

Newsletter



Newsletter 7

6th December, 2019

Assembly Themes: Next week: Humility Week after: Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we are only two weeks away from the end of term! The children have had a very busy few weeks getting ready for all the Christmas activities. Today, Miss Grainger and I decorated our entry for the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Saviour Church in Hitchin – if you are in the area, please drop in and vote for our entry - ‘Nativit-ree’ – the children have worked really hard to produce so many decorations!

We are all looking forward to sharing the plays with you next week, and at the Carol Service the following week. I have included a timetable for the next fortnight to give an overview of everything happening.



Mrs Halliday

After a very long, happy and successful association with the school, I am very sad to inform you that Mrs Halliday will be leaving at Christmas. This is so that she and her husband can fit in a few ‘Gap Years’ of travelling. Mrs Halliday has been a huge asset to the school, first as a parent, then as a teaching assistant and most recently, working in our school office. She is loyal, hardworking, kind and very committed to the school and our families. She will be greatly missed by us as a friend as well as a colleague but we are all excited for her in this next big adventure in life. I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her husband every happiness for the future.

We have been fortunate in being able to arrange for Mrs Bundy to work with her over the term – this will enable a smooth transition of responsibilities. All other arrangements will remain the same, with Ms Pearce as our Office Manager and Mrs Day working in the office after school.



Baby Ogle

I am delighted to share the wonderful news of the safe arrival of Lily Florence Ogle, who was born on Monday. Mr, Mrs and Rose Ogle are very happy to welcome her to their family. I am sure you join me in offering them our congratulations.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you very much for supporting our Poppy Appeal – we are very proud to have collected £346.93!



School Play Tickets

Tickets are available from the office for the Years 3 & 4 play and 5 & 6 play. Tickets are not needed for Year 1, Reception or Nursery. As we are anticipating a large audience for the Year 3 & 4 play, we will not be able to offer unlimited tickets to make sure we can fit everyone in. Therefore we suggest that having decided which night you would like to come to, you collect tickets for yourself and any grandparents, and come back to the office a couple of days before the performance to see if tickets are available for extended family members.

School Play Organisation

Years 3 and 4 will need to return to school at 6.30, when the doors will open. Years 5 & 6 will need to return at 7.30 p.m. If they need to arrive with Year 3 & 4 siblings, they can wait in the Year 6 classroom from 6.30.

Year 3 will be changing in the Year 1 classroom. Years 4, 5 and 6 will be changing in their usual classrooms.

Year 5 & 6 parents are welcome to wait in the Year 2 classroom, where raffle tickets can be purchased and refreshments will be on sale. Entry to the hall will be through the Year 2 classroom for the second half of the evening.



Filming

We understand that photographs and films of children in Christmas plays are a really important record of your children's childhood, and for this reason, we have always had a 'responsible' filming policy. This means, that we are happy for you to take photographs or record your child, but this must not be shared on any social media. This includes your own pages with high privacy settings, as others who have access to these may not be aware of the policy and inadvertently breach this. There are a number of children in the school who must not appear on social media.

I am sure that you understand the reasons for this policy and will be pleased to comply with these requirements.



Carols By Candlelight

We are delighted to be invited to sing at the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 22nd December 2019 at St. Giles at 6.00pm. If your child belongs to choir and is available to sing, please could you let me know, so that I can decide which carols would be best for us to perform? I will send a slip out nearer the time – alternatively, please let the office know, in person, or by email. Thank you in advance.

The PTFA Children's Christmas Disco will be held on Thursday 19th December, from 5.30 – 7pm. Entry is on the door, at a cost £2.50. Refreshments and glow sticks will be on sale on the night, so children may wish to bring a small amount of money with them if they wish to buy something. This event is always great fun – all children who attend the school are welcome!

Our next PTFA meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January, at 7.30pm, in the staffroom – all parents and carers are welcome to come along and help us to plan the next few events.



Pantomime Visit

A huge thank you to the PTFA for their funding for the whole school visit to the pantomime, and to you for supporting this event. We had a fantastic time and the children were a credit to you – an absolute pleasure to take!



Fruit Juice Donations Request

Thank you - we have a third of our target of juice cartons and would really welcome any further donations of long life fruit juice for the Hamper appeal. If you are aware of a family in need who would benefit from a hamper, please could you let me know asap – it will be treated in strictest confidence.



Evening Carol Service with Year 2, 6 & Choir

The Carol Service will take place on the evening of the 17th December, starting at 6.30 – doors open at 6.15pm. Year 2 will be performing their Nativity Play during the service; the church is usually very crowded, but we will do our best to make sure that Year 2 parents get a good view! Year 2 children will need to arrive at St. Giles at 6.15pm. Choir members from Years 5 and 6 will be singing carols, and there will be readings from Year 6. Year 6 who are not in Choir or doing readings, get a night off!



School Christmas Lunch

The School Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 17th December, after the children return from the Carol Service. All children who usually have a school meal on Tuesdays will automatically be registered. If your child does not usually have a school meal on Tuesdays, but would like one on this occasion, please let the School Office know. The cost is £2.60. A vegetarian option is available on request. If any parents or grandparents are available to supervise the children in the hall, so that the staff can eat their lunch together, we would be really grateful for any offers of help.



Christmas Shopping Evening

Thanks for all your help with the Christmas Shopping evening – including coming along to shop and see Father Christmas. We really appreciate all of the help we had with setting up and clearing away and for the help on the

night. We don't yet have a final total for the event, but know that the cost of the Pantomime Coaches has been covered.



Countdown to Christmas!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11 th December	10 th December	11 th December	12 th December	13 th December	14 th December	15 th December
	a.m. Year 6 Carol Singing at Poynders Meadow	School Play dress rehearsals Years 5 & 6: 9.15 Years 3 & 4: 10.30 Reception: 1.15 Year 1: 2.00	School Plays Reception: 10.30 Year 1: 2.30 Years 3 & 4: 7.00 Years 5 & 6: 7.45	Years R, 1 & 2 Party: 1.15 School Plays: Years 3 & 4: 7.00 Years 5 & 6: 7.45		
16 th December	17 th December	18 th December	19 th December	20 th December	21 st December	22 nd December
	Christmas Service at Church: 9.50– Children & staff School Christmas Lunch: 12.00 Christmas Service at Church: 6.30– Year 2, Choir members from Years 5 & 6, staff and parents	Nursery Carols 10.00 Years 3 & 4 Party: 1.15	Years 5 & 6 Party: 1.15 School Disco 5.30 – 7.00:	Christmas Jumper/ Wear a piece of tinsel Day For a donation in aid of Africa Educational Trust – to help send a child to school for a year Nursery Party am Term ends: 1.15		St.Giles Church: 6p.m. Carols by Candlelight with school Choir Everyone welcome

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER