

Merry Christmas



Curdrige Primary School

Newsletter 3 – Autumn Term

30th November 2016



Curdridge Primary School

Caring, Confident, Polite, Proud, Supportive, Successful

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Wednesday 30th November 2016

Dear Parents,

Update

How time flies... I can't believe that we are already into December and are planning for a really packed few weeks leading up to Christmas! This newsletter will bring you up to date with a number of things taking place over the next few weeks.

Staffing update

As you are aware, Mrs Lambert will be taking her maternity leave from sometime in January 2017. During her leave Mrs Sophie Pennington will cover Mrs Lambert's absence in class 4. We wish Mrs Lambert and her family all the very best for the birth of the new addition to their family.

It is with sadness that I bring you news of Mrs Mayhew. I have recently received Mrs Mayhew's resignation from her post at Curdridge. Mrs Mayhew has made the decision to be a full-time mum for a while and we respect her decision. I would like to thank Mrs Mayhew; she was only at our school for a short time but even so her contribution to life at Curdridge has been massive both for the children and staff. We will of course invite her into school in order that children and staff can say farewell properly. So what happens next? We are currently in the process of advertising for Mrs Mayhew's replacement to start after Easter, in the meantime Miss Stronach and Mrs Alberti will continue to teach class 2. When we have news we will of course let you know!

Governing Body news

Following the recent parent governor advert, I am delighted to inform you that Mr Scott McDermott was formally welcomed onto the committee last night. Mr Andy Sly who joined our Governing Body last year has now become our Local Authority Governor; I look forward to working with them both.

A big thank you!

- A big thank you for supporting our Children in Need Day on 18th November and to the Y6 Civic Awarders for their hard work in baking and selling cakes and biscuits. In total the children raised the fantastic sum of £244 – a superb effort!



Posada – once more this year we would like to join St Peter's Church in what promises to be a lovely opportunity to celebrate the season of Advent.

What is Posada?

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travel from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place or house to house. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home with the real message of Christmas being the focal point.

What is involved?

If you and your family would like to be 'host' for an evening, then you simply place your name on the Posada rota in the entrance. For the evening you 'host' Mary & Joseph, you can choose to do whatever you like. You can put Mary and Joseph in the window, light a candle or say a prayer or discuss the meaning of Christmas with your family. The following day you bring Mary & Joseph to the entrance area in school ready for the next family to collect at the end of the school day. We like to hear about Mary and Joseph's journey around Curdridge and the local area; we simply ask that you complete a brief 'diary' entry for the time that you 'host' and a book is provided for this. It's as simple as that! Mary and Joseph's journey will start on 1st December and then they will join us for the Junior Carol Service on the evening of Thursday 15th December. Taking part in Posada will give you the ideal opportunity to celebrate and talk about the true meaning of Christmas with your children. Please act quickly as there will be a limited number of days when we can send Mary and Joseph to their host families!

Christmas post box

From 1st December there will be a Christmas post box in the entrance hall. This gives children the chance to 'post' any cards they wish to send to people in school. Please make sure that names (first and surnames) along with classes are written clearly on envelopes so they can be delivered easily. (Please also make sure that Great Auntie Dot's card is not mixed up in the pile – it has happened in the past – honest!)

Other Christmas activities

Friday 2nd December 4.30pm – 6.30pm – CSA Christmas Fair.

Monday 5th – Wednesday 7th December – Christmas Shop during our lunch times.

Wednesday 7th December 9.10am – music assembly with Mrs Lewis' musicians and choir members.

Wednesday 7th December 1.45pm – choir walk to The White House residential home to perform.

Thursday 8th December 11.00am – singing at the Luncheon Club. Class 4 will be visiting the Luncheon Club at the Reading Rooms to sing Christmas carols.

