



Photos: Viking Longships Created by Badgers (Y5&6) Collaboratively in DT this week.



We are moving into some of the busiest weeks of the school year so please take the time to scan the Newsletter over the next couple of Fridays, then you can't miss anything!

There has been various bugs and illness around this week – as I've said before, children should still attend if a little off colour, such as if they have a sore throat or cold. But it means almost everyone has something lingering in the background – I am literally coughing and sniffing whilst writing this! This, together with growing tiredness, means everyone is a little less resilient and more 'tetchy' than normal. I wonder if you've felt this when your child has come home, perhaps complaining about peers more than normal? Best advice is to try to build their resilience and ask them – what did you do to try to cope with these feelings or to try to solve this?

Christmas Cards

Each class has their post box ready so if children would like to send each other cards they are welcome to bring them in and 'post' them. They will all be handed out during the last few days.

A Goodbye to Mrs Pilgrim!

Mrs Pilgrim will be leaving us at the end of this term – she is keen to spend more time with her young family and is leaving teaching to explore her other great passion – as a running coach. I will share more news of new staff when I am able but I wanted to confirm her last full day will be Tuesday 16 December.

Crib Service 24th Dec 3pm

Kate Smyth from Blessed Mary church is holding a Crib service on Christmas Eve at 3pm. If children would like to take part, they could read during it and dress up. Get in touch with Kate (07986009942) if you would like to be involved.

Thanks to FUS – New iPads Coming!

Members of the FUS committee joined us in school for our Celebration Worship today where they presented us with the proceeds from their fund-raising over the last 18 months – an amazing £5,500! This money will be used to order 15 new iPads for all the children to use, in fact they are already ordered! I am so grateful to the FUS committee for all of their hard work in leading all the events which have achieved this sum, to all those FUS members who have helped out and of course everywhere who has supported events and contributed money.

Christmas Productions Info

Look out early next week when we will send an email regarding information about Christmas production tickets, permissions and timings.

Dates for your Diary:

- Sat 6 Dec** 2-4pm FUS Christmas Fair
- Weds 10 Dec** Last week of swimming for Hedgehogs (Yr3/4)
- Weds 10 Dec** 3pm Hedgehogs (Yr3/4) Listen2Me Concert
- Weds 17 Dec** Christmas Productions Day
- Thurs 18 Dec** – Christmas Jumper Day
- Thurs 18 Dec** Christmas Lunch
- Thurs 18 Dec** Class Parties in afternoon
- Fri 19 Dec** 2pm Christmas Church Service all welcome

INSET Days left for 25/26

- Mon 5 Jan
- Mon 23 Feb
- Fri 22 May

Check you haven't missed these communications this week:

- Weds 3 Dec** – Email to Squirrel (Y1&2) parents re staffing changes
- Wed 3 Dec** – Email to Dormice (YR) parents outlining our Christmas routines & events
- Thurs** – Email to Dormice (YR) re NHS school entry health reviews
- Thurs** – Email to Y6 re NHS NCMP health reviews

Emails:

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Christmas Tree

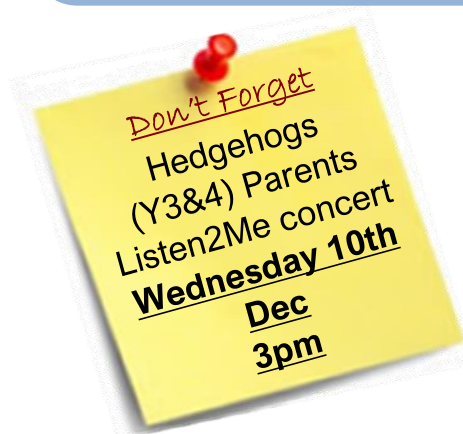
We put up our Christmas Tree in the hall this week and children have started to hang decorations they have made – there's still time if they want to make one over the weekend and bring it in next week.

Thanks to everyone who offered help to source a tree follow my plea – my thanks to Mr Mills who donated one and even delivered it for us. It is absolutely beautiful and a real centrepiece to all of our Christmas celebrations in the hall – thank you so much!!

Learning in DT this Week

Children in Badgers (Y5&6) enjoyed a day making Viking longships this week. This was part of their DT learning about shaping and joining cardboard in awkward shapes (see photos above). They worked in groups to make their boats – they look amazing together. We often block time like this, particularly for creative, practical subjects as children can then spend longer working out how to create something.

Squirrels (Y1&2) have also been busy building this week – making caves for the George and the Dragon in their story; selecting materials based on key properties, so applying their scientific knowledge to DT (right).



New Parent Governor

You will know over the last few weeks, we have advertised a parent governor vacancy. I am delighted to report that Mr Craig Holes put himself forward and is therefore elected – he will join us for his first meeting in February when his term

1st Week of Advent:

Hope

The patriarchs of the bible. Hope is like a light shining in the darkness.



We have been using traditional Advent Candles this week and talked to the children about the symbolism and how many Christians use them to spiritually prepare for Christmas. This week has been about hope and the patriarchs in the bible, next week is Peace and Prophets.

Fair Oak Library

Fair Oak library is soon to produce the book containing stories and drawings many children contributed. It is available to reserve, £8.00 per copy or £14 for two.

They are available: hello@fairoakcommunitylibrary.org or by calling into the library. An event will be happening for participants in January with prizes.

Pauline Pearce (Trustee)

2nd Week of Advent:

Peace

The prophets – they foretold of peace with the messiah.



Christmas Fair

Don't forget the FUS Christmas Fair is tomorrow – Saturday 6th Dec 2-4pm.