

# Headteacher Newsletter – December 2017

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With only eight school days left before we break up for the Christmas holiday, the school is busy with carols, Advent activities and Christmas Service rehearsals. Our younger children performed a wonderful and touching reminder of the Christmas Story this week. In amongst the tinsel, tea towel headdresses and the angel wings, we were reminded about the real essence of Christmas and the role we all play in continuing to give the gift of the Christmas Story (following Jesus' example) through our actions and words towards others in our day to day lives. The KS2 service will take place in Arundel Cathedral on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. All are very welcome to attend.

Could I ask that you keep Santa hats, flashing badges and reindeer antlers at home until the last day of term please. This is so that we can keep children as calm as we can so they can continue to learn and follow the school rules as much as possible (and to keep them relatively calm for the period before Christmas when they are home with you!) The Christmas period is a joyful time to celebrate with friends and family but it can also be a time of sadness for those who may have loved ones who are not around during this busy and festive time. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all members of our school community who are suffering and/or grieving due to illness or bereavement.

Finally, a very big thank you from all the staff for your continued support and partnership with the school and to wish you all a very peaceful, holy and family filled Christmas.

## Dates for diary

- 8.12.17** Make it morning
- 13.12.17** Choir singing at St Wilfrid's Priory
- 14.12.17** Golden Assembly
- 15.12.17** Christmas lunch and parties
- 15.12.17** Father Christmas visit.
- 15.12.17** Friends' Christmas Bazaar
- 16.12.17** Arun Choral Society Concert 6.30pm
- 18.12.17** Reception Class trip to the pantomime.
- 19.12.17** KS2 Christmas Service in Cathedral 2pm. All welcome.
- 20.12.17** Friends' Mince Pies and Mulled Wine 3pm. All welcome.
- 20.12.17** Last day of term
  
- 4.1.17** First day of Spring Term
- 16.1.17** Y3 trip to Children's Music Concert at Chichester Festival Theatre

## Staff support in class:

We have several new members of staff who have joined our team. Mrs Camburn (Booster teacher Y6 and supply cover). Mrs Jones (PPA cover Y2, 4, 5 and 6 and supply cover). Mrs Burgess and Ms Graham (both Classroom support). All staff members are subject to an interview process, DBS checks and the appointment is dependent upon successful references.

## General info:

**Website:** All information is regularly updated on the school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

**Punctuality award winners:** The punctuality award was given to Y1 with 1 'late' recorded.

**Children in Need:** Thank you for your donations. We raised £257.

**Arundel by Candlelight:** Thank you to the choir members who supported the event last Saturday. The children's behaviour and participation was commendable.

**Arundel Priory and Norfolk Centre:** The choir members walked into Arundel town this week to sing carols to the Retired Estate Workers from the Angmering Park Estate. A smaller choir will be singing to the residents in St Wilfrid's Priory next week. What a lovely way to make a difference to people in our community.

**Poppy Appeal:** Our selling of poppies and accessories raised £258 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you.

**Christmas card winners:** Well done to Santi (Y6) whose card design is our school Christmas card. Well done also to Nina (Y5) and Jacob (Y4) who came second and third in the Arundel by Candlelight Christmas Card design competition.

**Miss Robinson thanks:**

I wanted to thank Miss Robinson on behalf of the staff and children at our school for all of the 'extras' that she does - Arundel by Candlelight, singing at Arundel Priory and the Norfolk Centre, Arun Choral Society Carol concert, Deanery Advent Service, the nativity and KS2 Christmas Service to mention just a few. We are very fortunate that she extends her two 'paid' days per week to incorporate so much more.

**Tyler's Trust:**

Thank you for the donations for the Deanery group of school's chosen Advent Charity. We have raised £237 which was handed to the Charity representative, along with the other Deanery group of school's donations, at the Advent Deanery Service last Wednesday evening.

**Jago Lavington:**

Past pupil Jago, has been selected for Sussex Under 15 Hockey team as one of their goal keepers. We are pleased for him. Mrs McCartain, our Hockey Coach, has a great impact on our pupils whilst here at St Philip's with her focused and expert training.

**Student teacher in Y5:**

After Christmas, for the Spring Term, we have a 'School's Direct' trainee teacher working in Year 5 with Mrs Foster. Her name is Miss Moss. Not only will the school be helping the teaching profession by supporting trainee teachers but as a school we also have the benefit of another adult supporting learning in the classroom. She has of course had all the relevant safeguarding checks carried out.

**Facebook:**

Please go onto our school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk) and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

**Houses:**

We have 4 House teams. These names are taken from the school crest (which belongs to the Duke) which is split into 4 quadrants and are the families from the Duke of Norfolk's Coat of Arms.

House point scores for this week:

| Houses     | Weekly scores |
|------------|---------------|
| Howard     | 115           |
| Brotherton | 126           |
| Warenne    | 99            |
| Fitzalan   | 130           |

**Reading books returned:**

Please send any library books (KS2 reading books) you may have at home or in children's bags, into school next week so we can audit the library and reissue new books for the Christmas break. A polite reminder and plea to all to keep up with reading over the holiday please.

**Deanery Advent Service:**

Thank you to the parents of the children in Years 5 and 6 who attended and supported the Deanery Advent Service on Wednesday evening of this week - joyful way to start the season of Advent, with our fellow Catholic Schools.

**Golden Assembly:**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December it is our 'Golden Assembly'. This is the weekly Celebration assembly with added extras to include 'The Most Improved Reader' award for each class for the term, the housepoints accumulated for the term and 100% attendance awards for the term.

All parents are welcome to attend. It starts at 9.10am and will be finished before 10am.

**Christmas Bazaar:**

We are desperate for helpers to run the stalls next Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, after school. Grandparents, neighbours, older siblings are all welcome to volunteer!

Thank you to ladies who have been preparing for the Bazaar and those who have offered to set up on the day so far.

***Reception Class and children in Years 1 and 2 can be collected from school from 2.45pm onwards on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to attend the Bazaar whilst it is quieter before it opens to KS2 children and families at 3.15pm. If you have children in both Key Stages, you can collect both from 2.45pm to go along to the Bazaar in the Cathedral Centre (near The Mary Gate pub).***

**School Angel:**

Click on the link, type in school name and then click on the logo and this will take you to the website as usual and you can shop as normal. We will receive a percentage of your spend at no cost to you.

It is easy to do but it is a case of remembering to do it!

<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/st-philips-catholic-primary-school.html>

Flights and holidays can be booked via this too!