



Friday, 2 December 2016

Stars of the Week

Governors Update

Football Cancelled

Non-Attendance at After School Clubs

Christmas Craft

SumDog and MyMaths

Head Lice

Christmas Market

Christmas Gift Shop

Head Teacher's Remarks

It really was 'beginning to feel a lot like Christmas' this week! The temperatures plummeted; nativity rehearsals are in full swing; the Christmas Market last Saturday was wonderful and was visited by Santa; and we are already looking at the finer details of Christmas Craft Day! If only my personal preparation for the festive season was as well organised!!!

Unfortunately the winter season also brings with it problems of ill health. There are a number of sickness and cold/flu bugs doing the rounds at present which are affecting the adults in school as well as the children. Whilst these are circumstances beyond our control, I do want to reassure all parents that we do our utmost to ensure the minimum disruption to the children in the event of any staff absence, and thank you for your understanding and support.

I am pleased to share with you that we have been invited to participate in a research project around resilience in Mathematics. This will have many benefits for the children. I do want to explain to you the language around this project so that you can understand what your children may be referring to. At the centre is your 'comfort zone'. When you are working in this zone you feel relaxed and confident, but you are not actually learning anything new! Outside of this lies the 'growth zone'. In this zone you are learning new things, but will probably feel a little uncomfortable and unsure, and you will make mistakes. This is fine and nothing to worry about. Outside of this lies the 'anxiety zone'. This is a zone in which you will not learn as you have gone into panic mode. In this zone you need an adult to help and reassure you to bring you back into the growth zone. Ideally the children should be working in their growth zone for much of their time, only dipping back into their comfort zone to confidently demonstrate their understanding before moving on.

Year R enjoyed a wonderful visit to Tring Museum on Wednesday morning. They were very excited and learned a lot about dinosaurs. Two of our Governors accompanied the children and commented on their exemplary behaviour and involvement. Well done everyone!

Our Y2 children participated in the Multi-Sports Festival at Cottesloe on Wednesday. We are still waiting the finalised results but all our children took part with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Thank you for representing our school.

Next week we are looking forward to welcoming Duncan from Radio Christmas on Tuesday to take our assembly. Children from Y6 will be broadcasting on Monday 12th December over lunchtime (approximately between 12 noon and 2:00pm). We do hope many parents may be able to tune in to enjoy the show.

Next Friday is our dress rehearsal for 'Shepherd's Delight' – I can hardly wait!

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Congratulations to our special stars this week who are:

from YR: - The Whole Class
from Y1: - Isla Barber and Sebastian Craft
from Y2: - Olivia Cleland and Lucy Wright
from Y3: - Ethan Hart and Savannah Powell
from Y4: - Riley Clarke and Hannah Sykes
from Y5: - Adam Boyes and Oscar Johnston
from Y6: - Georgia Aulton and Kara Lewthwaite

We are celebrating our Special Stars this year by each child having a gold star badge to wear during the following week. These badges should be worn with pride, and returned to their class teacher on the Friday morning ready to be given to the next child. Thank you for your help and support with this.

Governors Update

I promised to keep you up to date after Governor meetings and so as we met last week I thought I'd drop you a line to let you know what's been going on.

It's been an exciting school year already and we have been looking at a number of the new initiatives to ensure they are developing well. We were particularly pleased with the feedback we have had so far about how we communicate with you. I hope you agree with the parents who have already taken the time to let us know how they are finding it. I'm particularly pleased that Joinos have taken note of our feedback about improving their service and whilst there are some parts of their service that can still get better a lot of things have been put right. We will continue to work with Joinos to try and influence future changes. Thank you also for the lovely comments we have been receiving about school parent communications, particularly those who have been into school, we really appreciate them. Please continue to let us know how we are doing, both good and bad.

We also looked at our strengths and weaknesses as a school. One of the fantastic bits of news this term was the results we achieved in the SAT results, placing us well above average and also well above the governments ambitious targets for primary schools. We agreed that we want to build on this for our children and so we heard about and confirmed a strategy to pick up on our weakest areas. I should say that weak for Cheddington would be strong for some schools, but we strive to continuously improve as a school to provide the very best education for our children. Clearly this is paying dividends as we were rated by an independent advisor as providing outstanding education for the children.

As part of our role we look at the vision and governance of the school and we took some time to do this in the light of the many changes there have been to our world during 2016. We heard that our finances are being well managed and that we are being squeezed by increasing costs for equipment and employment that will have long term impact on our budgets. Thank you for your help with our fundraising efforts, all of the extra income we get helps provide items that are above the minimum level that the budget allows. We also looked at how political changes at home and in the US may impact on the future for the children so that we can equip them now for their future. Both parent groups and governors agree by ensuring we have a strong value set and we help our children to enter the world with strong clear values themselves, we will equip them for whatever the future throws at them.

Finally we have considered our investments in the school. We view these not just as investments in the infrastructure and software, but as investments in the children and their future. Your children will no doubt tell you about the improvements to the hygiene facilities throughout the school. They will not know about the massive investment in updating the pipework and electrics that are needed to provide these facilities in a building which, in parts, dates back to the 19th century! We are also pleased with the developments in tracking your child's achievements and progress. This is beginning to give some useful information for the school which we aim to open up to parents as soon as it becomes meaningful, maybe as soon as next year.

As we are now in December, on behalf of the governors, have a very happy Christmas!
Simon Aulton – Chair of Governors

Girls and Boys Football

There will be no more Girls or Boys football until next term. All clubs will re-start week commencing 16th January. Thank you

URGENT

There have been an increasing number of children not turning up for their after school club. Could parents please contact the school office by 3pm if their child is not attending their club in order for this to be marked in the register. We are spending an increasing amount of time phoning home and searching for missing children at the end of the day! Thank you for your help in this matter.

Reception and KS1 Christmas Craft

Could all children in Reception and KS1 please bring into school a washed Jam Jar if possible, no labels please, for their Christmas Craft.

Thank you

Many thanks to the parents who have let me know that they are having problems using Sumdog and MyMaths and my appreciation is unending for those who have taken the time to research solutions!

Parents who have experienced problems with using the Sumdog website with their children might like to know that there is a Sumdog App available for both Apple and Android Devices. I have tested this on both platforms and it seems to work well, although the range of games is slightly restricted.

The MyMaths website that we use in school, and sometimes set for homework, requires Flash to be installed and so gives problems on some newer devices. One solution to this appears to be downloading the Puffin browser app (for both Apple and Android) and using this to access the MyMaths site.

HEAD LICE

We have had an outbreak of head lice in the school. Could all parents please check their children and treat accordingly.

Thank you

Christmas Market

Thank-you to all who supported us at last Saturday's Christmas Market, we will let you know the amount raised as soon as we know!

However, we have been asked to convey a message of thanks from Marlon Simone (Year 5) whose stall for 'Keech House' raised a grand total of £118.18!!

Thank-you

Christmas Gift shop

During the week beginning 12th December we will be holding a gift shop in school during lunchtime. The children can purchase either a gift for a male or female, and will cost £2 per gift.

The gift will be wrapped and allows the children to bring home something they have 'bought' themselves for their parents/grandparents etc.

Please complete the order form below, and leave form with payment in the school office.

To: PTA via The School Office

Christmas gift shop order form

Name of child: _____

Year: _____

Lunchtime Clubs: _____

Number of MALE gifts required @ £2 each: _____

Number of FEMALE gifts required @ £2 each: _____

Total Amount paid: _____

(cheques payable to Cheddington School PTA)