

# ST CLEMENT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2017

**'Aim High to Achieve, Together we Succeed'**

**Collaboration**

**Perseverance**

**Empathy**

**Learning from Mistakes**

Dear Parents,

The Christmas tree for the hall has arrived, I have received my first Christmas card and tomorrow is the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, so the festive season must be upon us. I do apologise for this newsletter going out slightly later than planned, but it has been an incredibly busy last two weeks. I am not expecting the next two weeks to slow down in pace either !

## **Christmas Events:**

### **Deco Day**

Our second 'collaboration day' of the year has been organised for tomorrow. The children will be working in their house groups to complete a variety of Christmas decorations that will help to make our school look fabulous during the last two weeks of term. They will then be able to take their creations to add to their decorations at home. Children come to school tomorrow in uniform, but can wear a Christmas accessory if they want to – hat, tinsel, xmas socks or elf ears (Man Utd hats do not count !).

### **Foundation Stage Singalong**

Our Foundation Stage Christmas Singalong is taking place this Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. Last year's event was lovely – a chance for parents, Grandmas and Grandpas to share some Christmas songs, a mince pie and some mulled 'wine'. Having had the sneakiest of previews I think that all the adults that attend will feel suitably festive by the end of the afternoon.

### **KS1 Nativity**

The Key Stage 1 children have been rehearsing for next week's performances of 'A Miracle in Town'. There are two performances, one at 2pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December and one at 9.15am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. If any parents haven't already booked seats please contact the school office.

### **Singing and Signing Choir**

Our signing choir are entertaining the Eastern Good Companions next Tuesday morning and the school choir will be giving a festive performance at the St Clement's Senior Citizens' lunch at Hotel Ambassadeur on Wednesday afternoon. We always get fantastic feedback from both audiences and I'm sure the children will be great ambassadors for our school again this year.

### **Christmas Parties**

The Christmas party for Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 children will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December with the Key Stage 2 party on the following day, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. I'm sure the children are really looking forward to having some festive fun after working so hard throughout this term. As a reminder, the children do not wear school uniform on party days, but need to make sure that whatever they wear is suitable for the playground. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help on the party days and to the PTA for their assistance with funding.

### **PTA Christmas Hampers**

Our PTA hampers will go on display tomorrow in the school entrance area. This year there will be one age appropriate hamper for each year group. Children will only be able to buy tickets for their own year group hamper. However, they can buy as many tickets for their hamper as their piggy bank will allow. As Miss Hateley our maths leader would say, 'the more tickets you buy, the more chance of winning!' Tickets will be available to buy after school from Monday. The **BIG** draw will take place in our final assembly on Friday afternoon, the last day of term.

### **PTA Bingo**

Thank you for such a great attendance at our recent Bingo event. The hot dogs and jacket potatoes went down well and the Bingo was as tense as ever. Over the course of the evening we raised over £400 which is fantastic. A special thank you to Chena Dingle and Belinda Shales who worked so hard in the kitchen area to ensure the event was a success. It was also lovely to see two of our ex-students who were happy to help out by calling the numbers.

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

During the recent Anti-Bullying Week, teachers worked with their pupils to produce a 'class pledge' that described how our pupils can work together to look after their friends, keep bullying out of our school and not be a bystander if they see it happening. These pledges were mounted on decorated boxes and are displayed to make a 'Tower of Power' in the school entrance. They show that at St Clement's School we are committed to tackling bullying.

### **Maths Training**

Earlier this term, class teachers received training on innovative ways to improve children's mathematical thinking and reasoning. This training was delivered by Helen Hackett, an experienced Maths leader from an outstanding school in Birmingham. Helen recently returned to school to work with teachers in classes and was amazed at the work going on with our pupils. The children are doing so well and are really beginning to understand the importance of being able to explain their thinking and look for more than one method when solving problems. In the New Year, Miss Hateley is keen to organise an open parent session to inform you of some of the changes we have made, particularly concerning the new mastery approach to teaching maths. Further information regarding dates and times will be in my January newsletter.

### **Welfare Survey**

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 completed a pupil welfare survey today which will provide me with information regarding how safe they feel at school, whether they enjoy their time on the playground and whether they have experienced bullying. I will share some of the key findings from this survey in the New Year. I am hoping that this data will support the recent findings at the Education Department that show that our school had the lowest incidence of bullying across the Island's primary schools.

### **Football**

With no fixtures for the last two weeks, the girls have been showing off their skills recently at the first of their football tournaments. They thoroughly enjoyed their matches, some of which they won. Mr Mildren and Miss Hillsden reported that they had shown great determination, scored some great goals and had behaved superbly. A perfect afternoon – well done girls!

### **Children In Need**

It seems like a long time ago now, but we raised a huge amount for Children in Need this year. The non-uniform day, cake sale and 'Cookie' Staff Bake Off were a huge success, although controversy over what constitutes a biscuit / cookie has been raging in the staff room ever since! Last year we completed a lot of work with the children about our core value of 'Empathy'. The children have really got a fantastic understanding of how important it is to think about and help others less fortunate than themselves. During the morning our Year 1 children were interviewed on local radio as they met Pudsey. When asked what they were doing and why, the first child that was interviewed, confidently explained that we had been thinking about other children and that we were raising money to help them. I was so proud of the responses that our children gave. Well done to everyone for raising over £900 this year.

### **Merry Christmas**

I do hope that you all enjoy the next two weeks as we approach the special time that is Christmas – a time that can be so busy that we sometimes forget the most important things ... the remembering and retelling of a beautiful, old story ... the pleasure gained from both giving and receiving ... and the time shared with family. In amongst all of the tinsel, party food and decorations over the last two weeks of term, we will be reminding the children about these important messages to help them have the best Christmas ever.

Happy Christmas to you all

R Heaven

### **Dates for the Diary**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Deco ‘Collaboration’ Day

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Foundation Stage Singalong 2pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – PTA Hamper raffle tickets go on sale

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity at 2pm

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity at 9.15am

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 1 Christmas Party

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 2 Christmas Party

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of the Autumn Term – The **BIG** draw for the PTA Hampers

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – School opens for the first day of the Spring Term

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term holiday

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of the Spring Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – School opens for the first day of the Summer Term.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May INSET – Teacher Training day (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May are Bank Holidays)**