



~Learning together, aiming high~

Kington St Michael CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Christmas Post Box Christmas Lunch Christmas Discos Christmas Church Service
Nativity Christingles Christmas Fayre Clubs Money Raised Emergency Closure
Governor News Wall of Fame Congratulations Supersonic Superstars 50/50 Club
Diary Dates Assembly Visitors and Theme

Here are a few Christmas reminders.....

Christmas Postbox

The last day for children to post cards in our school post box for their friends or teachers is Monday 18th December. Please remember to put the class name on the envelope, as well as the recipient.

Christmas Lunch

As you know, we shall be having our traditional Christmas lunch on Monday 18th December - although with a Victorian twist! We would like the children to wear their Victorian costumes on this day. Any children not having a Christmas meal will still join us in the hall for the celebrations.

Christmas Discos

These will take place on Tuesday 19th December from 2.15-3pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 3-4pm for Year 3 to Year 6. Children may wear their party/disco clothes to school on that day. Please note that children will still require their packed lunch or school dinner on this day.

Christmas Church Service

We hope to see lots of you at our Christmas Church service on Wednesday 20th December at 1.30pm. This is always a lovely end to the term and will really get you in to the festive spirit. Again, there will be a Victorian theme to our service and we would like the children to come to school in their Victorian costumes on this day.

Nativity

Congratulations to the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 for their wonderful nativity play this week. All the children demonstrated great confidence at such a young age and the singing was beautiful. Many thanks to the teachers and teaching assistants for their hard work in preparing for the production. A DVD of the performance is available from the office (£5).

Christingles

Your child will be bringing home a Children's Society Collecting Candle. If you would like to donate, please put any loose change in the candle and take it to the Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve in St Michael and All Angels Church. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend the service, please return to school before the end of term. At this service there will be a Nativity play if you would like to join in, please come along in costume!

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came along to the KSM Christmas Fayre and supported the school and other community groups. The school table raised a grand total of £86.40.

The wonderful goodies that the children made in class raised £48.20. A big thank you to Mrs Harvey, Luke Symons, Harry Maxwell, Josh Maxwell and Ben Harvey for manning the stand with big smiles and for raising an extra £12 for the school from their popular lucky dip buckets.

The boys also sold some of Ben Harvey's Grandma's knitted goods and jewellery, which raised another £26.20.

A big thank you as well to Orla Gilham, who did a wonderful job as Santa's elf, taking all the children into the magical grotto.

And last, but not least, congratulations to Tabitha Sidaway for winning the Christmas card competition. Well done to everyone who entered the competition - all the entries were fantastic and the judge found it very difficult to choose just one winner in each age group.

Clubs

Please remember that there are **no** after school clubs or music lessons in the last week of term or the first week of next term - Term 3 (4th and 5th January). Clubs and music will start again from Monday 8th January.

Money Raised

Thank you for supporting our annual book fayre. We raised £620 for new books for the school. This will really help us to purchase some quality texts for our new library.

We also raised £95.80 for the Poppy Appeal. This is largely due to the very kind donation (and hours of knitting) of beautiful wool poppies from Mrs Harvey.

We also raised a brilliant £240.51 for Children in Need.

Emergency Closure

We got very close to having to close at the beginning of the week and had to carefully consider the safety of staff and pupils on site and for the journey in to school. Many schools in the area took the decision to close but, as KSM had little snowfall compared to other areas, staff managed to make it in. However, it is often necessary to consider closure if areas where staff live are worse. This seems like a good opportunity to remind you of our emergency closure procedures:

We do not take the decision to close the school lightly, as we would much rather the children were in school and understand that it can be very inconvenient for parents. However, we shall always base our decision on the safety of everyone. Snow may be worse in other areas than in the village. Staff may not be able to make it in, or we may not be able to make the school grounds safe, due to snow or ice.

We would hope to make a decision the evening before a closure and would post this on the Homepage of our website and send out an email to all parents. However, this is not always possible and we may have to make the decision in the morning, if there has been heavy overnight snow or freezing temperatures. In this case, we would have the information on our website by 7.30am. We shall also email all parents informing of a closure by 7.30am. Please ensure that we have your correct email addresses.

The best place for up-to-date information is our school website, but we will also inform local radio stations in the event of a closure.

www.kingtonstmichaelschool.co.uk
Heart FM radio (97.20 & 102.2 FM)
BBC Radio Wiltshire (103.6FM, 104.3FM)

Governor News (Chris Sherman - Foundation Governor)

On behalf of all the governors, may I wish a very happy and peaceful Christmas to everyone connected to the school – staff, pupils, parents and carers, and everyone who helps and supports the work here in any way.

I hope that you enjoy all the events and celebrations leading up to Christmas, both those at school, and wherever you will be over the holiday period.

You may be one of those efficient people who are already looking at a pile of wrapped presents and a well-stocked freezer – if so, you have my admiration. But if the thought of Christmas being only 10 days away fills you with panic, fear not – as the Nativity angel will no doubt say. If it's any comfort, people weren't prepared for the very first Christmas, despite it being forecast hundreds of years in advance, so at least we're keeping up with tradition!

As a Foundation governor, part of my role is to ensure that the school maintains its church school distinctiveness. That doesn't mean that we want to convert everyone to Christianity, but it does require us to reflect Christian values in everything we do – and never more so than at Christmastime. I hope you and your children find that the various events here at KSM - the Christmas lunch, the parties and the church service - *all* reflect the true spirit of Christmas. Because at its heart, of course, Christmas is a birthday party – and it would be a dull old party without family and friends, food and drink, and a bit of singing, so we need to make sure that there's plenty of opportunity for all of that!

