

## NEWSLETTER 7: 2019 20

Dear Parents/ Carers

Please note our attempt here to make the school newsletter a 'one-stop shop' for current information. Given this is time consuming, please do your best to read it and provide us with feedback, though please refrain from telling me it's too long.

Please note the Parent Calendar on the school website is kept up to date. It includes information about key events in the description.

Also note again – this is a trial. We are mindful that Deer Park- on whose newsletter we are modelling ourselves- has an employee whose job description is to maintain the website and newsletter. We are clearly a smaller set up but will try to find the way.

### SCHOOL VISION

#### THE VISION:

We cherish all the people in our school

Our aim for them:

***'Life in all its fullness'***

-for us this means people who are flourishing

●people who have the wherewithal to shape their own life well;

●people who take a delight in learning;

●people who are compassionate, who appreciate the value and preciousness of each and every person and all life on earth;

-hence people who help to make the world a better place.

## NEWS

[Tutunkamun Trip \(Year 3/4\)](#)—the trip to London to see this wonderful exhibition was enjoyed by all

[Skill Zone \(Year 1\)](#) - Year 1 visited Skillzone on Wednesday 6th November. The children had a fantastic time learning about how to stay safe in the park, by water, online and on the road. Inside the house they spotted hazards and dangers from raw chicken on the worktop in the kitchen to clothes draped near a fire in the living room. It was a very useful and thought-provoking day.

[Westonbirt Trip \(Reception\)](#) Reception went to Westonbirt on Thursday 7th November. It was a beautifully sunny day and the children enjoyed collecting leaves to decorate crowns, making leaf pictures and watching a man high up in a tree with a chainsaw. They especially enjoyed a lovely hot chocolate treat.

[5/6 learnt all about micro-plastics](#) during 'Flexi-Week' and put on an amazing exhibition at the end of week

[Remembrance Service](#) – the Worship Committee lead the Remembrance Service this term

[Bonfire Night took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.](#) Thank you to our PTA for organising the event.

[Rencombe Rugby Tournament](#) – girls and boys in Year 5/6 took part in a rugby tournament and won it.

[Children In Need-](#) The Charity Committee organised events around children In Need and we all had fun - raised £428.66

[Sapphire Class Assembly](#) was wonderful.

[The Stroud Book Festival](#)—some of us went to this and met some really fascinating authors who have written some stunning books.

[Aztec Cookery](#) --- Year 5/6 have been enjoying being Aztec cooks this week.

**The Poppy Appeal** – raised £165.54 – thank you to everyone that bought a poppy.

## ADMIN

### COMING UP:

**Philosophy for Children Curriculum Evening** for children and their parents on 11<sup>th</sup> December, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm in the school hall. Please come along and take part with your children in an inspiring philosophy session. P4C is central to both our ethos and to our curriculum. This session will give you a really good insight into it. Please see the website – vision and values videos – for more of an idea.

Please see the [What is P4C post](#) for more information

**Storytime Fun** for Minchinhampton's Early Years children (Nursery age) & their parents with the author John Dougherty and friends On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 2.15 - 3.00 pm: refreshments provided in Minchinhampton School Hall.

**Maths Curriculum Evening** for Year 3/4 parents and children on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.- a letter has been sent out today and reminders will come your way. Letter to follow.

**Nasal Flu Spray-** a parent meeting about the flu spray took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. It has now been delayed until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Rugby tournament** coming up- on Tuesday next- please get your slips back

**New Age Curling** – which was planned for 29<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled

**The Swimming Gala** – trials have taken place and this the gala itself is taking place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**Cyan Class Assembly** – will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 9am

**The Christmas Fair** is taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec - this time round the team will be doing everything they can to make the event environmentally friendly.

**The choir will be going to Cecily Court** –the KS2 choir – on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at 3:30pm. The KS1 choir will be going on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1:45pm

**Christmas productions**---are on Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Dec from 2-3pm and on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec from 9:30-10:30

**The Christmas Service** is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. Parents are welcome but please remember to sit to the left and right in church.

**New dates for your diary:** (note these are all up to date on the calendar)

5<sup>th</sup> December: Story Time fun for Nursery age children and their parents

11<sup>th</sup> December: P4C Experience evening

15th January: Maths Evening for parents—Year ¾

19th December: Nasal Flu Spray

## INFO

### **Daily communications:**

#### SCHOOL COMMS

The school office will email/text on School Comms.

We have not reliably used School Comms for trips- we are going to try this from here on in.

One possible stumbling block has always been access to the APP – please let us know if you have any problems with this. Please can you also make sure the office have up to date phone numbers and email addresses so we can deliver the details to you.

You can download the app, which is called School Gateway, within your app store. We would encourage parents to do this as all correspondence will then be seen in your app, rather than an individual text or email notification. This is also a very cost effective way for the school to contact you. The app is free to download and also works with Secondary Schools who use School Comms.

### **Holidays:**

Since coming back to school in September we have had a total of 10 weeks and 3 days holiday taken in an 11 week period.

**Swimming for Year 2 in the Spring term** will be for one class of children at a time for 6 week spells. A group of 45 at once was too many for the shallow end of the pool to handle and in consultation with the pool, it was felt the children would in no way lose out having less weeks given the lower numbers.

**Nasal Flu Spray-** a parent meeting about the flu spray took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. It has now been delayed until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December so as to be less disruptive. Please do fill the form in whether you intend to give permission or not—the information will be completely confidential but will help the nurses to improve the service in the future. It will also mean the immunisation team are clear about your intentions and cuts down the already slim possibility of a misunderstanding as to your intentions.

