

Headteacher Newsletter – December 2016

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We have received our Ofsted Inspection Report this week and at the time of writing, I have seen the draft report along with the Chair of Governors but am still bound to confidentiality. I do hope we will be able to email out a copy to you all before the end of the week. Please read it and see our many areas of strength and our identified areas for improvement. You will be reassured to know that nothing during the inspection came as surprise to the leadership team, staff or governors. We can now start the new year with these actions in place and continue our commitment to providing the best education possible for all of our children.

The last few weeks has seen many memorable and touching events. The choir have been fortunate to deliver joy and the gift of Christmas cheer to Arundel by Candlelight, The Priory Residential Care Home, the retired estate workers of the Angmering Park Estate, the residents of Caen Stone Court and have also been part of the Arun Choral Society Carol Concert in the Cathedral last weekend. I would like to thank you, parents, for supporting all of these events by enabling your children to get to the venues and of course Miss Robinson, our music teacher and Mrs Bridges for preparing the children for the events. We are blessed to have so many wonderful places to share our talents with others.

Finally, a very happy Christmas to each and every one of you from us all. We hope you and your loved ones enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas and well-earned family time. We look forward to seeing you again in 2017. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for our cards and gifts.

Dates for diary

15.12.16 Christmas lunches followed by class parties

15.12.16 Discos. See general info

16.12.16 Golden Assembly 9.05am
(parents welcome)

16.12.16 Mince pies and mulled wine 3pm

16.12.16 Last day of term

3.1.17 Spring term begins

5.1.16 Epiphany assembly

9.1.16 Clubs start

10.1.16 Curriculum overviews, homework and spellings sent out to parents.

10.1.16 and 11.1.16 Multisense project being carried out with classes 2-5.

11.1.16 Spelling workshop for all parents (6.45-7.45pm). See below

General info:

Website: All information is regularly updated on the school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

Allotment tidy up: Thank you to Bob Tanner and Geoff Allen who have again supported the Growing Club on our school allotment each week this term. I will send out a date in the new year for a Saturday morning allotment tidy up. This will be for any families who are keen and available!

Tesco: Please remember to go into a large Tesco store in Bognor, Chichester or Littlehampton and vote for our school project of an Outdoor Classroom. You will need to ask at the counter for a blue token and put it into the collection boxes by the exit. We have until 31st December to vote and could win £5k worth of equipment.

School Disco: A reminder that this is taking place at school at 6-7pm for Reception and KS1 and 7.15-8.15pm for KS2 on Thursday. Volunteers welcome to stay and help.

Multisense project: An opt out letter will be coming home with your child about a project run by the University of Sussex. They are coming into school to test all children in Years 2-5 to understand whether children who make multisensory associations also show differences in their learning. The project aims to test 2,000 children to help make assessments across a wide spectrum of children. It will be in the form of a series of simple puzzles and activities. Please return the 'opt out' form if you would prefer your child to not take part. The research project is independent of our school but will be supervised by school staff.

Spelling workshop for parents:

Mrs Bridges and Mrs Tipping will be running a Spelling (and other Grammar aspects) workshop for parents of children of all ages on Wednesday 11th January in the school hall at 6.45pm. With the raised expectation in all year groups of Reading, Writing and Maths, we need to equip children with the skills to be able to meet the age related expectations. Spelling is a key feature and we need parental support. Letter to follow soon.

Christmas Bazaar:

A very busy Christmas Bazaar took place on 2nd December. Thank you to those parents who helped to set up and to man stalls. The event raised in excess of £800 which will be used for extra resources and allow extra curricular experiences for the children. Thank you to the Friends who paid for Reception Class to visit the theatre last week to see 'Mr Popper's Penguins'.

The Governor's Grand Draw made a profit of £350 and also made the three following families a little happier during the Christmas shopping period:

1st prize (£250) Mrs B Collins

2nd prize (£100) Ellie McTernan

3rd prize (£50) Mrs Whiteman

The proceeds from the Grand Draw will be used to make up the 10% the school has funded for works carried out to the school building over the Summer, namely repainting railings, hall painting, re roofing etc. Thank you to all who made both fundraising events so successful.

Football kits:

If your child has worn the school football, netball or cricket kits for a match then please return the full kits (including socks) as soon as it has been washed. We are finding that children are not returning them and then the following group of children are unable to wear a full set because they have not been returned from the previous match.

In January, we will have new kits (funded by Madehurst Big Night Out) and as such we will be labelling and recording which child has which kit. Children who do not return their kit in future within two days will have to miss football at playtimes. Thanks for your support in this.

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	271
Brotherton	252
Warene	350
Fitzalan	218

Road Safety poster winners:

Beau Buckley Y4 (think before you park)

Olivia Wheeler Y1 (colouring poster)

Holly Woodburn Y2 (colouring poster)

William Lloyd (Y4) Highly commended poster design

Most improved reader:

Some of you will remember Mrs Sherlock, a long standing Reading Buddy who was killed in a road accident in July. Mr Sherlock came to visit me a couple of weeks ago and together we decided on an award for recognition of the most improved reader for each class, each term. Mr Sherlock suggested that each winner would be given a book to read and treasure (rather than a trophy).

The first set of books (funded by Mr Sherlock) will be awarded in Golden Assembly this Friday.

Admissions:

Proposed changes to our admissions policy 2018-19 -

We are proposing to make some alterations to our admission arrangements for 2018-19. Please look at the school website for further information. If you have any comments then please send them to the office by 24th January 2017.

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>

Christmas shopping or weekly grocery online shopping is a perfect way to use this website.

Facebook:

Please go onto our school website

www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

Parking:

I was emailed by the Norfolk Estate this week and am consequently meeting with the Estate Manager over their grave and understandable concerns regarding dangerous and illegal parking on London Road and on the entrance to the Estate, which is a private road, across from the school. Anne Howard Gardens on the school side of the road is also a private road and neither should be used for parking. I will update you in the New Year but please, please for the safety of all road users and our children and families, park with care and consideration when dropping or collecting your child. Even a quick pulling up outside school or the opposite side of the road causes congestion, bottle necks and extremely limited view for families crossing the road. It will be too late when a tragedy occurs.