



Witchampton CofE First School News

WIMBORNE
Academy Trust

December 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

I can't believe I am writing the final newsletter for the Autumn term and what a wonderful term it has been. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Witchampton CofE First School and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils, parents, staff and academy committee members for making me feel so welcome.

The children have continued to impress me with their hard work and enthusiasm and most of all their commitment to demonstrating our Witchampton WOWs of 'Love, Inspiration, Courage and Respect'. These are evident in all they do and have been commented on by the many visitors we have invited into school this term. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know them all over the term, finding more out about all of their interests, hobbies and talents both in and out of school and I have really enjoyed celebrating their achievements during celebration worships on Friday afternoons. The children have made me immensely proud over the term, most recently during their Christmas Nativity and Christingle service.

We would like to thank Farmer Vernon for inviting the Hedgehogs to his farm to choose our school Christmas tree. The school looks very festive and our Christmas tree looks amazing with all the children's decorations on it. Thank you to those parents who attended our decoration making afternoon to help the children make their lovely decorations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the caring, dedicated and committed staff who work tirelessly to facilitate and lead so many wonderful opportunities over the year for the children of our very special school.

On behalf of the staff, may I thank you for all of the warm good wishes which you have passed on to us as well as for the beautiful and very thoughtful cards and gifts which we have received. It means a great deal to us when people take the time to say thank you and it is very sincerely appreciated - thank you!

We wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas and all of the very best for 2019!

Season's greetings,

Mrs Jo Hancock
Head of School



A message from Rev Suzie Allen (Associate Priest)

At the end of Christmas day what will have been special to you as you look back I wonder? Food? the fact nothing was broken? That your father and other half are still on speaking terms?! Maybe, like me, you will find yourself with a warm glow inside you as you think over times you spent together playing games, enjoying that special meal with no technological distractions or the joy when you saw someone open a present you had got them (simple moments of just being with one another). Jesus for me makes Christmas special and gives a gift of not just his life that he gave for all but the gift of love and acceptance that I know from him. He came to show us how to love one another – to be kind and tolerant, even when faced with opposition. He came to bring peace to the world. May your homes be peace-filled this Christmas, be filled with love and joy. Don't get to the end of the day with regrets... remember that often the best days are those where you recall what you mean to one another and endeavour to make that special effort with one another no matter what! Happy Christmas all! Rev Suzie

Foxes visit to Salisbury Cathedral

On Thursday 6th December, 20 year 3 and year 4 children joined with over 600 other school children from the Diocese to attend a Christingle service at Salisbury Cathedral. The service had been arranged to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Christingle and to raise money for The Children's Society. The event was also attended by the Duchess of Gloucester who has been a patron of the charity for over 30 years. During the service all the children joined together to sing an original song that had been written for the occasion by members of the Royal Academy of Music and poet Clare Shaw. The service culminated with every person there holding a lit Christingle. It was a very special moment and one which the children will not forget for a long time.



The POSADA has been a huge success and I know that the children thoroughly enjoyed taking Mary and Joseph home. Mary and Joseph have travelled far and wide. They have even been skiing and riding on a horse. What a few weeks they have had! Their adventures will be displayed in the church over the Christmas period so please come and have a look.



Kindness Award

This year we continue with our Kindness Award. This award falls under our the umbrella of our school value of 'Love' and helps to promote positive behaviour and friendship.

The children themselves nominate other children throughout the week who they feel have been particularly 'kind' whether at play times or in lessons. The child with the most nominations in the week takes home our kindness bear for the weekend and are presented with a 'Kindness Award' certificate to keep. This is awarded during our Friday 'Celebration Worship'

We have been delighted to present the Kindness Award this term to: Izabella, Chloe, Michael, Betsy, Lily, Theo, Isaac and Cassie. All of these pupils have were nominated by their peers for acts of kindness such as helping others, asking others to play when they can see they are sad or lonely, helping others when they have hurt themselves and helping others with work in class are all some of the examples given in their nominations. Congratulations!

Mrs Saberton

The Nativity

Well done to all the children and staff for a fantastic Nativity. All the children took centre stage and certainly entertained the audience with their performance of 'Born in a Barn'.

The children **all** performed brilliantly with the Year 4 children really rising to the challenge of taking on the lead roles and the Hedgehogs showed real courage performing for the first time on stage with their wonderful shepherds dance.

Clothing Bank

Thank you to all who are using the clothes bin located in front of the school office. The quicker it is filled each month the more money we are raising for the school. So please spread the word to all friends and family etc as anyone can use it.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all those who made a donation to save the children on Christmas Jumper day. We raised a grand total of £66.24 for Save the Children and will be used to give children in the UK and around the world a better future.

Toys in School

Recently children have been bringing lots of toys into school Please remember that we do not encourage children to do this as they can easily get lost or broken. We are grateful for your support in encouraging your children to leave their toys at home.

Important Reminders and dates:

INSET day: Monday 7th January (no children in school)

Tuesday 8th January children return

Attendance Really Matters

We would like to thank parents and carers for taking the attendance of their children seriously and not taking holidays in term time. It really does make a difference and has ensured that our attendance has continued to be just above the national average. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these children at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career.



We expect learners to maintain a minimum attendance figure of 96.1% across the academic year.

School: 97.1%

National (2016): 96.1%

Hedgehogs: 98.8%

Year 1: 96.2%

Year 2: 95.9%

Year 3: 97.8%

Year 4: 97.0%

Friends

We hope the children enjoyed their Christmas Party! Giving "class gifts" was a new idea this year introduced by Mrs Hancock. By pooling resources and ideas, each class was able to purchase a class gift with funds raised at the Friends November Fair. A huge thank you to Father Christmas for distributing these gifts on the day! Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15th January at 9am in Witchampton Club, so please put the date in your diaries and bring along all your fundraising ideas.

Christmas Hamper Winner

Congratulations goes to Mrs Jan Wayman who is the lucky of the winner of the Squares Christmas Hamper.

Staffing News

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah Brown will be joining us as Class Teaching Assistant in the New Year. Sarah has a wealth of experience and we look forward to welcoming her to the Witchampton Team.

Important Contacts

These are the contacts for these important areas:

Designated Safeguard Lead – Mrs Hancock

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Jenkinson and Mrs Saberton

Inclusion Leader – Mrs Pond

