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Headteacher: Miss Karen MacKenzie



Stanton Harcourt School

## Newsletter December 2015

### Book Fair

Thanks to all who came and bought books last week. We took £548.08 which means we can buy books to that amount from Scholastic Books.

### ***A report from our Year Six pupils – an Afternoon with Mr Foster***

*On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November we were very honoured to have the author Mr John Foster visit our school.*

*He spent the afternoon with us reading all sorts of amusing poems from his books. One particular poem was very funny because it was all about how he had twisted the poem of Mary Quite Contrary.*

*“Mary, Mary quite contrary, why are you looking so glum?*

*I went for a wee behind the bush and a nettle stung my bum.”*

*Before he left he gave us the task of retelling Robin Hood in a storyboard format. It was a fun way of telling story by putting words into pictures with captions below.*

*Towards the end of the day we were given the chance to entertain Mr Foster by acting out our storyboard scenes from the story Robin Hood. I was lucky enough to play the main part of Robin Hood.*

*We included a violin performance to enhance the play. Mr John Foster’s reaction to our performance was very positive, he congratulated everyone and I’m sure he loved the afternoon as much as we did.*

### **Parents’ consultation evenings – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Thank you for signing up to meet with your child’s teacher. Parents are reminded that to be fair to all, we need to stick to the 10 minutes allocated. This saves time waiting around.

### **House reshuffle**

During the summer term this year, we looked at the behaviour policy and at various ways in which we could better support specific groups or mixes of children and in the process realised that there was a real mismatch in the numbers of children in the houses due to children leaving and variations in numbers over the past couple of years across the year groups. Rather than singling out or moving a handful of children around, we decided it would be fairer to have a complete reshuffle and so most children find themselves in new houses. The children only need to know their house for lunches and on sports day and we rarely do anything else that segregates classes or cohorts unless it is to have a creative day across the whole school. I understand that there may be a number of children who are still getting

used to the idea but the vast majority have not found the change an issue as it affects so little of their time at school.

### **Staffing news**

We have made two appointments to the teaching staff. We welcome Mrs Claire Milner who will be teaching in the FSU from January onwards and Mrs Faye Tingley will be extending her week to include teaching Class 3 in the mornings Monday to Thursday. Miss MacKenzie will carry on teaching Class Three on Fridays and the afternoons will be covered by appointing another teacher for the first three days and our usual arrangement on Thursday afternoons. We will keep you informed once the new teacher is appointed.

Claire has been teaching both here and overseas and has an extensive background in Early Years. Faye, who most of you will know as she is both already a teacher in the school and a parent, has been teaching the upper age range for a number of years and will be an excellent addition to the upper phase.

Mrs Marilyn Trigg, who will be taking over the role of Headteacher in April, will be in and around the school throughout term 4 as part of Miss MacKenzie's handover with her and is looking forward to beginning after Easter.

As it takes time to train a new SENCo, Miss MacKenzie will be coordinating this until April. She has had some training and has arranged more for early in the new year and Sarah Gray will be leaving the work in a very good place. Teachers are very aware of the provision required for all children in their classes and Mrs Gray and the SEN team are at the end of an email or phone should new children arrive with us. Please be reassured by the high quality of what is already in place and the wider support available to all schools, LA or academy. Again, one of the advantages of the close working within the EPA is that there is a group of SENCos who share good practice and support all the primary schools.

### **Health and Safety issues for families with no landline**

Please let school know if you no longer have a landline and your mobile phone doesn't pick up a network when you are at home. This will be noted on your contact details. In this case, the office will need to make sure that you are emailed if there is a problem with the children so please ensure your phone always makes a sound to let you know an email has arrived and if possible a particular ping for email notifications from school.

There is an assumption that you could call 999 from your phone if you needed to. It's quite a saving not having a landline, but there are issues in Stanton Harcourt with network coverage and that needs to be taken into account. Please make sure you have checked with your provider that even if a network doesn't seem to be available you will be able to summon an emergency service.

See this link for advice about making emergency calls which suggests you register your phone to use the 112 number making it possible for emergency services to find your phone and call you back, and to use text which is more likely to get through if signals are weak.

