

## **Newsletter 3 – December 2018**

### **Headteacher's Update**

It's nearly Christmas and the festivities are in full flow! We have had some fantastic Christmas Events going on, and the children's performances have been absolutely fantastic to see! They have been so confident in their singing and speaking. I've enjoyed hearing them rehearse across the weeks, but nothing beats the final sparkle of the final performance! The children should all be very proud of the great shows they have created. A huge well done to all of you!

Last week we had our Christmas Jumper Day, and it was great to see such a lovely selection of them! We've also had our Christmas dinners, and the children enjoyed having their teachers serve them lunch and pulling crackers.

Year 4 managed to squeeze in even more fun, as they participated in a special Greek Day last week. Their costumes were absolutely fantastic; they really looked the part! They made some really exciting Greek style artefacts such as slates and sculptures and their behaviour was excellent. I was very jealous that I couldn't stay with them all day!

### **Charity Events**

We've been very busy with different events that have raised money for charities:

From our Poppy Collection we raised £138.70 for the Royal British Legion.

The School Council's Children in Need Event raised £224.

Our Christmas Jumper Day raised money for Save the Children.

This is really fantastic – thank you everybody for your kind donations!

### **Friends of Monkwick**

We would like to give a huge thank you to our parent group who organised an excellent grotto that looked magical - so magical, that they even persuaded Father Christmas to visit! It was lovely to see so many children visit the grotto.

The Friends of Monkwick Parent Group are currently raising money for shelter on the playground – a very ambitious first project, but one they are well underway with! We are very grateful for their support and the fantastic events they have organised this year.

### **Curriculum Update**

Thank you to those parents who took the time to answer our curriculum survey – it was really helpful to see your input and we have tried to incorporate these ideas when planning. The teachers have been working really hard in writing a new curriculum – we hope to be able to share these with you next term on our website!



### **Staffing Update**

Miss Norfolk and Mrs Andrews will be leaving at the end of this term. We thank them both for the work they have done in the school and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

### **Exciting Attendance News!**

All children who have attendance of 98% and above, between January and the end of this academic year, will be entered in a prize draw to win a brand new bicycle! We hope lots of you make this target as it is such an exciting prize!

### **Social Media**

During Christmas concerts and events, we know that families like to have pictures and momentos of their children. These images must not go on Facebook or other Social Media sites if they include other children. We ask that all parents do not post videos or photos of other children, so that we can continue to allow you to take your own pictures.

### **Berechurch Family Hub**

Although exciting, Christmas can also be a difficult time financially. If you are struggling to make ends meet and are short of food, the Berechurch Family Hub located at The Ormiston Centre may be able to help. You can contact them on 01206 372 300.

### **Young Carers**

If you are concerned that your child may be helping to care for you or another member of the family, then visit: <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-carers/>

**The last day of this term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

**We hope that you all have a great Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

**We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**