



Dear Parents and Carers,

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**CINDERELLA:** The school had a most enjoyable morning at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. The pantomime was brilliant – and the children joined in (loudly) when they were supposed to. It was a wonderful trip and has certainly got us all in the festive spirit. I would like to thank Miss McGuire for organising this event for the school. Coordinating a trip involving around 500 people is not easy but it ran smoothly and without incident. I would also like to thank the many helpers who accompanied us today – including some relatives of staff who stepped in at the last minute, due to unexpected absence, to ensure that the trip could go ahead safely.

**RECEPTION NATIVITY:** The Reception children treated us to their Nativity on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. They all looked fabulous in their costumes and delivered their lines, danced and sang with confidence. It was lovely! I would like to thank the Reception Team for all their hard work.

**NURSERY NATIVITY:** Unfortunately, I was not in school yesterday morning when the Nursery children performed their Nativity. Mr Laurie attended in my place and said that the 'ahh' factor was in abundance and that the performance was wonderful. My thanks go to the Nursery team for all their hard work.

**FSU NEWS:** It has been Nativity, Nativity, Nativity this week, in Reception. We have given two excellent performances to parents, as well as a live stream to the school. Everyone remembered all their lines and sang their hearts out. Well done to all. We have been using our post box to send letters to Father Christmas and lots of the children have enjoyed being the postal workers too. We had a fantastic time at the Panto today. It is always such a pleasure to watch the children's faces as they become completely immersed in the wonder of the theatre. Christmas is certainly in full swing, and we are really looking forward to our Polar Express day next Thursday.

This week in Ducklings we have been listening to lots of different Christmas stories and getting into the festive spirit. We have been singing Christmas songs too, ready for carols in the quad next week. We are very proud of how well our Nativity went and it was great that we sang, danced and said our lines so well. We all looked so amazing in our costumes- thank you to parents for your help with this, and for such a good turn out to the performance.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** On Thursday the children and staff enjoyed a festive lunch prepared by our cook, Mrs Sue Tugwood and her assistants Mrs Liz Pickwell and Ms Paula Richardson. Cooking a delicious feast for over 300 is quite a feat, and they did it brilliantly. My thanks go to our catering team for doing such a great job.

**COVID UPDATE:** This week in school we have had one case of Covid- 19 in a child.

**Y2 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK:** In 2012 the Department of Education implemented a new statutory assessment for all children in Year 1 called the 'Phonics Screening Check'. The children in Year 2 were unable to take part in this in June due to COVID-19 but have sat the test this week instead. We are very pleased with the results and the children have worked incredibly hard. We have achieved 83% passing which in the current climate, with this cohort not having had a full year of face to face teaching, is exceptional! Parents will be notified in a letter which will be placed in the child's bookbag. Mrs Ward, Assistant Head

**CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT:** We will be holding our annual Carol Concert in school this year on the last day of term, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. You are warmly invited to join us in the quad from 9am to sing some carols. Non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies will be served for which we respectfully ask you to make a donation for the school fund. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for what promises to be an uplifting event. The staff and pupils will be supporting Save the Children by wearing Christmas jumpers (for a £1 donation) and it would be great if you could wear yours too. I look forward to seeing you there.

**SPELLING AND MATHS COMPETITIONS:** The finals of the Spelling and Maths Bees took place on Monday and Tuesday of this week. I would like to thank the Literacy Coordinator, Mrs Ward and the Maths Coordinator, Mr Cox for organising these events. It was wonderful that so many parents were able to join us, albeit remotely on Teams. The winners were:

<b>Spelling Bee Winners</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
1	Ava H, Oakley E, Ella T & Noah S		
2	Fatima S & Christian M		Lyla D
3	Riva B	Raphael K	Eyad M
4	Keavy W, Alex G & Tilda A		
5	Abigail A		Yousef M & Molly J-L
6	Liv B	Lilly H	Abbie S

<b>Maths Challenge Winners</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
1	Alex H	Aurora K	Oakley E
2	Frankie W & Ashraf H		Sienna H & Christian M
3	Owen L	Eyad M	Gabby C, Raphael K & Noah H
4	Finley H	Emanuella M	Keavy W, Lexi-Mae W, Lexi L, Abigail A
5	William C	Tyger T	Yousef M
6	Liv B	Peter L	Bianca D

**READING AND MATHS CHAMPIONS TREAT:** This term's treat for the children who have read the most and completed the most Mathletics tasks will take place next week. Well done to all our champions! They are:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reading Champions</b>	<b>Mathletics Champions</b>
1	Tabitha E & Mason W	Daniel P & Leo P
2	Darcy C & Albie H	Julian T & Christian M
3	Isla S & Millie T	Aditi B & Theo-Thomas R
4	Maya K & Tilda A	James T & Finley H
5	Maisie S & Lyam S	Isaac W & Eddie H
6	Sophie S & Abigail S	Maddie L & Aimee C

**SPRING TERM AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** Yesterday we sent out via ParentMail details of the Spring Term after school activities. Please take the chance to look through these with your children over the weekend and encourage them to try a new activity. Bookings for all school run clubs will go live between 12.00pm and 2.00pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITIES:** Next week it will be the turn of Y1 and Y2 to perform their Nativities. I would respectfully ask that if younger siblings are in attendance that they sit on their parent's lap throughout. If they become restless and noisy then please take them into the reception area until they are quietened, at which point they can be brought back into the hall. The focus of the audience needs to be on the young children who are performing. Their young voices cannot compete with any additional noise and it is not fair if younger siblings are allowed to cause disruption. I thank you in advance for your support.

**ABUSE TO STAFF:** All staff have the right to be treated with respect in school. Unfortunately, this week there have been a couple of incidents of parents becoming angry, aggressive or rude when dealing with staff. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the school.

**STAFF CAR PARK:** A polite reminder that the staff car park is for members of staff only and not to be used by parents. This is a health and safety issue and needs to be adhered to.

**MINCE PIE MONDAY:** To celebrate the last week before Christmas, we will be hosting an event called **Mince Pie Monday** to raise money for **Sobell House**, a hospice located at The Churchill hospital in Oxford. Like all charities, its fundraising opportunities have been severely hit by the COVID restrictions. On Monday 13th December, the children will be able to buy a **mince pie or gingerbread biscuit for £1**, please send your children to school with £1 on the day if they would like to purchase a treat.

**PTA TEA TOWELS:** You may have seen at the Christmas Fayre that tea towels were available for purchase for each year group. These tea towels show self portraits of the children and were created to raise funds for the PTA. If you would be interested in purchasing one of these they have now been added to the PTA Events website for purchase at £4 each. Tea towels that are purchased in this way will be subsequently sent home with the children. Examples of the tea towels are displayed around the school in the classroom windows.

**AUTUMN TERM AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** We would like to remind you that today was the last day of our Autumn Term After School Activities. There will be **NO** After School Activities now until they resume in the New Year.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The last week of term is very busy. Here are some reminders as to what is happening:

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Mince Pie Monday for Sobell House / Y2 Nativity to school (live streamed to classes) / Reading and Maths Champions treat
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Y1 Nativity to school (live streamed to the classes) / Y2 Nativity to parents 1.30pm and 6pm
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Y1 Nativity to parents 1.30pm and 6pm
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Headteacher's Celebration Afternoon Tea
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children / Carol Concert in the Quad / End of term 1.30pm

**END OF TERM:** School closes next Friday for the Christmas holidays at 1.30pm.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mrs L Daulton  
Headteacher