<http://www.southsnowdoniamountainrescueteam.co.uk/calling-for-help/>

### **Administration of Medicine**

Our policy allows us to administer prescription medication to children once a parent has signed a form giving us permission and stating the dosage etc. If children need pain relief

such as Calpol during the day we have to ask parents to arrange to come in to school to administer this.

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....**

**FOSHS Christmas Fayre – Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

Just a reminder to come along (and/or help) to boost FOSHS funds while having fun. Don't forget to bring in donations for the stalls; you will have had an email regarding this last week. Information is on the boards outside the classrooms.

**Christmas cards – Post box system**

Children will this year be allowed to send cards to their friends, rather than make just one big card. We will have a post box in place in the hall during December. Cards posted must be for children and adults in the school and have the recipient's full name and class on them. Year Six children will be sorting and delivering mail.

**Collections for Hearing Dogs**

As you may know, we have been visited this term by a Hearing Dog for the Deaf, Chloe. She has been listening to children reading. We decided to raise money for the charity, so we'll be having a collection at our Nativity on 9<sup>th</sup> December and on the evening when we are Carol Singing on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Nativity – Wednesday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 for 9:30 am**

FSU and Class One have been busy rehearsing for their performance of "The Snowflake's Wish" and would love to have a large audience at the Village Hall. FOSHS have agreed to provide refreshments beforehand. Please come along and support them. The performance will start at 9:30 so you'll have time to drop other children at school before bringing Class One and FSU children to the hall at 9:00 and then relax with a coffee while they get ready to perform!

**Drama club session on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

The last Drama Club session before we break up will include the members of the club sharing some short Christmas plays they've been working on this year. The performance will be from 3:25 – 4:15 pm at school and parents and friends are invited.

**Carol singing – Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 6:15**

In place of the Christmas service at church, we are hoping more parents will be able to join us for some Carol singing in our outdoor classroom during the evening of Wednesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Torches (head torches might be best) are needed, as are warm clothes! Refreshments will be provided by FOSHS. If you have any battery operated lights you could donate just for that evening, please contact the office. Children will be creating a tableau of the nativity and singing carols.

**Cinema morning – Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

We are having a Christmas Cinema morning in school on the last day of term. Please could you send in a small bag of popcorn for children to have during the morning.

**Christmas Dinner on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Orders please! If your child already has a dinner booked for Friday then we'll assume they'll be having the Roast Dinner unless you tell us otherwise. The reply slip needs to be returned by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December to allow our cook to order the correct amount of Turkey or Quorn.

Rather than have two roast dinners that week, we'll be swapping the menu for Wednesday to the Friday one so fish and chips or stuffed peppers will be served on Wednesday. If that causes an issue with your child, please let us know on the reply slip.

Please only send money in if your child is in Bunnies, Class Two or Three!

## **Looking forward to the New Year**

### **Dinner order for term 3**

We will assume your child will continue to have dinners on the days you have ordered it for this term unless you tell us otherwise! A note or email will suffice, but please do so by 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Clubs from January 2016**

Please **renew your sign up** so that we can be sure we are providing you with what you need and that we're not denying other children a place by holding slots for children who will not be attending.

Drama club will run with the children currently signed up for term 3 as they are working towards a performance. A new set of children will be given the opportunity to join Drama club for terms 4, 5 and 6, so if your child would like a place after the February holiday, please put their name in the box. You must rebook your child's place if they want to continue to do Drama.

All clubs will start immediately at the beginning of the year and are as follows.

Before School Club - every day 8:00 – 8:50

Lunchtime Clubs – some days for half an hour

After School Clubs - all from 3:15 - 4:15:

- Monday – No club for terms 3 and 4 (as last year)
- Tuesday – The Great Outdoors Club Years 1 - 6
- Wednesday - Football Club Years 4 - 6
- Thursday - Sports Club Years 1 - 6
- Friday – Drama Club Years 3 - 6

Lunchtime clubs: Half hour (cost £1.50)

- Thursday – Spanish
- Friday – Construction Club

In addition, there will be private half-hour guitar lessons provided by Rupert Wilson at a lunchtime with the group already started. If your child is interested in starting to learn to play, please contact him at [bookings.rupertwilson@live.com](mailto:bookings.rupertwilson@live.com) or 07812390132.

