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Newsletter 15 – 16th December 2022



Dear Parent/s,

Wow, what a week in the life of St Ives Primary School! Firstly I would like to say as the headteacher how proud I am of all the children for taking part in some spectacular Christmas productions. The KS2 children far surpassed our expectations of them in 'Pirates of the Currybean' panto at the Merryfield Theatre, Verwood Hub this week. All the children really were quite spectacular with incredible talent on show and what an experience for our young people to have, performing in a professional theatre, a memory they will never forget! KS1 were amazing and our very youngest children deserve the biggest cheer, Nursery got up on stage, sang, danced and smiled through their song! It was lovely to see such joy, fun and happiness amongst our children, something I am sure you would all agree all our children deserve and need for their positive and emotional wellbeing.

As I look back over the term, I cannot believe what we have achieved in such a short space of time! The highlights have been:

- New Reception and Nursery children starting
- Parent consultations
- A wealth of sporting & music achievements
- Happy and healthy children
- Children's Christmas Performances – what super performances and such talent! I hope you all enjoyed these!
- Children's progress and learning – every child has moved forward in their learning

I know at this time of the year there is pressure to create a perfect 'magical' Christmas. I know that as parents you want to give your children the magic of Christmas and ensure he brings the best presents and sometimes that means a bit (or a lot in some cases!) of stress for you. As a Headteacher I want to share something with you:

When your child/children arrives back to school in January they tell us all about the Christmas holidays. They tell us about the days when the whole family stayed indoors and watched TV or went for a walk in the freezing cold. They tell us about being with Grandparents and then being excited when you come back from work. They tell us about how you let them snuggle in bed, how you played cards and took them swimming one day and forgot their towel! They tell us about New Year's Eve and how they stayed up until midnight, how they loved staying in their PJ's some days and about a trip out another day. They mention their gifts, but for them Christmas is you and your love, time and routines and feeling safe. Time with you is their favourite present. Wishing you a merry Christmas!

WOW Days for the Spring term – some pre-warning for costumes!

- YR - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme in January is Amazing Africa. Children to dress as African animals
- Y1 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme is Paws, Claws and Whiskers, the children can dress as an animal of their choice, more information on SeeSaw
- Y2 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme is 'Superheroes' Information on costumes is on SeeSaw
- Y3 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme will be Heroes and Villains, Please come dressed as a hero or villain, they can be fictional or real, Florence Nightingale, Robin Hood, Batman or Darth Vader etc.
- Y4 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme is 'I'm in the rainforest Get Me Out of Here!' children can dress as an explorer or a member of a native tribe and in trainers please
- Y5 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. 'May the force be with you!' is our theme in January, can the children please dress as scientists or Star Wars themed and in trainers please
- Y6 - WOW day on Friday 6th January. Our theme is 'Darwin's Delights'. This is linked to our learning in Science all about Charles Darwin, his discoveries in evolution and his work on the Galapagos Islands. The children are invited to come dressed as explorers or scientists. They could also come dressed as monkeys or any animal that Darwin researched, which ties into our work on evolution.

PE Days

For the new Spring Term there will be a change to PE Days. Please note the **NEW PE Days**:

- YR – Monday & Friday
Y1 – Monday & Friday
Y2 – Monday & Friday
Y3 – Thursday & Friday
Y4 – Thursday & Friday
Y5 – Monday & Thursday
Y6 – Monday & Thursday

Online Safety

In 2020, smartphone and tablet users spent a global total of around £330 million on downloading apps over the Christmas period. The following year, the UK alone saw almost seven million video games being given as gifts. The holiday season, in short, heralds a major spike in young people encountering new games and apps for the first time.

Although games and apps mainly offer harmless fun, there are still risks to remain aware of – from realistic violence in this year's must-have shooter to contact from strangers on the latest networking platform. This week's guide has some top tips for enabling youngsters to enjoy their new apps and games more safely this Christmas.

Curriculum update

What an absolute joy it has been watching Nursery, Reception, KS1 and KS2 all take part in the Christmas Productions this week. I am sure all of you who watched these productions will agree how amazing they were. Not only did they look and sound fantastic and have fun performing these, the educational benefits and life skills the children have accessed in these last couple of weeks have been monumental. Performing Arts teach discipline, improve self-esteem, inspire creativity, and help our young people to set and reach goals. Drama, which is part of the English Programme of Study, has many cross curricular links and is an extremely useful tool for improving children's self-esteem, confidence, speaking and listening, and social skills. The performances, as well as making its own distinctive contribution to the school curriculum, also helps to develop skills in other areas, especially in the development of Literacy (language skills, rhythm, rhyme, research, creative writing, communicating ideas), dance, art, ICT (composing, notation, research, use of iPads and recording), and PSHE (reflecting, listening, creating, performing).

Well done to all our children for the part they played putting our shows together. We are so proud of you.
Mrs Mackenzie, English Lead

Dates for Diary

Inset days

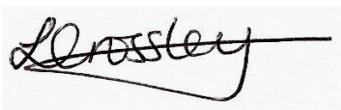
- 3rd January 2023
- 26th May 2023
- 19th, 20th, 21st July 2023

January

4th – Back to school

On behalf of Governors and Staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Crossley
Headteacher

