



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Autumn Term Issue 5

19th December 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

December has certainly been an eventful month with play rehearsals and performances, the Year 6 residential visit to Yenworthy Lodge in Devon, the pantomime, the Christmas Fair and our first "Snow Day" for five years. Of course, between all these exciting events, the children have continued to work hard in lessons - I have been so impressed with their attitude to learning and their determination to do their best in these last few weeks of term. January will be a very exciting time for Mrs Gardner and Miss O'Hara with Mrs Gardner's baby due around the middle of the month and Miss O'Hara embarking on her travels for five months. They will both be greatly missed here at school but we look forward to getting regular updates about what is happening and wish them both all the very best in 2018.

The whole staff team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kind regards
Fiona Taylor Acting Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Please be aware that occasionally dates have to be changed, so check newsletters regularly for any amendments.

* **Holiday dates**

19th Dec Family Christmas Service
9.10am

19th Dec **LAST DAY TERM**
School Closes at 1.30pm

20th Dec - 3rd Jan **Christmas Holidays**
4th & 5th Jan **INSET DAYS**

8th Jan 1st Day of Spring Term
22nd Jan Year 5 dance @ HBS
26th Jan Parent Drop In (9.00 a.m.),
31st Jan Life Bus visiting school
1st Feb Life Bus visiting school
8th Feb Windmill visit to Story
Museum Oxford tbc

9th Feb **LAST DAY TERM**
12th - 16th February - **Half term Holiday**

19th Feb 1st Day of Term
26th Feb Parent Drop In (9.00 a.m.)
23rd Mar Parent Drop In (2.45 p.m.)

Parents' Drop-in

Thank you to everyone who has been able to come along to any of our Parents' Drop-in sessions - we have already begun implementing some of the ideas that you have put forward such as a weekly Parent Mail message with key dates and inviting the parents of KS2 children into school to see the children's topic homework. We always value your feedback and look forward to hearing more of your ideas next term - the next sessions will take place on Friday 26th January (9.00 a.m.), Monday 26th February (9.00 a.m.) and Friday 23rd March (2.45 p.m.)

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New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Dr Lindsay McGuinness to our staff team in January. She will be working with us to support Science in KS2, including running an after school STEM Club. Please keep the following items for us for use in the club: Plastic lemonade/coke bottles (2 litre) Plastic water bottles (500ml) Jam jars (with lids) Amazon boxes which have been used for delivery

Maths

Hello, Mrs Gardner here with Maths news!! First of all, very exciting news...I received this email last week from the Primary Maths Challenge:

We would like to thank you for taking part in the Primary Maths Challenge 2017. We hope you enjoyed it and found it a worthwhile experience. We had over 68,000 pupils from almost 1700 schools take part in the PMC, and this year we would like to invite all those scoring 20 and above to take part in the Bonus Round on 7th February 2018.



www.shutterstock.com - 491982034

In a first for Aston and Cote Primary School, our very own HOLLY from Westerleigh class will be put forward to the Bonus Round! Congratulations Holly, I'm so, so pleased for you. Secondly, if you think you might be interested in taking part in the PMC, you can have your very own go at these challenging papers. There is now an online paper on their website for you to practise the PMC - just go on their website or follow the link below to have a go for yourself. I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for pupils who want to take part in November 2018's paper!

<http://www.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/primary-maths-problems-live-online>

In other Maths news, we love singing our times tables songs daily so I thought I'd share with you parents which app we use on our iPads in the classrooms. It's called 'Maths Rockx' and has been a big help with learning our times tables facts and the children love it! Here's the link if you'd like to download it on your personal devices. A little warning though, the songs really will get stuck in your head!

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/maths-rockx-times-tables/id996850981?mt=8>

That's all from me for now, well for a little while any way! Thank you for all your Maths learning support and encouragement as it's such an important subject that we use on a daily basis. Please do include your children in real life maths situations such as: counting money, telling the time, measuring and weighing whilst you go about your restful, festive Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas to you all,

Mrs Gardner

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Road Safety Poster Competition

Art Club -Term 2, 2017



We spent time looking at various existing Road Safety posters and carefully designed our own, spending weeks sketching and colouring our amazing finishing pieces.

On Tuesday 12th December, we had some very special visitors in school to announce some very exciting news!

During Art Club this term, we took part in a Road Safety Poster competition held by West Oxfordshire District Council. The winning design would not only be showcased in the local community, but would also win a brand new bike and bike safety equipment!



Sparrowhawk, in Reedy Class, had the winning design! Well done, Bethany, a very deserving winner. A big round of applause to all who took part! Despite over 25 schools taking part in the competition, Bethany We have some very talented artists here at *Amman!*



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Yenworthy 2017



On 4th December 28 children, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Feast and Cody's Dad, Mr Lewis, set off to Yenworthy for a week's residential. What a week! We went walking on the moors, rock climbing, coasteering, rock-pooling, made a fire on the beach, completed a low ropes course, scrambled up waterfalls and so much more.

"My favourite part was the rock climbing; it was really good fun and I had never done it before." Emily B



"I enjoyed the waterfalls; they were amazing! We also put leaves in our helmets which made us look like bugs!" Cody

"My favourite part was when we climbed the waterfall because I've never experienced it before. It was AMAZING!" Sienna



"Yenworthy helped me to be more independent and to conquer my fears." Reed



We all want to say a huge thank you to Mr Lewis for coming with us to Yenworthy! You were a star!



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Christmas Fair



I am sure you will agree that the FACS Christmas Fair was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion with lots of different things to do and to buy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FACS committee for all their hard work behind the scenes - as I'm sure you can imagine, a huge amount of planning and preparation is needed before an event such as this. I would also like to thank the children in Year 6 who ran some of the stalls in Holywell class. In addition, thank you to everyone who came along on the day or who sold raffle tickets to family and friends - without your support the event would not have been so successful. FACS also held a raffle and ran the bar at both the FS and KS1 performances; final calculations are still taking place but we are hoping to have raised approximately £2000 over the Christmas period which is a huge achievement for a school of our size. All the money raised will go towards enhancing the education of the children in school.

Do your best!



The following children were nominated for a Headteacher's Award in December:

Windmill Harry & Jessica
Kingsway Isla T & Micah
Oatlands Max & Charlie A
Holywell Grace & Evie
Reedy Sophie & Felicity
Westerleigh Lilly-Anne & Jack S

Certificates in December were awarded for showing patience to others and excellent problem solving skills.

Windmill Nativity

On Thursday evening Windmill class performed their Nativity 'Shine Star Shine'.

I was the Big star - Jessica

My favourite bit was riding on camels. - Dillon

I liked the singing - Teddy



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Lunchtime clothing

Don't forget that the children will only be able to play football at lunchtime if they bring a change of footwear and clothing. This is in addition to their P.E. kit.

I am always happy to meet with parents by appointment and we welcome feedback either verbally, through emails or through our "Feedback and Suggestions" box in the front entrance.

Fiona Taylor, Acting Headteacher

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