

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week I may have alluded to Mrs Brierley being a woman on the edge with the pressure of the Christmas production looming fast. I was wrong. It absolutely was not the case and I would like to apologise, whole heartedly, to Mrs Brierley for any upset this may have caused. This week, on the other hand, has been decidedly dicey and I can officially confirm that she *is now* a woman on the edge. My advice to Year 1/2: bring chocolate. Lots of soothing chocolate.

The performance is starting to come together (please let it come together). We have reached that critical mass where lines have been learnt, dances are close to being polished and songs are starting to be sung with gusto... most of the time. It is the little things, like knowing exactly where to stand or moving from scene to scene in a serene and orderly fashion that now need touching up. This is probably best illustrated by Mrs Hayward's comment at the moment of the Annunciation, where the angels proclaim the birth of the Christ child, hereto save us all: 'For goodness sake, this is meant to be a joyous occasion. Will you lot please smile!' Apparently, the expressions on the shepherds' faces were not exactly euphoric.

On Monday we had the opportunity to visit Noah's Ark and take part in a nativity with a real sheep, goat and donkey. Excited children, animals and Christmas all rolled into one. What could possibly go wrong? Actually, my reservations were completely unfounded, with all of the children thoroughly enjoying themselves and acting in a manner you would expect from Wraxall pupils. The Wise Men high fived each other after the successful delivery of the gifts; Mary (Eve) looked expectantly at Joseph (Josh- who seemed to share my own reservations about married life) and the shepherds were too busy trying to feed bits of straw to the animals to sing Little Donkey. Perfect. Freddie's incredulous/pensive expression pretty much summed up how I felt. He had that sort of, 'Can someone *pleeeeeease* explain what is going on here?' look in his eyes. Nothing much else to report really. While looking at the zoo animals, there was that small incident when half of Reception fell into the alligator enclosure but nothing to be alarmed about. We hear that the alligators are recovering well and they should be up to receiving visitors early in the New Year. As I say, very uneventful.

Year 3/4 have also been spreading a little Christmas cheer by singing to members of our community, who came to Time for Tea at the Cross Tree Centre. It turns out that contrary to popular belief, Miss Madge's class can hold a note and according to their teacher, 'Sang like nightingales'. Their audience thoroughly enjoyed the experience as it is not very often they have the opportunity to listen to children singing traditional carols.

This time our Stars of the week are Rose in Reception, Harrison & Martha in Year 1/2, Mathew & Georgia in Year 3/4 and Will & Charlie in Year 5/6. Well done guys. Phoenix had the highest number of conduct marks and Dragons were the winners of the work marks. The children who managed to achieve the Silver Star Badge was Holly and Emma was awarded her platinum badge. Conduct Marks do not just grow on trees so receiving these badges really means something.

Our book review comes from Jessica C:

Tom Gates' 'Extra Special Treats - (not!)' is about a boy who's trying to earn a star pupil badge. He does lots of weird stuff to get it.

I give the book 9 out of 10 because it's a brilliant book and quite an easy read. There is lots of humour in it and it is set out like a diary - as if it is the boy's writing and even his doodles.

Have a wonderful weekend, the last before we break up. Play safely and take care,

Mr Tucker

Coming up next week:

Tuesday - 1.45pm Matinee performance & 6.30pm evening performance.

Wednesday - School Xmas lunch (Xmas jumpers and hats optional).

Year 6 please have your marzipan, icing and decorations in school from today.

Thursday - KS2 visit to the Old Vic, returning to school at approx 5pm.

Friday - Reception & KS1 visit to the Tobacco theatre.

Class parties in the afternoon - bring your party clothes.

Parentpay

Please take a moment to check that you have no outstanding trip payments on parentpay and that your dinner money accounts are brought back to a zero balance before we break up. Thank you.

Children due to start school in September 2016

Children who were born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 can start school in September 2016. The closing time and date for applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2016.

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas services at All Saints' Wraxall & St Bartholomew's Failand

Sunday 20th December 17:00 - Parish Carol Service, St Bartholomew's Failand

Thursday 24th December 15:00 - Crib service, All Saints' Wraxall

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

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

Friday 25th December 10:00 - All age Communion service, All Saints' Wraxall

Sunday 27th December 10:00 - Holy Communion, All Saints' Wraxall

Sunday 27th December 11:30 - Morning Worship (said), St Bartholomew's Failand