

Issue 8

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our final newsletter of 2023 is dominated by Christmas! What a beautiful end to the term. Term 2 is always enjoyed and is so busy. The speed of the term never ceases to amaze me as one minute it is late October and Christmas songs start to be learnt and then the whirlwind of tinsel spins and here we are finishing our last day. The children have been phenomenal, as always, and the Christmas events have clearly been enjoyed by them. Thank you to the staff for their exceptional hard work to manage the Christmas additions on top of an already very busy timetable. To all of the parents and carers, thank you for supporting the events through giving your time, travel, preparation, and financial means – all of these we truly value as a school and please know that the impact for your child and their experiences are immeasurable.

Wriggly Nativity: Congratulations to the children and staff who worked hard to bring our nursery and reception aged children together, producing our 'Wriggly Nativity'. The title was carefully chosen and suited the children well, who all enjoyed their part in the performance. Well done for singing, acting and wriggling making this performance such a lovely success.



Midwife Crisis: Well done to Hazel class who told the Christmas story through the eyes and journey of a Midwife and her trusted donkey who sought help from inn keepers, shepherds, sheep, animals, kings, angels and a star to finally find Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. The children certainly impressed the audience recalling their lines, song words, actions, and stage directions, many have costume and character changing in the middle of the production!



Well done to you all you were sensational.

One Voice: A small choir from Years 5 & 6 and Mrs Winter, were able to attend the Del La Warr Pavilion on Monday



afternoon and evening for the 'One Voice' concert. The choir joined 5 other choirs and were joined by 3 different orchestras/bands to bring their skills together in a celebration of music. I had the privilege of attending in the evening alongside a packed audience to watch the performance. The children sang beautifully and their voices certainly blended through the harmonies, cannons, and melodies of each song. Well done to all of Elm class for learning the songs and the choir who chose to attend and perform.

The school enjoyed an additional performance from Elm Class in assembly this morning, sharing the learnt songs.





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Friends: Wednesday 13th December hosted a wonderful afternoon of festive fun. Friends planned an enjoyable 'Wellie Wander' for the children, staff, and parents to walk around Punnett's Town and enjoy some festive games; stuffing tights with balloons to create a reindeers



entertained everyone! This

antlers and candy cane fishing, knocking Santa off the chimney and a race against the sweets which all



was followed by a Christmas fair filled with fun, games, pony rides, hot chocolate, and Father Christmas himself! Thank you to all for making this event happen.

Friends have managed lots of fundraising throughout the Christmas period and we are so thankful for everyone's support. The sensational amount of just over £1100.00 has been raised and will go towards the outdoor space (where we are having a canopy built to the front of Beech and Hazel class, electricity added to the Cabin) alongside resources across the school for inside and outside use – photos will follow as the work is completed.

Christmas Lunch: Wow! Well done to Mrs Hannah Tripp and Mrs Clare Page for cooking a sensational Christmas lunch for the whole school. It was super to have the whole school eating together and enjoying the Christmas crackers provided by Friends. Thank you also to Mrs Gemma Burnett who also came to support the Chartwells team to speed up the serving.



Class parties: Finishing on a high! Class parties are always enjoyable and the children and staff had a fantastic time, playing, singing, dancing, and eating alongside their classmates.



Forest School: Year 2, 3 and 4 have enjoyed a term of outdoor forest school learning this term. Term two has shown us a big change in the weather; it has been chilly and wet at times however, the children have loved every minute of their outdoor learning lessons!



Work began on the milk bottle igloo and progress was being made until storm Babet got the better of it. The milk bottles will not be going to waste as they will be recycled and our first challenge will be creating bird houses.



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The children enjoyed creating natural art, looked at apples and how they grow, maintained the school grounds, and of course had lots of fun - Eagle Eye is still a firm favourite!



Attendance:

As you know the school has to report on attendance and this is monitored by the school, the Local Authority and the DfE. Our attendance has been much better this year so far, which is very pleasing. We all know and understand that if children (and staff) are too ill to be in school it is important to rest at home, but we also understand the impact of lost school days. If you are ever concerned about your child's attendance please speak to the school so we can help.

The table below shows the attendance percentages from September until now for each of the year groups and the overall school percentage. As a school our target is 96% and we are currently achieving 95.8%.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.9%	96.5%	97.8%	93.9%	97.2%	95%	94%

Star of the week:

Each week the adults and children reflect in their classes and choose a member of the class to receive the 'Star of the week' certificate. I am pleased to share that in...

Week 7:

Little Punnetts & Beech: Everyone for Wriggly Nativity

Hazel: Everyone for Midwife Crisis

Oak: Sophie Elm: Alicia

Thank you for being the best you can be!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the festivities. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd January, 2024, when our new term starts.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

C. Kinsella



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All dates are subject to change – more details will follow regarding specifics. **Yellow highlight** will show new additions from the previous newsletter.

Term & Week	Date	Event
Monday 18th December – Monday 1st January – Christmas holidays		
T3 W1	Tuesday 2 nd January	First day of term
T3 W1	Friday 5 th January	Pantomime day at school – performance to the children
T3 W6	Thursday 8 th February	Last day of term
T3 W6	Friday 9 th February	INSET (closed to all pupils)
Monday 12th – Friday 16th February – HALF TERM		
T4 W1	Monday 19 th February	First day of term
T4 W3	Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – details to follow
T4 W5	Thursday 21 st March	Y2 Little Sing at Cross in Hand – details to follow
T4 W5	Thursday 21 st – Wednesday 27 th March	Book Fair – details to follow
T4 W6	Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term
Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April – Easter holidays		
T5 W1	Monday 15 th April	First day of term
T5 W5	Monday 13 th May – Friday 17 th May	Y6 SATs week – details to follow
T5 W6	Tuesday 21 st May	Class photos
T5 W6	Friday 24 th May	Last day of term
Monday 27th – Friday 31st May – HALF TERM		
T6 W1	Monday 3 rd June	First day of term
T6 W1	Monday 3 rd June – Friday 14 th June	Y4 Multiplication Check – details to follow
T6 W2	Monday 10 th June	Y1 Phonic Screening – details to follow
T6 W4	Thursday 27 th June	Y6 at HCC & Whole school change around day
T6 W7	Friday 19 th July	Last day of term
T6 W8	Monday 22 nd & Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET (closed to all pupils)
Monday 22nd July – Summer Holidays		