

December 8th 2017

## Headteacher's News

Our countdown to Christmas has truly commenced with a great start to our Christmas festivities! We all had a delicious Christmas lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, thanks to our fantastic kitchen team. Many thanks also to the Association for their help with setting up the dining room.

Christmas is a time of joy and that joy was shared by the Foundation Stage when they performed their version of the Christmas Story on Thursday. The children were true superstars with their singing, dancing and narrating in their production of 'Away in a Manger.' Many thanks to all those who helped put the production together but, in particular, the fantastic Foundation Stage staff.

We wish Miss Harding all the best, as she starts her maternity leave. Mrs Clynes will be covering the position while Miss Harding is off and can be contacted on the same SENDCO email address.

I was extremely proud of the year 4 children who took part in the Bishop's Stortford Music Festival this morning. They sang beautifully and were very well behaved. Thank you to the year 4 teachers for organising this event.

## Christmas Fayre—Saturday, 9th December 11.00am-2.00pm

We are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, which plans to be a fantastic occasion!

Activities will include:

- Gameswagon where you can play FIFA and Minecraft
- Father Christmas will be in his grotto this year looking forward to seeing the children
- Festive stalls in the Christmas Market
- Live music this year from Space-Hoppers, The Bishops Stortford Wind Band and our very own Northgate School Choir!
- Homemade lunch,
- Festive games including the legendary Year 6 games to play.

We look forward to seeing you there, supporting the school and the Association.

### Foundation Christmas Production

Parents will be able to order photos and/or a video from the concert before the end of term. Photos will be displayed in the main reception area by the middle of next week when you will be able to place your orders.

### Table Tennis

Luke, Ethan, Callum, Rahul, Annie, Lizzie, Kaitlin and Gemma from year 6 qualified for a County table tennis competition in Watford yesterday.

They were one of 12 teams out of 400 entered. There was a lovely atmosphere in the sports hall and they gave their best, however did not progress any further. A big thank you to Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Crocker and the parents who took the children.



## Important Dates

11th Dec	KS2 panto at Rhodes
11th Dec	KS1 panto in school
11th Dec	<b>Choir</b> Practice at St Michael's pm
	7.00pm <b>Choir</b> Carol service at St Michael's (evening)
<b>12th Dec</b>	<b>9.30am KS1 Dress Rehearsal</b>
13th Dec	2.00pm KS1 Christmas performance
	6.30pm KS1 Christmas performance
14th Dec	Happy Bags Collection
14th Dec	KS2 Carol service at St Michael's
15th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
15th Dec	Puppets Galore
19th Dec	2.00pm End of Term
20th Dec-2nd Jan	Christmas holiday
3rd Jan	Children return to school
11th Jan	Prospective Parent Tour
12th-16th Feb	Half term
19th Feb	Inset Day
29th Mar	Break up for Easter
28th May-1st Jun	Half Term
4th June	Inset Day
20th Jul 2018	Break up for Summer 2018

\*Red = New Item

## Safeguarding

This week we had a County safeguarding audit, which involved looking at our safeguarding procedures. We were delighted that it was a very positive process and by successfully passing the audit, they concluded that procedures are in place to keep our children safe.

### As seen on BBC News!

You may have watched the BBC news item on Tuesday morning, highlighting the dangers of live streaming and Apps being used by children of all ages. The danger of 'strangers' has taken on a whole new meaning and parents are invited to get up to date information and advice at one of the events in the attached flyer. John Woodley, as seen on BBC news, will be presenting the latest information to keep your child safe online. Book early to secure your place.

## Timetable for Next Week

### Monday, 11th December

#### KS1 Christmas Production Costumes

KS1 costumes need to be brought into school on Monday please.

#### KS1 Panto in School

KS1 will have a panto in school at 9.30am on Monday, 11th December.

#### KS2 Panto at the Rhodes Centre

On Monday, 11th December, KS2 will be walking to the Rhodes Centre in the morning for their panto. Please ensure your child comes into school in suitable outdoor clothing. We will be back in time for lunch at school. Due to returning after the school lunch break, those children who normally have a school meal will be provided with a school packed lunch.

#### Year 5/6 Choir Carol Service at St Michael's Church at 7.00pm

Year 5 and 6 school choir members will be taking part in the Bishop's Stortford Primary Schools' Carol Service at St Michael's Church at **7.00pm**. We will be walking down to the church for a rehearsal from the Rhodes Centre (after the panto) in the afternoon and the children will need a packed lunch in a disposable bag. Your child will need to be collected from the church at 3.00pm and returned to the church between 6.30pm and 6.45pm in smart school uniform. A maximum of 2 guests are allowed per child. If you are not attending the service, children need to be collected from the church at 8.00pm.

### Wednesday, 13th December

#### Key Stage 1 Christmas Production - Wednesday 13th December

We look forward to the children from year 1 and 2 performing their nativity concert twice next week. You should have received your tickets by now - please remember them for the performance.

The performances are at **2.00pm and 6.30pm**. In the evening, the KS1 pupils need to arrive back at school at **6.00pm in their costumes**.

If you are bringing pre-school children in the afternoon, please be prepared to take them out via the doors at the back if they become noisy or restless. This will be gratefully appreciated.

The show will be videoed and copies will be sold from the school office.

### Thursday, 14th December

#### KS2 Christmas Carol Concert - Thursday 14th December 2.00pm

All KS2 children will be walking down to church for our Christmas carol concert which will start at 2.00pm. Please could you ensure all children have a suitable coat and that all children who bring in a packed lunch from home, bring this in a disposable bag as they will not be able to carry anything to the church. Children will need to be collected at 3.00pm from the church please. Any parents who need to collect siblings from Foundation and KS1 from school after the service, please be assured they will be kept in class until you arrive. Night Owls children will be walked back to school by staff. The school council have decided that their part of the collection will go to the charity Shelter

### Friday, 15th December

#### Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day will be on Friday, 15th December when children can wear a Christmas jumper, or a jumper that is decorated for Christmas with tinsel, etc., and wear them with their school skirt or trousers. Please could we ask for a small **voluntary** donation for Save the Children.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: (am) - Arabelle  
(pm) - Tessa  
Reception: (R1) - Ava  
(R2) - Annie

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on Artist of the Week.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for their creative use of different media in art.

Well done to:

Class 1: Griff	Class 6: Will
Class 2: Skye	Class 9: Ava, Poppy, Priya
Class 3: Isla	Class 10: Lea
Class 4: Violet	Class 11: Evie S
Class 5: Frank	Class 12: Joel

## Reminders and updates

### Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box is now in operation. Children need to write full names and class of the child (e.g. Joe Bloggs, Class 1) on the envelope and please could parents of younger children support their children to make it legible. Year 6 children will be sorting and delivering in break/lunchtimes.

### Reception Applications 2017/18

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to Reception is **Monday 15 January 2018**. Parents will need to make an application by the closing date to ensure their application is considered as on-time.

Under 11s 2018 leaflets were sent in November to all Hertfordshire residents whose children are registered on the NHS database and born between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014.

Parents should apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or alternatively if they cannot access the internet, they can request a printed version of the website information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

## School Association

### Happy Bags

There will be a Happy Bags clothes recycling collection on the morning of 14th December, between 10am and 11am. The bags will be sent home with the children in their book bags today (Monday for year 4). Filled bags can be left in the bike shelter on or before the morning of the 14th.

## Community

### BUPA Dental Care Bishop's Stortford

We're having a fun day at our dental practice on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will be fun and games but we will also be promoting the benefits of keeping children's teeth healthy. Please see attached a poster about our event.