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# Newsletter



From the Headteacher



## Christmas

Preparations for Christmas are gathering pace. Last Friday was Christmas Decoration day and the school was awash with cotton wool, glue and glitter as the children and staff threw themselves in with gusto. Mrs Hetherington is our new Glitter Queen!

Doesn't the front of the school look fantastic? The look on the faces of some of our young ones the first night of the lights was priceless and special thanks to Miss Hawkins for her festive efforts – we now have four Christmas trees around the school site, not counting all the trees in individual classes.

I've been immensely proud of our children this week. Kate and her kitchen crew served almost 400 Christmas dinners on Wednesday and the atmosphere and behaviour was lovely, with the school hall beautifully lit by Derek Johns, our Governor. Thank you.

St Leonard's has been full of Christmas cheer all week (oh no, it hasn't!) with the Sleeping Beauty pantomime trip to Chipping Norton taking place on Tuesday. The children were raucously well behaved and the adults enjoyed the sometimes risqué humour.

The choir visited West Court Nursing Home on Monday and were a credit to the school. There will be more singing next Monday when everyone is warmly invited to join us singing carols around the Christmas tree at the school entrance, starting at 3.30pm. Our Year 6 Christmas Carol concert is at Church on Wednesday afternoon, starting at 2.00pm, all parents welcome.

## Christmas Disco

Thank you to our parents and staff for making the PTFA Christmas Disco such a success and to the children for their good behaviour and excellent dancing; some children even attempted break dancing! The children were visited by Santa and he was very impressed with their behaviour and good manners – all children have made the good list this year! The event raised over £500 for our children.

## Performances

Reception held their Christmas production of **Whoops a Daisy Angel**. The children told the story of the nativity through the eyes of an angel (Whoops a Daisy!). The singing was wonderful and I think our school choir will go from strength to strength when the children reach Key Stage 2. The children acted the story well and the characters said their lines with such confidence and enthusiasm, Miss Moon was very impressed! Many thanks to Mrs Griffin and Mrs Pratley and all of the Early years Team for costuming and preparing the children so well.

The Nursery Christmas Performances are on Tuesday, at 10.00 am and 2.00pm in the new Nursery. Key Stage 1 performances (Year 1 and 2) are on Wednesday at 9.30 and Thursday at 2.00 pm.

## Christmas Book ideas

Our teachers have got together to recommend books which might be good presents or stocking fillers to receive this year. Please see the document attached with this newsletter.





### Collections

There will be a collection for the Banbury Young Homelessness Project at each of our Christmas events this year. Banbury Young Homelessness Project (BYHP) has been in existence since 2001.

“Whilst known as an organisation helping homeless young people, we are in fact a charity supporting all young people aged 13 to 25 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or disadvantaged (and often their families) in Banbury and the surrounding areas.

BYHP operates three core services supporting between 200 and 300 young people annually - Family Mediation and Counselling, Housing and Homelessness Advice and Employability, including a Job Club. In addition to the core services, BYHP also runs a Peer Support Group and a Food Bank, as well as projects related to a range of areas including art, music and sport.”

### Children Singing for Children

We had a lovely certificate from The Rotary Club of Banbury thanking us for taking part in the Children Singing for Children concerts in November. Together the four concerts raised over £7800 for children’s charities and our Year 4s have planted crocus bulbs for the Rotary Club too which will look wonderful in the spring.

### Solihull Parenting course

The first few people have started finishing the course now, and Christmas is a great time to put theory into practice. We’re going to put the first 50 names that finish the course into a hat to win £50 of high street shopping vouchers! Just 12 modules of 20 minutes each – [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk)

### Determination

In order to achieve the Silver Games Award we are actively promoting the school games values and this week we have recognised the role that ‘Determination’ has in being successful. Many an Olympic sportsman has achieved their success through determination, sometimes making the difference against so-called performers of higher ability. The same thing applies at school and in life – often it is the most determined person who succeeds, so NEVER GIVE UP! Ask the children about Deepa Duck!

Best wishes,  
*Neil Blackwell*



### Dates for your diary ...

- Monday 11 December** Christmas carols around the Christmas tree 3.30 pm
- Tuesday 12 December** Nursery Christmas productions 10.00 and 2.00pm
- Wednesday 13 December** Year 1 and 2 Christmas production 11:00 am
- Wednesday 13 December** Year 6 Carol concert in Church 2.00pm
- Thursday 14 December** Year 1 and 2 Christmas production 2.00pm
- Friday 15 December** Nursery closes for Christmas and removals
- Monday 18 December** Christmas Party day- children can wear party clothes to school
- Tuesday 19 December** School closes for Christmas 2.00pm



### Dance Festival

On Wednesday 6th December, Dance Club travelled to Oxford to take part in the Oxfordshire Schools Dance Festival. In the morning, the children rehearsed their performance of Never Had A Friend Like Me on the stage at the New Theatre before enjoying lunch at Pizza Hut. In the afternoon, they visited the Modern Art Museum where we studied work by Norwegian textile artist Hannah Ryggen and contemporary artist Nicolas Party. After that, it was time to return to the theatre to watch the first half of the show. Following the interval, it was our turn on stage. The children performed brilliantly and made us incredibly proud. Thank you to all the parents who came along to give support and also to Mrs Dunwoody, Miss Nicklin and Mrs Debus who accompanied myself and the children.

Mrs Lacey



### St Leonard’s Church

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website:  
<http://saintleonards.org>