



Headteacher's Message

Thank you very much for your lovely donations for our Christmas hampers. Our raffle is going well and will be drawn at the Christmas Performance on Thursday.

At the Summer Fair Miles Jefferson won the auction to be Headteacher for the day. Yesterday Mr Jefferson arrived at school smartly dressed for his day as Headteacher. He was great fun and a delight to work with. He measured and ordered new classroom tables for Diamond Class, visited Ash Library and the Co-op to give them the school Christmas Card, asked Mrs Thorn to tell you about the amount of money we raised from the Poppy Appeal as well as taking phone calls. Miles had lunch with the teachers but insisted on going out to play afterwards! Thank you to Miles.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Cawson, Headteacher

Christmas School Disco

On December 20th we will be holding our Reindeer Run. We hope that everyone has been able to put just a little bit into the Phyllis Tuckwell envelopes that were sent home a fortnight ago. If you have lost your envelope you are welcome to use a standard envelope that is clearly labelled with 'Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Run'.

All children will be receiving the antlers and noses, but to add to the fun the children may wear home clothes on the day—festive jumpers or colours are especially welcome!

Please ensure that clothing and footwear are suitable for a normal school day. No dressing up costumes please.

School Lunches

Week commencing 12th December we will be on **Week 1** of the dinner menu.

Christmas Service



IMPORTANT!

Weather permitting, we will be walking all the children to Church for a Christmas Service on 19th December. We will be leaving school at 1.15pm. **During this time the school will be locked and unmanned as all staff will be attending church with the children.**

If you are able to help with the walk to church, please let Mrs Thorn know. You do not need to be DBS checked as you will not be left unsupervised with the children.

Children who attend an after school club will be walked back to school by staff.

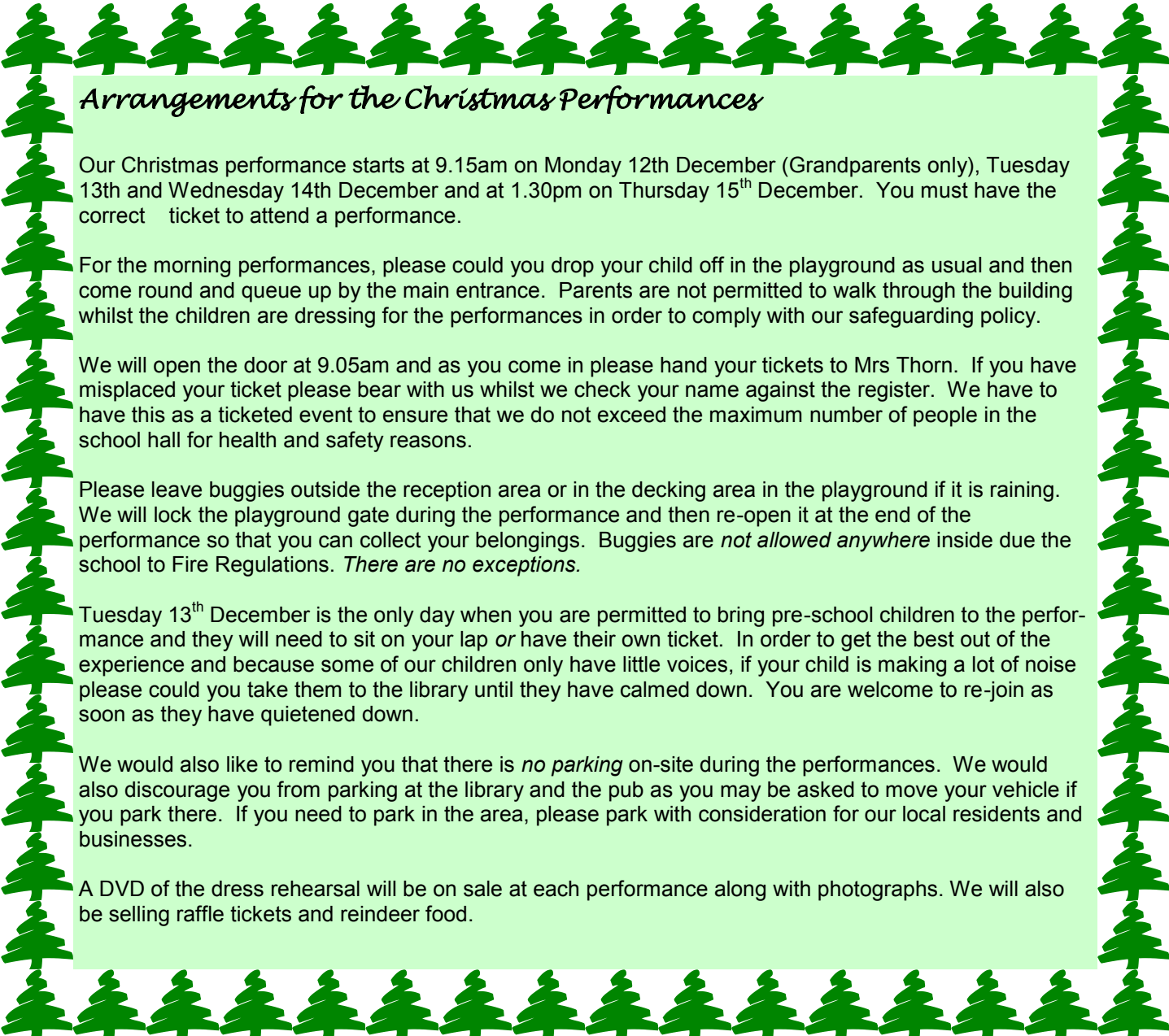
If you are not walking to church with the children and they are not going to an after school club, you will need to collect your child from St Peter's Church at 2.45pm on this day. Please wait outside the main door until we open it, you can then collect your child and leave through the exit on the left hand side of the church.

