



Friday 14th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our penultimate newsletter of this term, which as usual, contains lots of important news and information. However, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance, if you have any concerns or issues about anything.

## 2018 Primary School League tables

These were published yesterday and can be accessed online - just Google "primary school league tables". The tables contain masses of information but I'd just like to draw your attention to the fact that we were 6<sup>th</sup> out of the 293 schools in Gloucestershire for the % of Year 6 children who achieved Age Related Expectation in Reading, Writing and Maths - a hugely impressive achievement.

## Winners!



Massive congratulations to the school football team - winners of the Gloucestershire Small Schools' Championship on Tuesday evening! The team will now go on to represent the county in the South-West of England finals in April. (Back row from left to right - Mr Major, Liam Burnett-Hockey, Kit Jameson, Monty Silver, Lewis Burnett-Hockey and Zac Bawdon. Front row from left to right, George Brazier, Charlie Buttle, Jesse Howell, Will Parker and Woody Holmes.)

### Save the Children Christmas Jumper day

Everyone looked very festive in school today - amazing to think that just a few short years ago, nobody had ever heard of a Christmas jumper! Thank you for sending in your donations - we raised over £80 for Save the Children and we really enjoyed playing "Stick the Nose on James Blunt" in assembly.

### Improvements to the water supply in Gretton

Many of you will be aware that Severn Trent are planning to upgrade the water pipes in our area. The section of work closest to the school is due to start on the 14<sup>th</sup> January and be completed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> February - this will obviously lead to some disruption as road closures and so forth will be put in place. A copy of the letter we received concerning the project was sent out with last week's newsletter. I have been in contact with Severn Trent and a Customer Services Officer will be visiting school at 8:30 am on Monday morning, so they can begin to understand the issues this will cause and make further plans to reduce the inconvenience and correctly manage all the safety issues. I still plan to attend the community information event on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall in a further attempt to try and ensure that disruption to the school is kept to an absolute minimum.

### School Improvements

Weather permitting, the new clamber stack will be installed during the Christmas holidays, ready for the children to use and enjoy when they return in January.

The girls' toilet and some other areas will be painted during the break.

### House Points

Congratulations to all the children in Stanley, winners of the House Point competition this term. They will be granted a reward for their efforts next week.

### Early Birds and Night Owls

Please remember that all sessions should be paid for in advance - there are still a number of sessions currently in arrears. More Christmassy art and craft activities are planned as well as the usual fun and games.

### Christmas Events, including Christingle

**The Christmas card post box** is now in operation and daily delivery rounds are in operation - you'll find the box in the reception area. Please remember that the recipient's full name and year group or class needs to be clearly written on the front of the envelope. **The last day for posting is Thursday.** The Christmas tree along with the fire place and presents make a lovely festive scene!

Next week there are numerous events to celebrate the festive season. I have **added more information** to the diary dates below but please contact us if you're unsure about anything. We aren't making the Christingles this year but we are going to support the associated charity and so the collection candles have been sent home. If you can spare some change then please return these to school by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December, so they can be collected before the end of term.

## Christmas Diary Dates

Mon 17.12 (9:30 am)

Dress Rehearsal of Christmas Performance (Robins and Kingfishers)

*(This performance will be watched by Eagles and Owls)*

Tue 18.12 (2:00 pm)

Christmas Performance (Robins and Kingfishers)

*Tickets have been allocated and we're expecting 59 people - please bring your tickets to the performance and give yourself enough time to park safely and courteously, so no inconvenience is caused to local residents - thank you.*

Wed 19.12

School Christmas Dinner

(5:30 pm) Christmas Performance (Robins and Kingfishers)

*Children should return to school for 5:15 pm. Tickets have been allocated and we're expecting 89 people - this will be a squeeze and entrance will be by ticket only so please bring them! Please give yourself enough time to park safely and courteously, so no inconvenience is caused to local residents - thank you.*

Fri 21.12.

(9:30 am) Christmas Carol Concert in Church *(This will be led by the children in Owls and their parents are welcome to attend)*

Class/ Key Stage Christmas parties in school

*(Requests for contributions of food may follow)*

End of Term 2

Mon 07.01.19

INSET Day (staff only)

Tue 08.01.19

Start of Term 3

If necessary further dates will be added and details regarding specific events will be sent out in due course.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Whilst Early Birds and Night Owls will be operating as normal next week, our programme of extra-curricular clubs has finished and so there will be no clubs during the last week of term.

