

**Ursula Taylor  
Church of England  
School**



**NOVEMBER VALUE  
'FRIENDSHIP'**  
**Friends and good manners  
will carry you where money  
won't go.**

**Margaret Walker**

**Newsletter 26th November 2014**

**Diary Dates**

**Christmas performances and diary dates**

10th December School Christmas Dinner (Free to F stage, Y1 and Y2 and Y3/4 children eligible for Free School Meals) £2.15 for Year 3 and 4.

11th December 10am KS1 Dress Rehearsal

12th December 2pm KS2 Dress Rehearsal

12th Christmas Jumper Day 'Save the Children' Mufti Day for all children. Please wear 'Christmas Jumper' and donate at least £1 for 'Save the Children'

<http://jumpers.savethechildren.org.uk/> for more details.

Sunday 14th Choir- Christingle at the Church

15th December 9:15am F Stage Dress Rehearsal

15th December 2pm and 6pm KS1 Performances

16th December 9:15am Foundation Performance

16th December pm 'Robin Hood' Pantomime

17th December 2 pm and 6pm KS2 Performances

18th December 2pm Grandparent's Concert

19th 9:15am Golden Assembly

19th 2pm Candlelight Service (Children and Staff only)

19th December - END OF TERM



**GOLDEN ASSEMBLIES**

**NO** Golden Assembly on Friday 5th December as the PTFA will be setting up the hall for the Christmas Fair.

**NO** Golden Assembly on Friday 12th December due to Rehearsals.

**Our final Golden Assembly for the term will be on 19th December 2014 at 9:15am. This will be for the end of the month awards and also birthdays for the period 1.12.14 - 4.1.15**

**Christmas Fair 5th December 2014**

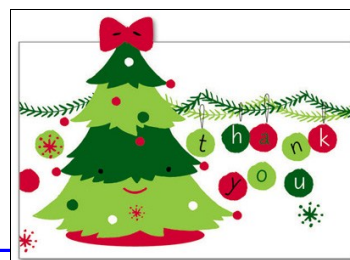
The PTFA have been working really hard to get the Christmas Fair ready for the 5th and have managed to put a super range of stalls and activities together.

There is still time to volunteer, if you would like to do so - please contact Grainne Brown or speak to Miss Daley in the school office.



**New Christmas Tree!**

I would like to express enormous thanks to Richard Hames, Managing Director at M&DH Insurance Services Ltd for his wonderful donation to the PTFA. Mr Hames heard about the demise of our old Christmas Tree and very generously donated £400! This has allowed us to purchase our new tree and have something really special in the hall for the festive period.



**Pantomime**

This year we have made a slight change to our Festive celebrations. Instead of having class parties, we have booked a Pantomime for the children to enjoy. Children and Staff will all be gathering together on the afternoon of 16th December 2014 to watch 'Robin Hood'. We are very fortunate that this year, the Governing Body have agreed to fund this from the school budget.

The children need to come to school on the 16th in the normal way, there is no change of clothing required or anything different with regard to lunchtime.



### **Parent / School Communication**

Thank you for the responses that we have had to the email requests so that we can send letters via email. As soon as all the email addresses are on the system we will send a text out confirming that email letter communication will commence.

If you have not yet signed up for the service, there is still time, please give an email address to Miss Daley in the school office.

### **School Dinners Cost (Year 3 and 4 only)**

**Per day £2.15 or £10.75 per week**

### **School Uniform**

I have attached the school uniform policy to this newsletter.

We have had an increase in children wearing items that are NOT part of our School Uniform. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing the correct clothing and is conforming to the school policy.

The following are not acceptable:

- Hair decorations such as flowers, bows, fluffy bands, large quantities of small bands etc.
- Shoes / boots that are not black
- Brightly coloured/patterned tights/socks
- Earrings other than plain studs

It is unfair on parents and children that are following the policy to send children in to school wearing these items. From Monday Dec 1st 2014, reminder letters will be issued via class teachers. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Attendance**

Following a recent visit from the Educational Welfare Officer we have been advised that we have too much unauthorised holiday absence that we must reduce. I am already following the Government Guidelines relating to authorised absence and only issuing permission when there is a truly exceptional circumstance.

As a school we have previously taken the stance of not requesting penalty notices. However, there has been a significant amount of absence due to unauthorised 'holiday' leave which we are being held accountable for. It is with reluctance that we have agreed to introduce warning letters and requests for fixed penalty notices.

From January 1st 2015 any parent taking their child out of school for an unauthorised absence of 5 days or more will receive a warning letter. This letter will detail the steps that will be taken if any more unauthorised absence is taken. We have been advised to issue a request to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice to be issued. This penalty notice involves parents being fined £60 per child for each period of unauthorised absence.

We are also expected to investigate any children whose attendance falls below 85% regardless of the reason for this. It is likely that the figure of 85% will increase to 90% in the future, impacting further upon our accountability.

We will be sending an updated 'Attendance Policy' home before the end of term so all parents are aware of the responsibilities of our school and also the responsibilities you have as parents.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Morrall