

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Mon 17th - Dragons wear their own clothes

Tues 18th - 1:45pm Matinee Performance of the Christmas Production
- 6:30pm Evening Performance of the Christmas Production

Wed 19th - Theatre Trip

Thur 20th - Farewell Service at All Saint's Church 1:45pm

Fri 21st - **LAST DAY OF TERM**
Christmas Parties
Non-School Uniform

JANUARY 2019

Monday 7th January 2019 - First day of term

Wed 18th -

Theatre Trip - Beast Babies at Tobacco Factory (Reception) - The coach will depart at 9:40 outside the school opposite the church. They will arrive back at the school at 12:00. Please make sure your child has a packed lunch that day as they will eat this when they return back to school. All children will need to be collected from school at the normal time. Children are welcome to take a small packet of sweets and a drink in a disposable carton.

Theatre Trip - Snow White at Weston Playhouse (Yrs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) - The coach will depart at 9:30 from the layby and arrive back at school at 15:15. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch that day as the children will eat this in the auditorium after the pantomime. All children will need to be collected from school at the normal time. Children are welcome to take a small packet of sweets and a drink in a disposable carton.

FWSA

Is anyone able to help with the Christmas Parties on the morning of the 21st? Please let your class rep know if you can, they run from 10-11.

Other News

Johnny Hazell, father of Woody Hazell in Year 6 and former pupil Isabella Hazell, is embarking on a challenge to help remote communities in Nepal through health, education and agriculture projects. Johnny, director of a catering company has regularly cooked for Wraxall School fund raising events including the recent Christmas Fayre. This year was the tenth he has fed our children and their families. In March 2019 he will be joining a Bristol team who will trek to the Everest base camp with the aim of raising £60,000 for Phase Worldwide. He is seeking sponsorship. Anyone who would like to help by donating to the cause can do at:

<https://phaseworldwide.org/events/bristol-to-base-camp-2019/>

Church News

Saturday 15th December 18:00 - Carols by Candlelight, St Bartholomew's Church, Failand

Sunday 16th December 16:30 - Family Carol Service, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Monday 24th December 15:00 - Crib Service, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Monday 24th December 21:00 - Christmas Eve Communion, St Bartholomew's Church, Failand

Monday 24th December 23:00 - Christmas Eve Communion, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Tuesday 25th December 10.00 - Christmas Day Family Communion, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Dear Parents/Carers,

“So, small child who goes to Wraxall, what have you been up to this week?”

“Christmas. We have been up to Christmas.”

It is that time of year again when the teachers are panicking that the Christmas production will be awful and the children can almost taste the end of term: a recipe for disaster. Tricky little week, the penultimate one, but an awful lot of fun, though.

As has already been alluded to, a reasonable proportion of Monday and Tuesday was devoted to polishing (some might say, 'desperately trying to bring together') our Christmas production: Sheik, Rattle and Roll! *The Wise Men's Nativity*. It is quite a challenge to find a play that is suitable for Reception, Year 6 and everyone in between. However, Mrs Brierley, Mr Khanna and all the other staff have been hard at it cajoling, wagging fingers and even, when decorum has deserted us, pleading with the budding thespians in order to turn this into another world beater. When you first come into the church next Tuesday evening, please do have a gander at the backdrop: Lisa has excelled herself. Even by her high standards, this one is a doozy.

Tuesday afternoon was all about Christmas Cakes, Part 2: *Revenge of the Frosting*. There is an old, yet very wise proverb that I like to ponder at this time of year: *less is more*. Clearly I was misguided. Marinating their cakes in a truly frightening volume of sugary goodness appears to have won out. Suffice to say, Granny now has her Christmas present taken care of and, in all fairness, they don't look half bad.

Our formidable Christmas tree has been erected in the school hall, looking resplendent in a truly impressive volume of baubles and tinsel. Actually, I take that back. Although the lower two thirds have been festooned in Christmas cheer, the top portion, which even Miss Madge cannot reach, is looking decidedly... minimalist. Whilst being a very welcome addition to this time of year, it does mean that Year 5/6 now have to sit in the tree during assemblies. Not a problem, as such, but it did cause us to panic a touch when we thought we had lost Woody earlier this week. Turns out he had become caught up in the branches and could not extricate himself. Thank goodness it was just Woody.

Wednesday was Christmas dinner and jumper day (and reindeer antlers, elf glasses, Christmas tree hat etc etc). I have never, ever seen such a variety of festive jumpers in all my life: I had no idea that they came in so many shapes and sizes. For my own part, I have three that I rotate between. Great for variety, poor for airing. If anyone came too close to me, you could see them wrinkle their noses and look around for where the musty smell was coming from. The actual lunch went brilliantly. Luckily, when the children of the school perform more than a passable impression of locusts, tidying up is an awful lot easier. Manners were observed, polite conversation entered into and etiquette was to the fore. It was a genuine pleasure to be in the dinner hall.

Thursday and Friday were relatively normal, whatever that is for this place. There were unconfirmed reports that a handful of children did, indeed, see a pencil at some point and that a sum may have been wafted at a few of the lucky ones. Actually, that is genuinely unfair. The play practices are important at this time of year but the staff are still working very hard to make sure that writing is being finished off and maths skills stay sharp. When you hear teachers talking in the staffroom about the steps they are taking to ensure learning and standards are maintained, it warms an old headteacher's heart.

This time, our Stars of the Week are Madison & Elsie in Reception, Jamie in Year 1, all of Year 2, all of Year 3/4 and Scarlet & Evie in Year 5/6. A lovely way to start the weekend. The house with the most conduct marks this Term was Dragons. Congratulations, you can wear your own clothes on Monday. 'Well done' to Dragons for also having the highest number of work marks. Bronze badges were awarded to Olivia, Martha, Beth, Molly, Phoebe W, Eloise, Frank, Sonny, Daniel, Tilly and Sophie (Rec).

Thank you so much to everyone who supported us at the Christmas Fayre last weekend. The Long Ashton Village Hall was absolutely rammed with Wraxallites being more than generous with both their time and hard earned money. For such a wee school, it never fails to amaze me just how much is raised. In this instance, just over £3000. That is an incredible sum and we are all very grateful. And an extra HUGE 'thank you' to all of the FWSA, coerced partners, bullied spouses and especially Laura and Georgia who made this happen. You are amazing.

On a personal note, I would just like to say how much I loved my rugby experience last Saturday. It is very hard to put into words just how brilliant it was or identify one particular highlight. The Q&A with some of the players was pretty special, the 'hospitality' was... generous and the match out of this world. Several parents have advised me not to mention the fact that I may have compared it to the birth of my children as

the happiest day of my life, so I will not make that faux pas (Edit: and my wedding day. Defo my wedding day). You get the idea, though. It was perfect. Thank you.

Have lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. I assume I will be seeing most of you in Cribbs over the weekend, desperately trying to find something, anything for their loved one. Not that I need to be doing that, obviously, cough, I er, have everything buttoned up, cough.

Mr Tucker