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## Spring Term Newsletter 1– 10th January, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas.

On Thursday, Radio Gloucestershire are coming to interview the children as part of their feature " School of the Week". The recording will go out each evening, week commencing 16th January, 'Mitcheldean Primary School in the Spotlight' at about 3.50pm- so tune in to hear what the children think about their school.

### Class News

Reception children came back to school to find that Goldilocks and the 3 Bears had been using their classroom and had left muddy paw prints and porridge bowls waiting to be washed up- what excitement! What great opportunities for speaking, listening, writing and art work.

Year 1 will be continuing Forest Schools on a Thursday afternoon.

Year 2 are busy practising for their assembly on Friday 13th January.

Year 3 will be visiting Forest Gate Church & St Michael's Church this term.

Children in Years 4 & 5 will have the chance to go to Newent Community School to take part in cookery lessons on Monday 16th January. This means that the whole class gets to cook at the same time and this suits the junior curriculum really well. Year 6 had the opportunity last term and Year 3 will be taking part in the summer term. The infant curriculum lends itself well to groups of children cooking in the school kitchen. Our thanks to the food technology department at Newent for their support with this venture.

Today Year 5 have participated in a Science workshop led by Dr. Dave Watson on ' Forces'. Dave runs the Cheltenham Science Group which you can visit in Coronation Square and he brought a range of exciting investigations with him to enhance the children's learning.

Year 5 will also be visiting Newent Community School on Tuesday 31st January to watch the dress rehearsal of their production ' Bugsy Malone' and attending a science workshop in the interval.

Year 6 are looking at designing a healthy meal using mouldable materials.

### Attendance

Thanks to the Dick Whittington Centre we were able to present a Christmas attendance prize at the School Carol Service. All pupils with 100% over the autumn term were entered into a draw and Rosie Graham won the family ticket to the centre.

If your child is absent from school for the day for any reason, please ensure that you telephone the school office by 9.30 am to explain your child's absence.

A child's attendance is now considered to be of concern if it falls below 90%. We monitor the attendance of all pupils on a regular basis and will write to you or call you in for a meeting if we are concerned to discuss the reasons for non-attendance and the ways in which the school and parents can work together to improve this so that your child does not fall behind with their learning or miss out socially.

### **Play Equipment**

The play equipment, purchased through your contributions to FOMS events, was installed over the Christmas break and the children are really enjoying playing on them. Thank you all especially those people who volunteer to run events either social or fund raising to benefit all the children. We are hoping to get some artificial grass to link the playgrounds to the safety matting- which will save the mud being brought into school. Please be aware that the surfaces are very slippery when wet or frosty so keep children off first thing in the morning or when wet. Children should only play on the equipment if they are being closely supervised by an adult as they are at playtimes in school time.

### **Carol Service**

At the Carol Service on the last day of term, we were delighted with the quality of the singing especially the soloists and duets: Hanna Deering, Paige Appleby, Raph Barker, Connor Dix, Violet Williams, Ione James, Rosie Graham, Callum Read, Luke Ochiltree, Lacie Turner & Anya Boulton.

And with those who stood up to read the lessons: Rosie Jones, Ione James, Peter Lawson, Summer-Rose Jones, Thomas Rawlings, Corah Barnard, Amber Whitehouse, Tallie Barker, Liberty Price, Daniel Mills, Elli Osborne-Jones, James Oliver & Scarlett Hardy.

These opportunities are great for enhancing children's confidence of self-esteem.

### **School Census Day- Thursday 18th January**

Please could we ask any parents who receive an income based benefit such as income support or child tax credit and have not already applied for Free school meals to log onto [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/) to check their eligibility before 18th January. Even if your child is in KS1 and receives an Infant free school meals please can you still apply as we receive extra funding which greatly helps the school and your children. There will also be a special menu on this day of Bangers, Mash & Beans or Soup & Cheesy Baguette followed by Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce. Again it would be helpful if all Infants could order a meal on this day as it again effects how much money the school receives. You could send your child with a packed lunch as well in case they do not like it but it is also a good opportunity for your child to try a school dinner.

### **Building Project**

The second phase of the building project has now been completed. 90% of the cost has been paid for by the diocese and the school has to find the other 10%. To help our stretched funds St. Michaels church have generously donated £1000- many thanks to them. FOMS have also agreed to give 50% of funds raised this year to help and some pupils are holding fund raising activities

Congratulations to Violet Williams in Year 6 who has been pre-selected for the Gloucestershire County Gymnastics Squad. This means she does not have to attend trials and has been recognised as a talented gymnast.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Wednesday 11th January- Year 4 swimming every Wednesday morning this term

Friday 13th January- Year 2 assembly—9.00am in the hall.

Monday 16th January- Years 4 & 5 cooking at Newent Community School- Apron & Tupperware container required.

Wednesday 18th January- Girls football tournament at Dene Magna School

Thursday 26th January- Year 3 visit to Forest Gate Church at 1.30pm

Tuesday 31st January- Year 5 visit to Newent Community School to watch ' Buggy Malone'

Tuesday 7th February- Safer Internet Day- children will be learning how to stay safe online

Wednesday 8th February- Parents Evening—3.30pm—6.00pm

Thursday 9th February- Parents Evening- 4.00pm—7.00pm

Friday 10th February- Year 3 class assembly/ Break up for half term

Monday 20th February- Staff Training Day

Tuesday 21st February- Back to School

Tuesday 21st February- Reception—Vision & Hearing tests

# REMINDERS

Parents have asked that the following be mentioned on a newsletter:

- Please check your child regularly for head-lice– it only takes one child not to be checked to spread them round their class and possibly the school.
- Please use the school car parks carefully– remember to be extra vigilant to avoid knocking over pedestrians.
- Please park & drive thoughtfully with consideration to local residents in our neighbouring streets.
- Please check children's clothing as some named items have gone missing and may be mixed up with your washing.

## School Trips

We have a very tight budget and would ask that everyone who indicates that they are paying for trips please pays promptly. If you have difficulty in paying for a trip please see me ( Mrs Dowding) so that the costs for the trips take this into account.

Thanks to Forest Gate Church for their donation towards the Christmas trips which helped to keep the cost down for everyone.

## Reception & Year 1 corridor

The corridors outside YR and Y1 are quite congested in the morning so please try to leave your child in line on the playground if you can. If they are a bit less confident try and leave them by the external door. It would also be helpful if parents waiting for their children at the end of the day did not tap on the windows or wave to children as it does disturb the whole class– thank you for your co-operation on this but I'm sure you appreciate that trying to keep 30 small children on task is a real skill and the teachers need all the support we can give them.

## Medicines

Just a reminder that we can only administer medication to children that needs to be given 4 times a day so please can we ask that you do not bring other medication in unless absolutely necessary.

## PE Kit

This is part of uniform and should comprise of a white t-shirt ( preferably with school logo) and black shorts and black daps. Trainers are permitted for Junior outdoor games. Kit should be in school everyday. If earrings are worn they should be taped up for PE lessons.

## Money & Slips

Please can you ensure reply slips have children's names on and if any money is sent into school it is in a sealed envelope with child's name on the front.

## Parentpay

Please remember to check your parentpay account on a regular basis to save the office time and money chasing when they are in debt.

Many thanks for your continued help and support.