



NEWSLETTER No.10

Friday 13th December 2019

[OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'](#)

Dear Parents/ Carers,

There has been a dynamic atmosphere at school this week, and a theatrical theme to proceedings, including the FS/KS1 children presenting their production 'Christmas Values' to two packed-out and appreciative audiences. Year 4 children have been auditioning for the Spring production 'The Jungle Book' and meanwhile Year 5/6 have been enjoying a production of 'Tom's Midnight Garden' at Cheltenham Playhouse this afternoon.

Now it's full festive steam ahead into the final week of term.

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

SCHOOL VISION

'The children can't learn if they don't play. The children must play.' Timo Heikkinen, Kalahti School, Finland.

NEWS

[Turquoise class assembly](#) last week was a quite profound and moving experience.

The PTA Christmas Fair was a [wonderful event](#) enjoyed by many. A thank you is included in the PTA section below.

Choir to Cecily Court: On Monday last week, our KS2 choir made their [annual visit to Cecily Court](#)

The FS/KS1 stage production '**Christmas Values**' brought us all a great deal of joy. Read all about it [here](#).

KS2 Aztec Instrument Making: Year 5/6 have been making [ocarinas and shakers](#).

The **Philosophy for Children** ([P4C Curriculum Evening](#)) was inspiring for all those who attended.

The children in **Year 3/4 are writing a letter to the Prime Minister**. Please click [here](#) to see where we have got to so far.

COMING UP:

Cyan Outdoor Learning with Mr Meadows on Monday 16th Dec at 1.30pm. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear.

Christmas Service: Friday 20th Dec at 11.00am in the Church. All welcome.

Maths Curriculum Evening: for Year 3/4 parents and children on the evening of Wednesday 15th January at 6pm. Please see letter sent

Walk to School Week: There will be a 'Walk to School Week' in the first week back after the holidays (6th to 10th Jan). Mr Bennett and Mr Moss will be giving out raffle tickets in the playground at the beginning of each day to those children who have walked to school. We will categorise walking to school as anyone who has walked from a distance, for example Cambridge Way or Dr Browns Rd. We will also be interviewing walkers and cyclists as to how we can continue to improve our travelling to school habits to make them healthier, safer and more green. We will try to run one of these at the beginning of each term to try to break us all into better new habits.

ADMIN

Last Day of Term: School will finish at NORMAL time (3:15pm) on Friday 20th December.

Clubs: All clubs will run as normal next week (16th - 20th Dec). There will be no clubs on the first week back after the holidays. Clubs will then resume on Tuesday 14th Jan (as 13th Jan is an INSET). Information for these will follow next week.

Dress up day donations: Thank you to all of those who supported the Christmas Theme dressing up day today in aid of Save The Children. If you didn't get round to donating to this worthy cause and would like to, please click the big red button towards the end of this newsletter.

REMINDERS

Indigo class swimming letters for next term: Please return these by Monday December 16th.

Reception & KS1 parents: Please remember to sign up for party food contributions and if possible please send your £1 entertainment contributions into the office asap. Many thanks.

Swimming for Year 3: This has now finished due to maintenance being done on the pool. Please see recent email for more details.

Year 4 PGL trip 2020: The next Installment of £50 for PGL is now due. Please may this be paid before the end of term, either by bringing cash or a cheque made out to 'Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy' to the school office.

Flu Immunisations: These will be taking place on Thursday 19th December. Please can all consent forms be brought in by Monday 16th December at the very latest. Even if you do not wish to have your child vaccinated we will still need the consent form brought back with the 'opt out' box ticked. Thank you.

Whole School: Just to remind parents/carers; please could you ensure your child has 48 hours free from sickness and/or diarrhoea before they return to school. We seem to have a bug in school at the moment and we are trying to minimise the infection. Thank you for your understanding.

Christmas fair cake makers: Please pick up your cake tins and tubs from the school office.

