

The school elf is busy checking on the children each day to make sure they are behaving themselves and Mrs Dyer's Christmas jumpers are a thing to behold; Christmas has officially come to Withington Primary.

This Newsletter is a busy one, so please make sure you read it carefully to ensure you don't miss anything important during these last two weeks of term. We have lots planned on the last day of term, despite the 1pm finish.

I would like to officially welcome Joshua Jordan into Year 1 and Butterflies. I am sure you will have all seen him and his mum Kim around and will make them both feel welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped support the recent Poppy Appeal. I am pleased to say we helped to raise over £45 for this fantastic cause.

We will be holding our school Christmas lunch on Tuesday 18th December at a cost of £2.38. It would be great if everyone participated and had school lunch that day.

It is always nice to hear about events outside of school that our children have participated in. Well done to Etienne who recently won a trophy for being the best tennis player at his tennis club.



Have a wonderful week,

Christingle Service

Thank you to everyone that came along and joined us at the Christingle Service on Sunday 25th November in St Michaels and all Angels. The posada started its journey that night and is busy working its way through our wonderful families.



Heart Felt Tips

A huge thank you to everyone that got involved in the Heart Felt Tips initiative. The children at Withington felt real pleasure and pride in knowing that the giving of the filled pencil cases was bringing joy to other children. Over half of our families got involved. Through this initiative the children have learnt how lucky they are and that not all children are as fortunate as they are and that by supporting a process such as heart felt tips, they are supporting families in need; Thank you.



Parent Pay Balances

As we move to the end of the Autumn Term, please could all parents ensure they clear any outstanding balances for breakfast club, school dinners or after school care. It is important that as a school we keep on top of any outstanding balances and clear them as often as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

Blackwell Residential 2019

Blackwell's Residential 2019 is officially booked and our children in Dragonflies are really looking forward to our next residential. Dates for Blackwell's are Monday 24th June to Wednesday 26th June 2019. This trip is now online via parent pay at a cost of £130.

We have decided to allow a variety of payment options; there is the option to pay all in one go, or spread your payments over 6 months and details of this can be found on Parent Pay if your child is in Dragonflies.

Permission and emergency details etc. are to be made via Parent Pay. If you have any questions about the trip this year, then please speak to Teresa or Helen.

Emergency Closure Information

We would like to make you aware of the emergency closure details should, for whatever reason, the school need to close. Whilst we will always endeavour to keep the school open, there are situations when the safety of children and staff takes precedence and in this event the school will need to close.

In the event that the school needs to close, we will update the school Facebook page as soon as possible and for those not on Facebook, we will contact you via phone as well.

The official school closures list for Gloucestershire County Council can be found on the following website which is updated as soon as a school decides to shut.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>

It is really important that if you change your phone number you let Teresa in the office know, so she can update our records accordingly.

Pre-School Roves Farm Trip

Pre-School had a wonderful day on Wednesday when they all went to Roves Farm in Swindon. They loved getting onto the bus and singing songs on the journey. Despite the bus being late, they were all excited to finally get to the farm.

At the farm the children got to hold and feed lots of different animals. Excitement was huge as the children waited to visit Santa in his grotto. They spoke to Father Christmas and told him what they wanted for Christmas. Santa then gave the children a present each. Finally, the children took part in a Christmas nativity with real animals.

Fun was had by all and the Pre-School team were really impressed with everyone and how well they did.



Last day of term

We have an action packed last day of term planned for all of the children in school.

North Pole Breakfast – Our fantastic PTA will be kindly providing children with a special North Pole themed breakfast from 8:30. From Reindeer porridge to Christmas tree pancakes there will be lots of fantastic choices for children. We do need to know numbers in advance, so if you would like your child to come along then please sign up on the notice board by the office window. The menu will be available to view alongside the sign-up sheet.

Circus and juggling show/workshop – We will be having two circus and juggling shows and workshops for the children to get involved in. After each show, the children will have the opportunity to take part in a workshop where they will learn a variety of circus skills such as juggling, plate spinning and magic tricks.

Bring and share lunch – We thought a wonderful way to end the year would be to have a bring and share lunch. There is a list on the parent notice board where you can sign up for an item that you will bring along for the children to share.

Parents are welcome to arrive any time from 12:30 onwards to pick the children up, and we will officially close at 1pm.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th December – Christmas Fayre in the village hall at 3:15 – 5:15

Tuesday 18th December – School Christmas lunch

Tuesday 18th December – Christmas carols in the church

Thursday 20th December – Christmas Production

Friday 21st December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 8th January – First day back (Monday is an INSET)

