



EASEBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9th December 2016

Dates

Monday 12 th December	Year 6 singing for the Cowdray Pensioners	pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Carol Service at St. Mary's Church	6.00 pm
Thursday 15 th December	Christmas Lunch and Parties	pm
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Charity Day (£1.00 Charity Donation) Last Day of Term	

A Word from the Head

New staff

Parents may have noticed the changes to the staffing in Dragonflies. Earlier in the term, we were unable to appoint a teaching assistant to the class and we are delighted that Emma Sharp has been able to step in at such short notice to provide support to Amanda Catchpole. We will be advertising for this full-time post again and hope to appoint a permanent candidate at the Easter half-term. We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Watson, who will be joining us to teach French, and Natalie Renwick, who will also be supporting Dragonflies Class. Natalie will work mornings from January but has already been in several times to become familiar with the children. We would also like to welcome Zoe Eastment who will be joining the Early Days Nursery team from January.

Spelling Bee

As part of our focus on spelling this year, I am working with a group of Year 6 pupils (the Spelling Beekeepers) to organise a spelling bee. This is an optional contest which will be run in year groups and will have two stages.

Stage 1 – The House Challenge

Children in each year will come home with three graded word lists from which they should choose one. (Hopefully, they will push themselves to choose a list that challenges them!) After the holiday, they will be tested on those spellings. Every child who chooses to enter will win a house point and each correct answer will gain an additional point.

Stage 2 – The Individual Challenge

Children who have scored highly will be able to continue to the second stage where the words will become more challenging!

Your child will receive the three word lists for their year group, along with additional instructions. Please note that these word lists will also be available on the school's Moodle, in the Literacy section of the Curriculum area.

New Year's Resolutions

Attendance

Research shows how crucial good attendance is for children's progress. Next term, with the New Year, we aim to work more closely with parents to address situations where children's attendance is of concern, exploring what the school can do to help.

Dress Code

The school encourages all pupils to follow the school dress code as this helps to engender a sense of belonging and pride about the school. As with other schools, we ask for parental co-operation in

ensuring that pupils are suitably dressed, and that high standards regarding school uniform are maintained.

We try to ensure that there are regular opportunities for children to wear home clothes or costumes and these occasions generally raise funds for good causes, as is the case with the opportunity to wear a Christmas-themed item of clothing on the last day of term.

Recently, members of staff have noticed that some children are coming to school wearing items of clothing that are at odds with the school's dress code. Whilst we understand that there will occasionally be times when this is unavoidable, we would like to enlist parental support in ensuring that children come to school in uniform which adheres to the school's guidance. To help with this push, it was agreed, following discussion at this week's staff meeting, that class teachers should note these instances and highlight any issues with parents.

Volunteers' Coffee Morning

Earlier this week, we had a Christmas Coffee Morning for our volunteers. In recent years, we have worked hard to build links with the community and one of the benefits of this work has been the increase in volunteer numbers. Volunteers help the school in so many ways, including hearing readers, taking on the key role of a governor, judging poetry recitations, rehearsing debaters, driving the minibus, playing the piano, contributing to class topics, leading extracurricular clubs and accompanying trips.

*"Thoroughly enjoy being part of the life of the school!
Children are a joy and you have a great staff team."*

Some 20 volunteers attended the morning; many good ideas were suggested and discussed and the feedback was very encouraging.

We really are most fortunate to have such a wide range of committed volunteers and I do encourage anybody who is interested in joining the group to contact the school. Equally, if you know somebody who might be interested, we would love to hear from them. Two of our volunteers suggested that grandparents, in particular, might be interested in the role.

Bird Flu (by Freddie and Daisy, Year 6)

Due to the recent outbreak of bird flu in other countries the government has advised all poultry owners to keep their chickens inside or out of contact with wild birds. The school, in consultation with local vets, has already taken some precautions and we now have these extra rules.

- Wash our hands **extremely** well after contact with the chickens to prevent us catching the bird flu.
- We will no longer feed the chickens corn until the bird flu has passed.
- Their water is now in their house to stop other birds drinking it. (Their food is fine because it is in a safe container.)

[We are in the process of ensuring that the hens are segregated from wild birds for the foreseeable future and adults will now take over the care of the birds until the ban is lifted.]

JRSO's

Due to mounting parental concern and a near miss today in the car park we have decided to reinstate the JRSO's from Monday. They will be monitoring the situation, recording registration numbers and issuing tickets to those who park irresponsibly.

Please can we reiterate:

- park with consideration and in a responsible manner
- you should not park in the disabled bays unless you are entitled to
- the drop off zone should only be used for the purpose for which it was designed. This area should **not** be used to park in.

