



Box CE VC Primary School
High Street, Box
Corsham, Wiltshire
SN13 8NF

Headteacher: Jo French

Tuesday 18th December 2018

Dear Parents,

Governors' Christmas Newsletter 2018

So then, who's been naughty and who's been nice? Well, with Santa Claus comin' to town as I type, we're just about to find out! Tidings of comfort and joy to each and every one of you and welcome along to our governors' Christmas newsletter - packed just as full of goodies as the finest of Christmas stockings. Well, almost. Firstly, I'm sure you'll already be aware that we've recently had a couple of lovely little arrivals of our own; once again, super congrats to Grace Hobbs and Alice James and their families on the births of their babies recently - 'tis the season to be jolly indeed. Just to mention here too our thanks to all the staff and to you, the parents, for your great support over this period - we're really pleased with the way things have worked out with maternity leaves here at the school in recent months.

By now, you'll hopefully have had a browse around the new, improved school website since it's recent revamp, and if you haven't spotted it already I particularly wanted to point you in the direction of our brand-new News and Events App which is designed to make sure that you won't miss any info or details about the school and your child's particular class and activities. I've mentioned previously that we consider effective communication to be key and we think our app will complement and enhance our regular newsletters and ParentMail offerings. Please do download it to your device if you possibly can - all you need to know is on the school website:

<https://www.box.wilts.sch.uk/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events+App&pid=54>

We really are quite keen for you to get clicking, so stand by for some more app references throughout this missive!

Just to rewind a little, as autumn turned to winter here in Box our children were as busy as ever with a full and varied school life, so just time to remind you of some highlights. For a small school, we're really proud of the number and variety of clubs, activities and extra-curricular enrichment opportunities we offer our pupils. Our children benefit from music lessons that range from flute to keyboard, singing to saxophone, plus you'll be aware that we have a super school orchestra too. Box School Players provide a wonderful stage for our would-be actors while our choir has recently been out and about performing Christmas carols thus enhancing our links with our local community. At these and other clubs during lunchtime and after-school the children can take their pick from a wide range of activities and interests, so there really is something for everyone.

We also do more sport than you might think within the school. We've a year-round commitment to fitness, fun, well-being and inclusivity within the curriculum and, additionally, the pupils who choose to take part on a more competitive level always represent our school positively; this term for example we were runners-up



at the Corsham Cluster school sports netball tournament while our footballers were awarded the Fair Play trophy - well done to all involved.

On a more academic front, your support and encouragement to the children are, of course, vital to their progress and development. Each class offers four sessions per academic year where parents can come in and learn alongside their children and we've been grateful for your support for these in the past. We're often particularly asked for help with ideas for developing children's understanding and ability in mathematics and, in response to this, the staff recently put together a curriculum evening on mental maths. Unfortunately, parental attendance was somewhat disappointing, so I'd like to use this opportunity to encourage you to come along to future similar events if at all possible. Details of tricks, tips and hacks mentioned during the evening designed to enhance your little one's maths skills are available to access via our News and Events App (I told you I'd mention it again!) and it would be terrific if you could look out for details of forthcoming sessions and come along in support the work of our teachers who put huge amounts of effort into prepping and delivering these sessions which can really benefit our children.

November, of course, marked a century since the end of the First World War and naturally we were keen to mark the anniversary appropriately. We invited Corsham artist Anya Beaumont along to work with the children and this collaboration produced a tremendous piece of artwork comprising 3 doves and 100 poppies; a wonderful display graces the side of the ball court and is visible from the road. Kate Courage - our semi-resident song-writing guru - composed an original song that helped mark the centenary and this piece was showcased in a very poignant Remembrance service at the church along with Sycamore Class's fine and moving WW1 assembly.

As you'll be aware, we're always keen to enhance and elevate our pupils' educational experience with outings and adventures beyond the school gates and even during these colder and darker days our children have been out and about. This term Beech Class were lucky enough to visit Wiltshire's own wonder of the world Stonehenge, while Oak had just as much fun nearer to home at Woodland Adventurers on Box Hill. We were also lucky enough to have a trip to the Apple shop in Bath for some expert tuition and advice at a film-making workshop whilst Chestnut hugely enjoyed a great learning experience during in the dark room at The Corsham School.

To finish off then, I'm sure you all tremendously enjoyed our children's bravura nativity performances last week and I'd just like to remind you to pop along to enjoy the end of term Carol service on Friday the 21st in the church at 10am; it's always a lovely way to celebrate the start of the Chrimble hols - and we'll see you and the children back at school on Monday 7th Jan.

It just remains for me to simply wish you all a wonderful Christmastime and send you our very best wishes for an 'App-y New Year - I told you I'd mention our News and Events App again!

With very best festive wishes

Stephen Clark, parent-governor, on behalf of the governing body

