



St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 13

Newsletter Date:
Friday 11th December 2015

We ♥ Maths

We are all writers ...

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Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas has definitely arrived this week as we have been dazzled and left awestruck by the Year 2 production, 'A Midwife Crisis,' and today a sea of festive jumpers as far as the eye can see. We have our Christmas lunches and the Foundation Nativity next week as well as a Christmas Pantomime paid for by the PTA, so plenty of things to excite the children even more.



Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Jumper Day today, the children looked absolutely fantastic. In total £332 has been raised so far and all the money will go to help Macmillan Cancer Support, Make-A-Wish® UK and Save the Children, giving hope to families in difficulty at Christmas.

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
Jane D. Hull

Parent Maths Classes

Please see the noticeboards at both sites for information on Maths Classes for parents. This course runs for 6 sessions starting 5th January from 9.00a.m. to 11.00a.m. at the Town Site.

Please note—there are NO after school clubs for any year group next week.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th—Christmas Lunch at Abbey Field,
Thursday 17th—Christmas Lunch at Town

Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th
December @ 10.00 a.m. Foundation Nativity – The Secret Shed

Friday 18th December – Last day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 5th January 2016 – First day of Spring Term
Friday 22nd January 2016 – Non Pupil Day, The School is closed

Christmas Lunch Menu

Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Broccoli and for dessert: Christmas Chocolate Cupcake or Fresh Fruit Cup.



Vegetarian Option: Golden Vegetable Loaf
Christmas Lunch for Abbey Field—Tuesday 15th December
Christmas Lunch for Town—Thursday 17th December
Our PTA have also bought crackers to help the Christmas meals go off with a snap!



A Midwife Crisis

We were truly spoilt this week as our Year 2 children dazzled us with their Christmas Production, 'A Midwife Crisis.' From the quality of the speaking, to the solos to the acting and costumes/scenery, the production was amazing and if we learnt nothing else, 'No one ever listens to a Donkey!' Really well done to all the children in Year 2 and to Mrs Skinner and Miss Gammans, as well as the staff and parents who helped make it happen. And thank you to everyone who came along to support. In total £294.17 was donated and we will let you know the charity the Year 2 children choose to donate to in next weeks newsletter.



Year 1 Dancers

The Year 1 children, who have been attending a dance club with Miss Taylor, treated their parents to a special performance of their dancing prowess last night. They were fantastic.



Maths Challenge

Last weeks solution:

"IP! IP! IP! XIBU B MPWFMZ QVEEJOH! NFSSZ DISJTUNBT BOE B IBQQZ OFX ZFBS UP ZPV BMM!" What did he say?

Go one letter down the alphabet

HO, HO, HO! WHAT A LOVELY PUDDING! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

This weeks challenge.

Father Christmas has to visit a lot of homes on Christmas Eve when he is out delivering presents. He usually gets a glass of sherry and a mince pie at each house too. Now, Father Christmas can manage the sherry, but finds eating all those mince pies quite difficult. So Hungry Horace helps him out.

Last year Father Christmas finished his rounds with lots of mince pies to spare. He gave 25 million (25 000 000) to Hungry Horace. It takes Horace just 10 seconds to eat a mince pie. How long did it take him to eat all 25 million? An hour? A day? A week?

Answers on Mr Bates' door if you are at Town site and on Mr Green's door if you are at Abbey site.

