



# NEWSLETTER



**OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK**

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

What a busy last couple of weeks of term we have had. The whole school are currently watching the panto in their classroom bubbles. It looks and sounds great fun! Father Christmas made a cheery visit to our school grounds on Monday to deliver a gift to each class, who were thrilled to come outside and meet him!



### KS2 Carol Service

All our older classes have been busy rehearsing and recording their carols for their KS2 carol service. What would we do without Mrs Watson and her fabulous musical talent. Thank you for all your help! The carol service took place outside Tuesday afternoon and it was a lovely event, led by Andrew Patterson. It is now available to view on eSchools thanks to the technical, and much needed, help of Mrs Symonds.



### Christmas Jumper Day

We had a very Christmassy looking Friday with everyone dressed in their fabulous festive jumpers. Thank you to everyone who remembered to donate. We raised £221 for 'Save the Children'.



### KS1 Festive Recordings

I have enjoyed seeing the younger children in our school so excited about singing festive songs and acting on the stage. I'm sure you will agree, when you watch the recording, that they all did a brilliant job. Their teachers are so very proud of each and every one of them! It must also be said what a joy they were when they saw Santa had popped to Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School to deliver a class gift. They are now available to view on eSchools.



### Hello and Goodbye

Sadly Mrs Ghaffar will be leaving us this Christmas. During her time here Mrs Ghaffar has shown great care for the children and families she has worked with. She has taught several different classes and led the school passionately in PHSCE and Equalities. She will be greatly missed by us all.

We will be welcoming Mrs Sarah Luckman, a very experienced teacher, who is very excited to be relocating to join us from Northern Ireland.

Miss Jeanes, who currently works in Windmills will be on a placement in another school. We hope she has a fun time and we will miss her loads. In her place we will be welcoming Zuzana Neville, for her term's placement.

### Pet Stockings

This was such a successful and innovative bit of fundraising and raised over £100 for our Shepherd's Hut. We are very proud of Ines, Ameera, Mollie and Lily. There are going to be some very happy pets on Christmas day!



When you return in January please remember to send your children in with wellington boots, waterproof coats, hats and gloves!

Please do read the End of Term Covid Information letter and the Covid Testing letter which will be sent out today.

Thank you for all your kind gifts. They are much appreciated by all our staff.



**See you on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021!**



## Following the Star

### Wow – well done everyone we made it!

You will know that at the beginning of the Autumn half term we set out to walk and swim to Bethlehem in time for Christmas. This was a massive undertaking and at the start we really didn't know if we could make it. But we did it!

- We aimed to walk 4,973kms and swim 21kms.
- By the middle of November we were making such good progress we thought we could do some sightseeing of the way.
- We visited 14 countries learning a few facts about each one.
- Our two sheep Kith and Kin have been wonderful guests during this half term – beautifully behaved! Sadly we say farewell to them today.
- Can you believe we actually walked an amazing 7,182kms in total!
- We swam 31kms – a huge achievement, bearing in mind the swimming pools were closed for a month!
- We raised an amazing £4,500. It is not too late to donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/followingthestar>
- Footage of our final walk around the school grounds will appear on the school website very soon.

Thank you so much to all who have helped with the organisation of this event – we couldn't have done it without you!

What a year it has been! I wonder if in all the chaos, uncertainty and genuine sadness there has been the glimmer of some quite wonderful things. As I reflect, I think of how people have been isolated from friends and family, how so many have been unwell or worse but how everyone has this year, beyond all imagination, shown such kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness to each other. I have been so touched at, not just the way the children have responded to every new challenge with such good grace and humour but, how our school families have come together as one big family; people offering to help each other, help the school and help the wider community. Now we approach a time of such optimism and hope. A light at the end of the tunnel, a rainbow after a dull wet day, that at some point soon we will be back to a normalish life of being able to see friends, hug, shake hands and just be .... normal! We will value what we have missed all the more, especially each other more.

I am so proud of every child in the school for being so positive and resilient. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December is also significant. It's the shortest day and from then on the days will get longer and spring will soon be in the air.

**Have a very merry, peaceful Christmas; you all deserve it and let us together remember the value of the things we have missed; the value of friendship, family and look forward to a bright new year.**

*'As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance.'* Ezekiel 1:28

