

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 3

December

2016

Dear Parents

'Tis the season to be jolly!

December is a wonderful time to be in school. There are so many exciting things going on which make it a happy time for everybody involved in our school.

Thank you to those parents who supported their children in making the coat hanger decorations for our corridors. They really create a Christmas feel and added to the wonderful atmosphere at our Christmas Fair. A big thank you to the PTA for all their hard work to raise money for the school.

It has been lovely to see how well supported the children are at the plays and services the school invites parents to attend. It has been my pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Christingle services, the Foundation Tableau and the Key Stage 1 Nativity Play, A Midwife Crisis. I have been so proud of the way our children sing, say their lines, dance, perform their actions and play musical instruments. We have some very talented actors and actresses in our midst. Well done to all the children; you have helped make my first Christmas at Woodley C of E very special.



School Uniform.

One of the duties that I undertake with the Governors of the school is a review of our policies on an agreed cycle. You will have received with this newsletter a copy of our School Uniform Policy. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for making sure that your children come to school looking so smart every day with the correct clothing needed for PE. Please take a look at the policy, just to remind yourselves of some of the detail. We believe that uniform is an important part of our school ethos and staff will be upholding our expectations. If you ever have a problem with correct uniform, for example, your child has outgrown their shoes and there are only a few days of term left, please let your child's class teacher know. We are happy to listen when there are genuine reasons.

Merry Christmas

All that remains for me to do is to wish you and your children a very MERRY CHRISTMAS. I hope you all have the opportunity to rest over the Christmas period and enjoy time with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 5th January.

Best Wishes

Louisa Gurney
Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

We can hardly believe that it is almost Christmas which means that the children have been at school for a full term now! The children have settled in well and are gaining more independence.

Throughout December, we have been focusing on Christmas and even had a special visit from some elves. Rita (Chestnut) and Elvis (Willow) have given us lots of presents to help with our learning such as books and games, as well as causing some mischief along the way!

The children worked extremely hard with their Christmas Tableau performance, learning all the words and songs. The team would like to thank you all for providing the costumes, as well as coming to show your support on the day! It was fantastic to see you all there.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Miss Humphrey at the end of term. I am sure you would like to join us in saying thank you for her fantastic work with the children this term and good luck in her new school! It is not all sad news however as this means we say welcome back to Ms Lord after having her baby girl.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Miss Bond, Acting Phase Leader.



Key Stage 1: (Years 1&2)

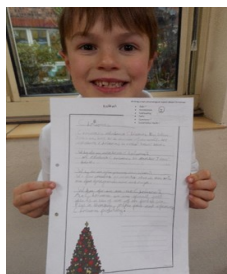
Well, what a busy few weeks we've had in KS1! Not only have we been fine-tuning our wonderful Christmas nativity but we have also been finishing off our 'My Amazing Body' topic.

In preparation for Christmas, the Y2 children have written some non-chronological reports about Christmas. They worked on these independently and we were amazed at the work they produced. The Y1s have also produced some lovely writing without any adult support – well done Y1!

In maths, we've been learning about weight and have measured out ingredients for reindeer food. The children wrote a poem for the tag in their very best handwriting – some were neater than their teacher's writing!

After Christmas, we will be starting a new topic about fairy tales. The children in KS1 have taken part in a vote to decide what story we will use in our English lessons next half term. Results TBC!

Mrs Blakely, Acting Phase Leader.



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

We have been continuing our work on the ancient Egyptians, finally covering the all-important topic of mummification! As part of this, we made our own version of a canopic jar from clay. We enjoyed doing this as a phase, even if it caused the adults a certain amount of stress and generated a fair bit of work for Mrs Holmes when it came to cleaning the classrooms after school! In maths we have learnt about fractions and decimals and are pleased to report that everyone survived the experience. In English, we have been studying the features of newspaper reports and have enjoyed writing our own. In the last week, we have all taken part in workshops about the meaning of Christmas with RE Inspired and have been singing carols, so we are now feeling festive and are ready for our Christmas break. When we return in the New Year, we will be making a 'Giant Leap' and travelling to the 'Final Frontier' with our topic of 'Aviation and Space'.

