



# Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School Newsletter No 15



Wednesday 18th December 2019

## CHEVENING needs



### Chevening PTA - Chairperson Needed!

Over the last three years, our PTA has been enormously successful. With the support of all the parents and children who have attended our events, we have raised over **£60,000!** Without a Chairperson, the PTA will struggle to maintain the momentum of the fabulous fundraising achievements for our children's school, we will be unable to make quick spending decisions and ultimately, it will affect the future of our PTA.

The new Chairperson/s will have the full support of the PTA Secretary & Treasurer, and also a fabulous and willing, capable PTA committee, fantastic parents and staff who passionately care about our school and are dedicated to raising significant funds for our children's learning.

**PLEASE HELP—contact Emma Parmley or Heidi Brooks ASAP!**

Further thanks to everyone for even more donations to Their Voice. The individual gifts, bags and rucksacks will make wonderful expressions of love to those who really need it. We look forward to learning more about the work of Their Voice next term. Watch out for more details.

### Dates Ahead

Date	Event
6th January	First day of Term 3 - Inset Day - No children in school
7th January	First day back for children Term 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a very short Newsletter to end our action-packed term! Thank you to everyone for making this term so special—we are very grateful to our families, friends and staff for the generosity of time and talents, that make Chevening a unique place of learning and fun.

Our PTA organised a festive treat for Monday, with each class enjoying a seasonal story session on the Once Upon a Bus. The children and staff joined in the Polar Express and Christmas Carol stories and then met Father Christmas to receive a festive gift! Thank you to Heidi for sourcing this great experience for us.

Tuesday's annual school trip to the Sevenoaks Panto gave the children the delights of live performance with a larger audience. Their rapt faces were a delight to see and those who might have felt a little nervous at the start were soon joining in the singing and shouts of 'He's behind you!' . Thank you to the PTA, parent helpers, drivers, escorts and staff for safely transporting the everyone to The Stag.

We finish term today back with our end of term service in St Botolph's. Once again, we are grateful to Matt Taylor from St Nicholas Church for helping us with the service and to our parent helpers for escorting us safely to church. Our school values are the focus for this service and are a timely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

So as I sign off for 2019, I hope you all find *compassion, forgiveness, perseverance, love, faith, respect, honesty and courage* for Christmas 2019 and for 2020!

With best wishes, **Miss Minnis**



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## Eco-Christmas Ideas

### Gifts

Christmas present shouldn't cost the earth! There are plenty of ways to show your loved ones, and the planet, a little love.

**Buy Less** – Try a secret Santa in the family so everyone just opens one gift on the big day. "something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read"

**Buy Local** – support local shops, fayres and businesses and avoid big chains.

**Buy Ethical** - organic, fair-trade, living wage, plastic free or sustainable.

**Make** – bake a cake, make a meal to pop in the freezer or craft something useful or beautiful!

**Buy Second-hand** – Charity shops and the likes of e-bay provide a wealth of options which won't break the bank or hurt the planet.

**Toy Free Gifts** – Classes, subscriptions (box or magazine), memberships, vouchers, books, adopt an endangered animal, personalised photo albums, plant a tree (or lots of trees), a donation to a charity. All avoid "stuff" and provide the opportunity to make or share memories.

### The Gift of Time

**Bear Grylls style** – head into the woods with sheets/fabric/tarp, pegs, ropes and get den building! Share a flask of hot chocolate, sing songs and tell stories!

**Shooting Stars** – head out in PJs and gaze at spectacular constellations. ●

**"Bake Off"** - gift the ingredients from a recipe, prepare and make the meal/cake together.

**"Game plan"** – Plan a scavenger hunt, a day of board games, a massive game of hide and seek (invite friends, family and neighbours- adults play too!) or movie night.

**"A Jar full of love"** - give a jar full of shared activities and pull one out at least once a day. Some ideas are: look at family photos, read together, make-up a story, play outside, make some art, tell jokes, play i-spy. Encourage children to add their own.

**Strictly Come Dancing** – crank up the music, show your groovy moves and let off some steam with loved ones!

#ReduceRejoiceRecycle



# Eco-Christmas Ideas

## Razzle, Dazzle

We throw away over 6 million real Christmas trees during the festive season. This produces 9,000 tonnes of landfill

Buy a living Christmas tree, Holly, Pear, bay or maple and plant in the garden for next year.

Lots of places are now offering tree rentals so why not see if there is one near you?

If you have an artificial tree, keep using it for as long as possible! But look into environmentally-sound options when it comes to replacing it.

If you can't resist buying a tree make sure it has been grown sustainably, not in a way that's environmentally damaging, look for the FSC certification.

When you've finished enjoying your Christmas tree make sure it is recycled. The trees can be shredded, then used as mulch on plants in parks, or on woodland paths.

**A splash of colour** - Rather than buying new Christmas decorations why not recycle, or make your own? A quick forage in the great outdoors will lead you to pine cones and holly perfect for adding some Christmas colour!

If wrapping paper can't be scrunched, then it can't be recycled! Avoid glitter, sparkles or foil and instead opt for good old brown paper and string! Effortlessly stylish and extra special if covered in little handprints!

## **Eat, Drink and be Merry**

According to the Soil Association, "food is the single most important, everyday way for people to reduce their environmental impact".

Why not try cutting down meat this Christmas even if it's just for some of the festive break? There are so many delicious vegetarian or vegan recipes out there!

If you can't get past the meat craving, try choosing organic and free-range and support small-scale farming wherever possible. It might be more expensive, but it's better to buy less than more of the cheap and cheerless intensively-farmed meat.

The average family wastes one third of the food they buy at Christmas.

If you over-cater, don't just bin what's left. Transforming leftovers saves money, creates new meals and cuts waste. Try the BBC Good Food leftovers recipes for ideas.