

# Puddletown CEVC First School

*'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'*

## Newsletter No. 4

15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent,

Many thanks for all your Christmas wishes and for the positive feedback we have received on our Christmas events this year. Carols around the Village, the Church Carol Service and Census Sums were all great successes. For those of you who remember the old school, being able to perform now in our own hall is a fabulous blessing. The children are able to perform in a familiar setting, rehearsals are much easier to manage and cause much less disruption to the school day. Christmas really is better at home!

Details of the DVD of Census Sums will be available in the New Year hopefully a trailer will be available at the beginning of January.

### **Reading!**

I know that this is a continual theme in the newsletter but the power of reading as a tool to success cannot be overstated. Please do keep up the reading at home during the break, studies show that even a short 2 week break in reading at primary age can take a significant amount of time to catch up.

Maybe the following book list from [www.lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk) may give you extra Christmas present ideas.

**Gracie Grabbit and the Tiger – Helen Stephens**

**Grandad's Island – Benji Davies**

**The Jam Doughnut That Ruined My Life – Mark Lowery**

**Chicken Nugget – Michelle Robinson**

**An Eagle in the Snow – Michael Morpurgo**

**Voyage to Magical North – Claire Fayers**

Reading at home with and to children seems to be diminishing nationally but is so important to enabling children to be literate adults, it would be great if the Puddletown First School community could buck the national trend.

### **E Safety**

As ever this is a hard area to keep on top of as a parent. One online game that seems popular at the moment is Roblox. This game does allow communication between players and therefore carries the risk of passing on personal information to strangers. The following website has some information you may find useful to ensure that your child remains safe online if they are using it.

[www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/#](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/#)

The latest Dorset Police E Safety Newsletter is available on our website

[https://puddletownfirst.eschools.co.uk/website/information\\_and\\_policies/12888](https://puddletownfirst.eschools.co.uk/website/information_and_policies/12888)

The *Thinkyouknow* website is a good resource to use with your child, a link to this is available on this page of our website

### **Party Day**

Our Christmas parties were a little low on numbers this year as a result of illness. This is a great shame for all those who missed it, especially our Y4 children in their last year. We are therefore going to have a New Year party when the children return. We will confirm the date as soon as possible.

Finally, thank you very much for all your support over the year. I would also like to say a public thank you to all the staff at Puddletown First School, their dedication, passion and commitment to the children is incredible, I am so grateful that we have such an amazing team.

On behalf of everyone here at Puddletown First I wish you and your family a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

### **Communication**

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me [head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

### **School Cleanliness**

It has been brought to my attention that some parents on a Y3 Facebook group have raised an accusation that the school is not kept clean and that this has been a contributory factor in the recent spell of illness. This is not the case and it is very disappointing to hear such a view being expressed publically but not with the school directly. It is a good example of the negative power of social media that such views are expressed but not discussed with the school.

To put the record straight we are advertising to recruit a cleaner, this is to enable our current cleaner to reduce her hours. When a new cleaner is appointed the total hours available will be exactly the same then as it is now. Incidentally this is the same number of hours that have been in place for the past 4 years when we moved to our new site. Our cleaner does a great job for the school and to suggest otherwise is very unfair.

The deep clean in the holiday is a procedure advised by Public Health who when I spoke with them said that we were one of a number of schools in the south experiencing difficulties.

I do strongly advise those of you with concerns to contact the school rather than 'grumbling' on Facebook as the issue can be far more effectively resolved.

I do regularly check my [head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk) emails.

Thank you.