

A Message from the Headteacher

I can't believe that Christmas is nearly upon us! This time of year is always great fun, especially with the whole school events such as Christmas Dinner, the Christmas Fair and the productions. The children are all working hard to put on a great performance.

The firework event was once again a great success. It was great seeing so many families on the night. As promised, we have already booked next year's display.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas events over the next fortnight.

Adrian

Nursery and Infant Department

We have had some fun and exciting activities with fireworks and Halloween. As usual, there were lots of messy interactive activities, especially the pumpkin sensory exploration and carving. Thank you for joining us for the parents' curriculum event, which also had a few messy activities but fun ways of learning. We have been practising for our Christmas Show and it is beginning to come together. A letter with details will be going home shortly and thank you for returning the reply slip regarding costumes.

Rachael

Junior Department

Everyone in the Junior Department has been working hard and enjoying our topic 'Tales as Old as Time'. We have been sharing stories such as Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Gruffalo. Some of the classes have explored these stories through sensory activities, making masks, and retelling the tales. Starfish Class have now performed a few of the stories to the Nursery children and Reception classes using the masks and props they have made.

We are now all preparing for our Christmas Show and rehearsing all together each Wednesday when Ian White's class is with us. We will soon be using our creative curriculum to make things for the Christmas Fair. We will also be learning about Christmas traditions and joining together for Christmas dinner and Christmas parties.

Seahorse Class are going to sing Christmas carols and Christmas Show songs to the residents of Bradstow Care Home. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share Christmas joy with others in the community.

Details of the Christmas show will be revealed soon.

6th Form

This term, 6th Form has been settling into our different activities and timetables really well. Work Experience has started for three students and another five will start in the new year at the Windmill Organic allotment.

Enterprise continues to work hard to make things for sale at the Christmas Fair and we hope to see you there. We have been working as a whole department on our Christmas Show so we hope you will enjoy it!

Flavia

Can we please remind parents/carers that the use of photographic and video equipment (including phones) during the Christmas productions is not permitted. We will ensure that there is time after each performance for photographs. In addition, we request that parents/carers do not publish photographs of children, other than their own, on social media.

> Thank you! <u>Children in Need</u> This year, thanks to your generosity, the school raised £276 for this amazing charity.

Nanette

Secondary

The Secondary Department has been busy getting ready for the Christmas festivities but this doesn't mean they haven't had time for some very creative learning opportunities.

Colette's class have been doing some fabulous work on adjectives. Describing characters in The Christmas Carol and relating emotions and feelings to their everyday lives.

Kate's class have been increasing independence with activities such as preparing and organising Toast Club and clearing up afterwards. The students have been asking each other questions about their weekend and their likes and dislikes. They have also had a great time retelling sensory stories.

Andrea's class have been exploring space and the pupils have had great fun recreating their own planets and moon sand! During English, they have been looking at the story of A Christmas Carol. The pupils have enjoyed different aspects of this including a sensory story and are working toward familiarising themselves with the characters from the story, using signs, communication boards and symbols. The pupils have completed some excellent descriptive work linked to this.

While learning about Russia this term, Alex's class have spoken a few words of Russian, cooked borscht, found where it is on globes, and looked at icons and landmarks. They are now summing up their learning of Russia in poetry.

Katie and Andrea's class students have been discovering the different planets in place through moon sand experiments, making models and learning about the first man on the moon. In English, they have been creating their own story about a ghost linked to a Christmas Carol and adjectives.

Sue's class have been helping to restore Newington Free Church's garden as part of a community project connected with the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have worked incredibly hard and have cleared the car park, trimmed lavender and bushes and weeded the gardens.

Alongside all this learning, classes have been knee deep in glitter (apologies if students are wearing it home - it gets everywhere) making gifts to sell at the Christmas Fair (Friday 6th December) and we've been rehearsing for our super Christmas Show "A Christmas Carol". Hope to see you all there.

Katie

Absences

Can we ask that absences are reported directly to the school office on 01843-863891 and not via drivers, escorts or ClassDojo. Thank you.

Update from the FLO:

<u>Parent / Carers Christmas Crafting</u>: It was lovely to have so many parents come into school to take part in the Christmas Crafting, or just to enjoy a chat and mince pie.

<u>Alternative Perspective of Christmas</u>: Come and join me at Stone Bay School on Monday 9th December between 12 and 2pm, for ideas on how to Survive Christmas from The Kent Autistic Trust. Let me know if you would like a lift to and from Stone Bay School.

<u>Makaton Workshop</u>: Nikki and Fran have 33 parents booked to attend this on the 3rd December. It's lovely to be able to offer this service to parents/carers for free.

Sharon

Christmas Carol Concert

In the last newsletter, we had suggested holding a Carol Concert in the school garden led by The Salvation Army Band. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, this has not been possible to arrange. Should any of you still have a desire to sing carols, please come along to our Christmas Assembly on December 18th at 10am where we will be singing some much loved carols. Make sure you are wearing your Christmas jumper on the day!

Dates for Your Diary:

School Fair: Friday 6th December @ 13.30 – 14.30 p.m.

Secondary / 6th Form Christmas Show: Tuesday 10th December @ 9.30 a.m.

Infant Christmas Show: Friday 13th December @ 9.15 a.m.

Junior Christmas Show: Friday 13th December @ 10.15 a.m.

Christmas Lunch for Pupils, Staff & Governors: Tuesday 17th December 2019

End of Term Assembly & Christmas Jumper Day: Wednesday 18th December @ 10.00 a.m.

REMINDER: School finishes at 1.35 p.m. on Wed 18th December 2019