



Autumn Term 2 - 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We've had a very busy few weeks in school with lots of activities, Christmas performances and opportunities for the children...with more still to come next week!

As a **Christmas challenge** in this newsletter, can you find the **three hidden Santa's reindeer** and **three Christmas songs/carols**. Hand me the answers on the school gate next week to be in with a chance to win a prize...

World Cup Workshops:

We celebrated the World Cup in style with each class learning about a different country. Across school, some children tried different foods, learnt a few foreign phrases and songs and each class had the chance to enjoy a dance workshop learning traditional dances from their class country. At the end of the day, each class performed like a real Dancer in a celebration of diversity and different cultures. All we need now is England to beat France tomorrow and progress....the question is, "Is it coming home?"



Music in school:

We had a visit from an Ofsted Inspector a few weeks ago conducting some research into school's provision for music around the country. He observed lessons, talked with teachers and children and looked at videos of past performances. Whilst he wasn't here to inspect, we received some very positive feedback: "If all school had this provision for music, the state of music across the country would be in a much better place." Well done to Mrs Palmer for all her ongoing hard work!

We are looking forward to taking 45 children in our Year 5/6 school choir at the O2 Arena for a Young Voices performance in January.



PTA Children's Christmas Fair:

Thank you so much to our PTA who organised a Christmas Fair for all the children in school. Children got to take part in traditional fair games like 'Splat the Rat' and 'Guess the name of the teddy' all for free with lots of prizes won. All these events take a lot of organisation and we're so lucky to have such a committed team who are determined to give our children wonderful opportunities!



Parking: Thank you so much for paying more attention to parking safely outside school and thank you to the little helpers we've had standing outside holding our parking sign...long may it continue! Even if you're a Dasher, running late, please avoid dropping off on the double yellow lines. Another reminder for parents dropping off at breakfast club... please only drive onto school site if you have a permit. It is a dangerous junction with children walking about. Please speak to Lisa at the office if you feel that you need a permit and closer access due to yours or your child's needs. The bike shed will be open earlier now to avoid children on scooters going down the school drive into the carpark.



Christmas performances:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at school. A big well done to all the children in Early Years for their lovely Christmas performance, 'All about Christmas,' last week. We have two performances from KS1 at the beginning of next week to look forward to as well. On the last day of term, as we have traditionally done as a school, children in KS2 will be walking to St. Mary's church for a Christmas 'assembly' where they will sing some carols and listen to some of our musicians perform. Unfortunately, due to space in the church, we cannot invite parents to this but we will share photos and videos.

Christmas Jumper Day in School:

We will be allowing children to wear Christmas jumpers/tops or Christmas dresses on **Wednesday 14th December** which is our Christmas dinner day in school. (This can be worn with non-uniform) Voluntary donations will be taken for 'Save the Children', the charity that organises the official Christmas Jumper Day.

KS1 - Local area:

KS1 had visitors from the local community talking about their jobs in the village last week. Thank you to all those that volunteered to come and talk and answer questions about their role in the community, especially, of course, to Tiny (a pony, not a Little Donkey) from Apollo Stables who was a real Prancer exploring our school garden...





Y 5/6 WW2 Activity Day

As a culmination to their topic on WW2, children in Y5/6 will be having a WW2 activity day on Monday 12th December. We invite children to dress up in WW2 costumes - see the letter from last week for some easier examples of what they can wear.

Thank you

As a school, we feel very blessed to have local charities to help top up our funding and support our school budget. This term we have had very generous donations from Goward and Evans and Christian Enterprise (plus a donation from a member of the community who wanted to remain anonymous) to enhance the experiences of our children. I want to publically say thank you to these charities for their continuous support.

Goward and Evans: Alongside their usual sizable donation towards school trips/ experiences for the children, they have also supported a project for some of our pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Christian Enterprise: They have funded resources to improve our reading provision across Early Years and KS1 including a school subscription to e-books so that children can access reading books online from home. KS1 and Early Years parents will hear more about this in the new year once this has been set up.

Next term:

In case you wanted to do some pre-learning/ research in preparation for the next topics, these are the main themes children will be learning about next term...

Early Years	Topic: Traditional Tales
KS1	Topic: Weather
Y3/4	Topic: Forests
Y5/6	Topic: The Kingdom of Benin

Family Support:

With the cost of living rising, the colder days and the expense of Christmas, please do let us know if you're struggling. We're here to help with a listening ear and we can signpost you towards further support.

Other reminders:

- Last day of term is 16th December (next Friday). Children should return to school on **Wednesday 4th January**.
- As the weather is getting colder, please ensure you child comes to school with a coat.
- 'Coffee and Chat' - all parents/carers are welcome to our Coffee and chat sessions. The next one is scheduled for January 20th (9:00-10:30)

