



NEWSLETTER 3

November 2017

December 1st	Christmas Bazaar 3.30 - 5.30
December 11th	Christingle – 2.15pm St Marys Church
December 13th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm
December 14th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm
December 18th	FPSA Children's Disco
December 19th	Carol Service – 11am St Marys Church
December 19th	Term ends 2.00pm
January 3rd	Term Starts
January 4th	Pantomime [in school]

The parent forum held last half term led to a greater understanding on both sides on the issues around attendance and subsequent changes were made to our Attendance policy which can be found on the website.

The second parent forum for this term was planned for last Friday when the focus subject for discussion was how we communicate with you about your child's learning. This topic was chosen as it was an area that received some negative responses in the parent survey last summer. The forums are also an opportunity for the governors and myself to share with you some of the things we have been working on to make our school even better.

Unfortunately only one parent in addition to governors attended last Friday so the forum was postponed until next half term. A couple of comments which were made related to the timing of the information we give you at parent consultations and communicating through Tapestry or home - school diaries. I hope that more parents will be able to make the next forum in January. We really do want to hear your views. If you are unable to make the actual meeting but have something to add to the discussion please email your thoughts to admin.



With only three weeks left before the end of term we have a very busy time ahead of us. In addition to the KS1 nativity there are two church services. As always we invite all family and friends to join us in the services at St Marys church. I know that sitting at the back of the church can sometimes make you feel a little apart but we would love to feel that you felt able to fully participate along with the children.

Showing compassion to our community

This term we have been thinking about compassion and as ever the children at our school have shown they really understand the meaning of the word.

In October we asked for shoeboxes full of gifts to take to families in Eastern Europe who find themselves living in extremely difficult circumstances. This year I took 32 boxes from our school to the collection point. There is a display in the library showing what happened to the shoeboxes last year and the huge difference this small act from us made to the lives of the recipients.

Later this month every child in school will make a special Christmas card to go to a named elderly person. Many of these people receive few, if any, Christmas cards and they really value the kind thoughts that come with their special Christmas card.

In recent years some parents have chosen to club together to collect for seasonal gifts for staff. I need to request that any such collections do not come through the school office. Any donations need to go straight to the person organising the collection who can then keep track of it. Thank you.

Reminder

If you have a younger child who is due to start school in September 2018 please remember that the closing date for the Under 11s application process is 15th January 2018.



Children in Need

During half term Annie and Georgia raised £15.00 by baking cakes and selling them to their neighbours and other people. The girls gave them a cake and then asked for a donation of their choice.

Well done Annie and Georgia for your enterprise and a wonderful amount raised for Children in Need.



The school council organised the activities in school on the day. Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised an amazing £218.52 for this important charity,

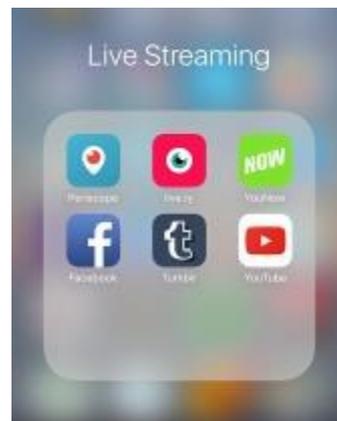
I have been asked to bring your attention to a free online news and information source about inclusive sports, courses, support and much more for parents, carers and young people. The service is provided by Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND). To find out more follow the link to their newsletter www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews/

Keeping children safe online

Live streaming is increasingly becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people. With this in mind it's important that you as parents are able to stay up to date with how children can stay safe when using these types of platforms. This is especially important as your children get older and have more access and independence when online.

Live streaming, sometimes known as “going live”, is the broadcasting of live videos over the internet. Videos are unedited and are viewed in real time—similar to Live TV. Some people use live streaming as a way to showcase their talents, campaign about an issue or to spontaneously share their thoughts with an audience. For children in particular live streaming can seem exciting.

Apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all soaring in popularity, which has seen other well established apps such as Facebook adding live streaming functions. Lots of positive comments and compliments can make children feel good. Primary aged children tend to want to please others and can be tricked into doing things by the threat of losing their followers (the people watching and commenting on their live stream).



Live streaming platforms also often allow users to ‘gift’ emojis such as love hearts and coins and this can enable adults to manipulate young people into doing things through flattery and the promise of gifts. Younger children can be particularly susceptible to these tactics as it can be difficult for them to spot manipulative behaviour in others and stand up to pressure.

More information and advice on this and keeping your child safe online in general can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Important Event

There will be three opportunities next spring for you to attend an evening presentation to parents on keeping your child safe online in the 21st century. Unlike similar events this presentation **will not cover issues like password security** or blocking software.

The aim of the event is to bring parents totally up to date with the apps children are using and how they are being directly targeted in that environment by paedophiles. The event will take parents on an uncomfortable journey where they will be left questioning their current perspective about children's safety.

The most local one to us is on Thursday 22nd March at Little Hadham School 7—9pm.

TO REQUEST A BOOKING FORM PLEASE CONTACT
Jo at ASPECTS on 01279 696842 Email admin@aspects.org.uk

More details are on the poster in the food tech window and sent with this newsletter.

And finally...

As Christmas approaches and we are all rushing around buying presents, planning big meals, arranging visits to family and friends and looking forward to a fun filled holiday please stop for a moment and read this short story.

Christmas means winter. Winter means hunger. Winter means ice, frost and snow. It is most definitely NOT the happiest time of year for me.

What would you do if all your life had been spent wandering the streets of London, with only the pigeons for company? No Christmas dinner, no presents. Just the fear of darkness setting in on you, the fear of the cold, wrapping its arms around you.

When all your possessions are a shopping trolley, blanket and a lame dog you would be thankful even for a penny, thrown at your feet.

No one cares for those of the street.

Christmas day. Laughter. And silence. It was about six o'clock. A young girl and her father had just passed me sitting on the ground, having left the glaring lights of the restaurant. They were happy. They were laughing. But they did not ignore me. They did not turn away.

An hour later they were back. I felt a presence. They had returned. Crackers and Christmas dinner were laid out in front of me.

Some people have hearts of gold. Some people care for others. I like these people.

They had made a 'worthless' old man happy.

Thank you Annie for letting me share your story in the newsletter. It certainly gave me pause for thought.