



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1st December 2016

Diary for Term 2	
Monday 5 th December	Panda Class Egyptian Workshop
Monday 5 th December	9am, 2.30pm and 7pm 21st Century Children: New Ideas for New Challenges Parents Workshop
Tuesday 6 th December	NSPCC Assembly
Wednesday 7 th December	Free Violin trials at lunchtime
Thursday 8 th December	Legend of the Golden Dragon
Friday 9 th December	2.45pm: Scenes from Matilda by Panda Class, All Welcome
Friday 9 th December	Football after school club – double session
Monday 12 th December	2.00pm: Reception & KS1 Nativity, All Welcome
Tuesday 13 th December	5.30pm: Reception & KS1 Nativity, All Welcome
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch – please order online with Aspens
Wednesday 14 th December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in the Church All welcome
Thursday 15 th December	6.00 – 7.30pm: Christmas Disco
Friday 16 th December	Last day of Term 2 – finish at 2.00pm
Tuesday 3 rd January	INSET Day – No children in school
Wednesday 4 th January	First Day of Term 3

At Checkendon Primary School this week...

School Values Ambassadors

Ivy has been helping with worship this week, setting up the hall, leading prayers and reading from the Bible.

PE and School Sport

Last week a group of children from Panda class took part in a mixed football tournament at Langtree. The tournament took place on what turned out to be an extremely cold and windy afternoon but that didn't stop our enthusiasm. Everyone put in maximum effort and played really well with some great results. The children played 7 matches in total winning 4, drawing 2 and losing 1 which put us in 4th position out of 8. Well done! The Olympic value awarded was for excellence and went to Aedan.

Worship in school this week

Term 2 theme: Friendship

Friends Again

We heard the story of *Lucy's Quarrel* by Jennifer Northway and learnt about the importance of forgiveness.

Updated policies

Music, History, Geography and PE Subject Statements have been updated and are available on the web site.

What have we been learning in school this week?

Owlet Class

Owlet class have begun learning about the nativity this week. We have made advent calendars and are working on Christmas art. Mockit's pets, the beebots have been helping us perform simple programming instructions. As Christmas is getting nearer Mockit may have to go back home to his own planet soon.

Owl Class

Owl Class completed their weather reports and showed them to their parents on Friday. Parents, if you want a copy, please come in with a memory stick, as the videos are high definition. This week, we interviewed Mrs Seymour's mother about what toys and Christmases were like in the 1950s. We found out so much about how home life has changed within living memory.

School Council News

At our meeting this week we looked at the individual class votes for the most popular play time activities and produced a school summary. This revealed that whilst catching games, skipping, balls and hoops are all popular activities, few children had voted for balancing games and so we will remove this from the weekly playground equipment rota. We then considered whether we have enough equipment for the activities we intend to continue and decided that it would be useful to have more of the Velcro catching games as these are popular with children. Also, as some of the skipping ropes are getting old it would be useful to replace some of these and have more long skipping ropes for group games.

We then looked at the new ideas for playground activities suggested at Class Councils and decided that bats and balls would be a popular replacement for balancing games.

Six members of School Council will now meet with Mrs Seymour to discuss our ideas after researching the cost of the replacement equipment.

21st Century Children: New Ideas for New Challenges Parents Workshop

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday for one of the workshops; so that we can plan accordingly, please return the slip to book your preferred time slot.

Thank you

A big thank you to Julia Butler for organising this year's book fair, to Mary Ann Jones for helping and for all your support in purchasing so many books which in turn raised over £300 worth of books for the school. Mrs Seymour is writing her shopping list with much enthusiasm and we hope the children will enjoy all the new books that will be appearing in the library soon as well as the ones you have purchased, thank you.

Christmas is coming...

As Christmas is just around the corner we are looking forward to celebrating this special time at Checkendon in a number of ways. Our festivities start with *The Legend of the Golden Dragon* performance, which tells of how a young shepherd answers a riddle and marries the emperor's daughter; how foul plots force him to run away and hide in the mountains and how he discovers that he has the power to change himself into a Golden Dragon. Following this production we are very much looking forward to the Owlet and Owl production of 'Born in a Barn', which promises to be a very enjoyable retelling of the Nativity story. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without roast turkey and all the trimmings being served on Wednesday 14th December. We hope you will all be able to join us for the Christmas service in church on the same day at 6.30pm where we will be singing traditional carols and lively Christmas songs led by Mr Boyer. Much excitement and dancing is expected as the children party away at the annual Christmas Disco, please don't forget to buy your tickets. On the last day of term we are being treated to a performance by Langtree students, the script for which was written by a former Checkendon pupil! There are many exciting times in store for us over the next few weeks as we enjoy this special time of year together as a school community.

Fund raising for our School Association without doing anything!

Why not collect free funds for our school whilst Christmas shopping online? Simply register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonprimaryschoolassociation

Then every time you shop at some of your favourite stores like Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, M&S you will earn vital funds for the play tower and other school projects. Thank you for your support.

