

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems such a long time ago that I last wrote to you. Mrs Griffiths, our deputy headteacher, drew up the previous newsletter as I was away from school attending the annual conference for Oxfordshire special school headteachers, followed by an international exchange programme where I visited a number of schools in Japan. Both were interesting and worthwhile events: for very different reasons. The headteacher's conference was especially useful as it provided my colleagues and I with the opportunity to press the county council for additional funding for all present and future pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. We have high hopes that this message is being taken seriously, and we will continue to fight for your child's right to have their needs met. Equally, my time in Tokyo reinforced my belief that societies benefit from a shared set of values that are based on respect and reinforced through schools that are adequately funded.

Thank you for those who attended last week's Carol Concert. We look forward to welcoming even more of you into school for Tuesday's production of *Santa's on Strike!* Please respect the time and effort that has gone into preparing for this event by not speaking over the children on stage and refrain from holding conversations on your mobile telephones during the performance. On the note of smart phones, whilst you will be allowed to take pictures of your child whilst they are on stage, please do not post any images of the Christmas performance online via social media. The performance starts at 1.00pm, but parking and access to the school will only be available from 12.30pm or, as soon after 12.30pm as is possible, to allow for the Hall to be made ready for a 1.00pm start.

To date, 25 of you have offered responses to the invitation to comment on the possibility of altering the school day each Friday. If this step was to be actioned, it would save the school close to £40,000 per year. Such a saving could be spent on a wealth of extra-curricular activities. For example, I am keen to re-establish Forest School sessions, hold more week-long residential visits to adventure centres and invite visitors into school who can provide specialised workshops and/or stage one-off events for the pupils to enjoy.

Now that Winter is starting to take a firm hold on the weather, please ensure your child's school jumper has his or her name sown into the label or their name written on it in permanent marker pen. A number of you have recently raised the point that these garments are quick to go missing and costly to replace. With 86 pupils on roll it is hugely challenging and time consuming to ensure all jumpers are returned to their rightful owners. We would hate for the pupils to be absent from school due to feeling the effects of the cold.

This being my last newsletter before the two-week holidays (the school term ends at the usual time on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December) please accept mine and the staff's best wishes for the season and our desire for you to have a prosperous and peaceful start to 2019. We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and are able to spend time with your family, friends and loved ones and look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis

Headteacher



### **Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):**

Red Kite have been practising our socks off for the Christmas play, learning lines, singing songs and making props. We have been reciting poetry in English, and have written riddles, tongue twisters and rhyming couplets. In Maths we have been looking at fractions and problem solving. Our classroom is looking beautiful with all of the Christmas decorations that we have made (in a bid to beat Osprey class in the "most Christmassy classroom" competition!). We had an absolute blast at the theatre, watching the Creation Theatre's Peter Pan!

### **Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):**

Falcon have had an exciting time for the last week of term with the school performance on Tuesday followed by going North Wall Arts Centre to see a production of Peter Pan. The children thought it was amazing and enjoyed the lights and drama of the theatre. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this term. On behalf of myself and Mrs Ackland, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### **Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):**

The children in Kingfisher class have completed some brilliant Big Writes over the last few weeks, one on a yeti sighting and one about our trip to Peter Pan. We had a great time watching Peter Pan and sharing our favourite parts of the show. In Science, we have been learning about skeletons and muscles and thinking about how they help our bodies. On Monday we carried out an investigation to explore what muscles we use to complete different activities. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **The Nest (Miss Youngman):**

In the Nest this week we have been getting ready for our Christmas play, working hard to learn our lines and songs. To help us to get into the Christmas spirit we have been learning about The Charles Dickens story, 'A Christmas Carol'. The story prompted some excellent discussion around the meaning of Christmas. We have done

some art work linked to the story and will be doing some descriptive writing next week on Scrooge. In Numeracy we have been doing a statistics unit, learning all about tally charts and graphs.

### **Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):**

Despite Christmas preparations being in full swing with collecting the Christmas tree, making Christmas wreaths and decorating the classroom; Chaffinch are still hard at work completing end of term assessments. In Literacy we have been focusing on reading and how to approach the questions asked in a SATs paper. We have been exploring co-ordinates in Maths, creating some Christmas images. Our focus in Science this week was water resistance, thinking about how the shape of an object affects the rate it sinks. I have been very impressed with the efforts made in PE this term, especially in our dance sessions. Well done Chaffinch class for an excellent first term.

### **Robin class (Miss Davies):**

In Robin class, we have been rehearsing our Christmas performance at every opportunity and are becoming confident in performing. In Science, we have looked at forces, focusing on air resistance. We took part in an investigation testing parachutes and recording our results fairly. In English, we have focused on persuasive writing. We have put forward arguments on which theme park ride is the best. We have practiced different division methods in Maths. Over the last week we have enjoyed taking part in Christmas events and have contributed towards a class member's sister's charity #TeamMikayla

### **Wren Class: (Mrs Silk):**

Wren class have been enjoying finding treasure in our garden and then researching what it could be. We have also worked hard to write a letter to Father Christmas and then written the address ready to post. We loved going over to St Edwards for Christmas dinner and were very excited to meet Father Christmas after too. A festive week full of lots of singing practice and also crafts and cake making!

### **Osprey Class (Mr Moar):**

In Osprey we have been looking at similes and metaphors in different types of media, including poems, stories, songs and films. We have been improving our descriptive writing skills by implementing these in our writing. In Maths we have been converting weights from grams to kilograms and vice versa. We have undertaken a science investigation looking to find the most suitable material for building a bridge. We have also been practicing for the school Christmas play and learning about the Christmas story. We have also been looking at how different countries celebrate Christmas. The children all very much enjoyed the Christmas dinner and party and they have also been busy with end of term assessments where they have been demonstrating everything that they have learnt this term. They have worked very hard indeed!

### **Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):**

Woodpeckers have been looking at the relationship between fractions and percentages, as well as looking at features of poetry in preparation for them creating their own poems... whilst also keeping on top of rehearsals for the Christmas carol concert (which was lovely by the way!) and our Christmas play! The Classroom is beginning to look quite Christmassy, after some sterling decoration production from the children, and we're all very much looking forward to seeing Peter Pan over the road!

### **Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):**

Eagle class have been enjoying making Christmas decorations, including a 3-X table star, as well as baking gingerbread men. We had a fantastic morning at The North Wall this week, watching a very interesting version of Peter Pan and wrote a recount about the visit for our big write session. We have been looking at properties of 2D shape and learning lots of new maths vocabulary. In Science we've continued looking at forces and had a go at using force meters. Christmas play rehearsals are going well, and we are looking forward to performing for you all next week.