



Dear Parents and Carers,

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**A CHRISTMAS RECIPE:** The Y2 children delighted us all with their wonderful performance of, 'A Christmas Recipe' on Tuesday. The children all looked fabulous in their costumes and performed brilliantly. My thanks go to Miss Chevis, Miss Ryczowski, Mrs Knights, Mrs Biggs and Mrs Stevens for all their hard work with the classes.

**WRIGGLY NATIVITY:** The 'Aah' factor was in abundance as the Y1 pupils took to the stage on Wednesday to put on, 'Wriggly Nativity'. They were splendid and entertained everyone in attendance. My thanks go to Miss Roche, Miss Smith, Mrs Farrell, Mrs Tugwell and Mrs Walsh for all their hard work with the year group.

**PTA:** I would like to thank the PTA for supporting all of the Nativities both this week and last by running the refreshment bar and raffle. I am not sure how much was raised at these events, but I can report that just under £3000 was raised at the Christmas Fair – a staggering amount! Well done to our wonderful PTA and to all who support their fundraising events.

**CAROL CONCERT:** I was so disappointed to make the decision to cancel our carol concert this morning. This is the highlight of the Autumn term for many of us at school and always gets Christmas off to a good start. But safety must always come first. Instead, we held our regular virtual Friday Celebration Assembly with the addition of a talk from Mark Eley and a carol sung by each class. It was lovely, not quite what we had planned, but lovely none the less. I would like to thank Mr Eley for joining us and delivering a thought-provoking Christmas message.

**HEADTEACHER'S AFTERNOON TEA:** Yesterday I held, for the first time in two years, my end of term Headteacher's Celebration Afternoon Tea for outstanding pupils nominated by their class teacher. We had a magnificent feast with cakes, brownies and gingerbread biscuits baked by the very talented, Mrs Hughes and sandwiches and fresh fruit platters prepared by our lovely cook, Mrs Tugwood. There were also other savoury and sweet treats that had been sourced by Mrs Lee. The children were great fun to be with and we listened to Christmas songs, played I Spy and talked about what they were hoping to get for Christmas and where they would be spending the big day. My thanks go to Mrs Lee for organising the occasion and to Mrs Hughes and Mrs Tugwood for providing such delicious food. My guests were:

Year Group	Head Teachers Tea Party Guests
Reception	Edward C
Puffin	Chloe T
Swan	Dawid B
Flamingo	Tilda R
Lion	Amelie B
Giraffe	Nicole Z
Penguin	Keavy W
Eagle	Lexi L
Snowy Owl	Harry D
Leopard	Mathew B
Dolphin	Nikhara A
Elephant	Isla W

**STAFFING UPDATE:** Mrs Bailey has decided not to return to her teaching post when her maternity leave finishes. I would like to thank her for all her hard work during her time at KMS and hope that she enjoys spending time with her beautiful daughter, Florence.

**THANK YOU:** I would just like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful team that we have here at KMS. They are a dedicated bunch who always go above and beyond to ensure the best outcomes for the children. This has been a challenging year, yet they have just pulled together and got on with it. Thank you to each and every one of you!

**COVID UPDATE:** This week we have had four cases of Covid-19 amongst children and one case in a staff member.

**FSU NEWS:** In Foundation Stage this week we have had our Christmas celebrations with Polar Express day in Reception and Stick Man day in Nursery. On Thursday, the Reception children arrived in school in their pyjamas with their ticket to ride the Polar Express clutched in their moist little hands. There was great excitement. Inside the train track weaved through the classrooms and the children had an amazing time creating their own trains at the junk modelling table. In the afternoon we settled down to watch the film with a cup of hot chocolate and marshmallows. We were interrupted by a visit from Father Christmas. I don't think the children minded too much. It was a fantastic day. Thank you to Miss Nicholls for the idea.