NSPCC's 'Speak Out. Stay Safe Programme

As part of our PSHE curriculum, representatives from the NSPCC visit the school every other year with a *Speak Out. Stay Safe* programme. During a whole school assembly on 6th December, they will be talking to pupils about how to keep safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. If you would like any more information about the NSPCC *Speak out. Stay safe* programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools.

Spring Term Clubs

Please find attached to this email, details of a music club being offered by Emma Davies next term. Judging by the popularity of the Christingle Choir, we are expecting places to fill quickly, so please do return your form and payment by Monday 12th December. Elestr will be offering a FREE violin trial on Wednesday 7th December to all children at lunch time, please do encourage your child to come along if they are interested. The last few spaces are available for the pottery club which will take place on Mondays after Christmas, please sign up in the Office by Friday 2nd December to secure a place.

Thank you very much to all those who returned the Clubs Feedback forms; we had 28 in total and were delighted that we had so many positive responses. Parents reported that their children enjoyed all these clubs: football, drama, dodgeball, quidditch, gymnastics, archery, art, tri-golf, magic, pottery, running, badminton, French, equestrian, sand art, rounders and science! There were some requests for clubs that we have actually trialled in the last 18 months but which had to close because take up was too low, these include dance, judo, Mandarin, gymnastics and science. We will try again with these if we can, but it seems unlikely that the take up would be significantly different. Some clubs were requested that we already have in the pipeline for the coming term, these include French, pottery and gymnastics. Other suggestions were Conquermaths, homework, tennis, choir, cooking and woodwork. Given our limited food technology facilities, it may be impossible to offer cookery, but we will certainly look into this and all the other ideas put forward.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give their views.

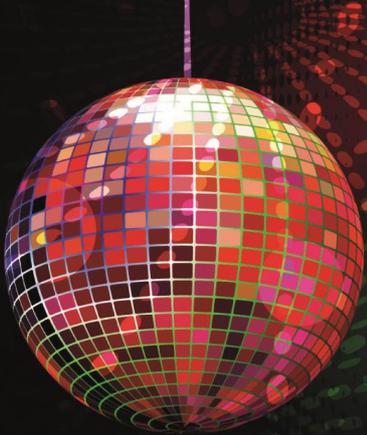
Poppy Appeal and Samaritan's Purse Thank you

Please find attached to this email a thank you from Samaritan's Purse for over 30 shoeboxes donated to Operation Christmas Child. We have also received a receipt from The Royal British Legion for our collection in aid of the poppy appeal, which raised £80.60. Thank you very much to everyone who supported these charity fundraising events.

School Christmas Disco

For tickets to the School Christmas Disco, please contact Louise Maze or Wendy Butler.

S C H O O L D I S C O



**Thursday
15th December
6-7.30pm
Tickets £5.00**

All years welcome BAR FOR ADULTS TOO!

Entry includes crisps, drink and a glow item • Tattoos on sale – 50p each

School Tea towels

Don't forget to order your school tea towel on the next few days to guarantee we have a sufficient number available.

Arrangements for Emergency Closure of the School

On rare occasions, for example during extreme weather conditions or when the school has no heating or water, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors may have to take the decision to close the school. It is school policy to keep the school open if at all possible, but there are occasions when it would not be possible to operate the school within the health and safety requirements.

In the very unlikely event of an emergency closure during the school day, the school will contact parents via the telephone or email contact details kept in school. All children will be kept safely until collected. Please ensure, therefore, that the school has your up-to-date daytime contact details.

In the event of an emergency closure before the start of the school day the school will notify Oxfordshire County Council and the local radio stations and will send a group email to all parents who have sent emergency contact email details to the office. If parents need to find out whether or not the school is closed they should:

- Check their email if they have asked to be contacted by email;
- Look on the county public website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures;
- Listen to the announcements of the local radio stations:
 - BBC Radio Oxford – VHF/FM 95.2
 - Heart FM (Oxfordshire) – VHF/FM 102.6
 - JACK FM – VHF/FM 106.8

Parents are advised not to call the radio stations otherwise switchboards can become jammed and prevent the radio stations receiving information from schools. Parents may attempt to call the school, but the school cannot guarantee that there will be someone in the office to man the phone.

Our hot school meals are prepared in the kitchen at Langtree School and delivered to Checkendon in time for lunch. Langtree School may be closed on days when Checkendon School is open. We ask therefore that, if there is snow on the ground but Checkendon School is open, parents assume that hot dinners will **not** be delivered, cancel their lunch online and send their child with a packed lunch.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 14th December

Please don't forget to order Christmas lunch for your child for Wednesday 14th December, any existing orders for roast pork will need to be changed as the system does not update automatically to the new menu choice.

