



## Newsletter: 15th December 2017

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came along to support the carol service and our amazing Christmas performances. The children have been fantastic and to see so many parents/carers at each event has really made them all very special.

School finishes at 1:30 on Wednesday (20th December) but the after school bridging club and Teatime Club will run as normal.

There will also be another, end of term, Christmas newsletter sent out on Wednesday with features from the performances and additional information from the classes, including how plans to expand Parkwood's nursery provision are proceeding.

### Early Years

Over the past few weeks, children have enjoyed a lovely celebration day and taken part in an amazing nativity Christmas performance! Nursery children enjoyed working together to make Pudsey Bear and bunting ready for the celebration day. They looked great all dressed up. During the day they enjoyed making and eating cake, dot to dot Pudsey, Pudsey ears and our grown-ups joined us. Reception children have worked very hard with their singing and acting but also their phonics in class. They were all brilliant with their sounds when they were tested by the teacher this week. We also took part in the carol concert at the church with nursery children getting a lift there and back in the new school minibus!

### Year 1

We have been learning the story of The Gingerbread Man. We made our own gingerbread men, with Smarties for buttons, which were delicious! In Maths we have worked on being able to name and recognise 2D and 3D shapes. We visited the Cathedral on the minibus. We learnt all about the Nativity story and took part in lots of fun activities. During Children in Need day, we did lots of Pudsey-themed arts and crafts. We really loved having our mums and dads in class! We spent time practising our Christmas play and learning all the new songs, which went really well when we performed them to parents and guests on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon this week!

### Year 2

Wow, what a busy few weeks! We have been working hard researching information all about penguins to write our own information texts! We also had a lovely trip to the cathedral where we learnt all about the story of the birth of Jesus. In the afternoons we practised hard for our dance competition as well as learning songs and movements for the Christmas production. We enjoyed taking part in the carol concert at the church where lots of our parents turned up to hear us sing and read poems.

**We are kind and caring, We respect others, We are sensible,  
We include everyone, We look after school property, We listen carefully.**

## Year 3

In English, we have recently been learning about writing diary entries so we can write our own entry about climbing a mountain to see the Grinch! This has tied in with our topic 'Mighty Mountains', where we designed a poster explaining what is needed to climb a mountain. In Maths we have been doing lots of practical activities to help with our column addition and subtraction as well as developing our reasoning skills. We have also looked at how to write a recount, focusing on key description. We enjoyed taking part in the Christmas shows this week and were delighted to see so many parents/carers turning up to watch us!

## Year 4

So much excitement this week with the Christmas performance and last week with the carol service at the church! Before that we were making the pizzas we designed. It was lots of fun mixing the different ingredients together to make the dough and then kneading it all together, however, it was tricky trying to stretch the dough out into a circular shape. The best part of the day was getting to eat the pizzas that we made. Some of the staff got to try a bit and they said how delicious the pizza was. Not forgetting our trip to Chelmsford Cathedral where we got to take part in lots of different Christmas activities. Our favourite ones were the bead bracelets, advent wreath making and the nativity drama. The children are now feeling very festive but we have still been challenging them with reading, writing and mathematics lessons every day, which they have all worked very hard in.

## Year 5

This week year 5 have been learning lots about natural disasters such as tsunamis and floods. We've been looking into different countries and continents and why these disasters occur. During our writing sessions, we have been writing our own problem story which we've really enjoyed. In Maths, we're still working hard with fractions and this will continue to be a focus next half term. Like the other classes, we have spent time practising for the carol concert and Christmas performances, which all went very well – our children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and we are very proud of them all!

## Year 6

We have had great fun developing our DT skills over the past few weeks. The children learned what rationing was during World War 2 and the impact that this had on daily lives. This led us to making some WW2 style cookies, unfortunately they weren't chocolate chip, they were carrot! Surprisingly to the children, they were very nice and virtually all children went back for seconds. Parents this may be a way of ensuring children have 1 of their 5 a day? Year 6 have also been refining their sewing skills where they have created stencils, cut out and sewn multiple pieces of fabric and stuffed it to make a Christmas pudding to sell at the Christmas Fete, which was brilliant. Adding to performing at the carol concert and learning songs and actions for the Christmas performance, the children have also been working very hard for their end of term assessment, including having a go at some real SAT tests from previous years!

Thought for the week:

**“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts”** WINSTON CHURCHILL

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Monday 18th December—School Christmas Dinner**  
**Wednesday 20th December—School break up for Christmas**  
**Tuesday January 2nd—First day back at school**

## **Reminders from the Office**

Our office opening hours are from 8:30-3:45 daily.

Late Collection Fee- £3.00 for the first hour, £5.00 after this.

Please remember to book Tea Time Club by 12:00 pm and Nursery Lunch/Nursery Lunch Sessions by 9:00 am that day. We cannot guarantee a space will be available after these times.

## **Certificates**

### **Readers**

Natasha T, Zac G, Thomas R, Marley C

### **Writers**

Chanelle B, Molly K, Jimmy L, Scarlett L, Lili O

### **Maths**

Harry F, Abbie M, Alfie Mo, Kacper N, Niamh G

### **Stars**

Ella F, Ryan C, Alfie Ma, Lenni-James C, Lucas H, Samantha F-U, Sonny F, Jessica P, Stella DL,  
Alice C

*(Any child not featured this week will feature in next week's edition)*

## **Menu**

**Week beginning 18/12/17—Menu week 2**

**BUT**

**Monday 18th—Christmas dinner**

**Wednesday 20th—Party lunch**