Debate

The motion of the first debate of the year, supplied by Andy Taylor, was whether geography should become a core subject. Josh and Freddie argued that it should, pointing out how useful a subject it was, developing key skills necessary for many jobs and linking with literacy and maths in particular. Tom and Nathan argued that it should not be made into a core subject. Tom explained that we pick up geographical knowledge and skills in other places, e.g. temperature in maths and Nathan pointed out that we wouldn't have enough time for the most important subjects which are needed for further education and, in time, for jobs.

There was a small audience but the speakers had to field some testing questions. In the end, whilst both sides persuaded some of those who had abstained at the beginning, Josh and Freddie managed to win the debate, persuading slightly more that geography should be promoted as a subject.

The next debate will be after school on Friday, 20th January. They generally last until about 4 o'clock and having a live audience gives the debates a real sense of occasion so please do put this date in your diary if you can.

Ask Me About Clicker 7

Clicker 7 is a program that children use to help them with their spelling and writing. There is a speaking machine that can read your writing to you and pronounce it in the right way. In Otters we use it a lot for free writing. We are very fortunate because we will be able to use Clicker 7 at home to help us with our learning and our homework. By Phoebe, Otters Class

Following a parent workshop last week, a letter will be coming home shortly giving full details about how to access Clicker 7 at home. Ask your child to show you what it can do!

Understanding Your Child

WSCC will be running a free 10 week course for parents and carers called 'Understanding Your Child' at the Petworth Children and Family Centre. The course starts on Thursday 19th January 2017 10am-12 noon and is aimed at those who want to know more about parenting, how children develop and to have a better understanding of children's behavior. For more information or to book your place contact 01798 871199.

If you are interested but are unable to attend this course please contact Emma Austin-Diment as if there is sufficient call we will explore running a similar course here at Easebourne.

Cowdray Pensioners Christmas Lunch

On Monday 12th December Otters Class will sing for the Cowdray pensioners at their Christmas lunch. The children will walk to Cowdray Golf Club after their lunch and return in time for the end of the day.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service in St. Mary's Church is on Tuesday 13th December at 6.00 p.m. Dragonflies Class will lead the nativity tableau and children from years 1-6 will be performing songs they have been learning alongside traditional Christmas carols. Parents are invited to join us and participate in the Service.



Christmas Lunch/Parties



Please remember that Chartwells will be providing a hot lunch for the whole school on Thursday 15th December, unless you have opted to bring in a packed lunch. Parties will follow, so children will be permitted to change into home clothes just before lunch.

Christmas Jumper/Hat Day – House Charity Day

On the last day of term children may come to school in a Christmas jumper or hat for a donation of at least a £1.00. This event starts off our House Charity Fundraising and house points will be awarded according to which house raises the most. Please don't feel that you need to buy something new, a home decorated item could be just as much fun.

Clubs

A list of clubs will be displayed in the front foyer from January. Some clubs are oversubscribed and a waiting list will be in operation. If your child fails to attend a club on a regular basis their place will be offered to a child on the waiting list. If you are able to assist with a club, please let the office know. Please note cheques for clubs led by an external provider will not be banked until next term.

Rabbits Class Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Rabbits class visited Butser Hill Ancient Farm on Tuesday 29th November. We went there to learn about and experience how the people of the Stone and Iron Ages lived and survived. We did some activities such as chalk carving, making wattle fences by weaving hazel and participating in an archaeological dig, where we found some fascinating artefacts. Along side this, we learnt some 'unpleasant facts' such as the people of the Stone Age using urine to stain and colour the wool they used for clothing and bedding. It was a great trip, we would love to return! By Rhys and Sian, Rabbits Class



Foxes and Otters Classes Visit to MRC

On Tuesday 29th November, Otters and Foxes classes went to MRC to watch a play called 'The Dreams of Anne Frank' because our topic this term is World War 2. It was about a 12 year old girl called Anne Frank and her family who hid for several years behind a sliding bookcase in an attic because they were Jews and Hitler hated anyone Jewish. They had to keep very quiet and had people bring them food so they were not seen or heard. Finally, they were captured and sent to a concentration camp. We really enjoyed the play because the story line was strong and it had good acting. They had loud voices and a good stage set out. By Ben and Barnaby, Foxes Class

Tree of Hope



On Thursday 1st December in the evening our choir from Years 5 and 6 went to the church to sing at the Tree of Hope. It was really good but also a little sad as it is for Macmillan Cancer. Some people cried but the mince pies and mulled wine made them feel a little better. After the service we all found our parents by the tree, which is now lit up outside St. Mary's Church in Easebourne. By Phoebe, Otters Class

