



# NEWSLETTER

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

## From the headteacher...

Dear parents,

I do love this time of year, with so much singing, twinkling lights, cosy fires and time with friends and family. As the anticipation builds, we are enjoying singing some of the carols in preparation for the **carol singing around the village** – please do come and join us on Monday at 6pm next week. There will be mince pies and mulled wine afterwards, as a reward for your singing! We are also looking forward to the **carol service next Tuesday morning** in school.

**Christmas Fun Fair:** The Year 5 and 6 pupils will be running another fun fair this coming Friday, from about 3.20pm-4.20pm. As well as the fun and games, there will be some Christmas crafts for you to do, popcorn, etc. We will also have a **'Christmas Jumper Day'**; although we not specifically charging for this, any donations will go towards the **'Save the Children'** charity.

**School Party and Disco:** This was a fabulous event, and we are very grateful to all the parents and the PTA who organised it, bought and made the food and then helped make sure it ran so smoothly. Thank you also to all the staff who stayed late after school to help supervise. It is definitely something we will repeat – perhaps in the summer with a May Ball?

I have heard snippets of the Key Stage 1 Nativity, and must say I'm looking forward to seeing the whole thing. We are also planning to have class Christmas parties on the last day of term, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. Children may bring a contribution of food to share with their class, but please note we are a 'nut-free' school so nothing containing nuts should be brought in. The kitchen will also be providing pizza, sausage rolls as well as carrot and cucumber sticks, for those children who would usually have a school lunch.

1.30pm

**End of Term:** Please note that we are going to be finishing school early next Tuesday, at 1.30pm.

I do hope you all have a wonderful, joyful festive season filled with a good balance of fun and tranquillity. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Regards

Andrew Saunders



## Hebrews 12v1

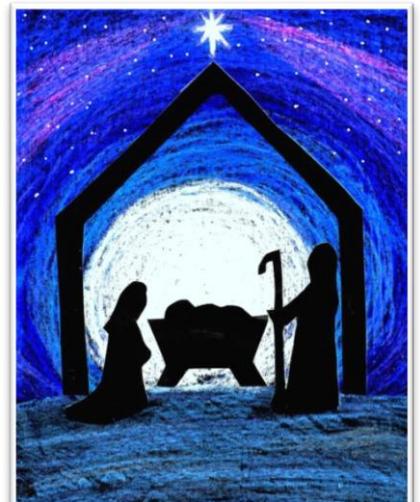
"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

## In this issue:

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## Coming up soon:

- Carol Singing: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Meet at school at 6pm.
- End-of-term carol service: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 09.15am.
- Term ends at 1.30pm, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.
- Spring Term starts, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017.



# St Christopher's Great 8 – Principles for great learning

These principles underpin and drive everything we do at our school. We constantly strive to find ways to implement and improve them. We regularly reflect on how they are working and the impact this has on pupils' learning & development.

## Share responsibility...

1. Children will share the responsibility for their learning and progress.



## Understand purpose, context, direction...

2. Children will understand the purpose, context and direction of their learning and will be able to demonstrate their success.



## Get on quickly...

3. Children will get on with their learning as soon as they are ready to do so and show commitment to producing a good quantity of high quality work taking account of the time available.



## Focus on learning...

4. Children will be focused on what they are learning, not what they are doing, and willing to take risks and learn from mistakes.



## Positive learning behaviour...

5. Children will maintain their own positive learning behaviour and will support others in developing good attitudes towards all learning.



## Equality...

6. Every child will have similar and equitable opportunities to participate and display their work.



## Positive language...

7. Children and adults will use positive language to explain, question or discuss ideas, able to adapt their thinking in the light of new information.



## Awe & Wonder...

8. Children will have a sense of awe and wonder about how their learning fits into the world around them, taking time to celebrate and enjoy each other's successes.



## FOCUS

## Understand purpose, context, direction...

1. Children will understand the purpose, context and direction of their learning and will be able to demonstrate their success.

This principle helps children to understand 'Why' they are doing or learning something. Whoever you are, it is much easier to learn or get on with a task if you understand the purpose of it.

These are some of the key strategies we use in class to help ensure children **UNDERSTAND the PURPOSE, CONTEXT and DIRECTION** of their learning:

We structure our lessons using the WWWW:

- **Why?** (purpose and context to learning)
- **Walt** – We Are Learning To... (Learning Objective)
- **Wilf** – What I'm Looking For... (Success criteria; Steps to Success)
- **WAGOLL** – What A Good One Looks Like (modelling success)

Children help to decide the 'Steps to Success' or success criteria, by which they will know if they have learnt what they were intended to.

Teachers try to design tasks which are open-ended so that children can choose the context or specific details of what they do or write about.

Children are encouraged to reflect on what they have learnt and where else they might be able to use this.



- All success criteria/WILFs will include a column for pupils to help decide, at the start of the lesson, how they will know they have been successful.

## Dates for your diary



### Autumn Term 2016:

Tuesday 13 December	14.15: Reception Christmas Concert (Reception parents welcome)
Wednesday 14 December	09.30: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play (booking required)
Thursday 15 December	14.00: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play (booking required)
Monday 19 December	School Christmas lunch ( <i>if you haven't already booked and wish to do so please let us know by Wednesday 14 Dec</i> ) 18.00: Family Carol-singing around the village (please note changed time)
Tuesday 20 December	09.15 Carol service 13.30: End of term
21 December – 3 January	Christmas Holidays

### Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 4 January	Staff professional development Day; no children in school
Thursday 5 January	Pupils return
Wednesday 11 January	6.00pm: Parents' Forum
27 February – 3 March	Book Week
Wednesday 1 March	9.00am: Parents' Forum
Thursday 2 March	World Book Day (play-clothes/costume day)
13-17 March	Science week
Tuesday 21 March	3.30-5.30pm: Optional Parent-Teacher consultations (booking required)
Wednesday 22 March	4.30-6.30pm: Optional Parent-Teacher consultations (booking required)
Friday 24 March	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
Thursday 30 March	2.30pm: Easter service at school (parents welcome) 3.15pm: End of term

### Summer Term 2017

Wednesday 26 April	Parents' Forum (2.00pm)
8-12 May	Year 6 SATs week
5-9 June	Enterprise Week
Wednesday 14 June	Parents' Forum (6.00pm)
3-7 July	Year 5 and 6 Production
17-21 July	Leavers' Assembly (Year 6 parents welcome) End-of-term Assembly (all parents welcome)

Please note: dates are advisory and MAY be subject to change. We will inform parents of any changes as early as possible.

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 Headteacher: **Mr Andrew Saunders** | Chair of Governors: **Mr. T. Huggan**