



Newsletter – Friday 15th December 2023

Firstly, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre yesterday. Not only did it help raise some much-needed money to support school funds, but it was a lovely community event with parents, children and staff mingling in a festive atmosphere and enjoying the afternoon. It was lovely to have the support of a group of parents who have volunteered to be part of a fundraising group, and we hope to have a few more come on board in the spring as we start to plan other fundraisers for the rest of the year.

Thanks also to all the parents who came along to the EYFS Nativity on Wednesday and Thursday – as always it was a wonderful event with the children singing their hearts out and enjoying being part of one of the most special parts of the Christmas season. We do appreciate that for EYFS parents in particular we've asked a lot of you in the past week or so, and we will be looking at spreading things out a bit more in the future!

At this time of year, as well as thanking parents and carers for their support and patience, we always want to recognise and show our appreciation for the hard work and flexibility of the staff who continue to teach high quality lessons alongside all the planning mornings, parties, shows, Elf-Runs and Jumper Days! It's at times like this when we can really appreciate what a great community our school really is.

On a less festive note, we have been directed by the DfE and by the Local Authority to review our Attendance Policy and practice and to ensure that we are doing everything that can be 'reasonably expected' to raise the attendance of any pupils with attendance falling below 96%. As a result, many parents will today have received one of two letters from me, depending on whether their child's attendance is below 90% or 92%. We know that receiving these letters is not nice, and want to assure parents that we always want to work with them to make sure their child's attendance is the highest it can be. We are monitoring around 40 other families where attendance is below 96%, and will be sending out more letters before February half-term if the attendance of these children doesn't improve.

We would also like to let you know that we will be working with the EWO from Christmas to issue FPNs for families taking term-time holidays, again in-line with National, Local Authority and school policy, so please be aware of this for any holidays planned for January onwards.

Next week is set to be another very busy but exciting and enjoyable one, with Christmas parties every afternoon, a short music concert for the Keyboard players and choir, the colour-point treat for the house with the most points this half-term, and then the KS1 carol singing and the KS2 Christmas Service at St Edwards on Friday afternoon

Carol concert

Key Stage 1 and EYFS

The carol concert for EYFS and key stage 1 children will start at 1.15. We can only let one parent/carer for each child attend as we don't have enough space in the hall for more. You will be



able to take children home after this. All children in EYFS and Key stage 1 can be collected from 1.45 from their classroom door. If you have older children, you can take them with you to the key stage 2 carol concert at church.

Key stage 2

The Carol concert will start at 2:00pm. All children will be walked up to church with their class and parents can go straight to church. Children can be taken home when the service finishes. Any children who are not collected from church will be walked back to school and can be picked up as normal. Children who have permission to walk home alone will not be able to leave church on their own and will be walked back to school to leave at 3.30. **If your child is on packed lunch please send this in a disposable bag as children cannot take lunch boxes up to church.**

Christmas parties

EYFS Tuesday 19th December

Key Stage 1 Monday 18th December

Lower Key stage 2 Thursday 21st December

Upper key stage 2 Wednesday 20th December

Children can come to school in their party clothes on their party day. Please bear in mind that children will be in normal lessons and outside at playtime so suitable shoes and warm clothing will be required. Please do not send children to school wearing makeup.

School will provide party food and prizes for games. All children will also receive a small gift. This is from the generous donations from Halloween and Christmas card sales.

There is still one raffle prize that has not been claimed and that is the EYFS raffle from the Nativity if you have an orange ticket numbered 201-205 then please bring your ticket to the school office to collect your prize.

And finally the Christmas Fayre raised an approximate total of £1012.