

Shobnall Primary School

Newsletter



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Dear Parents,

Merry Christmas

This is the final newsletter of the calendar year and I am sure that many of the children will be ready for the two week break. They have been so busy over the last week in terms of performances and practices as well as completing assessments and meeting end of term targets. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those parents who have supported the school over the past term in so many different ways. It has been a wonderfully successful term and included so many new features such as the implementation of the new curriculum, the introduction of the very popular pupil exercise books, the continuing sporting efforts and achievements of our pupils which included winning the Gold Award for Sporting Achievement and of course sporting success in many different events including athletics, netball and swimming. As a staff, we have been incredibly proud of the school and of course the children throughout the term and the manner in which they have represented Shobnall Primary School has been impeccable, this includes the fabulous French trip in October which proved to be a real hit with children, staff and parents alike through to today's trip to Lichfield Pantomime. Next term promises to offer many more exciting opportunities for our children, including the fabulous Young Voices concert in Birmingham on 8th January and the many different trips which have been organised by the class teachers, ready to motivate and enthuse the children in their learning. I would like to wish all of our families a very peaceful and fun-filled Christmas and to our families not celebrating the festival, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable two week break. Happy new year from all at Shobnall and we will welcome you all back on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.



PFA Christmas Fair

It was wonderful, once again, to see the school full of our children and their families, all supporting our wonderful PFA. I would like to thank all of the wonderful team who made the event such a success and I'm sure you'll agree, it was well organised and a really fantastic event. The final total raised was in excess of £1200 and I know that the PFA are intending to begin to raise money for improving the lighting in the school hall.

Mrs Howell's Retirement

As you are aware, on Tuesday we will be saying a very tearful 'Goodbye' to Mrs Howell. This will be an emotional day for Muriel, who has spent many years working with so many different children and their families, and I am sure that if you do have the opportunity of seeing her at any stage next week, do wish her the very best in her retirement. The staff and governors successfully arranged a fabulous surprise event for her last Friday night in recognition of her many years working at the school and she was overcome by these celebrations – we couldn't let her go without a party! We wish you the most fabulous future years in your retirement Mrs Howell and we definitely expect to see you back over the next few years, helping out on trips and other opportunities.

You will also be interested to know that the school has successfully recruited another teaching assistant, who will be working predominantly in years 4, 5 and 6. Miss Lord joins us in January and we are delighted to recruit her. Please can I ask you to make her feel very welcome should you have the opportunity of meeting her next term.

Academy Progress

Since I last wrote, the school has continued to press ahead with conversion plans with regards to joining the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust. You may have seen on Twitter that Mr Donoghue visited last term to gain a real insight into the day to day workings of Shobnall Primary and this will continue next term. I will be meeting a number of head teachers from at least 5 other local schools early in the new term to begin to map out and formalise ways in which the primary side of the Trust will work successfully together and some of the ideas already discussed sound extremely positive. The office staff and I have begun to work on submitting a considerable amount of documentation to the JTMAT and we still hope to join the Trust around April/May time. I will continue to keep all stakeholders aware of proceedings as the Spring Term progresses.

Snow and School Closure Information

I would like to say a huge thank you to all staff and our families who braved the snowy conditions throughout this week. The children (and staff) had lots of fun out on the field during Monday morning before retiring into the warmer conditions of the school although Mrs Farrington and Mrs Howell provided some lovely hot chocolate for the brave children who remained outside.

As a school, the health and safety of both our staff and children is treated with the utmost importance and the decision was made to open on throughout the week because of the efforts and commitments of our janitorial team as well as other members of staff. Closing the school, or indeed remaining open, in such weather conditions, is not an easy decision and many factors need to be considered. Should we experience similar conditions or indeed worse over the next couple of months then we will make a final decision which we believe is in the best interest of all parties. It is worth noting that a significant proportion of our staff travel from rural areas such as Stone and Kings Bromley or even further afield such as Lichfield and Cannock. It may be that a decision needs to be made based on conditions further afield aside from just the school grounds and as you all displayed this week, please be patient with any decisions with which the school makes. However, as implied on Twitter, snowy conditions on Reservoir Road make it incredibly dangerous and I would ***strongly advise*** any parents dropping children off during adverse weather condition chose alternative locations to park rather than Reservoir Road. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Nursery and Reception Nativity



The staff and children began our Nativity season with a beautiful reminder of the Christmas story, complete with Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus and of course Shepherds, Inn Keepers, Stars, Angels and Soldiers. It is always a fabulous experience when seeing the children on stage, so proud of their roles and costumes. Thank you to all families who came along and supported and even helped with the learning of lines at home. Thanks also to our wonderful Early Years staff who helped make the two performances a treat.



Year 3 Christmas Performance.



The Year 3 children provided some fabulous moments in their performance, "The Greedy Christmas." The children had all learnt their lines and we were thoroughly entertained by their singing, dancing and acting. At one stage I thought we were going to pass without seeing any sign of Mary and Joseph but thankfully Santa and Mrs Claus took the 3 'greedy' children back in time to



experience the true meaning of the Christmas Festival. Once again, a huge thank you to all parents who supported the children and of course the staff who enabled such a wonderful production to go ahead.



Staffing Changes

As some of you are aware, we will be saying fond farewells to both Mrs Wheeler and Miss Kirkland next Tuesday and I would like to thank them for their continued hard work and professionalism with everything that they have brought to Shobnall Primary School. We would like to wish both members of staff the very warmest wishes for their future careers and whatever pathway they may choose to take. Year 3 parents will be interested to note that we have arranged a "Meet the Teacher" event on Tuesday 9th January at 3.30pm where you will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Knight properly. However, please feel free to make her feel very welcome when you meet her at the end of the day, prior to this date.

Team Point Autumn 2 Winners!

Huge congratulations go to Trent House this week for claiming victory for the half term period. As a result of the children in Trent, we would like to reward them with a non-school uniform day. Therefore, they can wear anything blue on **Friday 5th January 2018** which will demonstrate that they are part of this successful team. Well done Trent children!

End of Term	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Autumn 2 nd Half Term Sub Total	15	17	7	21
YEAR RUNNING TOTAL	42	41	22	47

Autumn 2017/Spring Term 2018 – Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date and Time
Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performances	Monday 18 December 9.15am AND 2.00pm
Christmas Lunch for all pupils	Tuesday 19 December 2017
School Breaks up for Christmas Holiday	Tuesday 19 December 2017 at 3.30pm
Mr Attwood's Holiday Camp	Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 December
Years 5 & 6 Visit to Bliss Hill	Thursday 4 January 2018
Young Voices Concert – Birmingham	Monday 8 th January 2018
Meet Mrs Knight – New Year 3 Teacher	Tuesday 9 th January 2018 – 3.30pm
Years 3 & 4 Twycross Zoo Visit	Tuesday 16 th January 2018
Parents Evening Spring Term	Monday 5 th & Wednesday 7 th February 18
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 15 th February – 9.15am
Break up for Half Term	Friday 16 th February 2018 at 3.30pm

TIDDLYWINKS NEWS

Our Tiddlywinks award and prize this term has gone to Sophia R in recognition of her brilliant behaviour. Also Sophia's manners are exceptional. Well Done! 😊

Tiddlywinks

Nursery & Kidz Club



Tiddlywinks Xmas Party Night

Tuesday 19th December

3.30 – 6.00 pm

All Welcome

Dancing, treats and Xmas Fun!

Tickets available in School Hall £3.00