Term 2 - Extra-Curricular Activities

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	YEARS	ORGANISERS
Monday	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-4.30	Drama Factory (19.9.16-05.12.16)	Yrs 2-6	Berzerk 07976 652742 Josh Buckland
Tuesday	(S.R.Pavillion) 8.00-8.30	Running Club Run by Stoke Row School but offered to Checkendon Pupils	Yrs 3-6	Stoke Row Running Club Elise Way - eliseway@hotmail.co.uk
	09.45-10.05 Sep – Dec 2016	Woodwind	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service Tel: 07958 537157
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	Violin	All	Elestr Lee Tel: 0118 9478685
	3.30 – 4.30	Netball (14.9.16-14.12.16)	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
Thursday	11.10 – 11.30 From January 2017	Woodwind	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service Tel: 07958 537157
Friday	08.00 – 08.40	Dodgeball (18.11.16 – 9.12.16)	All	Paul Meakin 07976 651635
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	(Outside/Hall) 3.30-4.30	Football (16.9.16-9.12.16)	All	Pro-Direct Tel: 07921 726332
	Library	Guitar	All	Russ Payne Tel: 07921 087816

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th December
Monday 5th December

Panda Class Egyptian Workshop
21st Century Children: New Ideas for New Challenges Workshop

Tuesday 6 th December	NSPCC Assembly
Thursday 8 th December	Legend of the Golden Dragon
Friday 9 th December	2.45pm: Scenes from Matilda by Panda Class, Parents Welcome
Friday 9 th December	Football after school club – double session
Monday 12 th December	2.00pm: Reception & KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 13 th December	5.30pm: Reception & KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 14 th December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in church all welcome
Thursday 15 th December	6.00 – 7.30pm Christmas Disco
Friday 16 th December	Last Day of Term 2, finish at 2pm
Tuesday 3 rd January	Inset Day – no children in school
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	First Day of Term 3
Monday 9 th January 2017	2.30pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Thursday 2 nd February 2017	Parents Forum, all welcome
Tuesday 7 th February 2017	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 8 th February 2017	from 3:30pm: Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 th February 2017	from 3:30pm: Parents' Evening
Monday 27 th February 2017	2.30pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Wednesday 1 st March 2017	2.15pm: Ash Wednesday Service, all welcome
Thursday 27 th April 2017	Bluebell Walk
Mon 8 th – Thurs 11 th May 2017	KS2 SATS
Monday 8 th May 2017	2.30pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Thursday 25 th May 2017	Parents Forum, all welcome
Friday 9 th June 2017	2.00pm: Pentecost Service & May Pole Dancing, all welcome
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th June 2017	Phonics Assessments
Monday 12 th June 2017	2.30pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Thursday 6 th July 2017	Reports Issued
Friday 14 th July 2017	Sports day
Monday 17 th July 2017	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 21 st July 2017	Leavers Service

Church Services & Community Worship		
Christmas Service	Wednesday 14 th December 2016	6.30pm
Community Worship	Monday 9 th January 2017	3.00pm
Community Worship	Monday 27 th February 2017	3.00pm
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday 1 st March 2017	2.15pm
Community Worship	Monday 8 th May 2017	3.00pm
Pentecost Service & Maypole Dancing	Friday 9 th June 2017	2.00pm
Community Worship	Monday 12 th June 2017	3.00pm

INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017
Friday 7 th April 2017

Parents Forum	
Thursday 2 nd February 2017	2.30pm
Thursday 25 th May 2017	2.30pm

Parent Consultation Evenings and Reports		
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 8 th February 2017	3:30 - 5:50

Parents' Evening	Thursday 9 th February 2017	3:30 –5:50
Reports issued	Thursday 6 th July 2017	

Checkendon Church warmly invites you to a

**Christmas Coffee
&
Mince Pie Morning**

in Checkendon Village Hall,
Saturday 5th December, 10.30am - 12.30pm
No Charge!

Raffle

Produce Stall

A free Book Exchange

A free Children's Craft Table

A display of pre- and post-war Hornby and Basset-Lowke Trains

A chance to catch up with old friends, meet your neighbours, and get into the seasonal spirit!

tel 01491 683737

Whitchurch Christmas Market - Sunday 4th December, 11am to 3pm

The Whitchurch-on-Thames Christmas Market will again be held at Whitchurch Primary School from 11am - 3pm on Sunday 4th December. This year we are so excited to be adding an outdoor ice skating rink for children and adults to enjoy (please email whitchurchiceskating@gmail.com to book your slot, tickets from £6). We will have Santa returning in his grotto (tickets £3 including gift and opportunity to write, decorate and post your own letter to Santa), some wonderful local craft and gift stalls and many children's activities. There will be hot food and drink stalls outside around the ice rink including mulled wine, Camper Café selling teas and coffees, Home-made organic food provided by Farm to Table Produce, The Bowler meatballs and vegballs and curry from Lina Tandoori. We will have an indoor café seating area and be selling home-made mince pies and cakes. We will also be holding a raffle with some amazing prizes including dinner for two at the Crooked Billet, two premier enclosure badges for Newbury Races, a Sunday roast for four at The Elephant Hotel and lots, lots more (please email carolinejacollins@gmail.com to buy your raffle tickets). It's a great community event that is suitable for all ages, with something for everyone to enjoy. All proceeds are in aid of Whitchurch Primary School. We would like to thank all our sponsors: The Co-op Pangbourne, The Elephant Hotel, The Ferryboat, The Sun, Warmingham and Whitchurch Bridge Company for their kind support. Put the date in your diary and come along for lots of fun-filled festivities!

Checkendon C of E Primary School accepts no responsibility for the organisation of external events.