

THIS AND THAT!

11th December, 2015

We are writing to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a successful, safe and Happy New Year. We would like to thank everyone for their support during Terms 1 and 2. This has proved a really positive time for the school. Well done to the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 for their Christmas performances and we look forward to Key Stage 2's Christmas Sharing Assemblies next week. Particular thanks to Buddies on organising such an excellent Christmas Fayre. Significant sums of money have been raised for charity across the school, many thanks for your support with this. Well done to the choirs and instrumental players for their contributions in a range of settings adding very much to the Christmas atmosphere and spirit. The school has also taken part in a number of sporting activities with considerable success and lots of enjoyment. Well done to all who have taken part.

END OF TERM

Please could you make a note that school will close at **2pm** on **Friday 18th December** and ensure that your children are collected on time.

Term 3 will begin at 8.50am on **Tuesday 5th January 2016**.

SCHOOL CLOSURES IN CASE OF SNOW

As we move into the winter in January. Just be aware of potential school closures. We have an additional grit bin, mountains of grit and rock salt, snow shovels and grit spreaders – just to be sure. However, we have to take County advice at the time regarding school closures and many members of staff live a considerable distance away from the school, so please remember to check the snow reports on Jack FM and Heart (used to be Fox FM).

We will also try and update the school website as quickly as possible, as we did last year.

'CHILDREN SINGING FOR CHILDREN'

Many thanks and well done to our choir who recently sang in St. Edburg's Church in Bicester to raise money for two different children's charities. This was organised by the Rotary Club of Bicester and was a resounding success. Our children sang beautifully and we received so many really positive comments about our children and are grateful to all who took part and the parents who supported them.

ABSENCES

We are well into the season where many children may be off school through illness etc. and would very much appreciate your assistance by remembering to call our answer phone to let us know if this is the case. A call at the beginning of your child's illness, clearly stating name, class and reason for absence will assist us and mean that we do not have to trouble you by following up an absent mark in the register, which is part of our duty of care.

If your child has had diarrhoea or has been vomiting, we are taking local doctors' advice and requesting that a **full 48 hours** has gone past before sending him/her to school again to try and prevent the bug spreading any further.

Many thanks.

ARCh

(Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire)

ARCh would be delighted to welcome new volunteers who could spare some time working in Oxfordshire Primary Schools, helping children become confident readers. No special qualifications are needed; just enthusiasm and patience. Full training is given and travel expenses are reimbursed. For further details and an application form, please visit the ARCh website <http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk/> Alternatively, please either telephone Elaine Adams / Jan Rendle on 01869 320380 or send an email to info@archoxfordshire.org.uk

CLOTHING BANK

Most of you know that we have our own clothing bank near the bike racks. Collections are picked up every two weeks, weighed and Buddies then receive a cheque - another great way they have thought of to raise money for the school and, ultimately, to benefit your children. Please carry on filling it enthusiastically!

LOST PROPERTY

I have recently had to clear out an enormous pile of unclaimed lost property again and, upon checking, found that 78% of the items were unnamed.

This is not only time consuming to us but also irritating to you when your child comes home without part of their uniform, shoes, coat or lunchboxes. There really is only one way to ensure that this does not happen and that is, as we constantly ask, please name everything, noting the following:

Please do NOT just put initials, or your child's first name only. We have nearly 530 children in the school and this makes it a guessing game as to which child the item belongs and does not help us to get lost items back to their owner quickly.

Please ensure that you check to see that names haven't faded with washing.

Every classroom/cloakroom has a lost property box. Please check these as well if you are searching for something.

The lost property in Reception will be emptied every 2 weeks. We will make every effort to return your child's property if it is named. However, as we cannot indefinitely hold on to unnamed items, these will either be passed to Buddies, if they are items of school uniform to be put into their next second hand sale or they will be put into the blue clothing bank near the school entrance.

In the plastic leaflet dispensers, inside the main Reception area, you can find a form from a firm who supply name labels if this helps. Otherwise, please clearly mark items of clothing etc with a permanent marker, including water bottles and lunchboxes. You have no idea how many of these end up in lost property as well.

Many thanks for your cooperation. It truly will be much appreciated by all of us in the office.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Teacher-led clubs will re-start week commencing 25th January 2016 because of the dark nights earlier in the month.

I would like to end this last Newsletter of the year by wishing you all a very happy safe and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

ROB PEARSON
Headteacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Please make sure you mark these on your calendars!

DECEMBER

15th KS2 Christmas Sharing – ODDS
15th Bure Park Band playing at Sainsbury's 11am-12noon
16th KS2 Christmas Sharing – EVENS
16th Christmas lunch - Reception, KS1 & 2
16th Foundation Stage Carols 5.15pm
16th Carols Around the Tree 6.00-7.00pm
17th Christmas parties – whole school
18th TERM 2 ENDS 2.00pm
21st – 1st Jan SCHOOL CLOSED

JANUARY

4th INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
5th TERM 3 BEGINS 8.50am