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December - Infant Nativity. I would like to remind you that Class 1 and Class 2 will be performing our Nativity in the **school hall** on **Tuesday 13th December at 10.00am (doors open at 9.45am)** and **Wednesday 14th December at 2.45pm (doors open at 2.30pm)** Preschool children are welcome to join us at either performance but we would ask you to sit at the sides of the hall so that if your younger child becomes unsettled, you will be able to make an easy exit from the hall. Thank you.

We are more than happy for you to take your own photographs but please do this at the end of the performance as doing this during the Nativity can 'put children off.' Thank you for your support in this; we look forward to you joining us. (PS – we hope to have a photographer from 'The News' in school; the photograph should appear in the special nativity edition of the newspaper. If you do not wish your child to appear in this photograph, please let us know.)

At the end of both infant nativity performances we will be making a collection for charity.

Thursday 15th December 6.00pm - Carol Service. Please come and join us for our Christmas Carol Service which will be held in St. Peter's Church. Although this is a junior service, infants will be most welcome but do not have to attend. We would like any infants who attend to arrive and sit with parents throughout the service. Please bring your junior child/ren to school at 5.30pm; we will then walk to church together. At the end of the service, juniors will return to school and can be collected from the main school building. Children should be in school uniform - a white collared shirt/blouse and school tie. (If the weather is very cold perhaps they could wear a white tee shirt under their shirt/blouse.) A torch is also very useful in the dark churchyard!

Please will you also let us know, as soon as possible, if your junior child is unable to attend.

Pre-school children and babies; the Carol Service lasts for about 45 minutes. We appreciate that this is a very long time for small children and babies to sit still and remain quiet, particularly in the late evening towards bedtime. If it is **at all possible**, could you please not bring small children or babies to the service, so that the juniors can concentrate on their performance, readings and singing.

At the end of the Carol Service we will be making a collection for charity.

Friday 16th December 9.10am – Music assembly (Mrs Staniforth's musicians).



Friday 16th December - Christmas Jumper Day. (Either wear a Christmas jumper or add a picture or tinsel/decorations to a jumper that you already have. This is in aid of Save the Children) More information from www.christmasjumperday.org

Friday 16th December – Christmas lunch. For all infants there is no payment if your child chooses a lunch on this day. For juniors who usually have a school meal, payment will be added to your account. If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a Christmas meal, please send in £2.10.

New for 2017

We have recently been reviewing the use of BLP (Building Learning Power) in school and the way in which we plan and deliver our curriculum to Y1-Y6. The School Council have also devised a questionnaire and have asked children what they like best about their learning. The children have said that they want their learning to be challenging yet fun; they like to work with partners yet want to get the job done; they like learning to give them new opportunities and teach them new skills. Having reviewed BLP, from January we will replace it with our CLP @ CPS wheel (Curdridge Learning Power at Curdridge Primary School); this will soon be seen in classrooms and around school. We will also be introducing a new way of planning and delivering our curriculum to 'link' subjects together to create an overall 'topic' or unit of work. Each unit will start with a 'hook' to capture the children and will end with a particular 'outcome.' We would like the children to share their work with you and so there will be opportunities at the end of the topic for you to visit school as part of the 'outcome.' We will also be setting some exciting and more creative home learning projects alongside the usual reading, spelling and maths homework. We believe that these will be important in:

- Supporting and extending learning in school.
- Involving you more in your child's learning.
- Giving children a range of activities to motivate and engage them.
- Practising skills learnt in school.
- Sharing quality time together.

Watch this space; it all promises to be to be an exciting development in our work at Curdridge!

Reading @ CPS.

With our minds firmly focused on improvements in reading this year, please look out for our Reading Challenges in the New Year. On Tuesday 24th January @ 5.30pm we will be holding a Bedtime Stories session for parents and infant children leading into a reading challenge over the following weeks. As it has a bedtime focus we would like children, parents and staff to come to the session dressed in pyjamas. We will be sharing books with children and a member of the School Library Service will meet parents to talk about the value of sharing books. The session will be rounded off with hot chocolate and biscuits. It promises to be a lot of fun!

Also during the same week we will be launching a reading challenge in school for the juniors (minus the Pyjamas!)

Twitter

We will continue to use our Twitter account to give you the most up-to-date news. We have now moved the Twitter icon to appear further up the home page of our website for easier access.

Starting school in September 2017?

Do you have a child who will be 4 years old between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017? From 1st November 2016, you can apply for a place at the school either online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions. The deadline for any application is **Sunday 15th January 2017**.

Pupil Premium Grant and Service Child Funding

We would encourage all parents of **both** infants and juniors to let us know if they fall into any of the following categories as this will not only provide KS2 children with a free school meal but will also enable the school to claim extra funding of £1,300 (Pupil Premium Grant) to help support children in class. The Pupil Premium Grant applies to infant and junior children even though infant children are already receiving free school meals. **PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you are in receipt of any of the following:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit

Are you serving in the Armed Forces?

If the answer is yes, school will be eligible for a Service Premium Grant which is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these pupils.

In either case, please contact myself or Mrs Chadder in the school office to help determine eligibility. Thank you.

E- Safety – if you want to know how you can keep your children safe on the internet, below are some very useful links for parents:

Think you know www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet International www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Kidsmart www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents

CEOP www.ceop.police.uk/

Report Abuse www.ceop.police.uk/Ceop-Report/

Report Illegal Content www.iwf.org.uk

E-Safety www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/e-safety/

Get Safe Online www.getsafeonline.org

Windows Safe Set Up account.microsoft.com/family/about

Facebook Safety www.facebook.com/safety

Instagram Tips for Parents help.instagram.com/154475974694511/

Vodafone www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html/

NHS services

The NHS has recently launched a special website promoting their services. This website will give you top tips and advice on common illnesses and minor ailments. More information can be found at <http://hereforyouhampshire.nhs.uk>

Day closures for 2016-2017

The remaining day closures for this year have been agreed as follows:

Friday 17th February 2017

Monday 24th April 2017

Monday 5th June 2017

Diary dates:

Thursday 1st December am	Open morning for YR 2017
Friday 2nd December 4.30pm – 6.30pm	CSA Christmas Fair
5th December – 7th December	Christmas shop
Wednesday 7th December 9.10am	Music assembly (Mrs Lewis' musicians)
Wednesday 7th December pm	Choir to The White House
Thursday 8th December 11.00am	Class 4 to sing at Luncheon Club
Monday 12th December am	Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 13th December 10.00am	Infant Nativity for parents and family
Wednesday 14th December 2.45pm	Infant Nativity for parents and family
Thursday 15th December 6.00pm	Junior Carol Service
Friday 16th December 9.10am	Music assembly (Mrs Staniforth's musicians)
Friday 16th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 16th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 16th December	School closes for Christmas break
Tuesday 3rd January	School reopens
Tuesday 24th January 5.30pm	Bedtime Stories session
Thursday 16th February	School closes for half term
Friday 17th February	Day closure
Monday 27th February	School reopens
Monday 27th February pm	Girls' Football tournament
Wednesday 1st March	Parents' evening
Thursday 2nd March	Parents' evening
Tuesday 7th March pm	Y5/6 Tag Rugby tournament
Wednesday 8th March am	Class photographs
Thursday 9th March pm	Reserve Tag Rugby date
Monday 13th March pm	Y5/6 Netball Rally @ Swanmore Primary
Thursday 16th March pm	Reserve Netball date
Monday 20th March pm	Y5/6 Football rally
Wednesday 22nd March pm	Reserve football date
Friday 7th April	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24th April	Day closure
Tuesday 25th April	School reopens for the summer term
Week beginning 8th May	KS2 SATs week
Friday 26th May	School closes for half term
Monday 5th June	Day closure
Tuesday 6th June	School reopens
Tuesday 25th July	School closes for summer break

Finally I would like to wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and restful Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Wood

Mrs Sally Wood, Headteacher