



We wish you a Merry Christmas!

We are getting very close to the end of a busy and successful term and the festive season is now fully upon us!

Despite the hectic nature of this time of year, the children are still working hard and showing very positive behaviour whilst in school.

On December 5th we held our annual Christmas carol service at St. Peter Mancroft Church. Thank you to all the parents, relatives, staff and pupils who came to this very special event. Once again, the church was a fitting venue for our service and we were made to feel very welcome by everyone at St. Peter Mancroft. The service was a wonderful occasion, as always, featuring some beautiful singing by our choir, and excellent performances by the orchestra, glockenspiel, brass and woodwind groups and Year 5 singers. The service was completed by a traditional nativity 'tableau' by some Year 3 children and some excellent readings by Year 6 pupils. Altogether, over 180 children were involved in this year's service. We are very proud of everyone who took part and we were pleased to have lots of positive feedback from parents and relatives. Thank you to the many members of staff who came along and especially those who work so hard to make the carol service such a highlight of the school year: Miss Comfort for her excellent work with the choir and above all, Mrs Penwill, whose expertise and enthusiasm are a huge factor in the carol service's success.

Once again, our wonderful choir have also visited Oak Court Care Home, to entertain the residents with a selection of Christmas songs.

There have been lots of other events and activities going on too. On 22nd and 29th November, the PTFA held Bingo and Chips sessions for the children. There was a great turn out on both days, with lots of fun and excitement. Thanks very much to the PTFA for organising and running these events.

This week the children have been having their Christmas dinners, complete with crackers and drinks, courtesy of the PTFA. The children have been served by a team of Year 6 pupils, all of whom wrote letters of application for the 'job' of waiter or waitress. The team of waiters and waitresses also help to prepare the hall and clear up afterwards-thank you to all of them for doing such a great job and helping make the Christmas dinners such an enjoyable experience for all the children. Thanks also to Angel, Sarah, Angie and Donna in the kitchen for all their hard work preparing and serving the delicious food.

Next week we have the PTFA Christmas discos on Monday December 17th (details have already been sent out) before the last day of term, Tuesday December 18th.

As many of you know, Mrs Wells is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her second child earlier this year. She will be returning to school, to teach in 3WM, after the February half-term holiday. Mrs Skepelhorn will continue to job-share with Mrs Moulton up until Mrs Wells' return.

I am pleased to announce that we have recruited a new Teaching Assistant to join our team. Saffron Haylett will start working with us on Thursday 3rd January and will spend the majority of her time supporting children in 4E.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I hope all our children and families have an enjoyable and restful holiday.

Paul Henman
Acting Headteacher



Please note:

The first day of next term is
Thursday January 3rd.



Message from our Chair of Governors

It was a joy to be part of the congregation at St Peter Mancroft on Wednesday 5th December. Many congratulations to all the children and staff involved. The carol service takes careful planning and time to rehearse, and that it went so smoothly and was so successful shows the care, commitment and enthusiasm of everyone. I think it was the best I've heard 'It was on a Starry Night' sung.

To say it has been a challenging term is an understatement. Paul Stanley's absence and our understanding of the seriousness of his illness and the treatment required, stopped the whole school in its tracks. The response from everyone has been tremendous and shows that we really are a caring community. The governors are particularly grateful to Paul Henman, Mary Wilson and Sam Jones for being prepared, without hesitation, to take on the additional responsibilities necessary to ensure that the school continues to run successfully. They have been magnificently supported by all the staff and the children. Thank you.

At our last governors' meeting we welcomed Matt Lambert as parent governor. This means that for the first

time in a couple of years we don't have any vacancies on the governing board. However, we are always interested to hear from parents or members of the community who would like to know more about becoming a governor. You can contact me via the school office or speak to Paul Henman. We are aiming to have updated governor photos in the entrance area next term.

Governors also approved our Annual Governance Statement which can be found in the Governors section under Key Information on the school website. This explains the work governors do and our roles and responsibilities regarding the school's continuing development and success. If you have any questions or comments about the statement, please get in touch.

The recent frost is a clear indication that winter has arrived. Within the hustle and bustle, the queues for Chapelfield car-park and all the preparations for Christmas and New Year, it is sometimes hard to find time to gather breath and relax. Two of the key messages of Christmas are 'hope' and 'peace'. With this in mind, on behalf of the governors, I wish all the children, staff, parents and carers, and your families a 'hopeful Christmas' and a 'peaceful New Year'. I'm also sure you will join with me in wishing both of those especially to Paul Stanley and his family, and they will be most definitely in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks.

