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Friday 15th December 2017

Dear Parents,



What a busy time we are having at school as we lead up to Christmas. Read on to find out what we have all been up to!

Tuesday was a great day in school as we were able to put on our wellies and go out on the field to enjoy the snow. The children really enjoyed all the fresh snow, making footprints and building snowmen!

If you are not registered with Class Dojo yet please ensure you do as this proved to be the most effective way of keeping you all up to date.



School Choir

On Thursday Mrs Whitmore and members of the school Choir visited Aberdeen House to have a Christmas sing song with the residents. The children sang beautifully and their carols were enjoyed by everyone. Following their singing the children chatted to the residents, spreading a little Christmas cheer! Thank you to Mrs Whitmore for organising and to the parents that helped supervise. Without parent support like this we cannot attend events like this.



Owls Class Collective Worship

Owl class shared their terms learning with the school and their parents on Thursday morning. Everyone in school found out about World War Two, particularly what it would have been like to be an evacuee. The children have learnt so much and the topic work has really motivated their learning this term.



Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to everyone who has entered the Christmas Card Competition. There were lots of amazing entries and lots of thought and effort has been put into the work – it was a very difficult decision to make and the final winner is Violette in Owls class.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Reverse Advent Calendar so far, everyone has been so very generous. The baskets keep being filled with lots of amazing items. These will be taken to Rutland Food Bank on Tuesday so if you want to drop a few last minute things in, Monday is the last day. Thank you to Ryan for arranging such a thoughtful event at Christmas time.

Stepping Stones

On Thursday afternoon children at Stepping Stones performed a Christmas Sing Along to their families and friends. The children sang beautifully and then homemade mince pies were enjoyed! Father Christmas paid a surprise visit at the end of the day and a fantastic time was had by all – thank you to all the staff at Stepping Stones who work incredibly hard to care for our Pre-school children.



Stepping Stones now have a Facebook page so if you are interested in what they are doing please take a look.



Friends of the School

Last Friday was the Christmas Fayre where there was lots of enthusiasm to buy Christmas decorations! Thank you for all your support as £278.54 was raised.

Today the school had an early Christmas present! Fundraising from Friends of the School has been amazing recently and they have purchased a bank of 16 ipads with a storage/charging trolley for the children. They were presented in Celebration Assembly this afternoon and the children are very excited to use them to support their learning in class. We will have to organise a rota so each class gets a turn! A huge great big thank to Friends of the School for organising so many events and thank you to friends and families of the school who support these events.

Staffing News

I am delighted that from January we have two fantastic members of staff joining the team at school. Mrs Purchase will be coming back to work with Woodpeckers and Mrs Adams on a Friday. In Foxes class Mrs Greening will be working with Mrs Whitmore. Mrs Greening is an experienced teacher who has worked in schools in the local area and is really looking forward to getting to know the children in Foxes class. She has already been into school to meet with Mrs Whitmore to plan ready for next term.

In the short term to ensure continuity for the children, I will be taking on the role of SENDCo until we can appoint someone to this role.

Club News

Wildcats dance club will no longer be running after Christmas. We will miss Mrs Dolby and the Wildcats staff who have worked with the school over the past 6 years. From January we will be running a new dance club on a Wednesday after school – please see the attached flyer about after school clubs which will tell you more about a trial session to try the new dance club out!



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a good rest over the Christmas holidays and enjoy time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Best wishes,

J. Exton

Sporting News

There will be **NO SPORTS CLUB ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM**

Year 6 Basketball

The school competed in the Rutland Schools Basketball Finals on Thursday. The team was Zac, Greg, Charlie, Violette, Freddy, Shay and Hali. The team's first match was against Brooke Hill, the game was very close and we were unfortunate to lose 4-0. The next game was against Hallaton and the team quickly got into its stride. Despite conceding a basket, two baskets from Freddie secured a good win. The third game was against Leighfield and the team lost 4-0. The final pool game was against St Mary & St John. This was a very fast game with great end to end play - with both teams being of a very similar standard. Two great baskets from Freddie secured the team's second win, 5-4. Once out of the pool stage the team played against Catmose. Again the team showed great commitment and won 4-0, Freddie once more scoring twice. At the end of the competition the team came 7th out of 32. A great result!

Tag Rugby – Last sessions

The last sessions of the Year 5/6 Tag Rugby (Monday) and Year 3/4 Tag Rugby (Tuesday) were held on Monday 4th December and Tuesday 5th December respectively. The clubs will resume in the Spring Term: Year 5/6 Tag Rugby will restart on **Tuesday** 9th January; Year 3/4 Tag Rugby will restart on **Wednesday** 10th January. New members are very welcome.

New Club – Dodge Ball

We are starting a Dodge Ball Club for Year 5 & 6 children. The club will start on Monday 8th January and meet after school between 3.35 and 4.30pm. Please see the attached club letter.

Diary Dates

Monday 18th December **Christmas Carol Service – 2.00pm**
Please come and join us at church as we celebrate Christmas with carols and readings.

Tuesday 19th December **Last day of Term 2 – Christmas Jumper Day**
Wear your Christmas jumper as we celebrate our last day of term! If you haven't got a Christmas jumper wear some sparkly Christmas clothes.



If you are having a **packed lunch bring in a cracker** so we can enjoy our festive Christmas Lunch together.



First day of term 3 – Wednesday 3rd January 2018