



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



Newsletter

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Please remember that today is the last day of the Autumn Term. The Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January.

Volume 43, Issue 15

Newsletter Date:
Thursday 19th December
2019

It's Behind You	1
CU v MU	1
Year 1	1
Year 4	1
Mrs Battersby	1
Christmas Quiz	2



Diary Dates

Thursday 19th December—Last Day of Autumn Term.

Monday 6th January—First Day of Spring Term.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE OTHER KEY DATES ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

It's Behind You...



On Monday, all children in the school were treated to the thrills and spills of a pantomime courtesy of the PTA.

Tickled Pink Productions came in to regale the children with their interpretation of Beauty and the Beast. Personally I didn't remember songs from Frozen, Grease and the Greatest Showman in the original version of Beauty and the Beast—however, it all tied together seamlessly in a very enjoyable production.

To make the pantomime just a little bit more special, approximately thirty children from each site were also able to play starring roles in the production.

Huge thanks to our PTA who paid for this Christmas treat for all the children and really well done to both the children who took part and the children who were a fantastic audience.



Colchester United V Manchester United



A little bit of history in the making yesterday as the mighty Colchester took on Manchester United in the quarter finals of the Carabao Cup.

The last time Colchester United were in the quarter finals of a major trophy was in 1971 in the FA Cup against Everton and sadly they lost that day.

Hope obviously springs eternal and five and half thousand Colchester fans—including several from our school, travelled up to just see if history could be made.

Realistically, it was probably a stretch and sadly it wasn't to be—although Colchester did hold Manchester United to 0-0 at Half Time.

Sadly, the floodgates opened during a 10 minute period and Colchester lost 3-0.

Back to reality this Saturday, as Colchester are home to Carlisle in the league. I think it's unlikely that Carlisle will be fielding the 200 million pound team that Manchester United were yesterday.

Dinner Acreas

A reminder please to all parents of children in KS2.

Please if you owe any dinner money could you settle your account before the Christmas Break or in other words today. It will save us having to chase you in the New Year.

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

Jane D. Hull



Year 1

A very special well done to Year 1 who gave a brilliant carol concert last Friday in front of a packed hall.



Yesterday, they were creative in the extreme as they dressed up in a plethora of different book characters to bring some classic books to life.

Christmas Quiz

As always at this time of year, on the back of the newsletter is this year's Christmas Quiz.

Fifty questions to tempt and tease you over the Christmas period.

Completed entries need to be handed into either school office in the new year.

Good Luck.

Father Christmas

Yesterday morning all the children in the school, even the more reluctant, cooler older ones were treated to a visit from Father Christmas who had taken time out from his Christmas preparations to pay a visit to both our sites and give each and every child a small gift.

Huge thanks to the PTA who had managed to persuade the man himself to pop along for the morning to see the children in what is quite a busy time of year for him.

Each class also took a vote on whether their teachers had been good or bad this year. Apparently five teachers have been voted onto the naughty list, which doesn't bode well for them with just a few days to go until the day itself.

As you know, I would be naturally reticent to reveal who the five teachers were and at the time of writing only know 3 names and it would be unfair to name Miss Wiggins, Miss Stockwell and Mrs Raynor without knowing the names of the other two!



All Aboard the Polar Express

Yesterday, our EYFS children went on a magical journey aboard the Polar Express.

Requirements were quite rigid—you had to be an EYFS child and you could only get on the Polar Express if you had a ticket which had been punched.

Once aboard, the children went on their magical journey and were treated to both hot chocolate and pop corn.

To cap off the magical journey, Father Christmas arrived bearing gifts for everyone.

However, the most important question you have to ask is—'Can you still hear the bells?'



Year 4—a Museum Experience

The year 4 children drew on their learning from this term to create museum exhibitions answering their big question 'What did the Romans do for us?'. They researched the impacts of the Roman invasion, looking at what was introduced to Britain, if it is still used in the same way today and the impact it has on our lives. They collated all of their knowledge into exhibitions featuring songs, artwork, computer programs, informative posters and more then opened the museum for visits. The teachers are all proud of their presentations and effort.



And Finally,

On behalf of all the staff at the school, my thanks for all your support and enthusiasm this term. For reading and practising with your children, for coming to school events, for dressing the children up and for paying for trips. My thanks as well for the cards and gifts you have given the staff this Christmas just to say thank you. I wish you all the very best for both Christmas and the New Year. May the very best of this year be the very worst of next year for you all.

