



— *St Ethelwold's VA School* —

# M E R R Y   C H R I S T M A S

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Good afternoon and welcome to your weekly newsletter.

After the excitement of finding out last week that we had won one of the prizes for the community based OpBang Challenge, we discovered on Monday that Class 4 had won FIRST PRIZE! Across the whole of North Wales and the many schools that entered, North Wales Police awarded the £750 first prize to Class 4 and remarked that the pupils had reached out to the community in a heartfelt way and produced something which the local community of pensioners truly valued. A tremendous achievement by all involved and one which embraces our school values of Kindness, Effort, Belief and of course Community. At the presentation on Monday, North Wales Police were present along with the Fire Service, who came along in their fire engine which they allowed the pupils to explore. If that wasn't excitement enough, the fire crew received 'a shout' and hurriedly got themselves into their firefighting gear before blue lighting and sirening off down Melrose Avenue!

The children enjoyed a range of Christmas celebrations this week and as well as looking at The First Christmas, they got together for Christmas Lunch on Wednesday and Christmas Parties on Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you for sending them in in their magnificent party clothes - everyone had a wonderful time.

On Monday, we were due to take some pupils to The Oaks Care Home on Larch Avenue for an afternoon of crafts and carols with the residents but unfortunately, due to the high level of winter illness in the immediate area, we had to cancel. We hope to further explore this link in the coming year and will let you know our plans.





We had also planned to deliver cards and present to the local community of pensioners today but unfortunately the persistent rain scuppered those plans. Our school have visited the pensioners for the last 20+ years at both Christmas and Easter with hand made cards and gifts and the community spirit that it brings is priceless. This year, Mrs Blackburn delivered the cards to the community centre, not quite the personal touch of having a child deliver a card to your door but hopefully it will have brought cheer and communicated our thoughts and prayers.

Our Foundation Phase classes made cards which were delivered to Deeside Community Hospital Dementia Ward this week by Mrs Duggan and they were very well received by everyone there - this is something that we will make a tradition by doing it each year.

Thank you so much for your generous support for the Shoebox Appeal. You managed to donate 10 shoeboxes, which at this time of year and with the economic hardships we are all suffering, is a spectacular effort. The shoeboxes were collected a couple of weeks ago and will go to children in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Bosnia and Romania.

We have developed a very productive partnership with Nanny Biscuit, the charity based in Rowleys Drive, Shotton. On Fridays, Nanny Biscuit are donated the sandwiches which Newydd catering would otherwise throw away as the use by dates are Friday and Saturday. Nanny Biscuit in turn donate these to our school and we hand them out to anyone in school who wants one - it's quite a feast on a Friday afternoon! We are often left with a surplus of sandwiches - if you would like some for the weekend, please do let us know and we will send them home for you.





Mrs Blackburn's class have spent December collecting food for Flintshire Food Bank and children's books for North Wales women's refuge centres. You collectively raised 5 boxes of food and around 100 books for two very worthwhile causes - again thank you so much for your help.

School reopens on Monday 9th January, and we look forward to seeing you then.

All that remains for me to do, on behalf of everyone in and connected to the school, is to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that your time with your loved ones is precious, and that Father Christmas is as generous as you are.

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*God, our dayspring and our dawn,  
We turn to you when we fear the dark  
And all around us weep.  
We pray you greet us with your shining  
light  
That we may spread your warm embrace  
And kindle the hope of Christmas  
In all whose lives remain in shadow.  
Come and be our strength*

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