



Autumn Newsletter 15 08 December 2017



Dear Parents,

Thank you for joining us for our Christmas extravaganza; I'm sure you'll agree, it was truly wonderful. Every child had a chance to shine and they were simply amazing! What talented, respectful children we have at our school. I am certainly very, very proud of them. Thank you also for the lovely comments you made; it means such a lot.

Thank you for giving so generously to the collection. Here's a message from Henry and Daniel, our collection organisers: "These two young Year 5 pupils have counted all the money raised for the church heating and have got a total of £217.23. Thank you very much for helping the church."



HMI Letter

You should have received a letter from me on Wednesday regarding the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection; you will also find it on our website, along with the letter from the inspector. Much of our work and ethos has been captured and overall the outcome is very pleasing indeed. Thank you again for your support during the process.

In Class this week

Beech Class – This week in Beech Class we have been practising our Nativity performance. As part of our novel study, we have been reading the book 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears'. The children have acted out the story and written some alternative endings. In maths, we have been recognising numerals up to 20.

Holly Class – This week in Holly Class we have been practising our Frosty the Snowman dance. We have also been using interesting adjectives in our letters to Santa and writing Elf Reports on what Buddy has been up to! In maths we have been using our addition and subtraction knowledge to break some Christmas codes.

Oak Class – This week in Oak Class we have been using expanded and short multiplication in maths, to solve 2 and 3 digit problems. In Literacy the children have completed their Chilly Billy chapters. They are very excited to type them up and draw the illustrations next week. Finally this week, we have also practised our songs for the Christmas performance and completed many Christmas activities!

Sycamore Class – This week in Sycamore Class we have been revisiting common misconceptions in Maths and consolidating our knowledge of coordinates and place value. In Science we tested our Anderson shelters to see if they could withstand 1kg weights and whether they were water tight. In Literacy we have written some winter themed Haiku poems.

Website Updates

Please check out new posts, such as:

- A cute picture of Miss Geeson and her new baby
- New class pages
- Details of this year's curriculum

There's also the admissions consultation document for you to view.

Head lice

We are STILL getting reports of head lice. Please continue to check your child's hair; I would recommend doing this DAILY so that we can eradicate them as soon as possible. I would advise all children to have their hair tied back, including boys if their hair is long enough. If lice are found (and they are difficult to spot as they are able to camouflage themselves very well) then using LOTS of hair conditioner and a fine comb works really well and is an alternative to the chemical solutions which eventually the lice can become immune to.

Messy Christingle this Sunday at St Marys at 4pm

As well as making Christingles, the children will also be making Snowmen biscuits, followed by a short worship service where the Christingles will be lit. Tea, coffee and mince pies will then be served. All people of all ages are welcome.

Other Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalene

The following services will be taking place at St Mary Magdalene Church in Waltham during the Christmas period.

- Carols by Candlelight - 17th December at 6pm.
- Crib service – 24th December at 4pm
- Christmas communion – 24th December at 9pm

Basketball Tournament

A huge well done to all the children who represented our school at the vale basketball tournament recently: Olivia, Chloe-Ann, Jack, Morgan, Daniella, Emily, William, Harry, Oscar and Hallie. They played well as a team and scored lots of baskets...including some tremendous long shots from Oscar!

Piano Exams

Jasper Fairhead and Zachary Harris both sat their piano preparatory tests last week with great success. The examiner was impressed with their use of dynamics, articulation of notes and character. Well done to Jasper and Zachary, and all our other pupils who have sat music examinations this term. Continued...

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Poppy appeal- £153.45 was collected from the school for the Royal British Legion.

Decorating Classrooms

Thanks to those of you who were able to join us. Classrooms are looking very Christmassy indeed!

Trip to the Pantomime

Next Friday, the whole school will be going to see Peter Pan at Grantham Guild Hall. Children can wear Christmas jumpers for the day, and will need a packed lunch.

Admissions Consultation for September 2019

The Governing Body review our Admissions Policy every Autumn. This year we have reviewed the priority criteria used when there are more applications than places available and propose to include an additional priority criterion relating to pupils who are enrolled at Waltham Pre-school, to be added after the existing criteria as follows:

If there are too many applicants, it is proposed that priority will be given to children whose parents applied on time, in the following order:

1. Looked after children.
2. Pupils who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic needs.
3. Pupils who will have an older sibling attending the school at the time of admission.
4. Pupils who live in the designated catchment area.
5. *Pupils who are enrolled at Waltham Pre-school.*
6. All other pupils.

The full proposed policy can be found on the school website. You will already have received a letter regarding this which included a response form. Any written submissions in response to the proposed changes should be addressed to The Chair of Governors at the school, no later than the last day of the consultation, 12th January 2018

Christmas Dates

- Wed 13 Dec Oak class singing at Waltham Care Home
Whole school Christmas Dinner: children may wear something festive all day (non-uniform)
- Fri 15 Dec Trip to Pantomime (Christmas hats and sparkles may accessorise their school uniform!)
- Mon 18 Dec Games morning and Arts and Crafts afternoon (non-uniform)
- Tues 19 Dec Whole school Christmas party 1-3pm (party clothes; children may get changed or wear them all day)
- Wed 20 Dec WOW's Got Talent (am) and Christmas Movie (pm) (Non-uniform)

Dark Nights

Now that the dark nights are here, please be especially vigilant of your child's whereabouts if they are outside without an adult. Please remind them about 'stranger danger' and what you would want them to do if they were worried. Does your child know, for example, their address and home telephone number? Perhaps their own high-viz jacket might be an ideal Christmas present from a family member struggling to know what gift to get them?

Huge Cheque!

I was delighted to receive a £250 cheque at our evening Christmas Extravaganza from The Melton Lion's Club to be put towards an outdoor stage area in school. This was a lovely surprise and I know that Mr Jackson will be looking through the catalogues already!!

Special Mention

Well done to Harry S. for being awarded the governors trophy for this term. We are all really proud of him.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J V Hopkins
Executive Head teacher

