

## SOMERSET EDUCATION SERVICES

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HEADTEACHER: NICOLA ROBERTS

### NEWSLETTER 4 - December 2017



#### Key Dates

##### **December**

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert – eve  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Christmas Church Service – 9.15am  
School finishes at 1.30pm

##### **January**

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Return to school  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Swimming restarts  
Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Last day for applications for Reception places for Sept 2018  
Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Come to a lesson – 9.15 – 10.15am - letter to follow

#### Staff change

Mr Jamie Haynes is leaving at the end of term and will be replaced by Mr Jae Miller. We are sad that Mr Haynes is leaving after only one term with us but he has the opportunity for full time work in another school. As he is considering training to be a teacher this is a good opportunity as it will involve classroom support as well as PE and Sport support.

#### Tempest Photographs

Many thanks for your orders for your child's school photographs. We were awarded £328.28 in commission which will go towards curriculum resources.

#### Erasmus + Project

The logo selected for our Erasmus + Project was one of the Swedish entries. It will be put on all correspondence and work linked to the project. In the New Year we will start sharing ways in which the different schools work with their youngest children and how reading is taught.

#### Musical Performance

The choir and musicians went to La Fontana care home to perform Christmas carols and songs. It was a good opportunity for the children and the residents enjoyed listening to them.



#### Christmas Lunch

Over 140 children decided to have the hot Christmas lunch this year. It was very good and enjoyed by everyone who had it. Thanks go to the PTA for providing the crackers for the event.



## **Church Services**

The Christingle Service took place at the end of November. It was a special service and the children enjoyed making their Christingles together and having the candles lit in the church. It was a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations. It was lovely to see many parents and friends at the service.

Our end of term Christmas service is on the last day, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December and we hope many of you will be able to join us for this special service which will be in the church at 9.15am.

## **Christmas Concert**

The Christmas Concert takes place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. It starts at 6.30pm in the hall. We are looking forward to an exciting evening and hope that many parents and friends will be able to join us for an evening of music, poetry, dance and drama. There are no tickets for this event please just turn up and join us. The doors will be open from 6.10pm.

## **Scalextric Raffle**

The School Council have been diligently selling raffle tickets for the scalextric set. The winner's name was drawn on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and is Christine Cockram (Mia and Jake's aunty) so I am sure lots of fun will be had with it over the Christmas break. The school council will be spending the money raised on new toys and activities for the playground at breaktimes.

## **Bikeability**

Congratulations go to the second group of children from Year 5 and 6 who successfully passed their Bikeability assessment. They were presented with certificates and badges and have increased their understanding of safe riding on the roads.

## **Reading**

Please return any library books to school by the end of term so that we can stock take before letting the children take out new selections.

It is wonderful to hear about the amount of reading many children do each week. The impact on their learning is significant. I wish to applaud parents who are dedicated and support their children in hearing them read regularly and asking them questions to support their understanding. I know it is rewarding but not always easy as there are so many demands on your time. However it is very important and will make a big difference to your child's progress in school. This is a gift for life which will help them achieve their aspirations.

## **Swimming**

If one of your children is swimming and you are coming to school early then you are responsible for any other siblings until there is supervision on the playground. The teachers are getting ready for the school day and it is not possible for them to look after children before 8.55am. If you wish to put your child into the early bird club, so that you can leave before supervision, then of course we encourage you to do so. The children swimming next term are Year 5, Year 3 and half of Year 1. Letters have been distributed and the first session will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## **PTA Events**

The PTA has worked very hard raising money for the trim trail through a range of Christmas events. There was a very successful Christmas shopping event for the children which raised £407.97. I know many of you will be delighted when you see what your children have chosen for you. Parents offered refreshments at the Nativity which raised £70.23. The Christmas Bingo was well attended and many prizes were won. This event raised £249.02. This combined with the Christmas film night, which took place at the end of November raising £150.08, means that the total is £877.30. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to achieve this superb result. We are well on the way towards achieving the money we need for the new trim trail thanks to such great efforts by parents on behalf of the school.

The PTA have kindly donated money towards gifts for each class this Christmas which will be a lovely addition to the class play resources. We are excited about the Christmas parties which will be taking place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and wish to thank parents, in advance, for giving up their time and effort to produce the food and organise a lovely experience for the children.



Class 2 now have their new shed which will be a cloakroom and offer some extra storage space. Many thanks go to Mr Church for giving up time to come to erect it at the weekend. Thanks go to the PTA for funding this new purchase.

### **Yeovil Federation Grant**

We have successfully gained a grant of £2,000 from the Yeovil Federation. This money will be spent on more tablets to use in class especially to support the work being done in Maths and research in topic work.

### **School Uniform**

I wish to remind everyone that trainers are not suitable footwear for everyday wear at school. We encourage the children to change into trainers for PE and breaktimes if needed however some children are failing to wear proper school shoes for the rest of the day. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in their proper shoes and changes as necessary into trainers.

### **Come to a lesson**

You are invited to attend a lesson with your child on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. It will be the first lesson of the day starting at 9.15 until 10.15am. Letters will be distributed early next term with further details. The purpose is for you to experience a typical lesson in your child's day.

### **E-Safety**

Many children will be very fortunate this Christmas and will receive a digital device. Please ensure that you are fully aware of the guidance on keeping your child safe in a digital world. Here is some advice which has been sent to schools for us to share with you.



### **Top tips**

- Most devices have controls to ensure that kids can't access content you don't want them to. Make sure your "in-app" purchases are disabled to avoid a nightmare surprise in the new year: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology)
- Tablets are really popular with younger children, and the market has several which are geared towards child friendly content. When it comes to using them, start slowly, only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk), or [www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org) provide useful advice!) and steer them towards age targeted content such as [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/cbeebies/features/iplayer-kids](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/cbeebies/features/iplayer-kids) or YouTube Kids.
- Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them.

### **DBS (the old CRB)**

Anyone wishing to volunteer in school needs to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) form. Please see the office for further details. The process is much quicker now as it is possible to do much of the process online.

### **Last day of term**

Your child needs to be picked up from school at **1.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Please go to the children's classes to collect your child. They will have all of their things from the cloakrooms and be ready for you. We wish to thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone and we look forward to seeing you in the new year on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Yours sincerely

From Mrs Nicola Roberts and all of the staff at Ash School



