

Together we care, inspire and achieve excellence



NEWSLETTER 4

December 2017



*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



This time last week I was just deciding whether we would be able to open the school or not because of the wintry weather. On Monday morning teaching staff, LSAs, governors and Anne from the kitchen all worked together to clear the snow so we could get children safely into school. The children all enjoyed playing in the snow later that day. The Christingle service went ahead as planned that afternoon and the slight stress we always feel with the thought of all those children with lighted candles was worth it. The icy conditions on Tuesday made it too dangerous for us to open - thank you for your support in this. I think Friday's snow caught us all by surprise - I certainly hadn't expected to be out with the shovel and salt again!



And in between it all we had two wonderful performances of Donkey for Sale from the children in reception and key stage 1. My thanks to everyone who worked so hard in producing such a delightful version of the Nativity.

I always feel a little strange at this time of year. Over the weekend I decorated my tree at home and then I come into work and take down all the decorations on our school Christmas tree! At home I am just hanging up my Christmas cards and yet I need to take the ones in my office down. I have only just ordered my turkey for Christmas dinner and haven't even thought about the rest of the food I need to buy and yet I have already eaten a wonderful Christmas dinner last Friday at school.

The last few weeks have been a blur of Christmas activity and I think we are all looking forward to the end of term [I was going to say 'a rest' but I'm not sure that will be the case !]



My thanks as ever to the wonderful team we have here at Furneux Pelham School for all their hard work throughout the whole year.

Replacement Roof

The major premises work at our school is rather like buses you wait ages for and then several turn up at once! We have been waiting for both the heating and roofing projects for several years and now, no sooner has the heating project been completed than the roofing one is about to start.

The work is due to start in January, with scaffolding being erected in the second week of term and the main work starting the following week. I have had several meetings with the project manager and the team who will be carrying out the work. The safety of children, staff, parents and visitors has been discussed and as a result there will be some necessary changes to the entrances into school.

Stop and Drop should not be affected but there will be no access across the front of the school. Extra fencing will be in place and the main pedestrian access for children into school will be via the gate next to the bike shelter. Access to the office will be via the other gate. I hope this is not going to be too much of an inconvenience but I am sure you appreciate the need for appropriate safety measures.

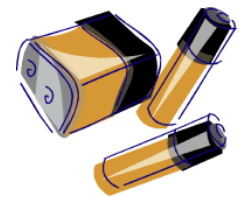
It is anticipated that the work will be completed by Easter but of course I will keep you updated as the work progresses.

Battery Competition!

Over the Christmas holidays please don't throw away any used batteries but save them and bring them into school. There will be 4 boxes in the library labelled with the House names. Find your house and pop them into the box.

We will be collecting any size of battery up until **Friday 19th January**. On this day the Eco Committee will be weighing each House's collection to see who has managed to collect the greatest weight in total. House points will be awarded to each house.

Please help support us in this recycling initiative. Once the competition has finished, we will be disposing of the batteries in an eco-friendly way!



Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Blakeman and the Eco Committee

Medicines in School

I would like to remind all parents that before any medicine can be given in school, you must complete the appropriate authorisation form, clearly indicating the name of medication and relevant dosage to be taken. These forms can be obtained from the school office and on the school website.

Non-prescription medicines/creams **cannot** be administered in school without the express permission of the Headteacher. A consent form must be completed and you should indicate that the medicine/cream has been given before with no adverse effects.

Attendance

Our school target for attendance is 97% and usually I feel this is quite achievable. However today [Monday] whole school attendance is down at 82%. This is due to 22 children not being in school today but only 10 of those children are away because of illness.

A quick walk around school today showed that those children who weren't here were missing work on angles, using protractors and compasses, number work, phonics and spelling, a complete DT project, story writing and clay work.

I sometimes hear parents saying it doesn't matter if children miss the last few days of school because they won't be doing anything - nothing could be further from the truth.