Poppy Appeal

We are delighted to tell you that we collected £197.96 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you all for your donations to this very worthy cause.

Raffle Tickets

Thank you so much to everyone who has purchased raffle tickets for our Christmas Hamper Draw. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets and you have not yet done so, please return your books to school before Monday 12th December, ready for the draw after the final Christmas Performance on Thursday 15th December.



Arrangements for the Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performance starts at 9.15am on Monday 12th December (Grandparents only), Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December and at 1.30pm on Thursday 15th December. You must have the correct ticket to attend a performance.

For the morning performances, please could you drop your child off in the playground as usual and then come round and queue up by the main entrance. Parents are not permitted to walk through the building whilst the children are dressing for the performances in order to comply with our safeguarding policy.

We will open the door at 9.05am and as you come in please hand your tickets to Mrs Thorn. If you have misplaced your ticket please bear with us whilst we check your name against the register. We have to have this as a ticketed event to ensure that we do not exceed the maximum number of people in the school hall for health and safety reasons.

Please leave buggies outside the reception area or in the decking area in the playground if it is raining. We will lock the playground gate during the performance and then re-open it at the end of the performance so that you can collect your belongings. Buggies are *not allowed anywhere* inside due the school to Fire Regulations. *There are no exceptions.*

Tuesday 13th December is the only day when you are permitted to bring pre-school children to the performance and they will need to sit on your lap *or* have their own ticket. In order to get the best out of the experience and because some of our children only have little voices, if your child is making a lot of noise please could you take them to the library until they have calmed down. You are welcome to re-join as soon as they have quietened down.

We would also like to remind you that there is *no parking* on-site during the performances. We would also discourage you from parking at the library and the pub as you may be asked to move your vehicle if you park there. If you need to park in the area, please park with consideration for our local residents and businesses.

A DVD of the dress rehearsal will be on sale at each performance along with photographs. We will also be selling raffle tickets and reindeer food.

Emerald Class Cake Sale

The Emerald Class Cake Sale is on **16th December** at 3pm in the playground. Please could Mummies and Daddies donate cakes for the class to sell on this day. All proceeds will go directly to Emerald class.

