



Enjoying Learning Together

2 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer/Governors

It was great to see so many of you at parent/teacher consultations this week. These are an invaluable way to find out about how your child is getting on and also improves the communication between us.

This week I set the whole school a writing challenge to complete in class. I have been so impressed with the wonderful attitudes and excitement that the children have shown and I am really looking forward to seeing what they have produced.

An enthusiasm for learning is something that we really value and want to instil in all our children. It is great to see how many of our children are showing this when carrying out their home learning.

A big thank you to Lawrence in Y5 who has added even more proverbs to our tree and also for being so patient with me in getting his work published. I also want to thank Niyati in Y2, Kushal in Y6 and Sue de-G for their fantastic poems. I only asked for these last week so it is lovely to see how enthusiastic they are. I hope that many more poems will be coming my way before the end of term so that I can put up a display to celebrate these. Remember that these poems can be about anything, and in any form, so don't worry about rhyming unless you want to.

Our Foundation Stage and KS1 production of 'Babushka' will be taking place on Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 December. I would like to inform you that **no photographs or filming** can take place during the actual performance, as we have children who can't be photographed who will be taking part. The teachers will arrange the children for posed photos once the performance has ended. Thank you for your help with this.

Please familiarise yourselves with the end of day procedures listed overleaf. These are very important as they safeguard your children.

Have a great weekend.
Stuart

R. This week the children have continued to innovate our story. They have now changed it to 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt'.

In Mathematics some children have been introduced to finding one less from a group of up to 10 objects. The other children have been ordering numbers to 10.

All of the children have been busy practising our song for the key stage one play 'Babushka'. Please remember to bring their costume on Monday (5 December).

Y1. This week we have been learning our Christmas songs ready for our performance in a few weeks. We are going to be Russian villages and will be singing our own song and performing a dance. A letter will be going out next week about tickets.

Y2. Y2 have been busy, busy bees this week, learning their lines and songs for our KS1 performance, 'Babushka'. It's been great to see them learning to speak clearly and to be brave in front of an audience. We're looking forward to sharing it with you. It's on 12 and 13 December, 9:30am-10:30am. A letter will go out shortly regarding ticket information.

Y3. This week we have been using our colour mixing skills to paint some fabulous, explosive pictures of volcanoes. We have also been exploring our gymnastic skills on the large apparatus in the hall and counting to 10 in French (with actions!)

Y4. The children did fantastic 'Big Writes' this week, designing an environmentally friendly present delivery machine for Father Christmas. We also read some more of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. In Maths we carried on working on our multiplication skills. Having thought a lot about how the brain works, we have been working on our own growth mindsets to improve our learning.

Y5. We have really enjoyed spending time with the parents this week. It is always nice to share the children's learning journeys and to find out more about the pupils in the class from their parents. In Maths we have continued to investigate squared and cubed numbers, and explored the use of modal verbs in English.

Y6. Y6 have enjoyed making their eco-sleighs this week. They have shown incredible unity, working in teams to design and make models of their sleighs and also creating brilliant adverts for them too! In Maths, we are still persevering with the gargantuan fractions unit, but they are still keeping really upbeat and remembering all of the different rules. We have also begun to create volcanoes this week and we're really excited to see them take shape and watch them explode next week!

Attendance Update

Data: Monday 28 November – Friday 2 December 2016

Rocky the Attendance Dog		Punctuality Polar Bear	
Awarded to: Y2 who have reached the dizzy heights of an impressive 99.07% attendance for the week – Impressive Y2! 😊		Awarded to: Y1 who has just 1 late mark recorded for the week – Brilliant Y1! 😊	
Class	% Attendance	Late marks recorded Before close of register (L)	Late marks recorded After close of register (U)
R	84.85%	9	3
1	90.20%	1	0

2	99.07%	4	0
3	96.44%	3	1
4	95.93%	9	0
5	96.30%	3	0
6	95.11%	4	0

264 minutes late for school has been recorded this week, which is over 4 hours of missed learning, due solely to lateness.

It seems the cold and icy weather caught many people out this week; please leave plenty of time to de-ice cars etc as we enter this cold part of the year.