## FOGS Update

Raffle tickets for Xmas hampers were put in book bags last week, please can you return them to the school office ASAP with payment and any unused tickets by Friday 14th December. If you would like to purchase extra tickets you can buy them from the school office. The raffle will take place on the 19th December, following the evening performance of the Christmas production. Thanks to all the donations - the hampers look fantastic and some of them are on display in the schools entrance lobby.

Thank You!

## News from around the classes

### **Robins**

Robins have done some very messy maths this week. We have been learning to recognise and describe shapes and used marshmallows and skewers to make 2D shapes. We also made salt dough tree decorations, shape Christmas tree collages and paper snowflakes. Having read the story of 'The Jolly Postman' the children wrote letters to Father Christmas which we shall be sending off to the North Pole ASAP!

### **Kingfishers**

Kingfishers had a fantastic time up at Forest School. First we worked through a treasure hunt of clues about the Great Fire of London, then we had marshmallows, then we had a hot chocolate and then we had a biscuit. "This is the best day ever" said one!

After that, we set fire to our houses - it was a great experience, watching how the fire spread from one house to another and realising how the falling buildings would have helped spread the fire. We sang 'London's Burning' - more than once!

We also saw how important it was for an adult to make sure the fire was properly out, as, when one of the cartons was moved, it caught fire again. A good lesson learnt. A huge thank you to Mrs Wycherley for her help.

Later, after our return to school, we then had the excitement of watching Sarah's volcano erupting. It was really quite magical, and "spouty"! Just one morning of excitement in Kingfishers .....what will next week bring?!



### **Owls**

Owls have been getting into a festive mood with our writing this week, looking at the story, 'Coming Home' by Michael Morpurgo. It tells the story of a robin making its danger filled migration from Scandinavia and all of the challenges it faces. We thought hard about the mixed feelings the robin may have during the journey and the children came up with some excellent pieces of advice to the robin.

## Eagles

I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll huff and I'll puff and... who knew the big bad wolf had asthma and couldn't possibly have blown the houses down? Eagles uncovered insurance fraud on the part of the Three Little Pigs in Write Here, Write Now this week. The children have also been working hard on understanding fractions, including adding fractions with different denominators and multiplying decimal fractions.

## Birthday Bulletin



Birthdays coming up.....

**Dougie Steward, Lewis and Liam Burnett-Hockey**

**Congratulations!**

## School Meals

To help your child choose their school dinners, here's next week's menu - **please remember that we're having Christmas dinner on Wednesday with either traditional turkey or a vegetarian option of cheese, spinach and cranberry roulade. Please make sure your child knows if they're having Christmas dinner as they will need to put their hand up at the appropriate time during morning registration**, and also ensure that all KS2 children have sufficient credit on their ParentPay lunch accounts to pay for this meal (£2.36) and all meals to the end of term. The menu for Thursday is also different to usual - please see below:

NEXT WEEK'S MENU (17.12.18)				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Chicken & Broccoli Pasta Bake	Christmas Dinner!	Sausages and potato wedges	Fish & Chips
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Five Bean Chilli	Vegetable Frittata	Cheese, Spinach and Cranberry Roulade	Jacket Potato with beans and cheese	Bean Burger & Chips
OR	OR	OR		OR
Jacket Potato with Tuna	Tomato Soup with half Filled Baguette		-	Jacket Potato with Cheese
Sweetcorn, Mixed Salad	Green Beans & Carrots	Roast Potatoes, Glazed Carrots & Garden Pea Medley	-	Garden Peas & Baked Beans
Pear & Ginger Sponge/Yoghurt/ Fruit Platter	Rice Pudding Yoghurt/ Fruit Salad	Christmas Biscuits or Iced Sponge	Banana Cake with Custard/Yoghurt/ Fruit Salad	Cheese, Biscuits & Apple/Yoghurt/ Fruit Station

*This week's 'Golden Children' (14.12.18)*

**Robins**

Leo Lindley for making great progress sounding out and blending words in phonics and in his reading books. Arthur Holland for sounding out and writing labels for his Christmas list by himself.

**Kingfishers**

Rowan Wycherley for her excellent singing and acting in our play rehearsals. Erin Riley, Ines Silver and Hugo Millar for their lovely, clear narrating in the play. Delilah Shakespeare for her brilliant listening this week.

**Owls**

Alissa Bowden for her hard work and determination to understand fractions and decimals. Leo Bray for his thoughtful advice to the robin about what to do next.

**Eagles**

Fenton Weatherley-Kaye and Issy Rayfield for their efforts in Maths.

Best wishes to all members of the school community and I hope you enjoy the weekend.

*Mr R Woolston*  
Headteacher