



### Head teachers update

**School Plan focus:** This week we have had a presentation about and introduction to a maths scheme that we are considering using in the school. Recently, we have been using materials and plans that promote the mastery approach to mathematics and integrate the key focus areas of fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Resourcing this approach takes a lot of teacher time. A scheme has now been written specifically for UK classrooms by leading mastery experts and has just been endorsed by the DfE which provides plans and resources for the teacher and the children. We are considering taking this approach on from the start of the Spring Term.

### Number bonds and Timestables.

Being able to instantly recall key number facts is a very important aspect of developing fluency with maths. When a child is solving problems, they are much more likely to be able to accurately and confidently do so if they can calculate quickly and recall key facts. This enables them to use their thinking time to work out strategies to solve complicated and multi-step problems. The key facts include 'number bonds', pairs of numbers that add together to make specific totals, such as 10, 20 or 100 and timestables up to 12x12. We are therefore having a whole school focus on developing these. Teachers are asking children to practise these until they can confidently and accurately recall the answers, without needing to work them out. To get to this point takes a lot of practise and we would appreciate your support at home. Also, the government will be introducing a timestables check for Year 4 and this is likely to start during the next academic year. Thank you to the Class 1 parents who attended a workshop about learning and developing fluency with timestables this week.

### E-safety and Parents Forum:

On Thursday I led e-safety briefing sessions for parents, using materials that we have agreed to trial for CEOPS, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service. This was very informative and the feedback from the parents who attended was very positive. Thank you to the parents who came along who

already had an understanding and could add to the discussion. One parent wrote that "it was very helpful and increased my understanding of online safety" and another that "it was spot on". A third mentioned that this has helped her realise how important it is to start the dialogue early with her children. If you are interested in also attending a related workshop, please get in touch with the office and let us know your availability.

### Nativity (Posoda):

St Mary's Church have again lent the school a Posada. This is a knitted set of nativity characters for children to use to retell the Christmas story. Families are welcome to borrow this for a night or so. Please ask at the office if your child/ children would like to do this.

Jeremy Fisher

### Guilden Morden St Mary's Church



**Christingle Service**  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 4.30pm



*Come along and hear the Christian message of Christmas, the symbolism of the Christingle, and take home your own Christingle after the service.*

### COOL CLUB



The children have been making collage pictures using recycled Christmas cards. They have also made pomanders with orange ribbon and cloves - a lovely Christmassy aroma!

Lego challenge continues on a Wednesday, and the children also made rice krispie cakes with marshmallows - a very busy week!

With thanks from Helen and all the Club staff.

### Christmas Fayre

Wow! We had a great turn out for our Christmas Fayre - thank you so much for supporting us. We hope you all had a great time, enjoying the games and picking up a gift or two. We raised approximately £414 but the actual profit after expenses hasn't been confirmed yet, we'll keep you posted. A specially huge thank you to everyone who helped out with donating items, making sweetie jars, baking cakes, running stalls - the list goes on but honestly we couldn't do it without you!!



### Christmas Hampers - Raffle!

You have until Tuesday 11th Dec to buy and sell raffle tickets please. First prize is a huge boozy hamper, 2nd prize is a food hamper, 3rd prize is a mixed Christmas hamper and 4th prize is a lovely homemade Christmas cake. The raffle tickets came home in school bags last week but if you need extras then you can collect them via the office. If you don't want your tickets can you kindly return them to the office - thank you. Winners will be drawn after the Nativity performance on Tuesday 11th December - good luck!!

### Sweet Treat Friday

This is be running this afternoon and next week will be our last one of the season! In the spirit of Christmas, charity and giving we will be donating all profits from next week's stall to Ronald McDonald House. They are a wonderful charity who are currently supporting one of our families, more info can be found at their website <https://www.rmhc.org.uk>

### Elfridges

The children so enjoyed buying their gifts at our Christmas shop. The elves were so impressed with how thoughtfully they selected presents for their family and friends, we hope you enjoy what you receive.

**PTFA: 100 Club**

The winners for November:

- 1st: (£14) E. CUTLER (05)
- 2nd: (£10) D. EGGLETON (91)
- 3rd: (£8) L. WALTERS (95)

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Thanks so much for your continued support.

Dannii



### Scholastic Book Fair

We shall be having our annual Scholastic Book Sale on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, and Monday 17<sup>th</sup>, 3.15-4pm. On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December the sale will be available during the day for children to purchase a book. We would appreciate if children were allowed to bring some money to school on this day to purchase a book.

Please keep this sale in mind for your Christmas shopping. You are welcome to tell friends and neighbours within the village, and please remember that part proceeds of your purchases are funded to the school.

### Wrapping Paper

If you can spare any scraps of Christmas wrapping paper please do hand them into the office as the children like to use with crafts.

### Drama Classes

It was the last drama class this week for this Autumn term. We hope that the children have enjoyed their drama classes and will look forward to more fun and improvisations next term.

### Multisports

The last multi-sports activity for this term will be on Friday 14 December.

### Parent Pay

Would all parents kindly ensure payments are up to date on Parentpay.

**Classroom Awards: Stars of the week** 

	Progress	Conduct & Values
PreSchool	Eleanor	Jackson
Class 1	Ella & Alfie	Toby & Ellie G
Class 2	Scott & Andrew	Bobby & Leo
Class 3	Fred & Ben	Brooke & Emma



**Sports - Star of the Week**

Our P.E. teacher, awards have been presented to:-

Class 1	Daniel
Class 2	Devon
Class 3	No class 3 this week, due to SAT's assessments



**Lunchtime Awards:**

For helping others, tidying up and serving

Ines	Amy	William
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**Diary Updates and Reminders**

11 <sup>th</sup> December (Tues) - 9.30-10.30	Nativity Play Performance - Class 1 & Piano Soloists
13 & 17 December - 3.15-4pm	Scholastic Book Fair
14 December (Friday)	Book Fair for children
19 December (Wed) at 9.30am	Carol Service at the church Christmas Lunch with Christmas Jumper & Santa visit
19 December, (Wed) <b>at 1.45pm</b>	End of Autumn Term 2018
<b>2019</b>	
3 January (Thurs)	Spring Term commences
7 January (Mon)	STAFF TRAINING DAY -School Closed-
10 January (Thurs)	School Pantomime Visit (PTFA) 'Snow White & Seven Dwarfs'

**Thought for the week:**

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way,  
and shows the way. "

John C. Maxwell

**Collective Worship Theme for the week**

Jesus the Messiah

**Guilden Morden C of E Primary  
School** Part of the Diocese of Ely  
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