



**TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER No.3 – November 2016**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher Awards: Awards for October were presented to: Congratulations!

Swans:	Grace Wilson, Philamena McDonagh, Charlie Peat
Kingfishers:	Freya Henry, Adam Redmond, Rosie Williams
Puffins:	Mia Skidmore, Harry Kilpatrick, Finlay Lawrence
Penguins:	Bronwyn Kenny, Summer Waller, Leon Blusch
Toucans:	Joseph Wheeler, Louie Seamarks, Zoe Gray
Hummingbirds:	Finley Cooper, Ewan Phelan, Jemiah Wilson
Robins:	Isobel Tillin, Imogen Collins, Michael Kelly
Wrens:	Georgia O'Donnell, Ben Zaidi, Isobel Squires
Condors:	Tilly Cornelius, Daisy Harding, Leo Stone
Kestrels:	Archie Adams, Matthew Hall, Aleena Khan

School Council:

Thanks SO MUCH for contributions for the Shoeboxes.

Wrapping evenings have gone really well. The last day for receiving shoeboxes in school is next Thursday 17th November so it is not too late to either donate some items to go in a shoebox or a completed shoebox. The **Shoebox Service is on Sunday 20 November 10 a.m. at Woburn Church** (the big church by the gates to Woburn Park). Please come and join the KS2 School Choir and School Council to see all the boxes before they are loaded onto lorries to be sent to children who have never received a Christmas present. It is a lovely service.

Children in Need: A spotty time again!

School Council have planned our Children in Need Pudsey Day. On **Friday 18th November** we will 'Wear spots and raise lots' again! Children can wear spots that day and have a cake at playtime. Contributions of £1.00. We will also collect any loose change you have (1p's, 2p's, 5ps) in to add to **Class Pudsey penny pots** and we will see what we can raise for this good cause. **Which class will fill their Pudsey pot up?**

Parents:

Information meetings were well received at the end of the half term and a few parents were quite surprised by just how much the children need to learn at a young age. Thanks too if you came in last week but were unable to come on the September date.

Parents Forum has restarted. Mrs Meachem has handed over the leadership to Mrs Rachel Choosey (Parent Governor and mum to two children in Year 2). Do let class representatives know of any ideas you have about how we can improve the school for your children. Please see the separate 'Parent Forum' Newsletter for more details.

Parent Workshops:

Parent workshops will start on Monday 21st November and not on the 14th November as first advertised. You will receive a letter from Mrs Spencer next week to invite you to workshops which are designed for you to support your child.

Sad news:

There have been many happy events this academic year but it is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Mr Merlin Williams just before half term. Merlin was father to 5 lovely children and all of them have attended school over the years. We send the thoughts of the school to Mrs Catherine Williams and her family at this time and remember Merlin with affection.

Teacher update:

Mrs Bartlett (Classteacher in Swans on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays) has damaged her Achilles tendon and will not be able to teach for a number of weeks. Reception class will be taught by Mrs Johnston on Mondays to Wednesdays and Mrs Mann on Thursdays and Fridays. We are very grateful to Mrs Mann for stepping in and wish Mrs Bartlett a very speedy recovery.

Farewell to Reverend Anne:

Reverend Anne who had supported the school for many years in services and assemblies, and who has been with us through some very happy and some very sad times, left the Parish to go to work in Richmond at the end of the last half term. We wish her every happiness in her new role and had a chance to thank her for her support of the school in a special assembly just before she left.

PTA: We hope you really enjoyed the **Fancy Dress Disco**. Thanks, as ever, to those who helped.

Cranking up for Christmas!

The next **PTA event is the Christmas Fayre** on Friday 25th November. Any donations of wine for the wine and water stall, raffle prizes and goodies for the toy tombola will be gratefully received. A box for donations will be in the foyer. Details for the very popular **PTA Secret Shop** have already been distributed and a flyer for the **Movie and Munchies** event on Friday 2nd December for Years 1 to 4 will go out next week.

Nativity (Christmas Cribs) Festival: Please see the Nativity letter from Mrs Collins. This is a new idea and we think it will be a lovely way to reinforce the meaning of Christmas for the children.

Books as Christmas presents.

The Scholastic Book Fair (all half price) arrives Wednesday 23rd November for a week- further details will follow.

Choir to sing Carols at Luton Airport: The TSG Choir has been invited to sing at Luton Airport and a letter for the KS 2 choir will be given to the children concerned.

See the attached diary dates list for all our events this term

Great learning experiences:

Year 2 had a very happy and successful trip to St Albans Abbey. The staff were delighted with their behaviour and interest in the Abbey as a place of worship.