Please return the reply slip by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, or send it by email if you are away to help us to ensure we have a place for your child.

## **Dates for your diaries**

### **December**

**1<sup>st</sup> Parents' evening Year 1 – 6 3:30 – 6:30 pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Parents' evening Years R – 6 3:30 – 6:30 pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – No church service (replaced by Carol Singing in the evening on 16<sup>th</sup>)**

3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting 7:30 pm Full Governing Body meeting

**9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 FSU and KS1 Nativity at Village Hall – Coffee from 9:00 – 9:30**

**11<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 4:15 Drama Club Christmas Show at school**

**14<sup>th</sup> 2:30 – 3:10 Footsteps Training for FSU parents with their children**

15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am FSU and KS1 - Pinocchio and his cat – visiting theatre group performance in the FSU (all Bunnies welcome)

**16<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 6:15 Carol singing outside at School – all the community are welcome**

18<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Lunch

1:15 pm Term 2 ends

## **January**

4<sup>th</sup> INSET day – no children at school

5<sup>th</sup> Term 3 begins

**6<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

## **February**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting 7:30 pm Full Governing Body meeting

8<sup>th</sup> Year 5 and 6 at the Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools (IMPS) Witney Hospital

12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:00 pm Drama Club Performance at school

12<sup>th</sup> Term 3 ends 3:10 pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Term 4 begins

## **March**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Six at Bartholomew for Transition Day

24<sup>th</sup> Term 4 ends 1:15 pm

6:00 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting 7:30 pm Full Governing Body

meeting

## **April**

11<sup>th</sup> INSET day – no children at school

12<sup>th</sup> Term 5 begins

**13<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

**21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm Meeting for Year 5 and 6 children and parents ref Yenworthy trip**

28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting

## **May**

2<sup>nd</sup> Bank holiday – no school

**4<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting 7:30 pm Full Governing Body meeting

27<sup>th</sup> Term 5 ends 3:10 pm

## **June**

6<sup>th</sup> INSET day – no children at school but Year 5 and 6 Yenworthy trip leaves early morning

**8<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

**23<sup>rd</sup> 1:15 Sports Day**

7:30 pm Full Governing Body meeting

30<sup>th</sup> Year Six at Bartholomew for Transition Day

6:30 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting

## **July**

**6<sup>th</sup> 1:15 Church Service**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sports Day if wet on 30<sup>th</sup> June!**

14<sup>th</sup> tbc 6:00 Governors Pay Committee meeting 6:30 pm Governors Resources Committee meeting

20<sup>th</sup> Term 6 ends 1:15 pm

**The December Newsletter will be in your email inbox**

**Reply slips**

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**Dinner orders on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**

Please order the following Christmas Dinner for my child(ren) on Dec 18th

Name.....Class.....

Usually has dinner on Fridays  Meat  Vegetarian

Cancel Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> order

Name.....Class.....

Usually has dinner on Fridays  Meat  Vegetarian

Cancel Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> order

Name.....Class.....

Usually has dinner on Fridays  Meat  Vegetarian

Cancel Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> order

Name.....Class.....

Usually has dinner on Fridays  Meat  Vegetarian

Cancel Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> order

I enclose £2.10 for each additional dinner ordered for Bunnies and Year 3 – 6 children.

Total enclosed:.....

**Signed.....Date.....**

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**Carol singing – Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 6:15**

The following will be coming

Adults	Children

✂-----

**Clubs from January**

Clubs for Terms 3 and 4 Jan – March 2015 – insert name(s) of child(ren) please

Club	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School Club 8:00 – 8:50 Billed for					

each term					
Lunchtime Club (half session) Billed for two terms				Spanish	Construction
After School Club 3:15 – 4:15  Billed for two terms		The Great Outdoors Years 1 - 6	Football Years 3 - 6	Ignite Sports Years 1 - 6	(those doing Drama now will continue for term 3) Drama for Term 4 Years 3 - 6

I am happy to pay £3 per session for these clubs and understand this will be invoiced as above.

My child will be collected at the end of the day unless otherwise indicated.

Signed.....Date.....