



Horspath Church of England Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Coleman
Chair of Governors: Mrs. Munaza Dogar

15th December 2016

Dear Parents,

It's been a really busy run up to Christmas, with a lovely nativity service in the church and a fabulous Wind in the Willows that came together in the nick of time!

Congratulations to all in Blue House who won the House Points championship this term!

It's Christmas Jumper day tomorrow with a £1 donation for Save the Children, there is no need to wear school uniform. **School finishes at 1.30pm tomorrow.**

Staff

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have successfully appointed an experienced permanent teacher for Lime Class from Easter. I will be able to tell you more about the new teacher as soon as arrangements have been confirmed with the current school. Ashley Hackett will be joining us in January as office administrator every Thursday. Mrs Vanessa Westhead will be leaving us tomorrow and will be much missed by staff, children and parents alike. I wish her every success in her new school!

Nativity and School Play

There is a lovely video of the school nativity on the school website which you are welcome to share:

<http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/acorn-class-nativity/>

And photos and a video of the school play, a longer version is available on request:

<http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/christmas-play-2016/>

School Values

Over the coming months we will be working on our school values alongside the children. We will be looking at their understanding of the school values and we will be rewarding behaviour showing our values. Eventually we would like to focus on one specific value per term and children will complete a value -led piece of homework.

At present our school values are respect, honesty, forgiveness and sense of accountability. However we feel these could be reviewed and updated. We would love to have parental feedback and ideas about any values you feel we should include/ change. After Christmas we will share ideas and decide, as a whole-school community, what our school values will be as we look forward in 2017.

Ms Jude Zabell
PSHE Leader

PTA Autumn Term Fundraising

It has been wonderful to see many of you at the recent PTA fundraising activities, especially over the last week.

Thanks also to all who have chipped in to help and donate, we really couldn't do it without you!

In December alone the PTA has committed to provide the children with £1,750 of financial support. This has covered the transport costs to the Pantomime (£800), the lighting for the school performances (£250), a £500 contribution to the school's sound system and £200 to cover the remaining costs for the licence needed to perform *Wind in the Willows*.

On top of this, the classes have benefited from workshops delivered within the school. Funds raised from the Christmas Fayre, (£360) performance refreshments (£160), raffle (£382), Christmas cards, calendars and tea towels (in excess of £400) as well as the Halloween activities has enabled us to provide the experiences and opportunities to each of the children.

We will hold another meeting in the New Year to plan next terms fundraising. You are all welcome to attend and to share any ideas for fundraising activities.

Thank you again for your continued support and on behalf of the PTA I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year

Michelle Legg Chair of Horspath School PTA

Yenworthy

Our long awaited Yenworthy Assembly will now take place on Friday 6th January at 2.30pm.

Clarinets

Oak Class will need to bring their clarinets in on the first day of term, Wednesday 4th January.

Swimming

Year 3 and 4 will be swimming next term, starting on Monday 9th January (TBC). They will need to bring a towel, swimming costume (not baggy swim shorts) and a swimming hat. If your child needs to wear goggles you will need to send a letter to the swimming teacher explaining the reason. Earrings and studs will need to be removed.

Diary Dates

School Closes	Friday 16 th December at 1.30pm
INSET	Tuesday 3 rd January
School reopens	Wednesday 4 th January
Friday 6 th January	Yenworthy Assembly 2.30pm
Half Term	13 th Feb – 17 th Feb
Easter Holidays	10 th – 21 st April
INSET	Monday 24 th April
School Reopens	Tuesday 25 th April
Half Term	29 th May – 2 nd June
School Closes	Friday 21st July

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman