



St Ethelwold's V.A. Primary School Newsletter

'Be The Best You Can'

20th December 2019

Good afternoon and welcome to the last newsletter of this term, this year and indeed this decade. Thankfully I will only review this last week rather than muse over events of the last ten years!

On Tuesday, pupils from Year 3-6 took part in the mammoth task of planting a close to 100m hedge using over 200 holly, hawthorn and crab apple trees. They worked incredibly hard to dig the holes and plant the small saplings and they hope to leave behind a legacy for future pupils who will enjoy greater biodiversity whilst at the same time doing their small bit for climate change. After seeing the pictures on our school Facebook page, The Daily Mail got in touch and would like to feature the tree planting in their newspaper in the next couple of weeks so please be on the lookout for that.

Christmas in a school is a truly magical time, the hymns, the performances, the cards, the trees, the glitter and that feeling of togetherness that Christmas uniquely affords us as we all eagerly anticipate some time with our loved ones.

The school parties were a roaring success with a particular highlight being Mr Griffith dressing up as Father Christmas for the juniors and leading the children into dancing competitions and party games, whilst in the foundation phase, after a few disputes over the rules of musical chairs (it wouldn't be Christmas without disputes over games) everyone had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The foundation phase pupils had a Christmas Sing-a-Long on Thursday morning and were joined by a good number of parents who enjoyed a warm brew and a mince pie at the end. The children sang beautifully and when the parents asked for another rendition of 5 Polar Bears, they were treated to a rousing finale that I am sure we will all be singing in our sleep for weeks to come. Well done foundation phase – it was a truly enchanting occasion.

Delivering cards and gifts to our community of pensioners is something which I know both we and the pensioners look forward to immensely and neither party were let down this year. The children handmade the cards in class and delivered them together with a bar of chocolate on Wednesday and Friday. We do this to reach out to our community and expect nothing in return whatsoever but we ALWAYS come back to school with chocolates and money which is an incredible gesture of generosity and shows how the two communities, one old, one young, can live side by side in a spirit of dignity and respect.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas time, I hope that you share your love and your time and your warmth with those nearest and dearest to you. You are an incredible bunch of parents on behalf of everyone at St Ethelwold's VA School, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Oliver

Diary Dates/ Dyddiadur

6th January– School closed– INSET day

7th January– School reopens

16th January- Primary Maths Quiz

23rd January– Fluoride Varnish

24th January– NSPCC workshops

Prayer/ Gweddi

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.