



# St Bridget's C of E Primary School

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*Together Everyone Achieves More*

**30-11-18**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is closing in and there is still lots to do. Our early Christmas Fair was a great success and signals the start of school Christmas preparations which are many and numerous. We have shared the key dates for the end of term on the website through email and the news section. Our services and assemblies support our children's thinking and are focussed on maintaining thought for others and avoiding some of the constant commercialism they face at this time of year.

As the Chief Education Officer for the Church of England reminds us "...As we encourage our school communities, our children and young people in the build up to Christmas, let's keep reminding ourselves that fulfilment is not found in the things we might buy or receive from a shop, however great their adverts are, but in knowing who we are, why we are here and how then we should live..."

## **Balloon Launch to Space on Thursday**

This week we are getting ready for our Space Balloon launch. We are sending some children and staff to the launch site in Wales, but all of the rest of the school will have the chance to track it and see the live feed or a recording of it, as it floats into space. Thursday also sees the start of the staff sleep out challenge (more information below).

## **Rights Respecting Meeting**

Earlier last week we held our Rights Respecting Schools Meeting (RRSA). It was great to see so many parents, teachers and children planning and thinking about the themes we want to explore this year. A big topic for the school this year is the environment. The teachers have attended training at Chester Zoo and we were able to share some of our learning and ideas in the meeting. The release of the banned Iceland advert is timely, as sustainable palm oil production is one of the themes we are exploring. We also explored the small and big actions we can take as a school, such as turning off lights and possibly installing solar panels. We were all feeling inspired.

## **Staff Sleep Out for the Church Urban Fund**

This is the third year that some of the staff from St. Bridget's CE Primary have embarked on the Sleep Out challenge to raise funds for the Urban Church.

Last year it hailed and snowed as we pretended to try to sleep in the playground gazebo. The church bells rang regularly to keep us informed of the time, in fact they nearly shook us awake, which reminded me of the fact that we were also sleeping right next to the graveyard! The mind can play tricks on you at night, yet we made it through with a combination of humour, moaning and determination.

To be honest we made it through to just after 5am and then made the shortest commute to school ever. By 6am, many of us were finishing toast and coffee and heading to the classroom. Possibly a record for any school. We were excited to see the rest of our work colleagues arrive and we left our sleeping bags in the gazebo, so that the children could see where we slept the night before. Many of the children and parents were amazed at our efforts.

By lunchtime many of us who took part in the sleep out were flagging, the initial excitement of our efforts diminishing. It is at this point that I truly realised that I am not too comfortable about repeating the sleep out experience for a consecutive night. I have to admit that once a year is enough for me. When I reflect further, I realise that I had eaten that day, I had prepared for the night by finding the warmest clothes I could find and I had completed the experience in a locked up playground with some good-humoured colleagues. I cannot imagine the challenge of doing this night after night with no support. It is for this reason we will take up the sleep out challenge to raise awareness and funds for the good work that Church Urban Fund does for anyone who has nowhere else to sleep.

If you would like to support us, please click on the link and share with your friends and neighbours:

<https://sleepoutchallenge2018.everydayhero.com/uk/st-bridget-s-ce-primary>

#### **Well done Year 4**

Sophie along with Sophia, Saoirse, Cicely, Lois, Lexi, Daisy and Freya (all in class 7) organised and ran their fundraising stall at the Christmas Fair on Friday. They did a 'Guess how many gem stones are in the jar' competition. They raised £72 for Claire House. The winner who guessed 182 gems was Mya in class 2.

#### **Orienteering**

Eight of the year 6 pupils took part in the British Orienteering Championships. In the primary school category, the school came sixth overall and everyone ran really well. The children were all very nervous about having to read a map and navigate completely by themselves around a 2.5km forest course. They were all very brave and it was a real achievement to make it back to the finish line without having got lost for too long! Thank you to Mrs Barnes and all of the parents who supported this event and gave the children a great experience.

#### **PE Clubs – please help us with good communication**

If you are returning information for PE teams/clubs, please check the following:

- That you have included your child's full name on sports slips not just first name.
- That you have included emergency contact number clearly. (parent's mobile/home number not their doctors number)

## **Dates for this Christmas Season at St Bridget's**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** - Reverse Advent for Wirral Food Bank begins (see separate news item for details)

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Staff Advent Sleepout Challenge for Church Urban Fund

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** - Family Christingle service in St Bridget's Church (from 3:45pm)

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Lunch in school

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - F2 Christmas Nativity in the school hall for parents (9:30am) Parents are invited to stay for refreshments in the school hall.**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Year 1's Christmas assembly in the school hall for parents (9:30am) Parents are invited to stay for refreshments in the school hall.**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Year 2's Christmas service in Church. Year 3 will be attending. Parents of pupils in year 2 and 3 are invited to attend. (2:00pm) Parents are invited to stay for refreshments in the school hall.**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Year 4's Christmas service in Church. Year 5 & 6 will be attending. Parents of pupils in year 4, 5 or 6 are invited to attend (9:30am) Parents are invited to stay for refreshments in the school hall.**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Party day!**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Toy day! School closes at 3pm.**

Yours sincerely,

*Neil Le Feuvre*

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