



With less than two weeks to go before Christmas and just one week until the end of term, Christmas has well and truly landed in school.

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas.....

We have the most wonderful Christmas tree in our hall with decorations from every child in school from reception to year 6. This year each class has taken characters from the nativity story as the stimulus for their decorations. Reception have made stars, year 1 the donkeys, baby Jesus in the manger for year 2, presents from the wise men in year 3, crowns in year 4, angels in year 5 and magnificent Polish stars (very complicated to make) from our year 6 children.



Children in years 3 and 4 enjoyed a Christmas crafts afternoon with parents/grandparents joining them in class. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the afternoon – it made a fabulous start to the season.

Christmas performances are well under way and I hope that parents have enjoyed the range of performance opportunities across school. Children in year 3 were amazing in their 'Snappy Christmas' performance at Thornaby Pavilion alongside other Stockton schools – a cast of around 600 I believe.

Children in year 1 performed their fabulous nativity four times; twice for parents and twice for school. I have been hugely impressed by their enthusiasm throughout and the amount of

learning they have done to secure the words of songs as well as their individual spoken parts.

Children in Early Years sang the Christmas story twice for parents who filled every available space in the hall. I have to admire the courage of our youngest children in singing in front of such a large number of adults – it was a joy to watch!

A very different tone was achieved by our year 5 children, who walked to St Francis of Assisi Church this year for their Christingle service. Thank you to parents who were able to join us in the church. This was a new venture and the setting created such a lovely atmosphere where we could hear every word spoken by the children as they outlined information about the work of the Children's society at Christmas and presented their hopes for the world at Christmas – a thought-provoking event.

Our year 2 Christingle and year 6 Christmas singalong happen next week so still more festivities to come.

Children in years 1-6 enjoyed a fantastic pantomime today; 'Dick Whittington' performed by M&M Productions. Our reception children also have a Christmas performance to look forward to next week when they go to The Arc Theatre to see 'The Ugly Duckling'.

Christmas Parties

Our early years children looked wonderful in their party clothes today. Hopefully they will all sleep soundly tonight after an energetic Christmas party in school.



Next week's parties are as follows:

Monday 17th – Years 3 and 4 – come in party clothes all day but remember to wear sensible shoes for playtimes outside.

Tuesday 18th – Years 1 and 2 - come in party clothes all day but remember to wear sensible shoes for playtimes outside.

Wednesday 19th – Years 5 and 6 – come in uniform and bring party clothes to change into after lunch.

Congratulations

Of course there are other things than Christmas happening in school. Congratulations must go to our footballers who were winners in the Conyers football competition against other local primary schools. Our children were organised into three teams; IMPS United, IMPS Rangers and IMPS Town. All were competently led by their team captains; Kulreet, Ali and Libbie. All teams played brilliantly despite the persistent rain and penetrating cold. IMPS United went on to be overall winners, retaining the trophy for a second year running. A notable performance came from Lucas W, usually a goalie, who was needed to play outfield as one of his team mates was injured. He went on to score a hat-trick! IMPS United will go on to play in the Stockton finals in February.

I was proud to hear that Daisy N represented the school so well with her violin playing in the Stockton Junior Strings Ensemble at the Tees Valley Music School Christmas Concert – Well Done Daisy!

Thank you

Thank you to all parents and families who made chocolate contributions for our Christmas raffle including Mr Purdy who specially made a wooden chocolate advent calendar. Well done to all our winners.

Parking

No newsletter would be complete without a mention about parking – even at Christmas! I have been contacted by Councillor Watson on behalf of residents of Regency Park who are concerned about irresponsible parking in their close.

I explained that this could also be parents collecting from Ingleby Manor but agreed to pass on reminders about parking responsibly when dropping off and collecting children from school. I would love to be able to wave a magic wand and create more parking around school – unfortunately I do not have those powers. Thank you to the vast majority of parents/carers who have worked out a variety of places where they can park and then take advantage of the many public pathways which lead directly to school.

TERM DATES 2018/19

Autumn
Christmas Close Thurs 20th Dec 2018

Spring
Term starts Mon 7th January 2019
Half term Close Fri 15th Feb 2019
Re-open Mon 25th Feb 2019

Easter Close Fri 5th April 2019

Summer
Term starts Tues 23rd April 2019
Half Term Close Fri 24th May 2019
Re-open Tues 4th June 2019
Summer Close Fri 19th July 2019

Professional Development Days 2018/19

Friday 21st Dec 2018
Monday 3rd Jun 2019
Monday 22nd July 2019
Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Year 6 (Key Stage 2) SATS week 2018/19

WB Mon 13th May 2019

Summer Fair
Tuesday 9th July 1.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVENT DATES STILL TO COME

Mon 17th Dec at 9.30am - Y6 Christmas Singalong – parents invited

Mon 17th Dec at 2pm - Christingle for Y2 at St Francis Church – parents invited



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 7th January 2019.