Sapphire Class purchased some lovely equipment using their cake sale money. This included:

- Frozen and Superheroes dressing up costumes
- Playmobile school set
- Dragonia game
- Dragon and Princess colouring books
- Marble Run
- Pokemon Encyclopedia

Sapphire Class generously donated 50% of their takings to the Freddie's Friday cause ran by Eagle Radio #TogetherForFreddie.

Christmas Cards

On Monday 12th December our Christmas post boxes will open for children to send cards to their friends. There are three post boxes, one for each year group and they will be placed near to the classrooms of each year group. To help our Postman, a member of staff will assist the children in ensuring that they are being posted in the box for the correct year group.

If your child is sending cards to their entire class, please pop the cards in a bag or secure them with an elastic band as this will help our distribution process!

Lost Property

If your child has lost a jumper, coat, scarf etc, have a look in the lost property basket by the entrance that you come in through in the morning.

Named items are returned to their owners, so please do ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled.

Mathematics

At Walsh Memorial we aim to instill a love of Mathematics and encourage children to become confident learners. We build essential mathematical knowledge, develop and embed key skills and challenge and extend the children's thinking. We make learning experiences enjoyable, motivating and exciting and encourage all children to participate and celebrate perseverance and resilience as important skills. We provide open 'rich tasks,' open-ended problems for the children to solve, which help to foster an enquiring mind.

Why are 'open ended maths problems' important?

Integral to the new curriculum is a deepening of the child's understanding and you may have heard the term 'mastery' or 'mastery with greater depth.' Research has found that all pupils benefit from more enrichment and deepening of content, rather than acceleration into new content.

What are open ended mathematical problems?

All types of mathematical problems serve a useful purpose in mathematics teaching, but different types of problem will achieve different learning objectives. Open-ended types of problems have greater potential for stimulating higher order mathematical thinking. This is partly because they usually involve a search for patterns and relationships between elements in the problem.

A major advantage of solving open problems and investigations is that there are multiple solutions, and problem solving should be about valuing independence and individual ideas, and being given opportunities to be creative and develop creative thinking through:

- The process of enquiry and investigation and a systematic approach
- Mathematics skills and knowledge and a quick recall of basic facts having sufficient depth of knowledge and understanding to reason and explain mathematical concepts and procedures and use them to solve a problem
- An ability to identify patterns, relationships and generalise in mathematics
- An awareness of the uses and applications of mathematics in everyday language
- The ability to express ideas concisely using accurate mathematical language
- The ability to select and use a range of mathematical tools
- Developing discussions about what they have found out and beginning to justify their answer and reasoning
- An enjoyment of mathematics

Parental Guidance

Mathematics (Page 2)

Have a go at solving this open ended rich task – this can be a fun investigation to solve with the whole family.

Card Sharp

Take ten cards numbered 0 to 9



Pick three cards with a total of 12.

Can you find 10 different ways to make 12?

See if you can record them all.

Now pick four cards with a total of 12.

How many different ways can you do it?

A good website to visit for more open ended rich tasks is www.nrich.org

Have fun problem solving together!

Parental Guidance

| Date | Event | Time |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Autumn Term 2 | |
| 12th December | Dress Rehearsal of the Christmas Performance for Grandparents with tickets | 9.15am |
| 13th December | School Christmas Performance (adults and pre-schoolers with tickets) | 9.15am |
| 14th December | School Christmas Performance (adults only with tickets) | 9.15am |
| 15th December | School Christmas Performance (adults only with tickets) | 1.30pm |
| 16th December | Emerald Class Cake Sale | 3.00pm |
| 19th December | Christmas Church Service (all year groups). Walkers are needed—no DBS check required. Parents need to collect their child from church unless their child is going to an after school club. | 2.00-3.00pm |
| 20th December | School Disco | 5.00pm-6.30pm |
| 20th December | School Christmas Lunch for children | |
| 21st December | End of Autumn Term | School closes at 1.10pm |
| | Spring Term 1 | |
| 3rd January | Start of the Spring Term | 8.45am |
| 15th January | Deadline for Junior School applications for all Year 2 children | |

Dates for your Diary