



St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 12

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Friday 4th December 2015

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We ♥ Maths

We are all writers ...

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Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all those parents, relatives and friends who popped along last Friday evening to join us for our Christmas Fair. We had a superb evening and it was brilliant to see so many people supporting the PTA and the school.



In total, £3281.03 was raised which is a massive total. My particular thanks to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Bourne and the PTA for organising the event and bringing our community together and to the school staff who manned various stalls and devised cunning ways to separate you from your money. My thanks as well to all the children and parents who ran stalls (balloon modelling, decorate a biscuit, knock down Santa, cakes etc) and helped out on the night.

Part of our Christmas Fair has always been the competition between classes to raise the most money. The final totals are as follows: 1, Jumbo £131, 2, Roses £123, 3, Circus £112, 4 = Mercury and Claudius £106.55 each, 6, Star £95.88, 7, Chariot £79.00, 8, Castle £72.16, 9, Eagles £61.50, 10, Icení £46.66, 11, Trinovantes £37.67, 12, Dutch £32.50, 13, Oysters £29.50

There are some additional Christmas Fair photographs on the school website.

Christmas Post Boxes

Our elves will be back from Monday, at both sites to enable the posting of Christmas cards across the school. From Monday teachers will have a class list and should you want a copy please just ask. Please remember to make sure your child puts both the first name and surname on the front of the Christmas card as well as the class. Post boxes will be in the top hall at Town and in the library at Abbey Field.



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 running at our school from January for 6 weeks from 9.00a.m. to 11.00a.m.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 8th December @ 2.00p.m. — Year 2 Christmas Production (pre-school children very welcome) — A Midwife Crisis
Wednesday 9th December @ 2.00p.m. and 6.00p.m. — Year 2 Christmas Production (No pre-school children) — A Midwife Crisis
Friday 11th December — Christmas Jumper Day/Non Uniform, £1 donation, Save the Children
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

Practise

As we continue to embed the new National Curriculum you will, I hope as parents, have noticed our increased expectations for children in their learning. Part of these expectations centre around multiplication tables and spellings, especially from Year 2 upwards. As parents, you must please support your children in their daily practising of these key skills at home. The expectation is that the children both practise and learn these as they are fundamental to both their application of maths and their written work. Please remember that we want the best for your children but as parents you need to do your part. Daily practise of spellings and tables is key to your child's development and success. It might be a challenge but it will be worth it when your children succeed.

Please note there is NO Netball club next week for Year 5/6

Maths Challenge

Last weeks solution.

(Starting from the centre and reading in a spiral:
Merry Christmas Everybody and a Happy New Year Too)



This weeks challenge.

Father Christmas spends 364 days of the year as a taster of Christmas puddings (which is why he is so round and jolly). Recently he came across a Magic Pudding.

If you eat some of this pudding, the next thing you say comes out in a magic code.
Father Christmas tried it, liked it, and said:

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

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

The winning entry each week from each phase will get to choose a free book or maths prize.

Awards

- Tigger Award (Trinovantes) - Liam Mitchell
- Eeyore Award (Oysters) — Olivia Gillon
- Winnie the Pooh Award (Castle) - Harry Warren
- Rory the Lion Award (Dutch) - Kylan Burgin
- Pluto Award (Icení) - Finley Greenleaf
- Sully Award (Mercury) - Archie North
- Diddle Award (Claudius) - Riley Thompson
- Scrappy Award (Eagles) - Olivia Dempsey
- Bumble Award (Circus) - Ethan Luaces-Fernandez
- Simba Award (Roses) - Riley Ring
- Stitch Award (Chariot) - Riley Rudd
- Hathi Award (Star) - Skyla Starling
- Mickey Award (Jumbo) - Grace Freebody
- Heads' Award — Children Helpers from the Christmas Fair
- Attendance — Mercury
- Spot— Ore Odunaike

Assessment Period 2

Every class has sent home this week a curriculum letter detailing the different things your children will be learning at school as we start Assessment Period 2. If you have not read through the letter yet, please do take the time to have a read and support your children in their learning.

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 Veg Loaf



App Attack

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

Maths Martians

Helps children to learn, practise and master addition while having lots of fun. Twelve levels including +1, +2, doubling, doubling +1 and Mastery Numbers.



And Finally ...

Mr Bromley is entering the festive season early. Sending me a text the other night to let me know that the school was locked up, Mr Bromley added an 'x.' Sadly the 'x' wasn't for me, he'd added it by mistake having just texted his wife. Personally I think Mr Bromley gets off lightly, when I text my wife I have to send 3 times xs, on several occasions I've had to send a text just with the xs as I've forgotten to send any with the message. It's all about self preservation!

Have a good weekend

Simon Billings

We are growing our learning

Governors

New Parent Governors

I am delighted to inform you that following on from our recent governor parent elections, we now have two new parent governors.

Deborah Brand: Deborah currently has a child in a Foundation class

Vincent Luaces-Fernandez: Vincent has a child in Year 1

Personnel, Premises & Finance (PPF)

The PPF committee of the FGB met on Monday afternoon. Alan Short, the Chair of the Governing Body, has provided a summary below of some of the things discussed at the meeting.

The Personnel, Premises and Finance (PPF) Sub Committee of the School Governors had its second of 6 regular meetings of the school year on Tuesday 1 December 2015. The clue is in the title and the committee receives and discusses monthly reports on school finances as well as reports on the Catering and Breakfast Club accounts and related matters together with Personnel and resources issues and development of the school buildings and outside areas.

In reviewing the Catering part of the report, the committee noted the take up of the free meal provision of EYFS and KS1 which is below the expectation from the government finance support package. It was decided to remind parents and carers of the free school meal provision and hope that more will take advantage of these free meals which use the government nutrition standards. However, it was important to note the excellent job the catering staff of St John's Green do and note that the % uptake for our school is one of the highest in Colchester.

As the price of the paid for meals had not increased for some time and was now significantly below the prices in other local schools, the committee agreed to review these prices in March 2016. The committee also agreed to review the charges for letting out the school premises and car parks for external use outside of the school day. Some of these charges have again not been increased recently. Furthermore, they considered that perhaps a wider review of the potential to rent out the school facilities on a wider proactive basis as a way of increasing the funding of the school.

In terms of forward budget planning, all schools were reported to be struggling to balance budgets as a result of the unavoidable increase in pension and National Insurance contributions to be introduced in the next year. These increases were not matched by increases in government funding. A key issue for the school is the expansion programme, up to a total of 630 pupils, and the extent of recruitment of teaching and support staff as the expansion rolls forward. A separate meeting is to take place between the Chair of the PPF, the Chair of Governors and the Head to consider this staff programme so that a revised three-year budget plan can be produced for further consideration at the next meeting in early next term and the establishment in March of the 2016/17 budget.

The committee received a report of the recent recruitment of support staff and the process for the replacement of staff.

There were currently no premises issues requiring the decisions of the committee.

The PPF is also responsible for creating and reviewing school policies and procedures within the areas of its remit. Many of these are based on model policies issued by Essex County Council. At the December meeting the following were approved: Financial Regulation, Lettings Policy, Data Protection policy, Guidelines on the Senior Business Manger's role and Discipline and Dismissal Procedure. A draft of the Major and Critical Incident Plan had been circulated for comment and this would be supported by a draft Continuation of Business Plan to be considered at the next meeting.

Alan Short

Chair of Governing Body