

## 8 December 2017

### Learning alongside your child in Class

**(Reading)** – It was wonderful again, to see so many parents/carers join classes last Wednesday for the second 'Learning Alongside Your Child' session.



This wonderful opportunity for parents to get a taste of lessons with their child in the classroom environment is greatly valued by all involved and many parents have said how worthwhile the experience is. Do please come along to the next session on the 25 January at 9am.

**KS1 Trip –Aerospace Museum** – Sparrow, Nightingale and Kingfisher classes spent a wonderful day at the Aerospace Museum in Bristol last week. The Museum has only recently opened, and there were lots of exciting things to explore which linked in wonderfully with this term's topic of 'Flight'.



The highlight of the day was the chance for all the pupils and staff to have a look around Concorde which has been homed in the Museum. The children are still bubbling with excitement and produced some excellent writing about their day.

## Diary Dates

### December

- 8<sup>th</sup> – PTFA Christmas Fayre – 6.00 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Jumper Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch
- 13<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Topic Celebration from 2.45 pm – all parents/carers welcome
- 14<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Topic Celebration from 2.45 pm – all parents/carers welcome
- 15<sup>th</sup> – PTFA Pantomime trip to Bristol Hippodrome – 12.00 noon – 6.00 pm (approx.)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Reception Class Christmas Play – 1.30 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Christmas Play – 5.30 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Christmas Play – 1.30 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Reception Christmas Play – 5.30 pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Carol Concert, St John's Church 9.15 am – 12.00 noon
- 20<sup>th</sup> – School finishes for Christmas

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> – INSET Staff only in school
- 8<sup>th</sup> – **School reopens to pupils**
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Learning alongside your child in class – Maths from 9.00 am
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm

**Maths Challenge** – Well done to the four children who represented the school at the Year 5 Maths Competition at St Edward's School in Cheltenham - Jack Bishop, Gabriel Lynch, Thomas Partis and Riley Mayo.

They worked in two teams to answer some very challenging mathematical problems. With a ranking of 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place out of 26 schools, they certainly did us proud.

**Skylark Class** – We are sad to share with you that Mrs Bennett will be leaving us at Christmas. Mrs Bennett has been a long standing member of staff, having been at St White's School since 1999.

Mrs Bennett has decided to step down from her position so that she can spend more time with her family. We wish her all the very best for the future, and hope that she comes back to see us often!!

A letter has been sent home to all pupils of Skylark Class today, advising of the changes of staffing.

**Christmas Fayre** – A reminder to you all that the PTFA Christmas Fayre will be taking place this evening from 6.00 pm.

There will be a variety of stalls, and a very special guest appearance from a certain gentleman with a big white beard! We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



**Nativity Plays – Reception and KS1** – A reminder that Robin and Wren Christmas Plays will be taking place on the afternoon of 18 December at 1.30 pm, and on 19 December at 5.30 pm.



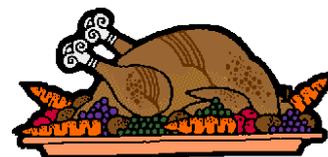
Sparrow, Nightingale and Kingfisher classes will be performing their Christmas Play on the evening of 18 December at 5.30 pm, and on 19 December at 1.30 pm.

Tickets are available from the School Office. There will also be a raffle. Refreshments, will

be served by the PTFA after the evening performances.

**Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day** – A reminder that we will be getting into the festive spirit next Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Christmas lunch will be served by the Canteen and we are inviting all pupils to wear a Christmas jumper/top and to donate £1.00 to Crisis.



**Carol Services** – The School Choir will be performing at St John's Church, Cinderford on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The service begins at 3.00 pm. There is a £5.00 charge for adults, which includes a mince pie and mulled wine. If a parent is attending as their child is performing in the school choir, entry is free.

**Annual Carol Concert** – The School's annual carol concert will take place at St John's Church, Cinderford on the morning of Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (our last day of term).

Reception and KS1 pupils will be at church from 9.30am – 10.15am and KS2 from 10.45am – 11.45am. Parents are welcome to join us at the church.



If there are any parents able to volunteer to help walk the children to and from church, please let the school office know. Thank you.

**PTFA Pantomime Trip**

– A reminder that the school will be shutting at 12.00 noon next Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December



2017 for the PTFA trip to the Pantomime.

A letter will be coming home with all children on Monday to confirm final arrangements.

For those children not attending, please can parents/carers ensure that your child is collected by 11.45 am **at the very latest**. We do need to leave promptly at 12.00 noon with the coaches. Thank you.

**Attendance** – Our whole school attendance continues to climb slowly and steadily as we are having a better term with far fewer children being taken out on holiday, and although we have had a variety of sickness bugs, flu-type illness and childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, these have not spread too badly in school.

Our whole school attendance now stands at 97.09%. Each week during celebration assembly we present trophies for the classes with the best attendance. The children are always very proud to win these trophies. There will be rewards for the two classes who have had the most weeks with the highest attendance since the start of the year – these will be announced at the start of next term. On the last day of term, their 100% attendance certificates and badges will be handed out, and at the moment there are 174 children on track to receive these.

**Reception Classes request** – If anyone has any transport-related toys, suitable for Reception age children, that they no longer require, Robin and Wren classes would



be very grateful to have them donated. Any vehicles would be wonderful to receive – cars, lorries, fire engines, police cars, ambulances, tractors, diggers, boats, car/train tracks. Thank you in advance for any donations received.

### KS1 Drama

#### Workshop - On

Tuesday, KS1 and EYFS were lucky

enough to have a visit from Elizabeth

Warner, a drama practitioner from the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. Elizabeth worked with the children on their Christmas Plays, particularly on speaking with intonation and expression. We look forward to our second session with Elizabeth next Tuesday!



### Sporting Updates – Sports Hall Athletics

On Tuesday a group of 18 Year 5's and 6's went to a Sports Hall athletics

competition at

Dene Magna

School. All pupils

competed in both track and field events including relays, throwing and jumping. The children particularly excelled in the field events and also in the boys 4 x 1 relay. Very well done to all children who participated!



**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be issued on Friday, 12 January 2018.

**And finally.....**The Staff and Governors would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.



We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday, 8 January 2018.



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate