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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 my first Christmas as Head teacher with all the children. Although there are less than three 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.

#### **Amazing News!**

It gives me great pleasure to announce Miss Southall was given the 'all clear' last week. She has undergone cancer treatment since August and the consultants have now presented her with this fantastic news. Unfortunately for Miss Southall, she still has to have a lot of physio as part of her hamstring was taken out in her operation. Therefore, she will not be returning at the start of term 3, as she had previously hoped, but wanted me to pass on her sincerest 'thanks' for all the kind messages passed onto her from members of our school. She can't wait to return and I will keep you posted on her progress. As for Class 9, Mrs Lakeman and Mrs Pugsley will continue to teach after Christmas.

#### **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! **Class 1 and 2 are allowed 2 adults per performance.** Due to more children involved in the Key Stage 1 Nativity, **Class 3, 4 and 5 are allowed 2 adults in total (we would recommend you try and have one adult at each performance if possible).** 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.

#### **Christmas Fair on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5-7pm**

Thank you to everyone who have already committed to helping at our Christmas fair on Friday. We have a new format this year with a later starting time and I know it is going to be a wonderful occasion. The FRIENDS have worked tirelessly to make the event such an enjoyable experience and I'm sure we'll raise a fabulous amount of money for the school. If you'd like to help and haven't signed up yet then please feel free to do so at the board by the front entrance.

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As always, we have been overwhelmed by your generous donations and I can't wait to welcome everyone on Friday night!

### **Christingle Service at St. Peter's Church 4pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

The popular Christingle service will be held at St. Peter's church this Sunday. It is always such a lovely family occasion and I'm sure our Key Stage 1 and 2 choirs will sound like angels when they perform. If you are available, please come along and join us in celebrating this special time of year.

### **Children In Need**

Congratulations to everyone who made our 'Children In Need' day so spotacular! Our house captains performed amazingly throughout the day and we managed to raise £526.14 for a very worthy cause. I was especially proud of Isabella, Scarlett and Florrie as they performed on TV to a regional audience to showcase their amazing tap dancing skills! Furthermore, they attempted to break a world record on the very same weekend- Wow!

### **Attendance at FCCE**

As I mentioned on the November newsletter, I would like to make attendance a regular feature each month. This time, I would like to share with you how many pupils in each class have managed to obtain 100% attendance since the start of this academic year. This is a great achievement as we have had a couple of nasty bugs around the school but is also testament to the hard work and effort that goes in at home to keeping our children fit and healthy!

<b>Class</b>	<b>% of pupils with 100% attendance since the start of this academic year</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% of pupils with 100% attendance since the start of this academic year</b>
1	50%	7	63%
2	76%	8	45%
3	43%	9	48%
4	52%	10	55%
5	55%	11	30%
6	24%		

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.

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## **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. Individual performances of note include a 'cat-like' spell of goalkeeping from Ruby Gold, a wonderful debut from Raul Griffin-Santos and a 'goal of the season' contender from Alfie Blunden. Likewise, our netballers have been achieving several good wins in their games and have had some stellar performances from Ellie Massey and Katie Woodward as well as being well-supported by the rest of the team.

## **Our New School Facebook Page**

As I'm sure you'll be aware by now, our school has launched its very own Facebook page. This is designed to complement the current sources of communication and will be regularly updated with posts about our school. Alongside this newsletter, you will have noticed a form giving you more information about how we will use Facebook. In addition to this, there is also a slip attached for any parents to fill in if they do not wish for their child's image to be used on our page. As the page will have an 'open' status (which is further detailed in the letter), we would like to give parents the opportunity to 'opt out' if they wish. As always, we will adhere to our current child protection and e-safety policies but feel having a Facebook page will be a great way to showcase all the wonderful learning taking place at our school.

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Similarly, I will be publishing an advertisement on our Facebook site over the next couple of days and would really appreciate as many of you being able to share the post as possible.

## **Parent Governor Election Result**

I am pleased to announce Sarah Stephens-Lewis has retained her place on our Governing body and has accepted a new term of office. She has been doing a brilliant job in her role as parent governor and her valuable educational background makes her a great representative.

## **Toy Drive in aid of South West Children's Hospice**

One of our local residents is raising money for the South West Children's Hospice by holding a second-hand toy sale at Crossbow House on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 11am and 3pm. He has been overwhelmed by all your incredible donations and this has been another example of how our caring school community shows exemplary service to others.

## **Our First Enrichment Day... What a Success!**

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Can I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Barter and all the parents who made our first enrichment day such a roaring success. The children were so excited and engaged by all the different activities and I know they cannot wait to take part in our next one. Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February has been set as the date for our second enrichment day and Mrs Barter will be sharing the choices with the children over the coming weeks. I hope everyone has managed to see the wonderful presentation on our website homepage as it brilliantly captures the fun and enjoyment experienced by every single pupil, parent and member of staff!

### **New Musical Opportunities at FCCE**

I'm pleased to announce we are currently in the process of securing the services of Kate Richards. She is an acclaimed performer and has been involved in several high profile theatre productions over the past 20 years. A talented singing coach, she has offered to work with any children who would like singing or vocal lessons. She charges £6.50 for a 30 minute paired session or £13 for an individual lesson. If your child would be interested then please sign up with Nic in the office as Kate will be putting on a free 'taster' session in the New Year. Please visit her website [www.ignitebristol.com](http://www.ignitebristol.com) or speak to the school office for more information.

In addition to this, we are also negotiating with a local guitarist to take on new guitar lessons from January. Although we'd all like Mr Baly to 'go on' forever, he is unable to take on new learners. Therefore, we would like to offer the opportunity to any pupils in Year 3 or 4 who would like to start having lessons to contact the school office. Once we have enough interest, we will then start to hold these lessons during the school day.

### **Putty/Blu Tack**

Lots of children have been bringing putty and blu tack into school. Could you please ensure your child leaves these items at home unless they have been advised by their teacher to bring it in.

### **School Christmas Lunch**

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### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas lunch is £2.45 per child (payment is not required for KS1 children as they receive universal free school meals).

Please let the office know if your child would like either a Turkey or Vegetarian Christmas lunch by Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Payment for your child's Christmas meal can be made via Sims Agora or cash into the school office in the usual way.

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November- FCCE Judaism Faith Day

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December- Christmas fair (from 5-7pm)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December- Christingle service at St. Peter's Church (4pm with both KS1 and KS2 choirs performing)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December- Key Stage 1 Nativity performance to parents (1.45pm)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Key Stage 1 Nativity performance to parents (9.45am)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Class 1 and 2 to visit Crossbow to watch their Nativity (10am)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Rock Steady concert to parents (2.30pm)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Boys football game Vs. St Michaels (home)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December- Year 2 scooter training

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Street Dance After School Club Performance (4pm)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Reception (Class 1 and 2) Nativity performance to parents (2pm)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Choir Christmas Concert (4.20pm)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Reception Nativity performance to parents (9.30am)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Drama club performance (3:45pm)- please feel free to bring food/drinks for children as they can eat at school before going over to the Christmas service at St. Peters.

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Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December- School Christmas service at St. Peter's Church (6pm start but advised to get there early if you would like a seat).

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December- School Christmas dinner

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas jumper day (donate £1 to 'Save the Children' charity)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December- Year 6 housecaptains' quiz to the rest of the school

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December- LAST DAY OF TERM!

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December- INSET day

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January- INSET day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January- First day of term 3

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January- Friendship week in School

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January- FRIENDS meeting 7pm at The Globe

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January- Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents (6pm in the hall) run by Mrs Knight (all staff have had the training and it has already helped me understand my two boys better!)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January- Class 1 and 2 Literacy workshop (2.15pm) for parents (similar to the maths one)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January- Lisa Barter (speech and language therapist) running a 'drop in' for any parents to book an appointment with her.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January- Class 6 worship to parents (9.05am)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Our second School Enrichment day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Last day of Term 3.

## **Congratulations**

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

- Amazing artwork from Alfie, Issy and Joao-Lucas when recreating a part of a picture by Michelangelo!
- Fabulous writing by Sean;
- Beautiful cursive handwriting by Frankie;
- Superb independent spelling learning by Theo and Bradey;
- Wonderful maths learning by Evan during our Parents maths morning in Reception;
- Fantastic maths homework by Lucy W;
- Dedicated athletics work at home by Esther;
- Unbelievable improvements by Ruby F in her writing and cursive presentation;
- Brilliant problem-solving from Sophie, Tom, Ned, Evan, Annabelle, Archie, Rosie and Esther and
- Magnificent reading by Jack R with Emma (our reading assistant).

I can't believe they pay me to do this!

Thank you for your continued support,

Pete Barnard

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