Chris Wilson-Town



Reports and Learning Reviews

Brief interim reports for each child will be issued on 11th January and our first learning reviews of the year have been scheduled for January 16th and 24th. These will be an opportunity for the children to share and talk about their work with their parents/carers, and to discuss the interim reports and your child's progress and achievements. More details will follow early next term.



Football Tournament

A few weeks ago the Year 6 boys played a 7-a-side tournament at The Nest. After winning all of their 4 group games, without conceding a goal, they progressed through to the knockout stages. In the quarter-final and semi-final they played some magnificent football winning both without conceding again, scoring some fantastic team goals and showing what a great team they have become. And so, with the light fading, the final got under way. Unfortunately, the opposition scored an early goal on the break and although our boys fought back well and kept the pressure up they were unable to get an equaliser.

Mr Loughlin



Cross Country race

On the 7th December, a brave group of 10 pupils participated in the Eaton Park cross-country league fixture. Despite a morning of torrential rain, the event went ahead and the team did the school proud. Through puddles, mud slides and grassy banks, our intrepid athletes pulled off some great individual and team results. Our boys' team was down a runner so Huey, Logan, Ethan and Dylan had to run their best as all of their results would count towards the team score. Logan sailed to a confident first for the third consecutive race and Dylan secured an impressive 8th. With Huey and Ethan pulling in great results too, the boys' team currently sit 3rd out of 20 schools in the league. The girls had a great race too. Aaliyah led from the front with a self-prophesied (on the bus!) top ten finish and the two 'pacey Gracies', Macy, Tallulah and Jasmine all pulled together to push the girls' team to 6th in the league. Well done to all of our runners and thank you to our super supporters. Our next race will be on the 31st January at Langley Taverham Hall. If you also like mud, rain and competitive team sports, why not join the school cross-country club? See the clubs list for more details.



Mr Jones

Healthy Snacks

As an 'National Healthy School', we have a healthy snacks policy; break time snacks should be fresh or dried fruit only, or fresh vegetables (carrots, celery sticks etc). The school kitchen sells mixed fruit or vegetable bags at breaktime, along with fruitbread. Chocolate and crisps are only allowed as part of a packed lunch. Sweets are not allowed at all. Please could all children and families refer to this policy when sending in snacks for children to eat at break times. **Thank you.**



Tackling the Spread of Infection

Stomach bugs, sickness and flu can spread very easily at this time of year, and all schools in Norfolk have recently been affected by a number of nasty viruses and sickness bugs.

The Director of Public Health for NHS Norfolk and Waveney says:

"We urge parents of children who fall ill with sickness and diarrhoea to ensure their children do not return to school until 48 hours after they were last sick or had diarrhoea. We understand entirely how difficult this can be for families, with the pressures of work and issues of childcare to juggle. However it is probably right to say a child who is sick might well have caught the illness from someone who was sent back to school before the infectious period had passed. Our aim, with this advice, is to prevent illness spreading within schools and causing more families distress."



If your child is sick, it is highly likely that it is the result of a sickness bug and they will still potentially pass this on to other children and staff if

they return to school less than 48 hours after they were last sick (even if they appear to be well). Recently a number of children have been sent back to school less than 48 hours after the last sickness episode and we have had to contact parents and ask them to collect their child from school. We realise that this is inconvenient but unfortunately it is likely that sickness bugs have spread because children have come back to school too soon.

We are not medical professionals and can only apply the advice and guidance that the experts give us; we ask parents to respect this advice and work with us, for the good health and wellbeing of all.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Attendance certificates

Attendance certificates for the Autumn Term will be sent out before the Christmas Holiday. We have made a slight change to the way these work. There will now be one certificate for 'excellent attendance' which will be awarded to all children who have an attendance percentage of 98% or over.

Charity Donations

The grand total for children in need raised by the school was £1065.78.



For the Poppy Appeal we raised £164.85



The NSPCC sponsored maths challenge raised £558.28.



Many thanks for all of your donations.