Midhurst Street Party

On Friday 2nd December some of the choir went to the Midhurst Street Party. We sang 'Silent Night' in the darkness each holding a tea light. Then the Christmas lights lit up on the Christmas tree. As we sang 'The Christmas Song' and 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' it started snowing. It was magical! By Lillianne and Lily, Otters Class



EYFS Christmas Open Morning



As always, our EYFS Open Morning was well supported by parents and grandparents both from the Nursey and Dragonflies Class. Children and parents joined in with Christmas activities, making cards and decorations. The children enjoyed dressing up in Christmas costumes and playing in the nativity den. Thank you to all those who came along and to all who supported our raffle.

Hedgehogs and Squirrels Classes Christmas Performance

Hedgehogs and Squirrels Christmas play was called 'Hey Ewe'. It was about a curious sheep that wanted to know what was going on. The Emperor wanted to conduct a census because he wanted to find a new born king. Bethlehem was very busy but Mary and Joseph were given somewhere to sleep, it was in a stable. The shepherds were in their field when an angel told them about the baby so they went to Bethlehem. There were three kings and they followed the star to the stable where baby Jesus was. We all enjoyed our parts in the nativity, especially Freya because she was the curious sheep. By Tabitha and Freya, Squirrels Class

See some of the amazing pictures from our production on the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to our retiring collection. We raised £208.64, which will go towards our drama facilities.

Brian and Lily

Most of us know of Brian and his cat Lily who are homeless and live beside Midhurst Rother College. Our Stone pillow team need your help to fill our trolley, for one week only, with some items to help them through the Christmas break. We know he gets a lot of cat food but perhaps treats or toys for Lily might be nice. Please choose carefully what you donate for Brian as he has limited storage space and obviously no kitchen so mince pies, chocolate, toiletries or socks/gloves would be great. By Erin, Otters Class

House Update

	Blue Wolves	Green Dragons	Red Pandas	Yellow Cheetahs
Week 1 House Points	2	3	4	1
Week 2 House Points	3	2	4	1
Roald Dahl Models	2	2	3	3
Parish Council Playground Designs	3	3	4	7
Summer Reading Challenge	15	16	19	14
Week 3 House Points	2	3	4	2
Week 4 House Points	3	1	4	2
Pumpkin Challenge	14	9	6	7
Week 5 and 6 House Points	3	4	2	1
Celebrate Our Writing	1	1	3	2
Week 7 House Points	4	3	2	1
Reading Diaries	22	19	10	25
Poetry Recitation	20	18	18	21
Week 8 House Points	2	4	3	1
Week 9 House Points	2	1	3	4
Week 10 House Points	2	1	3	4
Week 11 House Points	2	3	1	4
Week 12 House Points	2	4	3	1
Total	104	97	96	101

EASEBOURNE PTFA NEWS

We hope you all enjoy our Christmas Fair. A lot of hard work has gone into this event, from sourcing and collecting raffle prizes, selling tickets, organising stalls and a disco, right through to setting up on the day, running a stall and helping clear away afterwards, a big thank you to Sarah Rout and her team of volunteers, as without them, this event would not go ahead. Thank you to everyone for your contributions, lots of people have very kindly donated brand new toys for the children's tombola, filled pint pots, gifts for the silent auction and raffle, we really appreciate it all.


The PTFA would like to thank Zoe Irvine for all her hard work, dedication and leadership whilst fulfilling the role of Chairperson of the PTFA. Unfortunately, Zoe has to stand down and we would like to take this opportunity to wish her and all her family every success and happiness over the next couple of years in Dubai. Janet Lambert has volunteered to take on the massive role of Chairperson and we wish her all the best and look forward to the exciting events and fresh new ideas to come.

We have some fantastic events coming up in 2017. Here are just a few to get us started:

- * PTFA meeting in the school on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm, everyone welcome
- * Summer Fair meeting in Easebourne Church on Thursday 9th February at 7.45pm
- * PTFA Film Night in the school on Friday 10th March 3.15pm - 5.30pm (Film to be confirmed)
- * Pamper Night on Friday 17th March (time to be confirmed)
- * PTFA Easter Egg Hunt, (date & time to be confirmed)

Henry Adams Christmas Competition

A reminder that all entries need to be handed into school by Monday 12th December.



Henry Adams Design a Home for a Penguin Competition!
For your chance to win a cuddly penguin or a chocolate lolly, don't forget to bring your entry forms to our office or take them to school by Monday 12th December.

