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December Newsletter- The Holidays are Coming!

Dear Parents/Carers,

The festive season is upon us and I'm sure you're all as excited as I am about this magical time of year. It has been an absolute pleasure witnessing the amazing nativity rehearsals taking place over the past couple of weeks and I can't wait to celebrate with all the children. Although there are less than two weeks to go until the end of term, we have a 'jam-packed' calendar and I really hope you'll be able to join us for as many of the events as you can.

Nativity Performances

The performances are finally upon us! We can't wait to showcase all the brilliant acting, singing and dancing involved in our Nativity extravaganzas this year! It is a magical occasion and I know we could fill the hall three times over with the amount of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who would love to see the shows. However, we only have a limited amount of space and chairs and therefore ask for your support and understanding over this matter. By all means, if you know you won't be able to attend either performance then please let fellow parents know as it could be an opportunity for someone else to come along.

We would love any donations of holly or ivy to decorate the church for the KS2 Church Service on 19th December. If you have any spare please drop it to the church the day before.

Christmas Market- What a success!

Thank you to everyone who came or helped at our fabulous Christmas Market at the end of November. It was a wonderful event and it was a lovely way to 'kick off' the festive period. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Claire, Leanne, Tash and the rest of the Friends team for putting on an amazing spectacle. Although we don't have the final 'figures' in yet, I am sure we have raised much-needed funds for the children.

Children In Need and Our School-Chosen Christmas Charity

Congratulations to everyone who made our 'Children In Need' day so spotacular! We managed to raise £270.10 for this very worthy charity. I know it sometimes feels like we are supporting charities 'every other week' but I'm sure you all appreciate how important it is for our children to learn the value of 'service' through such acts of kindness. Thank you for your continued support.

I was incredibly proud of all of our Year 6s last week as they presented their chosen charities to the rest of the school. Each year, our oldest children produce presentations on their preferred charities and then the school votes on who will receive all our Christmas donations. The overall pedigree of these were amazing and it was a truly moving morning to

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see our Year 6s giving such heart-warming presentations. Raul, Lucian and Josh gained the most votes and therefore Wateraid will be our chosen Christmas charity.

Attendance at FCCE

I have been really pleased with how resilient and positive our pupils have been since the start of this academic year. This is demonstrated through a number of means and one of these are our excellent attendance records. We have one of the highest attendance rates in South Glos. and this is down to our amazingly supportive parents as well as our happy and healthy pupils.

Below is a table showing the percentage of children in each class who have yet to miss a single day of school this year.

Class	% of pupils with 100% attendance since the start of this academic year	Average Attendance %	Class	% of pupils with 100% attendance since the start of this academic year	Average Attendance %
1	73%	98.9%	7	39%	98.1%
2	43%	96.8%	8	34%	97.6%
3	55%	98%	9	55%	97.9%
4	33%	97.5%	10	43%	98.3%
5	66%	98.3%	11	33%	97.8%
6	60%	99%			

As you can see, some classes have been hit a lot harder than others when it comes to illness. I'm really glad everyone adheres to the '48 hour' period for any vomiting or diarrhea and am also grateful to everyone who sends their children in 'when they aren't quite 100%'. We always appreciate how you do the hard part by getting them here and then we'll look after them for you. If we're ever concerned about a child's health we'll always phone home to inform you but we're privileged to know you trust us to make that decision. The fact so many children currently have 100% attendance is a great credit to themselves and their families- thank you!

Sporting Success

We've had some fabulous performances over the past few weeks and I'm proud to be able to share them with you. Our girls and boys football teams have been very busy and have represented the school with great pride. The boys' team beat St. Pauls 2-1 recently with great goals from Daniel and Drey. The girls' team has continued to succeed and recently won our Frome Valley Alliance competition. They have now competed in two tournaments and have yet to concede a goal!

Mrs Summers' netball dynasty has gone from 'strength to strength' and the teams have won on several occasions over the past few weeks.

Harry did everyone proud in the regional Cross Country championships a couple of weeks ago. He came 14th in the Year 5 boys category and again finished first out of all the South Glos. runners. Unfortunately, Josh wasn't well enough to run in the Year 6 race but I'm sure he would have been amazing!

Alice exceeded all her own expectations by finishing 6th in a National tennis competition- her hard work and dedication is a great example to others.

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Another athlete performing extremely well is Ruben. He has been swimming at club level for several years and he recently posted some excellent qualifying times which means he has now qualified to swim at the County championships.

New Parent Tours

I am currently busy 'showing off' our fantastic school to prospective parents as the deadline for applying for reception places for 2018 closes on the 15th January. If you already have children at our school and 'another on the way' or know others in the area who are looking, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and I'd be happy to show you around. We have the most wonderful pupils and I'm always proud to be able to take people around and talk to them about the amazing opportunities our children receive on a daily basis.

Parent Governor Election Result

I am pleased to announce Dan Clark has been voted onto our School Governing Body. Thank you to everyone who put their name forward for the position and I am sure Dan will serve the parent community well as he takes on his new role.

Enrichment Day- Friday 15th December

Can I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Barter and all the parents who made our last enrichment day such a huge success. The pupils (and staff) love them and it is one of the many things that makes our school such a unique and special place. This term, we will be holding a festive enrichment with lots of Christmas activities. I will be taking 22 children on a 'Santa-version' of our much-loved Globe Trot and would really appreciate if any parents would be able to spare a couple of hours in the morning to run with us. Please let me or the office know if you are free to help.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 10th December- Key Stage 1 Nativity performance to parents (1.45pm)

Wednesday 11th December- Key Stage 1 Nativity performance to parents (9.45am)

Friday 14th December- Enrichment Day

Friday 14th December- Christmas jumper day (donate £1 to 'Save the Children' charity)

Monday 17th December- Year 1,2 & 3 Drama Club performance to parents (3.45pm)

Tuesday 18th December- Reception Nativity performance to parents (9.10am)

Tuesday 18th December- Christmas church service at St. Peter's (Key Stage 2) at 6pm (children to arrive at 5.30pm)

Wednesday 19th December- Reception Nativity performance to parents (2pm)

Wednesday 19th December- Year 4,5 & 6 Drama Club performance to parents (3.45pm)

Thursday 20th December- School Christmas dinner

Friday 22nd December- LAST DAY OF TERM!

Monday 7th January- INSET day

Tuesday 8th January- First day of term 3

Congratulations

I have been overwhelmed by all the amazing learning in classes throughout November. Some highlights included:

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- Callum, Elsa and Ava for brilliant writing about their half term;
- Austin and Lucy for amazing narratives;
- Isaac and Theo for winning the KNex challenge and being invited to the regional finals;
- Sophie for gorgeous handwriting;
- Blake and Archie for fantastic reading;
- Amy for awesome adding and subtracting skills;
- Lucas, Poppy and Ellen for their wonderful fireworks poetry;
- Ruby for her suspense-filled story;
- Jonah for his superb maths homework;
- Ewan for the incredible improvements in his handwriting;
- Florrie for her outstanding grammar learning;
- Dex for unbelievable fractions learning and
- Ruby, Amy, Hollie, Bethan, Chloe, Evie, Jasmine and Romilly for their fantastic recorder playing!

'It's the most wonderful time of the year' as the song goes!

Thank you for your continued support,

Pete Barnard

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