



New Christ Church Primary School Newsletter

4th December, 2009

This week at NCC...

Our Christmas Fair was a great success! The children clearly had a wonderful time; I enjoyed meeting various roaring lions and fluttering butterflies (face painting, of course!). A lot of work goes into planning and organizing these events; were it not for the energy and enthusiasm of a small group of committed people, we wouldn't be able to run our fairs—so a BIG thankyou to Angie Godwin and all her committee for their time and support! Thank you also to everyone who donated cakes, prizes etc—as usual, you've been fantastically generous and we really do appreciate it!

I'm not sure exactly how much we've raised, but once the accounts are finalized will of course let you know. The money raised will be used to help pay for the tickets to the Panto later this month—details will be sent home shortly.

Also this week, Y6 took part in a drugs and alcohol workshop. It's a very sad fact of life that children are aware of issues surrounding substance abuse, but we feel that by educating them early on, then they can make the best decisions when confronted with challenges later on in life.

Thank you to all of you who have already donated your 'spare change' for our Advent appeal—our jar is nearly half full already! It would be great to fill it completely by the end of next week so we can start a new one! Remember, all spare change is welcome, no matter how much or how little. All proceeds will be sent to our orphanage in Southern India.

Lots to look forward to in the next couple of weeks, so do make sure your diaries are up to date!

With very best wishes,
Maria Soulsby

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Congratulations to:

Zara in YR—our youngest ever Top 100 Mathlete!

Mr Trayling—who passed his driving test this week!

All our Friends who organized a fantastic Christmas Fair!

Admissions Consultation

Every admissions authority, including RBC and our school, must consult on their proposed admission policies for 2011-2012—if you'd like to see the proposals and make your comments, please go to the RBC website for more info.

Christmas Events at NCC—Photographing Children

Coming up are lots of activities to which parents are invited. Many of you will want to take photos of your children, which is completely understandable.

However, we have a number of children for whom we don't have permission for their photos to be taken; usually this is for safety reasons. Staff take lots

of care not to compromise parental requests.

At 'public events' such as the Nativity, we ask parents to respect the wishes of others and not take photos or videos during the performance. At the end of the performance, we will remove children when necessary and set up scenes for photos to

be taken.

This arrangement works well—it means all children can be included in all activities, no children's safety is compromised and all parents get the photos they need. Your usual cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

Next week

Tuesday—reading workshop for YR parents—3.30 in Red Class

Wednesday and Thursday—Infant Nativity

Friday —Christmas dinner (if you haven't ordered a dinner, your child **MUST** bring a packed lunch)

Coming up this term...

9th, 10th December—Infant Nativity

11th December—Christmas Lunch

15th December—Whole school trip to the Panto

16th December—Christingle Service

Staffing News

Some good and bad news regarding staffing for the Spring term.

As you know, Mr Greasley joined us in September for one term to act as our deputy whilst Mrs Howarth was away from school. We are delighted that Mrs Howarth has recovered so well from her operation! Mr Greasley is an exceptional teacher who has made a tremendous impact on our school; we've been able to find the money to offer him an extension to his contract to run up to Easter and I am delighted that he has accepted this offer. This means we will have 2 deputy heads next term and more importantly, excellent teachers to work with your

children!

Sadly, for personal reasons, Mrs Gupta has decided to leave NCC at the end of this term. She has been at NCC since qualifying and we have all benefited from working with her—she has a lovely gentle nature and is greatly loved by her class and colleagues. We will be very sad to see her leave, but are hopeful she may return to NCC in the future.

In order to maintain continuity for the children, Mrs Howarth will be taking over her teaching responsibility—recruiting top quality teachers at this time of year is always a challenge, so Governors have decided to consider

the alternatives carefully over the next few months and take the time needed to make careful recruitment decisions. Mrs Howarth will teach Orange class on Mondays and Fridays, and Mrs Thornton on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

With all staffing decisions, Governors are committed to ensuring that children NCC receive the best teaching from the very best people. No-one is allowed to work here without having appropriate Enhanced CRB clearance.

Break a World Record!

Plant a tree this Saturday and help make a world record—Tree O'Clock is a national event taking place on Saturday 5th December, between 11am -12 noon, with the aim of planting thousands of trees in a bid to try and break the Guinness World Record for the most number planted in one hour in multiple locations! You can join in with

the planting at **Longbarn Lane Rec Ground, South Whitley Park, and Palmer Park**. Arrive at around 10.30am for tree planting demonstrations before the Guinness Record attempt starts at 11am. (Children must be accompanied by an adult and should bring their own spade).

Parent's Forum

NCC is a proud member of the Whitley Excellence Cluster, a group of 11 schools from the South Reading area. A Parent's Forum has been established, which will meet regularly to talk about activities we could run to support families and children (this includes the summer day trips). If any one would like to represent NCC on this, please let Ms Soulsby know.

More Rugby!

You will have received another letter about cheap tickets for an upcoming rugby game at London Irish on 19th December—those of us who went had a great time and felt that £5 a ticket represented great value, especially as this is a Heineken Cup match! There's a great atmosphere there, and if rugby is new to you, this is a fantastic opportunity! Wear warm clothes!

Advent

As part of our preparations for Christmas this Advent, Violet class will be visiting St Agnes Church on Monday afternoon for a special workshop. They will be walking so please make sure all children bring suitable coats (and brollies if it looks like rain!). Please return permission slips if you have not already done so. Many thanks.

Please be careful...

One of our ex-pupils, Joshwin, was hit by a car earlier this week as he came home from school. Fortunately, his injuries are not too serious and he is back at school. This could have been so much worse. Please take care when walking in the dark and ensure your children wear reflective clothing etc. We wish Joshwin a full recovery and will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.