Mrs Morton, Acting Phase Leader



Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

This month, although short, has been very busy. In literacy we have enjoyed writing our own gripping narratives based on the wonderful book 'The Little Hen War'. We included lots of dialogue, punctuated accurately, and vocabulary of the day.

In maths, we have now mastered adding and subtracting fractions and can identify the properties of 3D shapes - constructing some complex shapes from nets, including a dodecahedron!

Having RE Inspired in to explain the true meaning of Christmas, always signals the start to the festive season. We are currently finishing off our salt dough decorations and holly wreaths, impressed our teachers with our neat and beautiful Christmas sewing.

As well as Christmas, we are now looking forward to going back further in time to study the Ancient Greeks next term.

Mrs Sharman, Acting Phase Leader.



Sporting News

A quiet month for sport. The upper juniors took part in the Indoor Athletics competition at Bulmershe where they participated with their usual enthusiasm. As yet we do not have the results but whatever they are, the children gave complete commitment to each activity.

It is the end of the season for the football team and they look forward to entering their new league next term.

Mr Colin Blakely, Deputy Head / Mrs Jane Poole, P.E Coordinator / Mr Michael Clare, First For Sports Coach

Sporting Fixture Dates

Thursday 26th January - Cross Country - The Look Out - times tbc

Thursday 2nd March - Cross Country - Reddam House - times tbc

Thursday 23rd February - Cross Country - Crosfields - times tbc

Thursday 23rd March - Cross Country - Bulmershe - times tbc

Reminders from the Office

Clubs:

Club forms will be coming home at the end of term. Forms will also be on the website.

Lost Property:

Available to check through on Tuesday 20th December from 2.30pm in the central area.

Toys:

With the imminent arrival of Father Christmas and all the new toys that arrive, if you have any good quality toys that we could use for the children at lunchtime then we would be really grateful. Toys such as farm sets, garages, cars, Lego and construction sets would be ideal.

End of Term:

School will finish on Tuesday 20th December at **2.30pm**. Children return to school on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Electronic Communication:

Welcome to our first electronic only version of the newsletter. From the New Year we will be looking at ways to further improve our electronic communication with you, helping us to significantly reduce production costs.



Dates

December

Monday 19th - 9.00am - Junior Carol Service at St Johns Church

Tuesday 20th - **Term ends at 2.30pm**

Wednesday 21st - Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas holiday

January

Wednesday 4th January - INSET day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 5th January - school returns

Tuesday 10th - Yr 5 Information Evening for Little Canada - 7pm

Friday 13th January - Guitar presentation during assembly - 10.10am

Monday 16th January - PTA Meeting - PTA Room - 8pm

Monday 16th January - all clubs start

Thursday 26th - Cross Country Event - The Look Out (times tbc)

February

Monday 6th - KS2 SATS Information Evening - 6.30pm

13th - 17th - Half Term

Thursday 23rd - Cross Country Event - Crosfields (times tbc)

March

Thursday 2nd - Cross Country Event - Reddam House (times tbc)

Tuesday 14th - KS1 trip to Windsor Castle (details to follow)

Sunday 19th March - WASMA Concert

Monday 20th - Foundation Stay and Play Afternoon - 2.30pm (details to follow)

Monday 20th - Parent Consultations 5-8pm

Wednesday 22nd - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.30pm

Thursday 23rd - Cross Country Event - Bulmershe (times tbc)

Monday 27th - LKS2 Evening performance 6.30pm

Tuesday 28th - LKS2 Afternoon performance 2pm

Wednesday 29th - Ministers Assembly and Coffee Morning KS1 9am / KS2 9.30am

Wednesday 29th - LKS2 Evening performance 6.30pm

Friday 31st - Term Ends 2.30pm

