



Elm C of E Primary Academy

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Everyone learning, everyone caring!

Friday 15th December, 2017

Dear Parents,

We have had a very hectic week, with many seasonal events. We have also had a very hectic term in general. The school became an academy. This is providing us with many challenges about which I will write more soon. For the moment, I just want to emphasise my thanks to all the staff for their huge efforts. They really do work very hard for your children. I wish you all the very best Christmas!

Elm Village Store donation

Our friend Kuldip, who runs the village store has very generously donated Candy Canes and similar sweets to the children this Christmas. The children will be bring these home tonight, not eating them in school. This is a time of year to be generous and Kuldip has certainly shown that spirit. Thank you.

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas fair and spent their hard-earned cash there. We raised just over £900 for school funds. Many, many thanks to the staff who put in all the effort and also to the ESA for their support with refreshments, etc.

A Miracle in Town

What a wonderful nativity play we had this year. Great singing and beautiful speaking and acting from our youngest children. I hope you enjoyed it. Many, many thanks to the staff who produced the show, especially to Mr Holt, who masterminded the whole thing.

Church services

It was lovely to see a good number of children in church on Sunday at the Christingle service. And the church was certainly packed on Tuesday morning for our annual Christmas service. We are very fortunate in our relationship with All Saints Church throughout the year, but it is especially important at Christmas, when we consider the real meaning of the celebration – the arrival of Jesus Christ on Earth. I think the children really help us understand what Christmas is all about!



Save the Children Fund.

At our nativity performances we collected for the Save the Children Fund. And today, Christmas Jumper day, we raised even more, so the total for this excellent cause is £202.27. Thank you for your generosity!

Speedwatch

On Thursday we once again welcomed Rob Pinnock and Cilla from Speedwatch and they presented 7 children with prizes for their posters, produced with the idea of encouraging safe driving in the village. Our winners were: Maisie Bishop, Kacper Bulwa, Casey Alpin, Lily Hunt, Miley-Marie Horne, Lacey Fitt and Chloe Wright. Well done. The school, together with the Parish Council and Speedwatch has been successful in slowing down traffic outside the school and making the village safer. It has been a real example of the community working together. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Children in Need

This year, in addition to our other fundraising, children in Year 3 wrote poems, made a Pudsey Poem Book and sold them to parents, raising £34 for Children in Need. This brought the total amount raised by the school to £215.55. Thank you!

School dinners - January menu

On the first day back at school – Wednesday January 3rd – the menu choice will be what is normally available on a Monday – pizza and pancakes. If parents would like to pay for the whole of next half term's lunch money in advance the amount is £65.80. A lunch is still £ 2.35 payable in advance or on the day the lunch is required.

Clubs

Clubs will start in the week of Monday 8th January. We will send out a booklet on the first day back at school.

Swimming

Year 3 and 4 will be swimming next term commencing on Thursday 18th January. Please ensure they have their swimming kit in school on Thursdays. Thank you.

Attendance

This week the best attendance was in Year 6 (Eagles) with 98.67%. Well done!! Overall attendance last week was 91.61%, which is disappointing. However we understand that there has been some sickness in the younger years. Attendance this term has been 96.21% overall, which is very positive and in line with our target and the national expectation. Thank you for your support.

Class		Attendance
Robins	Reception	86.67%
Owls	Year 1	86.67%
Swans	Year 2	96%
Magpies	Year 3	93.57%
Kestrels	Year 4	89.38%
Kingfishers	Year 5	90.31%
Eagles	Year 6	98.67%

Achievement awards

Lexia awards: Deacon Barnes and Casey Alpin. Well done!

Christmas Disco: Wednesday 13th December

Many thanks to the Elm School Association for their organisation of the Christmas discos. It was lovely to see Father Christmas there and I think everyone had a good, noisy, hot time!

Dates for the diary

- Back to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher