



Dear Parents and Carers

Those of you with children in Reception, Year One or Year Two will, I am sure, agree that the highlight of this school week were our **Christmas performances**. Reception were delightful as they shared with us their **Tiptoe Nativity**, singing and acting with great enthusiasm and clear enjoyment. The KS1 production of **The Apprentice** gave all the children a chance to shine and we particularly enjoyed their skilled singing, the well supported solos and the way the children showed that they really understood and were proud of the story they were sharing.

Thank you to all the friends and families who were able to join one of the productions and especial **thanks** to the all the staff (and pressganged volunteers!) who worked so hard to rehearse the children, make props and costumes.



We are looking forward to seeing the Y6s return from their wintry, blustery residential at **Robinwood**. So far I have good reports about how they have been getting on with their outdoor and adventurous activities.

You will know from our homework leaflets (Y1-Y6) and from our Reception parents phonics/reading meeting that the most important homework you can do with your child is **reading regularly**. In KS1 we have Reading Journals that stay in book bags so that you can let us know about your child's reading and we can communicate on about how they are getting on. I have been reading these recently and thought it might be helpful to clarify a couple of things:

- It is fine to read just a page, a paragraph or even a sentence and record it. When time is short or children are tired the temptation can be to drop the reading altogether but please see if you can manage a little bit.
- It is fine to record the other things children are reading. As they become more fluent children will often want to read their library books or other books from home. **THIS IS FINE!** It is helpful to us to write that down though so that children

get credit for practising at home and so that we can find out what they have been doing well with or finding tricky. Again, if you are reading a bedtime story and they are reading a small portion with you – please feel free to record it.

School dinners are going well with 89 children in R, Y1 and Y2 making use of the free school meals for infants. Uptake is good in KS2 as well, as families make the switch to dinners. Overview menus continue to be published online at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/c/Pages/CateringLeeds/default.aspx> (4 choice menu) School is charged £2.30 for every meal by Leeds Catering. We claim back the KS1 cost and the cost of free school meals in KS2 but have to pass on the cost of the other KS2 dinners. We didn't feel we could jump straight to £2.30, but can't afford to subsidise the meals in the long term so the next rise is scheduled for after Christmas. KS2 meals will be £2.20 from January.

Family and friends are warmly **invited** to watch a **Christmas show with us next week**. On Thursday the theatre group Alive and Kicking (who brought us the Museum of Untold Stories) return with **Santa's Merry and Musical Christmas Crackers**. The Reception and KS1 performance is 9:45-10:4 and the KS2 performance 1:45-2:45. It is also the day of our Christmas lunch so it should be a great day.

You may be relieved to hear that the suspected cases of **scarlet fever** were not confirmed by laboratory tests. Undoubtedly some horrible viruses are going round – but not scarlet fever so far!

Class	This Week's Superstars who have been chosen by the staff in their class:
YR (Thames)	Sara wrote a great letter to Santa, completely independently and Ubayd spent a long time in the creative area building a rocket, even going back to it the next day.
Y1 (Nile)	
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Ted worked hard on using a hall voice for our production and Noah showed creativity and originality in his descriptive writing yesterday.
Y3 (Rhine)	Robin is becoming more confident at participating in class and Fred has worked really well as part of a team, building a den in Forest School.
Y4 (Ganges)	Zac has tried really hard to improve his skills and complete all his maths work and Elijah is settling down quickly to complete his maths problems
Y5 (Tigris)	Shazfa is a fantastic role model and always gives full effort to her work and Leo is focusing well on his work.
Y6 (Amazon)	Are on Residential. (Apologies if any of these descriptions above are wrong, we don't have our usual Y6 scribes doing the job!)

The **Citizen(s) of the Week** are Olivia and Emily who were nominated by various children and adults for always being kind and friendly.

Thank you for the support so far for the **Christmas Food Hamper** appeal. School are making hampers for local older people who would appreciate a little Christmas cheer. The last day for donations is Tuesday 16th December.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and that the children have a good rest for the final week of learning and festivities. I hope to see you on Wednesday for the **Carol Service** and Thursday for our Christmas show.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
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PS We have recently passed on a couple of invitations from local churches to their community events but our connection remains with St Michael's Church in Headingley and they are the only church we know well enough to recommend unreservedly to our families.

Did you know?

If you have an iPad, iPhone or tablet PC you can read e-books or e-audio books for free.

Check out:
<http://leeds.lib.overdrive.com/F22C9359-3BD2-428E-8332-B9CF05AA9B3B/10/45/en/default.htm>

With a library card or Breese Card they can be downloaded on to PC and transferred to a compatible e-reader, or app onto iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Blackberry. N.B. There are adult books available too!!

N.B Not available to download on to Kindle

This is courtesy of Leeds Libraries!

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 16 th December	Choir carol singing at Wheatfields Hospice
Tues 16 th and Fri 18 th December	Christmas parties (KS1 Tuesday and KS2 Friday)
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Carol Service, St Michaels Church, 1:30pm. All welcome NEW DATE!
Thursday 18 th December *	Santa's Merry and Musical Christmas Crackers! Production by Alive and Kicking, parents and friends are very welcome to join us. KS1 9:45-10:45 and KS2 1:45-2:45pm (TIME IS CORRECTED)
Thursday 18 th December	School Christmas dinner
Mon 22 nd Dec- Fri 2 nd Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 5 th January	First day back at school
Thursday 8 th January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, all welcome. 9:15am.
Wednesday 21 January	House Team hobbies afternoon
Thursday 22 nd January	Movie Night
Friday 23 rd January	TRAINING DAY
Friday 30 th January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 30 th January	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y2 please.
Friday 6 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th February	HALF TERM (Kidzone may operate a playscheme)
Friday 27 th February	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y3 please.
Tues 3 rd & Wed 4 th March	Parents' Evenings
Friday 6 th March	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 13 th March	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wed 18 th – Fri 20 th March	Year 4 Residential, Beverley Park, North Yorkshire.
Friday 27 th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y4 please.
Friday 1 st May	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 1 st May	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y5 please.
Friday 8 th May	Year R Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May	Y6 KS2 SATs Test Week.
Wednesday 20 th May	House Team hobbies half day
Friday 5 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 5 th June	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y6 please.
Tuesday 23 rd June	Movie Night
Wednesday 24 th June	TRAINING DAY
Friday 26 th June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Tuesday 21 st July	Last day of the school year

* means added or changed since last newsletter

We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. If you have any concerns or observations regarding **health and safety**, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Liz Craven.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Hilary Whitehead.

If you have questions about your **child's progress** or **how to help them** with the learning they find difficult please speak to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Janie Percy-Smith janieps@aol.com (Janie is also in school most Mondays if you would like to talk to her.)