip at the top right hand side of the page and then follow the on screen instructions.

The following radio stations should also receive any closure notification although please be aware that when lots of schools have to close, it may take some time for them to update their lists:

- BBC Three Counties Radio (103.8 FM)
- Heart Radio (96.9 FM)

We will also endeavour to update the school website. If you know the School is closed, please contact friends to pass the message on. By helping us in this way, we will be able to deal with the situation quickly and efficiently.

Safety update: Button Batteries

In the run up to Christmas, it's especially important to be aware of toys and devices that use button batteries (the flat disc-like silver batteries) and to make sure we keep children safe by using, storing and disposing of them properly. It's extremely dangerous to swallow button batteries or to insert them into noses or ears where they can still create a circuit and cause harm. Button batteries are in far more products that you might initially think, including car key fobs, musical cards and books as well as toys that are powered and household electrical items, such as a thermometer. Always make sure that button batteries are securely stored out of sight and reach of children. When they are no longer powering items, dispose of them safely and do not leave them laying around – they can still harm children if swallowed, even if the product they power needs new ones. We have created the attached poster to use on your site or in your communications to raise awareness and make sure children are kept safe. If you suspect that a child or young person has swallowed a button battery, seek medical advice urgently and take them to A&E. (Please see the attached poster.)

Communication

Over the past few weeks I have spoken to a number of parents in relation to communication between home and school. Concerns have been raised as to the number of emails which are sent and the high frequency. In the new year we will be looking as to how these can be reduced and possibly only sent on certain days. We will continue to produce the monthly newsletter and ensure that the website and twitter are regularly updated.

Christmas Card Post-Boxes

The last day for posting cards to class mates was today.

Hitchin Partnership

Thank you all for your donations of Mince Pies for the Partnership appeal. We exceeded the pledged quantity of 60 boxes, and have been able to deliver 70 boxes! Well done everyone.

Christmas Productions

We still have a number of photos of the EYFS and KS1 productions if you would like any. DVD's will also be available shortly. Well done to everyone involved and to those who attended – another great year!

Clubs

The online clubs booking remains open until the start of term. Clubs will then be allocated and you will receive notification during the first week of term. Clubs will start week beginning 14th January 2019

Easyfundraising

Thank you to all of you who have now registered for Easyfundraising. It really is such an easy system to use, and costs you nothing, but the donations made by the retailers slowly add up - £52 has been raised in the last 30 days alone. So please think of us and help Mary Exton raise free funds today by shopping online via 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

W/B		Gold Book
3 rd December 2018	Year 1:	Renee & Jack
	Year 2:	Nevaeh & Oliver
	Year 3:	Livvy & Michael
	Year 4:	Mattia & Sarah
	Year 5:	Bobby & Gurnehar
	Year 6:	Scarlett E & Reuben