



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School



Newsletter | Thursday 21st December 2017 | No. 9



What a half term! The last two weeks have certainly been full of festive fun and, tired and excited, we've made it to the end of a very busy term.

Thank you to the children for their enthusiasm and hard work this term and to every member of our caring, dedicated staff team. Thank you also to our diligent, committed governors and to you, the parents, for your continued support.

This morning we said goodbye to Mrs Edwards who will be starting an extended period of leave in January to take care of her newly adopted baby son full time. We are very happy and pleased for Mrs Edwards and her family.

We are lucky to have recruited Miss Thomas to replace her in Oak Class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Suggitt will continue to teach the class Thursdays and Fridays.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Edwards for all her hard work, dedication and the care that she has shown to the children. We will of course miss her but we wish her all the best and hope that she pops in to see us often.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.

Mrs. D. Malia

Pictures

We've been very busy with the school cameras over the last few weeks. You've been sent a link via Parentmail to view all the Christmas photos; this link will be valid until we come back after Christmas so don't forget to have a look.

On our website (link below), you can also see pictures from Monday's special 'Tree of Prayer' service, our Christmas lunch, and all sorts of other events.

We hope you enjoy the pictures!

Choir featured on BBC Surrey

The choir visited Deepdene Care Home this week to sing for the residents and take part in some Christmassy crafts with them. Everyone had a lovely time, and a short video, filmed by BBC Surrey, was made as part of the morning. You can find it on their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/bbcsurrey

Dates

End of Term: TODAY at 1.30pm!

Spring Term starts: 8.55am - Thursday 4th January (be aware that lots of local schools have varying term dates now - this may be different to other schools you have friends or family at.)

INSET Day: Monday 29th January

Beech Class Assembly: Tuesday 23rd January

Birch Class Assembly: Tuesday 6th March (changed from the originally published date due to INSET Day)

Fundraising Thank You!

Final totals for our Christmas charity fundraising were **£314.87** collected at the two KS2 services for **Kids for Kids**, and **£315.50** raised on Monday from the Christmas MUFTI Day for the **Rainbow Trust**. Thank you very much for your support for these two very worthwhile charities.

Christmas - a great time for a conversation

We have been asked to pass on this message from PC Jo Dootson - our local youth intervention Police Officer. She says:

"Each year we continue to see an increase in crimes relating to sexting and inappropriate sharing, access to non-age appropriate information and social media bullying. We know how exhausting it is for you, when you constantly talk to them about internet safety and they continually get it wrong!

Nowadays we do everything to avoid criminalizing children; however, when they use technology to bully or send images they can ultimately find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

If your child will be receiving a phone for Christmas, maybe they could also unwrap a 'Family Agreement' to go with it. You'll find one attached to this email along with the newsletter from Childnet - although there are also lots of other ideas online.

(www.childnet.com)

I would also add to this agreement that there needs to be total control of the location of the phone as well as its content. For example, mobile phones should never be allowed in the bedroom or bathroom and should be handed to parents to check and charge at the end of the evening before going to bed."

These certainly seem like sound ideas to us as a school and something we wholeheartedly support. Mobile phones are tremendously useful and can be great fun - but they can also cause lots of problems as children learn how to stay safe. Don't forget that, should your child genuinely need their phone in school, you must request a permission form from the office; children should then hand their phone in each day on arrival at school.