Note: if any children are actively wheezing, or have been in the last 72 hours, or experience vomiting, diarrhoea or nose bleeds after being given the vaccine, please inform the school immediately and we will feed this back to the Immunisation Team.

**Disabled Parking in the staff car park** - Please could we ask all parents to avoid using the disabled bays in the staff car park unless you have a registered disabled badge. There are members of our community who need access to these spaces on a regular basis.

**Travel to school 1: Message from Cecily Court:**

**'Residents at Cecily Court are happy to support the parents** at Minchinhampton Academy with parking facilities, but only under the following conditions:

Parking is restricted to the top two bays of the car park only

Parking is permitted between 0830 and 0915 hours, and 1500 to 1530 hours, Monday to Friday during term time only.

It has been noted by residents that some parents have been parking outside of these times and at weekends when, for example, the Firework Display was on. This limits parking for residents families and visitors, and causes the residents distress and inconvenience.

Thank you for your cooperation.'

**Travel to school 2:**

**A letter has gone out regarding parking in the zig zags.** Given that despite the time given by volunteers and school, too many cars will park on zig zag lines, the Travel Committee now feels it has no choice but to pass the registration numbers of cars to the police.

**Nits**- there has been a recent outbreak- please see here guidance for parents

**PUPILS**

**Poetry blog: Tess and Viola have started a poetry blog.** We will be going round classes collecting poems from children who are happy to put their poems on the blog. We have already put [several poems](#) up there- please go on and make a comment- it would mean a lot to us!

**Pupil blog:** the photographic club have put some of their photos on the PUPIL BLOG- please leave a comment. Please also see a wonderful powerpoint by several of our Year 6 girls.

**School Council:** The School Council are exploring ideas put forward by their classes for making the school even better. They are also looking to have a debate with a local politician about local issues

## PTA

### PTA Snippets

#### Autumn Term Fundraising Events

Over the academic year a number of events are organised by different teams of people who raise money on behalf of the PTA. The most recent being the fireworks which raised an amazing amount of money – more than £5000! Thank you to the main fireworks team, everyone else who volunteered and all the parents who came along and enjoyed the spectacular show helping to raise a lot of money for our school.

#### Christmas Trees

Are you wondering where to get your Christmas tree and also raise money for the PTA? Then look no further than Minchinhampton Christmas Trees who will be selling from the Scout hut from November 29<sup>th</sup>. If you say you are a Minch School Parent then Dave will donate 10% of your sale to the PTA. Over the past few years the PTA has received several hundred pounds, so please support him.

#### Christmas Fair

The annual Christmas Fair will be taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 12 – 2.30pm. This will include Santa's Grotto, crafts and activities, hot food and festive treat, a raffle and a number of stalls to name but a few things.

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November in return for donations of your unwanted books, teddies, bottles of wine, beer, spirits etc., toys, games, DVDs, chocolates, jewellery etc. for the Christmas Fair.

Santa's Grotto tickets will be sold daily after drop off and before pick up in the main reception from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Book your chosen time to visit Santa and receive a gift at the School Christmas Fair.

Raffle tickets will also be available with the draw taking place during the School Christmas Fair.

Another date for the diary is Breakfast with Santa on 17<sup>th</sup> December from 8am.

### How does the PTA spend the money that is raised?

This year £2000 has gone towards the cost of school trips so parents can receive them at a subsidised cost.

The PTA also has pledged annually to fund up to £2000 worth of new books for the school library.

Over the next year the PTA has agreed to fund exciting enriching curriculum developments that otherwise would not be available under the tight school budget. This will include such things as authentic lab-coats and goggles for Science lessons.

### Meetings

Every parent in the school is automatically a member of the PTA. Therefore PTA meetings are open to everyone who has a child in the school.

The next meeting will be held at the Cotswold Club on 14<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm.

We would love to see you there.

## **PARENT FORUM**

**Next Forum: coming up: [14<sup>th</sup> January](#) at 7.00pm in the school library**

Parent Forums are an opportunity for parents to discuss school policy and practice; to provide feedback and air any concerns or suggestions they may have.

### **Parent Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> November in the school library**

Thank you to all those who attended.

### Communication:

Questions: Do people know school's communication methods? Do we need to re-publish how we do it regularly? Do they work?

Discussion:

-Possibility of more all-encompassing newsletter to include all admin/ reminders as well as news—to therefore provide more of a one stop shop for info which parents still find hard to find sometimes.

-Concerns parts of website out of date – then leaves parents unsure of reliability

-Feeling that a 'school comms like system' which enabled signing up/ paying for trips etc would be very helpful. At present approach not always consistent.

Decisions so far:

-School to trial more all-encompassing newsletter

-School to solve issues around School Comms and use for trips admin reliably

Homework:

Questions: Do parents get an adequate 'window' into learning going on in class. Would it be helpful to have some ideas re engaging children with maths outside of school, as well as some more detail re maths coverage so can link the two at home?

Discussion:

-Concern from parents that don't feel able to support their children in maths because not sure what they are working on presently. Suggestion made that specific part of My maths could be opened each week (as opposed to for whole term) to reflect what pupils learning in class.

Parking

Questions: How do parents feel about travel to school situation?

Discussion:

-Concern re parking situation on Common Car Park

-Comment that even worse if events/ funeral on at crown/ church

-One option to go back to promoting walking to school

Reception/ Year 1

Discussion:

Concern re numbers now in Reception / Yr 1 playground begin and end of day- harder for new parents

Discussed ways to help new parents to come together as a group