On Monday, the Ducklings found Stick Men in the wood which led to us thinking about how he got there and how he could get home. We read the book and decided that we needed Father Christmas to take him back home. Our hopes came true when Santa visited us at our Stick Man themed party, and he said he would return Stick Man to the family tree. We had such a great party, playing musical Stick Men statues, and melting chocolate to eat bread stick men. It was a great end to a great term. Ms.K. Rainer, Early Years Coordinator

**SPORTS UPDATE:** On Thursday morning, we took a group of year 5 and 6 swimmers down to the sports centre to take part in an inter-house swimming gala. The group comprised of a mix of abilities ranging from those who attend Blue Fins to those who have only recently achieved a full-length swim. There was a mix of nerves and excitement before we started and it was great to see children encouraging their teammates. The gala consisted of 15 individual races followed by 4 relay races. I was especially impressed by those children who signed up for the butterfly race and didn't sink in the middle of the pool like I would! The final scores saw Avon become the gala champions for 2021, largely thanks to a number of wins from Victoria P, William C and Isla W. Severn and Thames finished joint second with Derwent just behind in 4th. A huge well done to all those who took part and I look forward to more competitions in 2022. Mr. S.Roberts

**SPRING TERM AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** This week bookings went live on ParentPay for the Spring Term after school activities. Please take the chance to look through these with your children over the holidays if you have not already and encourage them to try a new activity. Please remember that the deadline for signing up for these activities is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**NATIVITY PHOTOGRAPH FUNDRAISER:** Thank you to those parents of FSU & KS1 children who purchased a Nativity Photograph of their child, we hope you liked them as much as we did. We had a fantastic response to this, and I am delighted to report that £220 has been raised for the school fund.

**MINCE PIE MONDAY:** We participated in Sobell House's Mince Pie Monday fundraiser this week and we raised £239.53 for the charity. Thank you for your support.

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY:** Thank you for sending your children to school today in their Christmas Jumpers and for your contributions towards 'Save The Children'. We have raised £246.96 for this well-deserved charity.

**CHANGE OF MENU:** Please be advised that on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 when we return to school, we will not be serving the usual roast chicken meal. Due to issues with deliveries, we will be serving Thursday's menu on Wednesday (spaghetti bolognese or macaroni cheese) and the roast chicken will be served on Thursday.

**PE DAYS TERM 3:** Please see below details of the P.E days for term 3, children should continue to come to school in their P.E kit on the relevant days:

Year 1	Monday & Thursday
Year 2	Thursday & Friday
Year 3	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4	Monday (& Swimming Thursday)
Year 5	Wednesday (& Swimming Thursday)
Year 6	Wednesday & Friday

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:** The governors would like to thank all parents and carers for engaging so positively with the school this term, working in partnership with staff to ensure all pupils at King's Meadow are kind, motivated and successful. It has been another challenging term with COVID-19 cases and changing restrictions but with your invaluable support Mrs Daulton and her team have worked tirelessly to implement after school clubs, extra curricular activities and of course to ensure that all children reach their potential inside and outside of the classroom. We were fortunate to have been in the audience for the nativity performances and were so impressed with how well all the children performed. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year. Mrs Valerie Laing & Mrs Laura Lewis, Chair of Governors.

**COVID REPORTING:** Should your child test positive for Covid-19 over the Christmas holiday, we kindly request that you e-mail the school office to make us aware. Please provide the date that any symptoms started and the date of the PCR test as well as the date that NHS Test and Trace advise you that the isolation period ends. This is because we have to report all cases to Oxfordshire County Council.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL:** As advised previously, to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, the late May bank holiday will be moved to Thursday 2nd June 2022, and an additional bank holiday will be taken on Friday 3rd June 2022. As this extra bank holiday falls within the planned school holiday, we have been informed that schools can take another day within the school year. At King's Meadow we have decided to take Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January as our extra day's holiday so school will now return after the Christmas break on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS:** It seems unbelievable that we are yet again facing uncertainty as we enter the festive season. Despite the lockdowns and the fantastic vaccination roll out, COVID is still very much with us and making an impact on our lives. The rising infection rates make gloomy reading indeed. With all that said, I hope that you all are able to spend time with your loved ones and have a very Merry Christmas – here's hoping that 2022 sees an end to this dreadful virus.



Mrs L Daulton  
Headteacher