Have a Great Christmas Break

Simon Billings

All Things Attendance

I am both hero and villain when it comes to attendance. A hero if I authorise an absence request, a villain if I don't. The policy however, makes the schools stance quite clear. On the one hand we cannot teach the children or enable them to build on their learning if they are not in school. On the other hand, we very much appreciate the value of family time and how much money parents can save by taking a period of absence outside of school holidays.

- For the school to authorise a leave of absence request attendance must be 97% or above in the preceding 14 weeks.
- The school can only authorise a maximum of 10 days in an academic year.

The school is duty bound to seek a penalty notice if it believes parents have taken an unauthorised holiday. Which is I suppose, a long way of saying: make sure your children are in school every day so we can teach them and more importantly if you're considering a leave of absence request—so we can authorise it!

Mrs Battersby

Over 30 years of service at the school comes to an end today as Mrs Battersby, our longest member of staff is hanging up her MDA hat, cloth and first aid prowess and retiring. She will still be around as she is continuing working at the Playgroup. Wendy, on behalf of the school, thank you for everything you have done and the very best of luck for the future.



Christmas Quiz 2019

(After all you can't watch the TV all of the time!)

- 1, In which ocean is Christmas Island located?
- 2, Who had the Christmas No.1 with the song 'Perfect' in 2017?
- 3, Which plant often given as a gift at Christmas has bright red and green leaves and is sometimes known as the Christmas Flower?
- 4, How many strings does a violin have?
- 5, In which American city is the Statue of Liberty is located?
- 6, How many hours are there in seven days?
- 7, What is the collective name for the three magical objects (a wand, a stone and an invisibility cloak) which when owned by one person are said to give mastery over death?
- 8, Who's longstanding arch enemy is Baron von Greenback?
- 9, What is Blue Peter's highest award, given for exceptional achievement, such as acts of extreme bravery, or represented their country in a major event?
- 10, What is the catchphrase that is said when Sooty does his magic tricks?
- 11, In Blackadder, the manservant, played by Tony Robinson, always had an answer to any predicament. What was his catchphrase?
- 12, 'Woman with a Hat' and 'The Snail' are notable works by which French painter?
- 13, A Waning Gibbous and a Waxing Gibbous are two examples of what?
- 14, Cornu Aspersum is the common name of which mollusc?
- 15, Who is Peppa Pig's best friend?
- 16, Between 1996 and 1998, which British girl band celebrated three consecutive UK Christmas number one singles?
- 17, Who wrote 'A Visit from St. Nicholas', the famous Christmas poem with the opening line 'Twas the night before Christmas'?
- 18, Which food product has used the slogan "Taste the rainbow" since 1994?
- 19, Autumn King, Figaro and St Valery are all varieties of which vegetable?
- 20, In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairy tale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
- 21, In April this year, a major fire broke out in which iconic building in France?
- 22, The 2019 Cricket World Cup was won by which country?
- 23, Sisters Anne, Charlotte and Emily were members of which nineteenth-century literary family?
- 24, Which oath taken by GPs requires doctors to act in the best interests of their patients?
- 25, In which country is the Taj Mahal?
- 26, Historically, what did an English town require to be called a city?
- 27, Which famous nurse was known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'?
- 28, Who wrote the original 1977 Star Wars?
- 29, What are the names of the three famous chipmunks?
- 30, Which football team is nicknamed 'The Gunners'?
- 31, How many milk teeth are there in a full set?
- 32, How many American states have towns named Santa Claus?
- 33, Which author wrote the famous line 'always winter but never Christmas'?
- 34, The stars of Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka form a belt-like pattern in the night sky known as what?
- 35, What is the only breed of dog that is mentioned in the Bible?
- 36, -273 degrees centigrade is also known by what term?
- 37, What is the collective name for a group of geese on the ground?
- 38, What was the name of the ship captained by Sir Francis Drake during his circumnavigation of the world between 1577-1580?
- 39, Which country shares borders with the most countries?
- 40, Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?
- 41, What is the national bird of the United Kingdom?
- 42, Who was the first Prime minister of Great Britain?
- 43, Which one word can go after tape, ring and round?
- 44, How does Santa climb up the chimney after getting your presents?
- 45, Which Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale inspired the movie Frozen?
- 46, What is the name of Santa's wife?
- 47, Which furry creatures lived on Wimbledon Common?
- 48, Which famous novel featured Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March?
- 49, Info.cern.ch is famous for being what?
- 50, What do you call a frozen elf hanging from the ceiling?