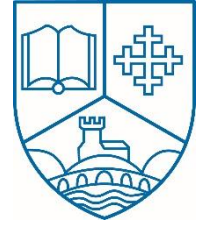


Bidford on Avon

Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 14 – 15th December 2023

Diary Dates –

- **Monday 8th January** - Teacher Training Day (school closed to children).
- **Tuesday 9th January** – Start of Spring term 2024.

Christmas celebrations

- 🎅 We started the week with a festive feeling when the children from the Reception classes entertained their families with a selection of seasonal songs with actions. They did very well to remember so many songs and to sing so clearly.
- 🎅 Across the school festive themed design & technology activities have been taking place:
 - 🌲 Children in Reception have made and decorated Christmas biscuits.
 - 🌲 Children in Year 1 & 2 have made festive ‘moving parts’ cards.
 - 🌲 Children in Year 3 & 4 have made festive ‘pop-up’ cards.
 - 🌲 Children in Year 5 & 6 have designing and made moving sleighs, by building a chassis and circuit to get the motor to work.
- 🎅 On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, we held our Christmas Carol service in the school hall as we were unable to go to Church. We were able to come together as a school community and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to all the parents that came along to support this and joined in with the singing.
- 🎅 Wednesday was a particular busy and festive day. We started the school day with our annual Christingle service. It was wonderful to see all of the Christingles and hopefully they shared with you the meaning of the different elements. At lunchtime, Mrs Gall and her team cooked and served nearly 270 Christmas lunches to pupils and staff! Thank you to the BSA for funding the lunches for the KS2 children. After Christmas lunch, we had a surprise visit from a certain man dressed in red and two of his elves. The children were extremely excited and they were all given a gift from the BSA.
- 🎅 On Thursday Allen Stevens, a lay preacher from St Laurence Church, led our Christmas service. The children from Year 2 led the tableau of the Nativity story and Year 6 helped tell the story.
- 🎅 Also on Thursday, we also completed our Santa run. We would like to say a huge well done to all of our pupils for taking part and raising so much money for the Shakespeare Hospice. All the Reception children managed to run half a mile and all other class managed to run a mile – even in the windy weather. So far, we have raised around £900 with money still coming in. A huge thank you goes to Mary (our school counsellor and Marathon expert) for supporting the run, and running at least 28 laps (7miles!) to support and encourage the children.

Please see the last page for some photographs of these events.

Schools Dinners – When we return to school in January, the dinner menu will be on Week 3 and the options on the first day back will be beef bolognaise, veggie plant burger, and jacket potato. There will also be the option of tuna mayo deli bag for children in Reception and KS1.

Online Safety – Over the Christmas period, children may be on their consoles and other devices which allow children to access the internet. Advice about how to keep your child safe is available on the government website [child safety online](#) and there are a number of other sources for guidance on the safeguarding page of our school website. All games have a PEGI rating and this determines the age of their intended audience - see [PEGI](#) for more information. The Government are also advising parents to discuss with their children the dangers of accessing inappropriate adult material if they have a smartphone, and that they should provide a suitable firewall to protect them.

Attendance –

It is a DfE requirement that school must monitor attendance and inform parents if their child's attendance is persistently low (which is 90% or below). Where relevant parents will receive a letter informing them if that is the case for their child. Please can we remind you that the school gates open at 8:45am and all children are expected to be in school by 8:55am.

Clubs –

- Year 5 & 6 Multisports will not be continuing in January
- Year 5 & 6 Boys Football, KS2 Girls Football and Year 2 Multisports will start w/c 2nd Jan **for the same children.**
- Year 3 & 4 Boys Football will start 15th January **for the same children.**
- Year 3 & 4 Multisports will start Tuesday 16th January. As this is a new club details of how to book will be shared in the New Year.

Reminders –

- The *Children's Crib Service* at St Laurence Church is on at 4pm on Sat 24th Dec. *Family Communion* will be on Christmas Day at 10am.
- The *Bidford Panto* team are performing 'Rapunzel' on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th January 2pm & 7:30pm at the Crawford Hall. Tickets available at Bidford Panto – <https://bidfordpanto.com/>
- *Teacher Training Day* (school closed to children) is on Monday 8th January.

Book of the Week – We always enjoy 'The Night before Christmas' by Clement Moore, at this time of year. This traditional poem from 1822 is a lovely story that captures the wonder and excitement of waiting for St Nicholas.



On behalf of all our staff and governors, we all wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you on TUESDAY 9th January 2024.

A Simms

