

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 5

14th December 2018

Dear Parent,

Thank you all for your understanding and support for the school during Chris McCarthy's funeral. I know that many of you rearranged work patterns or stood in to look after friends children. It meant a great deal to staff and Chris's family to be able to attend. Mrs McCarthy I know has emailed you to express her personal thanks for the kind messages of sympathy and support that she and her family have received. We are pleased that Mrs McCarthy will be back full time next term and I am very grateful to Miss Clarke for stepping in so effectively to Mrs McCarthy's place.

Christmas is in full swing here at Puddletown First School! Thank you to FOPS and everyone who attended Carols Around the Village, as ever it was a fabulous way to begin our celebrations. We also had a beautiful outdoor 'Open the Book' collective worship that helped us to consider the meaning and realities behind the first nativity.

This was followed by yesterday's Carol Service which I always think of as a highlight of our Christmas term. We are now fully focussed on our Christmas production performances and are looking forward to entertaining you as we take you through the Christmas story. Please do ensure that your child attends **both** performances as a lot of very hard work goes in to them and having the whole school involved is important. There will be a DVD of the show available in the New Year to share with your wider family. There will of course be plenty of photos on the website.

You may be as disorganised as me and not quite finished all your Christmas shopping or your child may be looking to extend their lists. If so I would recommend this website;

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

It has what they consider to be the 100 best books that have been split into age groups. The more we can do to encourage reading the better. As I said in the recent open afternoons, home reading really does make all the difference to your child. The presentation I used is on the website, to help you find it easily I have put it in both the News section and Curriculum area.

Next term in Y1 we will welcome Mrs Sloan to the school, she is completing her teacher training PGCE. Mrs Sloan will be working in Y1 for the Easter term with Mrs Roff and Mrs Wootton. Mrs Roff will still have full responsibility for the class. We wish Mrs Sloan well in her time with us.

In closing may I wish you and all your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Parking and School Car Park

Please do ensure that you park carefully and considerately at drop off and pick up time. I understand there have been a few near misses recently. There have been 2 traffic surveys completed that both reported that the volume of traffic in the village does not warrant a controlled crossing. It is therefore incumbent on us all to park and drive safely, ensuring that the children are well supervised. Please note that unless a prior arrangement has been made parking in the school car park is not permitted.

School Placements

Please remember that the closing date for school applications for a YR place here or a Y5 place at the Middle School is January 15th. It is easy to miss this in the Christmas busyness so if you haven't yet done this put it on your urgent 'To Do' list.

Sickness

If your child is unfortunate enough to pick up a sickness bug please ensure that they stay off school for 48hrs after their last 'event.' We are very keen to avoid the situation we found ourselves in last winter. Thank you.

Diary Dates

17& 18 Dec - Christmas production 6-7pm
19 Dec – Food Links Christmas Dinner
20 Dec – Christmas Party Day
21 Dec – Break up
07 Jan – Return to school
10 Jan – School Nurse drop in session
10 Jan – Class R – NHS Heights & Weights
18 Jan – DASP free trial piano sessions 1.15pm
08 Feb – Year 3 trip to Cranborne
14 Feb – Break up
15 Feb – Inset Day
25 Feb – Return to School
27 Feb – School Nurse drop in session
07 Mar – World Book Day
07 Mar – FoPS Books at Bedtime
13 Mar – Year 2 open afternoon 1.45pm
15 Mar – Red Nose Day
15 Mar – Year 4 parent meeting re: 'Hooke Court'
20 Mar – Class photos
20 Mar – Year 4 concert at St Osmunds
20 Mar – Year 1 open afternoon

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