Holdenby House:

The costumes our Year 4 'evacuees' wore for the WW2 living History day were great - thanks for providing them. The children had some great comments from the day and have produced some excellent work this term on this theme.

Pizza at Poplars:

Following many trips in the HAST minibus (thanks Mrs Taylor and Mrs Vickers) Year 3 all made a pizza and decorated a cupcake successfully as part of Poplars Pizza Party. They enjoyed eating them up too! Poplars hosted this event and we were very impressed by the thought they had put into the presentation of cooking skills for the children.

Year 3 are also enjoying their swimming lessons this half term and we are so grateful to the various adults who have supported both Year 4 and Year 3 staff by escorting the children on the numerous bus journeys there and back.

The Staff '**Wear It Pink**' Day on the 20th October raised a fabulous £230.00 for Breast Cancer – thanks to Jacqui Herbert for organising all co-ordinating all the gifts for the staff raffle.

Healthy Heart & Mind Day: We tried a focus on collaborative playtime time for children on the last Friday of half term (parachute games on the field, swingball, games etc). Mrs Tripp supports these focussed times very well with the team of Midday Meals Supervisors. This supported good interaction between children and helped those who find it hard to think of a game to play to join in easily with others. We will do these regularly through the year.

Remembrance Service:

Royal British Legion Poppies have been taken around the school all this week by School Council. We held our service today at 11.00 am. During the service Daisy Harding and Emily Scholes sang a beautiful duet (Make me a channel of your peace) and the whole school observed the 2 minute silence really thoughtfully. Grace Lydon and Michael Phelan will also lay a wreath on behalf of the school at the service in Toddington on Sunday.

Job Opportunities:

- **Full time Teaching Assistant and Nursery Nurse roles: (NNEB and NVQ Level 3)** posts. We have new children joining us in January and are recruiting new staff for our super Early Years team. One adult will work in Nursery and the other in Year R.
- We also have a vacancy for a **Midday Meals Supervisor** 5 lunchtimes a week
- **Chartwells, our caterers are recruiting a catering assistant (4 hour/day).**

If you are interested in more details for any of these vacancies, please email our School Business Manager on tillinj@toddingtonstgeorge.co.uk. Thanks.

This is a really busy term so watch out for all these events below

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

NOVEMBER:

Thursday 10th Parkfields Open Evening for Year 4 children – 5.30
Friday 11th Remembrance Service in School
Sunday 13th Remembrance Service on the Green at 10.45 am
Tuesday 15th Year 3 children to visit Stockwood Discovery Centre
Friday 18th Children In Need Day – non uniform (Wear spots)
Drumming lessons start (x 3 weeks this term)
Sunday 20th Shoebox Service at Woburn at 10.00 am
Wednesday 23rd Scholastic Book Fayre arrives for a week
Thursday 24th Year 3 Learning Futures pm
Friday 25th Ark Farm to visit Year 1 children
PTA Christmas Fayre in the Hall 3.30 – 5.00 pm
Parkfields Christmas Tree Festival 3.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday 30th Year 2 Victorian Day

DECEMBER:

Friday 2nd PTA Movies & Munchies after school 3.30 – 5.30
No Irish Dancing
Monday 5th Nativity Festival in School
(Parents invited after school until 4.00 pm)
Tuesday 6th Reception's Performance of 'The Nativity' to parents at 9.30 am
Wednesday 7th Choir to visit Luton Airport pm
Thursday 8th Year 2 Christmas Performance to parents at 9.30 am
PTA Secret Shop pm
Friday 9th PTA Secret Shop am
Raptors to visit Year 1
KS2 children to MK Theatre for performance of Dick Whittington
KS1 children to enjoy performance at school
Sunday 11th Carols on the Green at 4.00 pm
Monday 12th Parent Forum meeting at 2.15 pm
Tuesday 13th Year 4 Christmas Performance to parents at 2.00 pm
Wednesday 14th Christmas Lunch (Wear a Christmas Jumper)
Thursday 15th Class parties
Friday 16th Christmas Service (School only due to space)
Magic Dave to perform to Nursery and Reception children
at 2.00 pm

End of Autumn Term

JANUARY:

Tuesday 3rd Teacher Training Day – school closed
Wednesday 4th School re-opens for Spring Term
Tuesday 31st Year 4 Faith Tour to Bedford

FEBRUARY:

Monday 6th Parents Consultations Evening (all years except Ducklings)
Wednesday 8th Parents Consultation Evening
Monday 13th **Half term week**