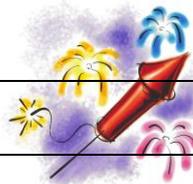




Newsletter No. 3



November 2017



Message from the Headteacher ...

Once we arrive at November, it always seems that Christmas descends on us very suddenly! There will be plenty of fun and excitement as we get closer to the end of the term – the Bazaar, Christmas Meal, the Panto in Colchester, the Year 3/4 Musical production and our Carol Service in church.

As the temperature drops, there is usual potential for disruption on very frosty or snowy days. Try to start out a little earlier on frosty mornings to avoid rushing. In the last few years, we have been fortunate to have very little snow, but when there was we were usually able to keep the school open when many others have closed. The decision to remain open or to close on a snowy day is based entirely on our ability to manage the children in school safely. There are many factors that affect this, most commonly, the number of staff that can get into school and the heating system. In the event of any uncertainty the best place for parents to check for information is the school website.



STAFF NEWS

After 23 years of teaching at St Andrew's, Mr Morgan has decided to retire.

He has been an integral part of the life of the school and played a significant role in the achievement and progress of many hundreds of children. His contribution to computers and technology in school are of particular significance and, on a lighter note, the school has enjoyed much success on the cricket field over the years with Mr Morgan as coach!

He will be very much missed by very many, but we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Thank you, Rob!

Dates for your diary

November

- 9 Operation Christmas Child Service, 1.30pm in the Church
- 13 Governors Curriculum Committee (7pm)
- 15 Year 5 'History Off The Page' visit (in school)
- 17 'Children in Need' Day
- 23 Joint Open Day with Infant School, from 9am
- 24 Year 5 Assembly, 2.30pm
JSA Film Night

December

- 7 JSA Christmas Bazaar
- 8 Whole School visit to Panto, Mercury Theatre, Colchester
- 11 Full Governing Body meeting, 7pm
- 12, 13 Year 3/4 Christmas Production, 6.30pm at the church (admission limited to 2 guests per family, per night)
- 15 JSA Discos
- 18 Christmas Carol Service at Church, 10am
Pupils Christmas Meal
- 20 Last Day at school
- 21 Dec to 2nd Jan Christmas Holiday & Non-Pupil Day

January 2017

- 2 Non-Pupil Staff Training Day
- 3 Children return to school

February

- 12-16 Half Term
- 26 Governors, Finance/Premises/Personnel Committee, 7pm

March

- 29 JSA Discos
- 30 to 16 April Easter Holiday & Non-Pupil Day

April

- 17 Children return to school

May

- 14-18 Year 6 SATs week
- 21-25 Year 6 trip to the Lake District



FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER: Come to school in spotty PJs with messy hair and your teddy in tow, or come in spotty non-uniform. Cakes for 20p and sweets for either 10p, 20p or 30p will be on sale during the day. See the next page for more information!

Message from our School Council Friday 17th November

Children In Need Day will be a Day to come in to school in your Pyjamas with messy hair and to Have your Teddy Bear in tow! Alternatively you may come in non-uniform wearing spots. If you don't have spotty PJs or clothing, you can make some spots to put on your clothing. We ask each child to come to school with a minimum donation of £1 for Children In Need ... but you might want to donate more!

*The School Council have also decided to hold a **Cake and Sweets sale!!!!** For this the children will need your help. They would like multi-packs of sweets donated that could then be opened and sold as small individual units which the children could then take home. They would also like cakes to be given which the children could buy during the afternoon. If it's a big cake, do please cut it before it comes in and make sure that your tin or container is marked with your name.*

Thank you from the School Council



Open Days

The Infant and Junior Schools have successfully held the first of our two joint Open Days for prospective parents. The second one is due to take place on Thursday 23rd November.

If you know of any parents who are considering school places for their children, why not point them in our direction! Appointments should be made via the Infant school office or you can call 01245 380220.



Junior School Association

Many thanks to the Committee who are working hard on behalf of our children to raise money for the school. Please do support the events leading up to Christmas – The Film Night on Fri 24th November, the Christmas Bazaar on Thursday 7th December and the Discos on Friday 15th December. Watch out for further details!

In addition to all this, the JSA are paying for the coach travel to the Mercury Theatre on Friday 8th December when the whole school will be going out for a Christmas treat to see the pantomime ‘Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs’. Watch for more details soon.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

We are so grateful that so many of you have been preparing Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes in readiness for our service that takes place jointly with the Infant School tomorrow (9th November).

Knowing that we disappointed those who tried to buy shoeboxes last year after we ran out, we doubled the order and these have nearly all gone.

May we thank you for the generosity and time given by all our parents and children who kindly supported this. We know that your kindness will be very greatly valued by the recipients of your gifts.



Harvest – Foodbank Appeal

We were really pleased with the response from children and parents for this year's Harvest Appeal.

The Foodbank is based in Braintree & Witham and is also supported through St Andrew's Church and Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church.

We were able to contribute a substantial number of items for the Foodbank which will go to help families locally who are struggling to provide themselves with enough to eat.

Running late!

We know that this happens, but in the mornings we do ask you to bear with us in the small amount of time it can take to ensure that the children are safely logged as having arrived into school and that the office staff know whether they are having a school meal or have brought a packed lunch for that day.

In the afternoon if you have been delayed unavoidably (we know the A12 is a common cause) we do ask you to contact us to let us know that you are going to be running late, so we can then ensure that your children stay in school and wait for you safely indoors rather outside in the cold on the playground or on the Rec. We continue to remind children that if they normally meet you on the Rec but cannot find you then they must come straight back onto the playground and report to the staff member on duty.