Procedures for the End of the School Day

Unfortunately, it has become necessary to once again remind some of you our procedures for the end of the school day:

- at 3:15pm the end of the school day, children in YR-Y6 are to be collected from their respective places by their **parent/carer**
- YR, Y1 and Y2 from their classroom
- Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 in the playgrounds

UNLESS

- children are attending our After School Club
- we have written permission for children in Y6 only to walk home alone. The expectation is that these children leave school immediately and make their way home.
- we have had communication in the form of an email, (st.michael.p@bristol-schools.uk) voicemail (0117 903 0434), letter or verbal message via the school office, that arrangements for that day have changed **from the parent/carer.**

Email is the preferred method of communication.

We understand how exciting it can be to go home with friends at the end of the day; however, due to strict safeguarding procedures we follow, we need to know who is collecting your child, as we will not your child go!

Following the above information that was sent out last term, I would like to thank those of you who do email and/or inform the office in a timely manner.

Christmas Activities in After School Club

Our After School Club is really getting into the festive spirit with the following fantastic planned activities, all the fun begins next week:

- 'Christmas Crafting' which include: paper chains, snowflakes, calendars, 'Cone Santas' and stained glass biscuits and lots more.
- The Christmas Party will also have a 'Sporting Theme' on Wednesday 14 December 2016

So, if you need additional child free Christmas shopping time, or you need extra time at work to complete those deadlines before the holidays or just some much needed peace and quiet for a few hours, then why not think about making full use of our After School Club?

Children attending After School Club can attend between 3:15pm and 5:55pm. After School Club operates during term time only and is bookable in advance (where possible) please. The cost is £8.50 per session.

School Photos

Your child should have brought home a 'proof pack' from Wednesday's photo shoot. The end of term is fast approaching, so to facilitate the return of photos before the end of term, a super quick deadline of: **Thursday 8 December 2016** has been made.

As a courier has been booked, unfortunately there is no extension on the deadline; however, it is possible to order the photos both online or via the telephone with a credit/debit card after the published deadline of 8 December 2016.

On the proof is a code which is unique to your child. You will need to code to view online and to place an order; we **do not** have copies of this number in the office. Also included in the pack which is not available on line is a special offer on bundles and the digital disc.

Christmas Tea and Cakes

Come and have some festive fun at the Christmas Tea and Cakes on Friday 9 December 2016 from 3:15pm in the School Hall.

There'll be the usual tea and cakes plus the 'St Michael's Giant Cracker Pull', face painting, a lucky dip, raffle and craft activities.

We're collecting items to put together some hampers for the Christmas raffle and are looking for donations of food items and/or bottles to fill them. Please can you drop off any donations to the school office by Wednesday 7 December 2016.

We'd also welcome any help on the day to set up and help on stalls or clear up afterwards. If you can help or have any ideas for an activity/stall you can run please sign up on the sheet leading into the school office or talk to Sarah, Ben's mum in Y6.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dates for Your Diary

Wed 7 Dec	Y3: OUT to the Christmas Experience at the Hope Centre in the afternoon – back by the end of the school day.
Wed 7 Dec	Y6: OUT to Bristol University Christmas Chemistry Lecture in the afternoon – back by the end of the school day.
Fri 9 Dec	Dress rehearsal for the Foundation Stage & KS1 Christmas Performance of ' Babushka ' instead of Celebration Assembly (This is for children in school to watch, not parents as you have the opportunity to watch next week)
Fri 9 Dec	Christmas Tea & Cakes – in the School Hall from 3:15pm
Mon 12 Dec	Foundation Stage & KS1 Christmas Performance ' Babushka ' Free for parents/carers however entry is by ticket only. Letter to follow.
Mon 12 Dec	The Magic Shoes: After school rehearsal in the school hall from: 3:15pm - 4:30pm ready for tomorrow's performance.
Tues 13 Dec	Foundation Stage & KS1 Christmas Performance ' Babushka ' Free for parents/carers however entry is by ticket only. Letter to follow.
Tues 13 Dec	Chess Trip to London for invited children in Y5 & Y6. Full consent required. Please refer to the letter re timings
Tue 13 Dec	Performance of 'The Magic Shoes' in the School Hall during the afternoon. Please arrive by 2:10pm for a prompt 2:15pm start.

Wed 14 Dec	Whole School Christmas Dinner
Thu 15 Dec	Whole School Christmas Service at St. Stephens in the morning – leaving the playgrounds at 9:30am.
Fri 16 Dec	Carols Around the Tree Everyone hugely welcome, festivities start at 9:05am in the Hall
Fri 16 Dec	End of Term 2 – normal time: 3:15pm.
Tue 3 Jan	INSET DAY 3 School closed to all pupils.
Wed 4 Jan	Start of Term 3 – normal time: 8:45am.