



"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together"

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Dear parents and carers

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

It has been a fantastic fortnight of festive fun and the Spirit of Christmas has truly been alive throughout the school. Key Stage One and EYFS, led by Year 2, gifted three fantastic performances of 'I'm Gonna Shine' and helped us all to reflect on the beauty of the Child in the manger.



On Tuesday, our smallest children in Nursery delighted us with their own beautiful nativity performance too and our junior brass ensemble, aided by the talented Mr Phone, performed a fantastic Christmas concert for us.



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Tuesday evening was marked by the ever popular 'Christmas in Song' which brought the whole community together and enabled us to reflect further on the Christmas Story as well as joining in with some community carols. Thank you for squeezing into the hall to join with us – it was, as usual, a very special occasion.



All of our children from Nursery to Year 6 demonstrate such beautiful and unique gifts which we are so grateful for. Wednesday saw a range of Christmas activities where older children worked alongside their younger peers, before we all joined together and sat down for a fantastic Christmas meal, courtesy of Mrs Pickard and her amazing team.



The elves had been busy on Wednesday morning making the dining room look so special as you can see from the pictures! This was a brilliant celebratory occasion: silver service was provided by the teachers, teaching assistants and office staff and all had a brilliant time. Thank you to the whole staff team for making this so special.



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This morning brought with it a special treat for all of the children in the Market Theatre's Christmas production of Rumpelstiltskin. The hall was filled with laughter and there was much audience participation. Thank you to the PSA for funding this special treat.

As we come to the end of a busy few weeks, we have all experienced that Advent feeling of joy as we await something very special; our children can teach us so much about joy at those times when we are so rushed and busy! It has been a week of exciting moments and the staff team even have a special treat planned for the children during assembly tomorrow!

Thank you for supporting those in need

The generosity of our community never ceases to amaze me when we make a charity appeal. Your response to our **Reverse Advent Calendar** appeal on behalf of **Stevenage People for People** and the **Food Shed** has been phenomenal as you can see from the pictures on our Twitter feed. Your contributions will make a real difference for local families in need over the coming weeks. We will continue to collect for **Stevenage Food Bank** throughout the year ahead via the box at the main entrance.



Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

Making A Difference



Your generous donations through collections at the Christmas concerts will be hugely appreciated by our two nominated charities: **The Epilepsy Society** and the **Catholic Children's Society of Westminster** (CCSW). Over the course of our Advent events you have raised a magnificent £365. The CCSW provide immediate financial support to families at times of personal crisis or emergency. Schools and parishes are able to refer families who may need support. This is a lifeline for many families and is a resource that is drawn upon locally. Any of us can find ourselves in a situation that requires support (financial or other) – please do come in and talk to us if this is the case in order that we can direct you to the most appropriate support. Thank you for supporting those around you most in need. It is very much appreciated.



New Year's Resolutions?

As a school we are currently trying to do our bit by reducing the amount of paper that we use and photocopying that we carry out. You could help to tackle the climate emergency in two easy ways:

- (a) Reducing one-use plastics in packed lunch boxes; and
- (b) Making a commitment to walking or cycling to school if you are able to or parking a little distance away and walking the remainder.

Option (b) would also significantly improve safety on Bedwell Crescent. Please could everyone ensure that, even when running late, children are not dropped off by the main road. Every time this happens, I worry about the potentially catastrophic implications of a car being shunted whilst a child is getting out of it. Equally, a significant accident could occur due to the growing incidence of cars performing dangerous three point turns on the busy road. I urge everyone to be patient at drop off time each morning.



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Thanks to the PSA core team

A huge thank you to our PSA team for their amazing efforts in raising much needed funds for the school. In the current economic climate, we are increasingly reliant upon your support of PSA projects to fund the curriculum experience for your children. Thank you for all that you do to support these events. If you have some spare time to offer the PSA committee in the organising and running of events you would be most welcome – watch out for parent-mails about meetings or speak to one of the current committee members for details. A number of our hardworking and loyal committee members will be stepping down in February (a sincere thank you to each of them) and a new committee will need to be formed. Maybe you have a little time to give and are full of ideas and enthusiasm?

Christmas greetings



On behalf of the staff team and Governors, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I pray that your homes are filled with laughter and friendship during the Christmas season and that 2020 brings you much peace & joy.

School breaks up at 2pm on Friday 20th December 2019. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 6th January 2020.

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon White'.

Mr Jon White
Headteacher



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