



St Bridget's C of E Primary School

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Together Everyone Achieves More

Friday 22nd December

Dear Parents,

This week we have completed our journey through Advent. We have enjoyed hearing the children retell the Christmas Story both in school and church. They reminded us about the important messages we share at Christmas time of peace, goodwill, love, care and time with our families. Throughout Advent each year group have each completed a reverse Advent Calendar collection. The gifts we have collected have been shared with those in need in Wirral.

I would also thank you for the great response we received for our Advent Sleepout. We have raised over £1,700 for the Urban Church Fund. This year's sleepout was certainly a challenge. It was much colder than last year, with driving rain through the night which turned to hail and sleet in the early morning. Nevertheless, we made it through the night with some sleep, but not much. By 5.30am we were all in school warming up, sharing stories of the discomfort as well as trying to think about the day ahead. As always, we all shared the sentiment, that we would not like to repeat that experience again, knowing that some people have no choice. [Sleepout Challenge link](#)

Christmas Video

It seems the staff have made something of a tradition making a funny Christmas video as part of the assembly before the Christmas holidays. The link is live after lunch today. The children enjoyed it. [Christmas video link](#)

Staffing

After 13 years of service to the school Mr Cowling our caretaker has retired. We thanked him in a special assembly last week and wished him a happy retirement. We have employed Mr Steve Wilkins as the new caretaker who started work with us last week. You may have seen him around school already, doing lots of important jobs. Recently, Mr Wilkins has contributed to our Charity donations by completing a charity car wash. We are really pleased he has joined our staff team.

PA Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who contributed time and effort to supporting events run by the Parents Association this year, especially our Christmas fair. The Christmas Fair raised over £5000. All of this money will go towards supporting shared projects which will improve the school for the children.

Adult readers in school

We constantly have a need for parents to listen to children read in school. If you have any spare time in the New Year, please contact the school office and leave your details.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Wirral Hospice St John's Fundraising Team are running a Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling Scheme again this year in order to raise vital funds for the Hospice and help towards our £3.6 million pounds running costs. The collections are taking place between 6th and 11th January 2018 and we are suggesting a donation of £5 for a small tree and £7 for a medium to large tree. People who would like to support us would need to register on our website www.wirralhospice.org or www.charitywmastreecollection.com

General Notices and Information

Flu Vaccination

Public Health England and NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside) are encouraging parents of children age two (on August 31, 2017) and three to attend their general practices for the flu nasal spray vaccination this winter. Flu can be horrible for little children; they have the same symptoms as adults – including fever, chills, aching muscles, headache, stuffy nose, dry cough and sore throat. Some children develop a very high fever or complications of flu, such as bronchitis or pneumonia and may need hospital treatment. Statistics show that fewer children have been vaccinated against flu than at this time last year. As the weather gets colder and flu prevalence increases, this could prove dangerous for younger children.

Healthy children under the age of five are more likely to be admitted to hospital with flu than any other age group. We know that if we vaccinate children against flu this also protects their grandparents and other people in the community who are more at risk of developing serious complications. It's not too late to have your child vaccinated against flu. All you need to do is contact your GP practice and ask them about making an appointment to get your child vaccinated. It is a quick and painless nasal spray and can be done by your practice nurse, healthcare assistant or GP.

Key messages for parents - Parents of children aged 2-3

- For children aged 2 - 3, the flu vaccine is not an injection, just a quick nasal spray.
- Flu can be horrible for little children and if they get it, they can spread it around the whole family.
- Children who get flu have the same symptoms as adults – including fever, chills, aching muscles, headache, stuffy nose, dry cough and sore throat. Some children develop a very high fever or complications of flu such as bronchitis or pneumonia and may need hospital treatment.
- The flu vaccine can help protect your child from flu and also reduce the chance of flu spreading to others.
- Don't put off it off. Ask your GP about the free flu vaccine for your child now.

Free School Meals

Students in receipt of Free School Meals receive a daily credit on their cashless catering account. This allows them sufficient credit to purchase a hot meal and a drink at lunchtime. Free school meals are available for children if their parent or carer receives certain benefits. In addition, the school receives Pupil Premium funding each year of £1320 per student who is entitled to free school meals; this funding continues for up to six years after the free school meals claim ends. This means that even if you only expect to claim for a short period of time, the Pupil Premium funding will continue to support your child's education for the long term. If you don't apply our School will miss out on funding which could go towards providing additional support for your child. If your child prefers to bring a packed lunch you will still need to register for free school meals for our School to receive the Pupil Premium funding. If you think that you might be eligible, please complete your claim online at: Wirral Council Free School Meals Application. [Free school meals link](#)

Happy Christmas from all the staff at St. Bridget's,

With warmest greetings,

Neil Le Feuvre

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