And just a thought: the best Christmas gift doesn't have a screen, but a face – yours! So while we may or may not be able to give or receive the latest devices, we *can* give each other the gifts of our time, attention and presence (pun intended).

Finally, Christmas is also a good time to think of others, often less-fortunate than ourselves. So it was great to hear about the food collection started by Georgia, James and Charlotte, using Advent as a reason to do something positive for others every day in the weeks before Christmas. I hope that venture is a great success – and that they also manage to collect some chocolate for themselves!

Wall of Fame

Even this late in the term and with all the other excitement, the children continue to work hard to produce their best work at all times and concentrate on the presentation of every piece of work.

Beautiful work in the Hall of Fame this month comes from:

Blackbirds - Hector Duncombe

Sparrows - Charlie Burnham

Eagles - Maddison Dennis

Kingfishers - Daniel Harris

Hawks - William Vickery

Congratulations

Very well done to Jake Drew, who has been awarded his green belt in martial arts; Imogen Drew, who has been awarded her brown strip badge 2 in martial arts; and, Kristen Ramsay, who has passed her Tae Kwon Do Kicking Dragons grading and is now a black belt; Angel Metcalfe came first in her category in the Christmas gymnastics competition and has passed her level 3 badge in gymnastics.

Supersonic Superstars

Well done to the following children who have impressed their teachers in the last month:

Blackbirds - Lily Pickard, Sawyer Wolfram, Sophia Coningham, Isla Peattie, Tina-Louise Murray, Digby Lamming, Isobel Harwood, Jake Drew, Maximillian Birch, Caleb Robinson

Sparrows - Isabella Rattos-Sales, Joshua Crump, Lex Tu, Rory Buck, Rowan Hosey, Kit Harford, Jessica Turner, Jack Fenwick, Eloise Eggleston, Harper Jewitt

Eagles - Abigail Tobin, George Hayes, Gracie Robinson, Angel Metcalfe, Edward Vickery, Jaxson Harris, Jefferson Lamming, Angus Jewitt, Alethea Owen, Nancy Meehan

Kingfishers - Oliver Pym, Alfie Robinson, Alex Faroppa, Alice Bennett, Olivia Eddy, Louisa Niker, James Ives, Callum Dennis, Lucy Rogers, Jamie Powell

Hawks - Tia Harris, Luke Symons, Isabelle Armstrong, Emily Dickie, Macy Cathala, Ben Galeozzie, Emma Holtby, Ben Harvey, Florence Hayes, George Kirby

50/50 Club

Winners for the 50/50 club are:

November

J Henderson £20

K Cavey £10

December

T Eggleston £40

I Isherwood £20

Assembly Visitors

We have a member of the Clergy to lead assembly each week – usually on a Wednesday. If you would like to attend any of these, please feel free to do so. Assembly takes place from 12.40pm to 1pm.

Wednesday 10th January Trevor Ranger

Wednesday 17th January Jonathan Brain

Wednesday 24th January Rev Andrew Gubbins

Wednesday 7th February Trevor Ranger

Wednesday 21st February Rev Andrew Gubbins

Wednesday 28th February Jonathan Brain

Wednesday 7th March Trevor Ranger

Wednesday 14th March Rev Andrew Gubbins

Wednesday 21st March Jonathan Brain

Assembly Theme

Each term we focus on a different Christian Value. We discuss the meaning, use and benefits of the Value in assemblies and circle time and encourage its use around school. We look at what the word means, different words meaning the same and why it is important in our lives. Value Certificates are awarded to those who have demonstrated that particular value well.

Parents may find it useful to know which Value we are focusing on each term, in order to discuss at home. Don't forget that you can find out more about this term's value by looking on our website. Follow the link 'Our School' on the Homepage menu and then visit the 'School Council and Worship Council' page. You will find a link called "Home – School Value".

Our Value for Term 3 will be **Peace**.

DIARY DATES

Thurs 4 th Jan	Start of Term 3
Mon 8 th Jan	Schools Direct student in Hawks for Terms 3 and 4
Thurs 18 th Jan	Clubs and Music lessons begin
Mon 22 nd Jan	KS1 Cricket Festival at The Dome
	Assessment Week
Wed 24 th Jan	Year 3/4 Multiskills Festival at Abbeyfield
Thurs 25 th Jan	Hockey Festival at Sheldon
Fri 26 th Jan	Year 5 visit to Sheldon Science Fair
Mon 29 th Jan	Bikeability session
Wed 31 st Jan	SATs Information Meeting for Year 6 parents (2.15-3pm)
Mon 5 th Feb	Blackbirds Learning Journey sharing with parents (2.30-3.30pm)
Wed 7 th Feb	Hawks Dance Festival at The Neeld
	Pick and Mix Homework in
	Pick and Mix displays open to parents (2-4pm)
Fri 9 th Feb	End of Term 3
Mon 19 th Feb	TD DAY
Tues 20 th Feb	Start of Term 4
Mon 26 th Feb	No Teacher-led clubs this week
Tues 27 th Feb	Parent / Teacher Consultations (3-6pm)
Thurs 1 st March	Parent / Teacher Consultations (3-6pm)
Mon 5 th March	Fairtrade Fortnight begins
	Sex Education video showing for Year 5 and Year 6 parents (2.15pm)
Wed 7 th March	Chippenham Children's Parliament
Thurs 8 th March	SEND Parent / Teacher Consultations (3-6pm)
Fri 9 th March	African Drumming Workshops for all classes
Wed 14 th March	Taste the World Day
Fri 16 th March	Sharing of Fairtrade work with parents (2pm)
Thurs 22 nd March	Class and Leavers' Photographs
Fri 23 rd March	Easter Experience for classes in Church
Thurs 29 th March	Easter Church Service (1.30pm)
	End of Term 4