Awards

- Tigger Award (Trinovantes) - Marci Nicoll
- Eeyore Award (Oysters) - Nathan Read
- Winnie the Pooh Award (Castle) - Calli Ganley Pintado
- Rory the Lion Award (Dutch) - Miarah Valencia
- Pluto Award (Iceni) - Alliyah Famuyiwa
- Sully Award (Mercury) - Ella Ojo
- Diddle Award (Claudius) - Scarlett Hosier
- Scrappy Award (Eagles) - Aden Read
- Bumble Award (Circus) - William Murphy
- Simba Award (Roses) - Thomas Evans
- Stitch Award (Chariot) - Alex Lasc
- Hathi Award (Star) - Lucy Holcombe
- Mickey Award (Jumbo) - Alexander Zhou
- Heads' Award — Year 2 for their excellent & dazzling production
- Attendance — Mercury & Claudius
- Spot— Thomas Shipton-Cornell

Children's University Graduates

Congratulations to the 16 pupils who graduated at the Essex Children's University graduation ceremony last week. The ceremony recognises the hours of learning outside of school in a range of activities. The children looked very smart in their graduate gowns and hats, they even threw their mortar boards in the air at the end of the ceremony! Children and their parents attended learning workshops after the event at the University of Essex. We would encourage all our pupils to become members of the Children's University; Learning Passports are £4.50 and there are forms at the school office.



App Attack

Each week we will feature an App for tablet or phone devices that have been trialled by a member of staff.

This week: Fun with Numbers Simple Addition & Fun with Numbers Simple Subtraction Both apps are fun and visual.



And Finally ...

On Saturday the Billings' lounge was awash with boxes and decorations as with festive flair we decorated our tree and a splendid specimen it was too. On Monday night said tree was lying prone on the lounge floor feeling decidedly unhappy. The tree's unfortunate demise had something to do with my daughter, though what exactly is a little unclear. Said tree is now tied to the wall and Jessica has been encouraged to look as opposed to destroy!

Have a good weekend

Simon Billings

We are growing our learning



Governors

Full Governing Body Meeting (FGB)

The FGB met on Monday evening. Annette Whitwell, the Chair of the PPF, has provided a summary below of some of the things discussed at the meeting.

Governor Feedback to Parents

Meeting on 7th December 2015

The recent response to the Parents Evening questionnaire highlighted that 41% of parents were not aware of what the governors do and how we support the school. We appreciated this feedback and it was discussed at the Full Governors Meeting on 7th December. It was agreed that we will provide a summary of the main items dealt with at these meetings. The Board of Governors is split into two main Committees. One Committee deals with "Every Child Matters" issues, the other is responsible for Premises, Personnel and Finance. Each Committee has individual meetings and also get together for the Full Governors Meeting.

The evening started with a welcome to the newly appointed governors, Deborah Brand and Vincent Luaces-Fernandez who are newly elected parent governors and Alexandra Ioannidou who is a new associate governor. A major part of the meeting is dedicated to reviewing the student's progress. The Governor responsible for each class year has a discussion with the teachers on the performance of the children. Data is split into progress in Reading, Writing and Maths. It is also sub-divided into boys/girls, pupil premium and children with special educational needs. Action points are included on how the teachers are planning to improve any learning gaps and move forward the attainment of both individual students and the class as a whole. Teachers also provide individual class action plans for the progression of the children. The role of the Governors is to hold the teachers and school to account and question them on the results and what steps are being taken to improve those results. From the Governors point of view, the school and teachers are always honest with the information provided, and the next steps that need to be made. Class teachers focus on both the successes of children and areas of learning where more focus is needed. Afterwards the teachers leave and the outcome of the discussions are reported to the all Governors.

During the second part of the meeting we discussed a variety of issues. Some of the main ones were:

- Snag list following the completion of Abbey Field site;
- Discussion on plans for an extension at Abbey Field, two further classrooms are needed;
- Ratifying various policies including Child Protection and Human Resources policies;
- Continued Governor training;
- Future staffing needs;
- Feedback from both the individual Committee meetings with updates on action points;
- Estimated 3 Years Action Plan on Finances for the school.

The meeting lasted 3 hours and as you can imagine involves an incredible amount of data to absorb and discuss.

Please have a look at the website for more information on the Governors, under the section titled, 'Governance.' We will, going forward, continue to keep parents updated with summaries of future meetings.

We hope you have found this useful.