



St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Monday 17th December 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,



We certainly know it is Christmas at St Andrew's. It started on Wednesday 5th December at the Thame Carol Concert. The children looked really smart in their new choir uniform, we felt very proud of their brilliant singing. Thank you to Mrs Ludlow and Mrs Gerrish for enabling our year 4 choir to be such stars.

This was followed on Saturday, by the school Christmas Fayre. There was a fantastic atmosphere at the event. I heard several comments regarding how well organised and well-resourced it was. Father Christmas was kept busy in the grotto, there were a lot of excited prize winners and the choirs sang to their absolute best. Thank you to the SASA team for their continued hard work before, during and after the event which raised an incredible £1340.

Every day last week there was a big event in school. We started with the EYFS and KS1 Christmas productions which were a delight to see and hear with their convincing acting and incredible singing. This was followed by an equally stunning year 3 performance on Friday afternoon. Thank you for supporting the children and attending these events.

For KS2 parents we had the carol concert on Thursday. The audience was entertained with several carols and reminded of the Christmas story by the readers from our school community.

Thank you to the staff for all their hard work to produce these very special events which everyone looks forward to over the year.



Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Annette Mashru - Headteacher

And... farewell to Mrs Youens

After ten years at St. Andrew's, Mrs Linda Youens is retiring from teaching. Mrs Youens has worked in EYFS, KS1 and KS2. She has led Design and Technology across the school and has been on call when cover has been required. We shall all miss Mrs Youens at St Andrew's but like all people who retire from our school we have a way of getting them back again! I think this might be the case for Mrs Youens on the odd morning or afternoon. We wish Linda an enjoyable and well-earned 'flexible' retirement.



Safeguarding - Polite Reminder

If your child is unwell please could you notify the school as soon as possible, ideally before registration - 8.50am. The office team are spending increasing amounts of time trying to contact parents and carers to find out where a child is when they have not arrived at school. This is particularly concerning when it is a child known to walk to school unaccompanied.

Thank you for your support in advance.



Lego



I am delighted to inform you that we have just purchased a full class set of Wedo 2 Lego and a full class set of Lego design activities to enhance pupils' skills across science, coding, and engineering. This was enabled through a successful community grant bid to OCC from one of our parents. Thank you to Giz Dor and Councillor Jeannette Matelot for making this possible. On that note, if parents do have contacts with companies who can support school in any way we would be happy to hear from you.



Governor update

On behalf of the governing team, I should like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a relaxing break, after what has been a jam packed first term.

As a team, we were reflecting last week on the school's continued progress and early next term we'll publish a report on our 2018 objectives. Highlights have included securing the two new classrooms to provide the best platform for the school's growth, alongside ensuring that at a time when many schools are struggling to attract quality staff, we have a full complement of dedicated teachers and support staff across the school.

And we were also pleased to welcome three new governors, who joined us following the open nominations earlier this term. I'm delighted that Jacqui Thomas, Nancy Spagou-Pavilidis and Rachel Reynolds have offered their skills and experience as we continue to help the school team shape and drive St Andrew's forward.

My thanks to all the governors, Mrs Mashru and all the staff, SASA, parents, carers and the many volunteers whose contribution to St Andrew's makes this such a wonderful school to be part of.

Enjoy your festive break and warm wishes for 2019.

Seb Hearmon – Chair of Governors