



St Christopher's School

Weekly News

Friday 12th December 2014

Dear Parents

Although the term is drawing to a close, things have definitely not slowed down here at St Christopher's.

It was lovely to see so many joining in all the fun of the PTA Christmas Fair on Saturday. Thank you to Mrs Hogarty and her very hard working team who put on such a wonderful event.

It was the turn of the children in Year 1 and Year 2 to take centre stage this week with "Born in a Barn". They performed with a maturity and confidence that belies their young age. All the members of the audience could not fail to be impressed with these wonderful performers. A delightful group of mice had a "Mission Impossible"; cleaning the stable for all the visitors throughout, whilst the singing and dancing animals, shepherds, angels, kings as well as travelling story tellers kept us enthralled. Even pink flamingos were welcome in our stable. We again have to thank the staff who worked so hard and sprinkled their Christmas magic on this production. To add to all this, our very generous audiences donated approximately £700 to the retiring collections for MacMillan Nurses.

We were delighted that Mrs Thackray was able to come into school on Wednesday and see the play. She was very excited to see all the children, and they were just as excited to see her. Bravo Mrs Thackray.

We are all very lucky here at St Christopher's. Having enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Festival Feast conjured up by Mrs Stubbs and her Catering Team, Reception children and staff went to Epsom Playhouse to see Santa Claus and the Magical Christmas Journey. We wanted to share the joy and wonder of theatre with all our children, so even our youngest children in Nursery had the opportunity of going to see the show on Friday morning. We could not have managed without the parents who volunteered to help walk down. This week's lunchtime superstar is Annabel H for always eating up her lunch and for being so polite. Well done Annabel!

It is clear that all the children are working very hard to gain every possible house point, but which house will be at the top of the tree ... we will have to wait until Wednesday to find out!

On behalf of Mrs Thackray and all the staff, I wish a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year to you and all your loved ones.

Mrs Andrea Gordon, Bursar

This Week's Merit Awards

Savannah G, George F, Joaquin G, Charlie S, Poppy L, Rowan N, Freya R, Luke S, Liberty R, Lenny S, Dara O, Jack D, Teddy C and Freya B.

Bronze Athletics Certificates:
Miles R, Jacob F and Patrick M.

Event of the Week

Christmas Lunch

We enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch ...



... cooked for us by ...

... our wonderful Catering team



Foundation Stage News

In Reception this week the children have had an important job to do - writing the instructions for making biscuits. The children remembered to write the numbers for each step in the process and have been learning about using a verb to start each sentence. Then it was time to test out the recipes, using the scales the children learnt about weighing the ingredients carefully. Next came the fun part of mixing, rolling and cutting the dough. They even made different coloured icing to decorate the biscuits ready for Mrs. Self's surprise party. Eating their own biscuits was the favourite choice at the party table.



Children need a reason to write and to feel confident to try writing independently, using their phonic skills. The Reception staff are *quite excited* when children learn in this positive 'child friendly way'. Lots of the children have been writing labels for the models they make, Matthew wrote 'jet flies' all by himself.

The water tray has been transformed to explore different textures and media. The toy polar animals have been busy exploring the cold and icy fake snow and blue 'Gelli Baff' makes great goo to explore. Using these different textures with small world toys has been a great stimulus for lovely imaginative play. It is essential to encourage our children's imaginations preparing the creative writers and story tellers of the future.

There is a festive feel in the nursery this week. We love dressing up in the nativity costumes and taking turns to act out the Christmas story in the role play area. We have been talking about last week's wonderful Christmas production and drawing pictures of ourselves in the play for our St. Christopher's Books. We try to do our best writing for our names too!

We have been learning to fold and cut paper to make snowflakes and the glitter is out as we make baubles and decorations. Once we are wrapped up warm we can go outside, where we can take turns delivering the Christmas parcels. We built a sleigh with the blocks and like pretending to be reindeer to take Father Christmas through the sky to all the children. In the cottage we love to decorate the Christmas tree using baubles and sticky tape - it is a tricky, sticky job.

We are learning lots of songs, like 'We wish you a merry Christmas' using Makaton signs. Can your child remember the rest of the words to this song 'Red ?..... White ?....., twinkle in his eye, ?.....is his name oh!

When we return to school in January the children will all be asked about their Christmas holidays'. It will help them to talk and write about the fun they have had if they bring **one** photograph of themselves taken over the holiday period.

If any parents have a child's cot/bed they wish to donate to the school please can you contact Mrs. Rendall.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Foundation Stage Team



Monday 15th December – Last Posting Date For Christmas Post Boxes

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Box in the Entrance Hall
Nursery Box in Nursery**

Monday 15th December: Years 1 & 2 to Epsom Playhouse

TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come in your party clothes for fun and games! Don't forget to wear your Christmas Jumper as well (for a £1 donation for Save the Children)!

Nursery children who normally leave at midday can join in and leave at 1.30pm. Each class is welcome to provide some extras for the food (NUT-FREE PLEASE):

- Nursery: A packet of chocolate coins
- Reception: Crisps and savoury snacks
- Year 1: Fizzy drinks/juices
- Year 2: Cakes & fancy biscuits



WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER

11am: Year 2 parents are invited to share our Christingle assembly. Please come to the Hall door at the front of the school.

TERM ENDS AT MIDDAY

SPRING TERM STARTS WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY 2015 AT 8.30AM

OWLS & LARKS BOOKINGS

Forms are now available on the website, in the Porch and from the Office. Please note the new booking system for Owls.

BAD WEATHER

Please see recent letter "Get Ready for Winter". In case of snow, please refer to the Parents' section of our school website for information.