Cumnor C.E. School Newsletter
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Autumn Term Newsletter No. 14
11th December 2015

Dear Parents,

Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity
The Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity was fantastic this week, the other classes really enjoyed the dress rehearsal and I'm sure the children's families did on Thursday. Everyone sounded beautiful and were clearly really enjoying themselves. Well done to all of them and a big thank you to all our staff for doing such a great job in getting them ready.

Swimming Success

A group of 8 of our Year 5 and 6 swimmers (Romily, Alexandra, Phoebe, Bethan, Daniel, Joe, Niall and Jonty) participated in a swimming gala this week and did amazingly well. Romily reported back:
"Yesterday afternoon a group of 8 year 5 and 6 Cumnor children went to Radley pool to compete with some local schools in a swimming gala. We did quite well. In the 12 races we got 9 first places and 3 second places giving us a total of 69 points out of 72. We beat all the other schools and won the competition. We would like to thank Miss Pearson for organising it."

School Christmas Dinner
Our school Christmas dinner will be on Thursday 17th December. The dinner will be a traditional Christmas one, with roast turkey and all the trimmings and ice cream for dessert. The meal is free for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. It will be £2.10 for all Key Stage 2 children. If your child would like a vegetarian option, please could you let the office know as soon as possible so that Carrieann can cater accordingly. If your child does not want to have the Christmas dinner, they may bring in a packed lunch and will still eat with their friends in the hall.

Gospel Choir visit
As you may know, we have some of the Gospel choir visiting school on Monday. They will be performing in assembly and then running workshops with the children for the rest of the day. There will also be a performance with the children at the end of the day at 2.45pm which parents are welcome to attend if you would like to.

School Dinner award
We are delighted that The School Lunch Company has been awarded the Bronze 'Food for Life' award. This is quite difficult to achieve for a school kitchen. Some of the requirements for the award are:

- 85% of food prepared on site
- Eggs are from free range hens
- No fish are served from the Marine Conservation Society 'fish to avoid' list.
- No genetically modified ingredients are used.
- All meat is from farms which satisfy UK animal welfare standards.
- No undesirable additives or artificial trans fats are used.

On a related note, the sweet and sour chicken hasn't gone down well over the past few weeks. We tried putting it in a wrap to make it more appealing but this didn't help, so we have decided to change the menu choice from sweet and sour chicken to teriyaki chicken, which has been more popular.

Cumnor Girls Football
Very well done to the girls in the Cumnor Minor Girls Team, who, in their inaugural year managed to get through to the Oxford district final. Although they came second in the final match, they all played really well. For a team that was only established a few months ago, they should be amazingly proud of their achievements. Well done girls!

Governors Update
The governors met last week for their termly Full Governing Body Meeting. The main items on the agenda were:

- Feedback from the annual parent's survey – these have now been analysed and discussed. Thank you for all your feedback. Some of the issues raised have already been addressed, with more under consideration. A brief summary of the results will be on the website shortly.
- School monitoring procedures. We looked at ways in which the school monitors the quality of Teaching and Learning to ensure standards remain high.
- Review of the Safeguarding policy (available on the website).
- A review of the Special Needs and Disabilities Report (available on the website).
- Updates on the Schools Improvement Plan, including Maths.

From Your PTA
Thank you all so much for coming on Friday, especially if you helped setting up, on stalls and clearing up. There was a great atmosphere and lots of happy faces! We raised £1544.26 for the school which is fantastic. Mr Read has a long wish list this year which would benefit all the pupils enormously so we will do our best to help him achieve it. Have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

St Michaels Church Schedule
We are looking forward to sharing Christmas with you…
Sunday 20th December
8 am – Holy Communion.
11am – Nativity Service – A special treat for children, young people, mums, dads and grandparents.
6.30pm – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight: A traditional Carol Service with a chance to sing our hearts out to God and remember the whole story of Christmas.
Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve
4pm – Christingle Service: A magical service for younger children and families – carols, candles and the story of Christmas.
11.30pm – Midnight Communion with Carols: First communion of Christmas.
Friday 25th December – Christmas Day
8am – Holy Communion (1662 Book of Common Prayer) with carols.
11am – Family Service: A short service for all ages on Christmas Day celebrating the birth of Jesus.

What has my child been doing this week?

Reception	Nativity practice, adding with numicon and writing letters to our reindeer Porro.
Year 1	Checking our writing for capitals, full stops and finger spaces. Looking at number patterns and of course, practising and performing the Nativity.
Year 2	Making Christmas decorations, telling the time to 5 minutes and making shadow puppets.
Year 3	Multiplication and division problems, following instructions on how to make paperchains and then making a HUGE one!
Year 4	Ordering decimals, exploring the water cycle and creating Roman PowerPoints.
Year 5	Using hyphens, solving logic problems and using pastels and collage to make magical castles wintery.
Year 6	Algebra, preparing the food for next week's celebration meal and creating a beautiful batik wintery scene.

The next week:

14th December	All day	Gospel Choir performance and workshops – parents welcome 2.45pm
16th December	PM (in school time)	Choir singing at Oxenford House
16th December	6pm	Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight at school
17th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner and show
18th December	9.30am	Christmas church service – All welcome
18th December	1.15pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Monday 4th January	8.50am	Children return to school

We are looking forward to a lovely final festive week next week; do remember though that school finishes at 1.15pm on Friday.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read