INFO

Reading Volunteers: We are always looking for reading volunteers. Presently we are looking, in particular, for volunteers who would be interested in reading books to individual children or groups of children. This would mean committing to 2 (at best 3) days a week when you might be able to put aside an hour of your time.

Just Giving total: Thank you so very much to everyone for their kind generosity in donating funds. The

present total at time of writing is £440.00. Please click [here](#) to go to the page.

Donations from the FS/KS1 Production Audiences: Thank you very much indeed for your kind donations. A fantastic £598.50 was raised. This will be used for pastoral support across the school.

Number of people reading the newsletter: 50.3% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.9 last week. The average Open Rate for the education and training industry is 23.42% (Source: <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>).

Holidays: Since coming back to school on Monday 4th November, we have had a total of 8 children (5 families) off school due to holidays, totaling 4 weeks and 4 days missed in a 6 week period.

PUPILS

Pupil blog: Some more photographs went onto the pupil blog this week. Please take a look and comment [here](#).

School Council: Minutes of this week's meeting:

1. Each meeting from now on will start with children's 2 stars and a wish for the whole school.
 2. Today's 2 stars: "We have fun committees...and learning is much more than being told to do work like other schools..."
 3. Today's wish: "Work on improving how people treat books in the library."
 4. Two children attended this week's leadership meeting after school.
 5. Early next year the School Council will attend a meeting with Ecotricity about how to make the school a greener place.
 6. We picked one idea from our 'Project' list to discuss in detail. We discussed having slippers in school and the positives and negatives about this idea. After this we voted that we would like to investigate the idea further because the positives far out-weighed the negatives.
 7. Our next meeting is scheduled for 20.01.20.
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PTA

Christmas Fair Thank You: We would like to say a huge thank you to the Christmas Fair organising committee, everyone who volunteered, donated items, made jazzy jam jars, bought raffle tickets and all the adults and children who came along to share in the festive spirit. All of which helped raise a lot of money for our school and make the event a large success.

Breakfast with Santa: Come and join Santa for Breakfast on 17th December 8am – 9am in the School Hall. £3 for a child to visit Santa, receive a small gift and breakfast including croissant, drink of milk/squash, piece of fruit and also a photo. £1.50 for an adult for coffee and a croissant. Parents are responsible for their children at all times during the event.

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 is currently selling from the Scout Hut . 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.

Dates for your Diary:

Quiz Night (Friday 31st January): Full details to follow, but it is time to start getting your team (of up to 8 people) together, and adding Trivial Pursuit to your Christmas list! E-mail minchpta@hotmail.co.uk to register your team.

Comedy Night (Friday 6th March): E-mail comedy2020@hotmail.com or message Sophie Muir through Facebook for your tickets.

We hope you find this new newsletter format helpful and we would welcome any feedback.

With very best wishes from all at Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy.

DIARY DATES: December 2019

Mon 16th: Cyan Outdoor Learning
Tue 17th: Breakfast with Santa
Tue 17th: Yr 5/6 Christmas Party
Tue 17th: KS1 Choir at Cecily Court
Thur 19th: Flu Immunisations
Thur 19th: FS/KS1 Christmas Party
Fri 20th: Christmas Service - 11am (all welcome)
Fri 20th: Yr 3/4 Christmas Celebration

Mon 6th Jan: First day of new term
Mon 6th Jan: Walk to School week begins
Tue 7th Jan: Indigo class swimming begins
Fri 10th Jan: Karl Nova visit (Year 3/4)

Mon 13th Jan: INSET day
Tue 14th Jan: Clubs begin
Weds 15th Jan: Year 3/4 Maths Curriculum Evening

[Go to PARENT CALENDAR](#)

LETTERS

Whole School

Reading Letter
&
Christmas Presents for
Staff

FS/KS1

Christmas Party Letter

Year 2

Swimming (Indigo)

Year 3/4

Christmas Celebrations
Letter

Year 4

PGL Letters

[Go to LETTERS](#)