Merry Christmas

GRESSENHALL

Year 6 took a trip back in time with a fantastic visit to Gressenhall. The children met different characters from a Victorian workhouse who were all suspects in a murder mystery. Throughout the day, they were inquisitive and discovered what life was like in a Victorian workhouse. In the role of detectives, they were superb at following the clues and this resulted in them solving the crime and extracting a shocking confession from Nel Kitchener (the cook). Inspired by the events, the children produced some excellent newspaper reports back at school.



GRESSENHALL
FARM AND WORKHOUSE
MUSEUM OF NORFOLK LIFE

PTFA Christmas Disco

Monday 17th December

Year 3/4: 6pm-7pm

Year 5/6: 7.15pm-8.30pm

Please pay £2.00 on 'School Money', in the shop section. Alternatively you can pay £2.50 on the evening.

Disco tickets will be issued on Monday 17th December.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.



Lost Property

We have an ongoing issue with lost property, with many items not being named.

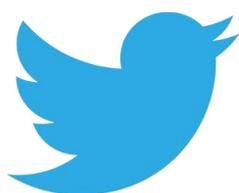
All items named will be return to the child but anything un-named after Christmas will be disposed of. Many Thanks.



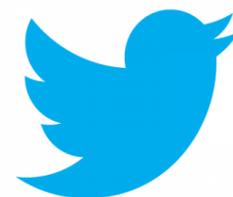
Come and tell the ladies in the office how many Elves are in the newsletter!



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December	
Mon 17th	PTFA Christmas Disco
Tues 18th	End of Autumn Term
January	
Thurs 3rd	Spring term begins
Mon 7th	Bags to School sent home today
Fri 11th	Interim reports out to parents
Weds 16th	Learning reviews (3-6:30pm)
Thurs 24th	Learning reviews (4-8pm)
Thurs 24th	Deadline for Bags to School to be returned
Thurs 24 th	Life in Ancient Egypt Day - Year 3
Friday 25 th	Life in Ancient Egypt Day - Year 3
February	
Fri 8th	PTFA Quiz and Chips
Mon 11 th	Year 6 Caythorpe and SAT's meeting (6pm)
Fri 15th	Last day of half-term
Mon 25th	New half-term starts for staff and children
March	
w/b Mon 4th	Book week
Thurs 7th	World Book Day
Tues 12th	Cake Concert
Fri 15th	Comic Relief
Weds 27th - Fri 29th	Yr 6 Caythorpe Residential Trip
April	
Wed 3rd	PTFA Easter Disco
Fri 5th	End of Spring Term for children
Tues 23rd	Summer Term starts for staff and children
May	
Weds 8th	Learning reviews (3-6:30pm)
w/b Mon 13th	SATs week
Thurs 16th	Learning reviews and Yr 6 open evening (4-8pm)

Thurs 23rd	PTFA BBQ (4:30-7:30pm)
Fri 24th	End of half-term
June	
Mon 3rd	Start of half-term for staff and children
Weds 12th	Summer concert (6pm)
Thurs 13th	Summer concert (9:15am)
Fri 21st	Music showcase to Yr 2/Yr 3 children (new time of 10:30am)
Tues 25th	Yr 2/Yr 3 multi-sports event
Weds 26th	New Yr 3 parents meeting (6-8pm)
Thurs 27th	Yr 3/Yr 4 sports day
Fri 28th	Yr 5/Yr 6 sports day
July	
Fri 5th	Transfer Day (provisional date)
Mon 15th	End of year reports sent out to parents
Tues 16th	Yr 6 show (1:30pm)
Weds 17th	Yr 6 show (6pm)
Mon 22nd	Yr 6 awards assembly (9am)
Tues 23rd	PTFA disco and leavers' BBQ
Weds 24th	Leavers' breakfast Leavers' service End of Summer Term

TERM DATES 2018-2019

2018 / 2019	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Thursday 6 th September	Thursday 18 th October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 29 th October	Tuesday 18 th December
Spring Term 1	Thursday 3 th January	Friday 15 th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 25 th February	Friday 5 th April
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 23 rd April	Friday 24 th May
Summer Term 2	Monday 3 rd June	Wednesday 24 th July
INSET DAYS	<i>4th and 5th September 2018</i>	
	<i>18th October 2018</i>	
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	<i>Monday 6th May 2018</i>	

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Dates for Staff Training Days may need to be altered.
Notice will be given if this proves to be necessary.***

