



Autumn Newsletter I4
16/12/16

Dear Parents,
Welcome to the last school newsletter for 2016.

In class this week

We have had a very busy last week in school, completing work and taking part in lots of festive activities including the Nativity, Christmas lunch, Christmas party, Christingle at Messy Fiesta and our own version of the X factor, 'Waltham's Got Talent!' It's been a fabulous end to the term and although the children have been rather excited, they have completed everything in their usual enthusiastic style and we have found them a pleasure to be around.

Panto

The whole school and staff visited the Newark Palace Theatre on Tuesday for our annual pantomime trip, this year to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This was a magical and memorable experience for the children and adults alike. Thank you to FOWS for funding the cost of transport for this special seasonal outing.

Ben's Beginners

Mars plc and the 'Let's Get Cooking' team joined Sycamore class for a food technology day on Thursday, led by Mrs Leveridge (Sam and Sophie's mother). The children learned all about food – different types, where it comes from and seasonal foods. The children had great fun learning how to make cookies and risotto and tasting the results. Thank you to all those involved for organising this interesting learning experience for the children.

Christmas Nativity

Thank you for joining us for this year's Nativity 'Lights, Camel, Action!' I'm sure you'll agree, to see the children enjoying themselves so much was sheer joy. Your children never cease to amaze me with their talents and enthusiasm for leaning. They really are very special; thank you for sharing them with us. Thanks to all the staff for working as an amazing team to support the children and to you for your kind donations. We raised a total of £167.95 which will go towards the use of the church and to the Owl Minister's nominated charity.

Our Website

We will endeavour to get photographs and reports up on our website as soon as possible. Please take few moments over the holidays to add a comment in to our Guestbook.

Topic for Next Term

After the holiday the whole school will be doing some exciting project work called BACK TO THE FUTURE. The content will include lots of elements linked to history, science, design and art that the children have asked to learn about.

To launch this topic we are **inviting** children to dress up as scientists on the first day back to school, **Wednesday 4th January, if they so wish**. If they don't wish to dress up but would like to come in with crazy hair then they may. The aim is to have fun whilst launching the topic with lots of science activities.

If you have time to take your child to the library to get some books out, or to start thinking about things they'd like to learn about please do encourage them. Don't forget to continue with:

Reading (anything and everything!)

Writing (anything and everything!)

and practise their maths (especially times tables).

Having a rest to recuperate is essential over the holiday but if the children go two whole weeks without doing any reading or writing, etc. they will be much further behind when we return. It will take a while for them to get back up to speed, so please build in some quiet time with your child/ren over the holiday. Thank you.

Church Diary Dates

Sunday 18 th December	Village Carol Service Waltham Church	10.30am
Monday 19 th December	Village Carol Singing 6pm	Bring a Torch! Details overleaf
Saturday 24 th December	Crib Service Waltham Church	4.00pm All welcome. Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character
Saturday 24 th December	Midnight Communion Waltham Church	11.30pm

Roll of Honour

A big well done to Ellis Nugent who was awarded the Governors' Trophy this term for giving 100% in everything he does, always being polite and helpful, positive and with a big smile on his face.

Well done Ellis, we are very proud of you!

Woodland Adventures (Forest Schools)

This will continue next term for Oak Class and Holly Class every Monday; due to the cold weather, each class will have an hour each. With swimming starting again on Monday 9th January, children in Y1,3 and 4 may come to school in their forest school clothing, although I suggest they bring extra layers for when they go outside to work. Don't forget wellies, hats, scarves and GLOVES. Reception class children will need to bring their Woodland Adventure clothes and wellies in a named bag every Monday please.

Swimming

Swimming will start on Monday 9th January for all children in years 1 to 5. Please remember swimming kits each Monday. The cost per child is £15. Please send in on the first day back, in a named envelope marked 'Swimming'. Thank you.

PE

PE lessons and Mr Wing's multi-skills club will start again on Thursday 7th January. Please remember PE kits!

Dinner Money

Please remember to send in dinner money payments **on the first day back**.

Children's Society Collection

The card candles for collecting pennies for the Children's Society may be returned in the first week back. Please return by Friday 6th January. Thank you.

Farewell

Today we bid farewell to two wonderful members of staff: Mrs Pears, who has served Waltham School for 23 years and Mrs Perks, who has been here 4 years. Both will be greatly missed but we wish them well in their retirement and hope to see them visit often. We have been successful in appointing a new admin assistant; we are just waiting for pre-employment checks to be completed before we announce details, but sadly we are still in need of a midday supervisor. I know staff will help out when we return, but this will not be sustainable as they have teaching commitments and need a lunch break themselves, so please help us all you can in finding someone to help.

Thank you

Thank you for all your support this term and on behalf of all the staff thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts we have received. I have also been touched by the many positive comments received from parents this term. So many people have made wonderful comments about Waltham Primary School, which are all much appreciated.

Wishing you all a very happy, peaceful family Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday 4th** January at 8:40am.

Mrs J V Hopkins,
Executive Head teacher.

A Christmas Blessing

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson



VILLAGE CAROL SINGING MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Come and have some fun, and help raise funds for charitable causes.

Meet at 6.00pm at the bus shelter in front of the church.

All ages, voices and abilities welcome – the more the merrier! Stay as long as you can – finish expected 8.30-9.00pm.

Word sheets provided, but please bring a torch.

