



Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School Newsletter No 14



Friday 13th December 2019

Staying Safe

We have been concerned about an incident reported in Otford, where a parent and child were approached by another unknown adult while shopping and unhelpful comments were made. The matter is in the hands of the police, but we do want to remind our parents/carers to make sure that children feel safe and secure when out and about locally and in places that they may be visiting over the festive period. **Please make sure your child is confident that they know what to do if they feel unsafe anywhere.**

Chevening PTA - Chairperson Wanted!

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 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.

A full PTA handbook will be at your disposal with a detailed "how to" for all events. All fundraising efforts for 2020 have already been allocated to the class reps. You don't have to do it alone! The role can be split between two people, taking on the Chair and Co-Chair, or Vice-Chair position.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is only a few days since we completed the last Newsletter and this week has felt like a crescendo building from Monday until today!

We are so very grateful to our wonderful PTA team who made last Saturday's Fair such a wonderful and happy occasion, with opportunities for fun and friendship for all. Thank you to everyone for making our Christmas Fair possible!

On Monday, our younger classes put lots of energy and enthusiasm in to the final rehearsals for 'God With Us'. Tuesday's audiences were wowed by the children's confident and capable performances, with everyone remembering songs, words and movements. Thank you to the staff team for helping the children to shine and to our families for so ably supporting and encouraging us all.

Wednesday was another day of rehearsals with our older children finalising descants and narrations for the Key Stage 2 carol service. Perhaps some families were able to slip in St Botolph's Church to reflect on Advent's Presents? Did you see Joseph's toolbox with poems, thoughts and suggestions devised by Chevening School to help our friends and neighbours prepare for Christmas?

Thursday's Carol Service was a meaningful pause in the chaos of the wet day and the increasing hustle and bustle of Christmas. Congratulations and thanks to our children for helping us look at Christmas through a different lens, looking at the familiar Bible story linked to current refugees' experiences.

We hope you will now have read the OFSTED Inspectors' report. If you need a hard copy of the report, please ask at the School Office. We are pleased that the inspectors saw the many strengths in our school and the positive partnership we have with our parents. This strong partnership, combined with our values, will enable us to further develop our school in the new year.

We have some lovely activities planned for next week: the Once Upon a Bus visit on Monday, our annual visit to the Sevenoaks Pantomime and Wednesday afternoon's end of term Service at St Botolph's Church. Please try and join us at the Church to say 'Merry Christmas'!

With best wishes, **Miss Minnis**

Christian Values

All of Class 1 PERSEVERANCE	1	For their hard work and concentration during assessments
Jerry M RESPECT	2	For clearing up the classroom without being asked after the Christmas carousel
Ki I PERSEVERANCE	3	For showing great determination in all he undertakes and being so positive when it comes to tackling challenges
Poppy O PERSEVERANCE	4	For noticing a friend in need and supporting her
Marley C RESPECT	5	For the politeness and consideration he has shown in class
Jessica B RESPECT	6	For much improved team work whilst preparing our Explorer Museum

KS1

Classes R, 1 & 2 took part in a Christmas craft carousel in their house groups which the children really enjoyed! The older children were very supportive and caring towards Class R. It was lovely to see our **love** and **compassion** values being displayed!



Class 6

Class 6 have been struck by election fever this week. We have been forming our own political parties, writing manifestos and holding debates to convince our voters to vote for us. On Thursday, we held a leader's debate before going to the polls. It was a close-run election but The International Party won with the most votes.



Class 5

Class 5 were fortunate to be able to view, reflect and respond to the thought-provoking 'Advent Present' prayer stations this week. We were particularly interested in the contribution designed by Mrs McLean and her prayer team about the qualities Joseph needed in his 'toolkit'. The interactive stations were very moving.



Class 6 News

Class 6 have been working hard to prepare an Explorer Museum showcasing their learning over terms 1 and 2. We will be opening our museum to the school community between 9.15 and 10.15am on Tuesday 17th December. Parents and carers are welcome to pop in and see what we have been up to.

Online Safety

Each Wednesday, the team at National Online Safety produce a helpful guide for parents/carers to support children using online platforms safely. See #WakeUpWednesday at www.nationalonlinesafety.com for more details.



Class Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance ensures that everyone benefits from all that is on offer in school—socially, emotionally and academically, now and into the future.

Did you know that if a child is late to school just 5 minutes every day this adds up to over 3 days lost learning each year.

	Weekly Attendance	Year to Date Attendance
Class R	94.6%	96.9%
Class 1	97%	97.3%
Class 2	98.8%	98%
Class 3	96.7%	98.4%
Class 4	97.9%	97.6%
Class 5	94.8%	96.5%
Class 6	93.1%	97.7%
Whole School	96.1%	96.1%
Excellent	>97%: Celebration of excellent attendance	
Good	95-97%: Note of good attendance	
Poor	<95%: Alert to poor & worrying attendance	

“Their Voice” Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who donated something to the “Their Voice” charity appeal. We were so pleased with the number of items that we will be able to deliver to the charity this week-end.

Road Closure Reminder

Just a reminder to all of the three-day road closure beginning after 9:15 am on Wednesday, 18th December. The closure will be outside the new house project at Froghole Farm.

Nursery Beer Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Sam Donnelly who was the winner of the Nursery “Mad Stan” barrel of beer.

Staff News

Although it is very near the end of term, there will be some changes that will take effect from January 2020. Sadly, Mrs James is unable to return to Chevening for class teaching after the Christmas break, so we need to re-arrange some of our teaching team:

Class 4 will be taught by Mrs Billing and Mrs Robinson, with the same PPA arrangements for Wednesday afternoons.

Class 2 will be taught by Mrs McLean and Mrs Wilde.

We wish Mrs James well – she is in need of more time and space for her family at the moment, which will only really be possible without the pressures of class teaching. We are very grateful that Mrs James has worked flexibly in our school for a number of years, looking after classes during maternity cover and hope she will be able to keep in touch with us.

Dates Ahead

Date	Event
16th December	“Once Upon a Bus” with special festive guest sponsored by the PTA
17th December	Whole School visit to “Aladdin” at the Stag Theatre Sevenoaks - No Actv8
18th December	End of term service @ St Botolph's 2:00 pm
6th January	First day of Term 3 - Inset Day - No children in school
7th January	First day back for children Term 3

Act of Worship News

This term, we have enjoyed regular visits from different representatives from local Churches. We have added some of their Christmas details to our weekly email, in case families want to join in different activities over the Christmas break.

This week we lit the next Advent candle representing Joy, adding to the brightness of Faith and Hope.

#ReduceRejoiceRecycle



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!