



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL

THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter No. 12

Dear Parents/Carers

### Christmas Fayre

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Fayre this evening. Doors open at 5.30 and it will finish at 7.30. There will be lots for the whole family to enjoy, including a wide variety of stalls, activities, refreshments and of course a very special visitor in his grotto!

### Astronomy Evening

It was lovely to see so many of you here at our Astronomy session on Wednesday evening. It was great to have seen the International Space Station pass above us and so interesting to hear Robin's presentation on the capsule launch and the Star of Bethlehem. I hope too that the children enjoyed the opportunity to look closely at the moon through the large telescopes. Thank you to Sonia Gooderham for setting this up and to the other staff who were here to support.

### Pantomime

We are all looking forward to our trip to the Oxford Playhouse on Tuesday. You will have received a letter with reminders of the arrangements. Please ensure the children are at school at 8.20 for registration. I am sure it will be a great experience for all. Information packs for helpers will be given out on Monday. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### BBC Radio Oxford

Please tune in to Radio Oxford next Thursday (12<sup>th</sup> December) to hear a recording of our Senior Choir singing a carol (or possibly two). It will be broadcast at 7.45am and 8.45am, and will also be available on their website throughout the Christmas period.

### Christmas Displays

The children worked hard last week to create our Christmas displays. This year's theme is 'Endangered Species' and each class has chosen a winter animal which is in danger of extinction. This continues our work on making the children and our school community more aware of our wonderful planet and the need to protect and look after it. The displays are in communal areas of the school including the hall and corridors. Please feel free to come in and have a look. We will shortly be putting up photographs of the displays on our website. They are really worth a look.

### Language Inspection

We were visited on Tuesday by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors as part of a fact-finding mission into how Modern Foreign Languages are taught in Primary Schools. We were chosen at random and the inspector observed lessons, interviewed staff, looked at paperwork and discussed the teaching of languages with groups of children. There was no judgement made, nor will there be a report. The inspector will write a letter outlining the strengths and weaknesses of our languages provision and I will summarise this for you when I receive the letter in January.

### Flu Vaccinations

As you know, the School Nurse Team were in school doing flu vaccinations on Wednesday. If you had consented to your child having the vaccination but they were absent and therefore missed this, you should have received a letter explaining how to access the catch-up sessions.



## Gates

As some of you will have noticed, we reviewed the opening times of the gates earlier this week. We were conscious that the gates were timed to be open for longer periods than were necessary. Having amended the timings on Monday, we have subsequently reviewed them again and changed them to reflect more the needs of the school community while equally ensuring our children are kept safe. Please be reminded that staff are on duty from 8.40am on the playground and it is the parents' responsibility up until this time.

## Late Arrivals

I have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late for school. Please be reminded that registration is at 8.50am and the children's learning begins at this time. If children are arriving ten minutes or more late every morning, they will have lost approximately one hour of teaching and learning in a week and this clearly adds up over a longer period of time and will have a negative impact on the children's achievement.

## Footy Kids

The Footy Kids sessions were heavily over-subscribed and therefore not all the children who signed up for it online will be able to take part this time. We hope to run more sessions later next year. You will be contacted by the Footy Kids team to confirm your child's attendance. The first session for Upper Juniors will be next Tuesday, when we return from the pantomime and the first Lower Junior session will be the following Tuesday lunchtime. The school is funding this initial programme.

## Burford Orchestra Christmas Concert

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm, Burford Orchestra are playing a short informal Christmas concert featuring festive favourites and selections from children's films (including Harry Potter and Frozen) at the High Street Methodist Church in Witney. Entrance is free with a retiring collection for church funds. This is a great opportunity for families to hear a live orchestra in a relaxed setting, so please do come along and have a listen.

## Dates of Upcoming Events

Please see below a list of events happening in the final two weeks of term.

Thank you so much for all your support so far this term. Everybody is working really hard during the lead up to Christmas and I look forward to seeing many of you at the various festive occasions in the next fortnight.

Yours sincerely

Chris Payne  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Events

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December     | - 3CW to Christmas Experience at the Methodist Church |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December   | - 8.30. Whole School Pantomime Trip                   |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December  | - 2.00. Infant Nativity                               |
|                                     | - 6.00. Infant Nativity                               |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December    | - 2.15. Year Five Tudor Presentation                  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December    | - 3M to Christmas Experience at the Methodist Church  |
|                                     | - 2.00. Infant Nativity                               |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December   | - 2.00. Infant Party                                  |
|                                     | - 6.30. Carols by Candlelight                         |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December | - Christmas Lunch                                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December  | - 11.00. Christmas Service                            |
|                                     | - 1.45. End of Term                                   |

