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8th December 2017

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Dear Parents/Carers

I'll be honest with you – I thought I was going to struggle with this month's newsletter. I didn't think too much had happened during November and I thought this newsletter might be a little thinner than other recent ones. How wrong I was! A quick scan of my calendar and our Twitter feed has revealed a huge variety of events and activities that we have had and have got coming up, so you might want to make a cup of tea or coffee and settle down for a read.

Remembrance



On Friday 10th November, we held our Remembrance Assembly to remember those who fell in armed conflict during World War One and beyond. A huge thank you to all the parents who sent their children in with money to buy a variety of poppy related items in the week or so prior to the service and I am delighted to let you know that we raised over £300 for the Royal British

Legion who still support our armed forces so brilliantly.

Sparkle

The 17th November was the school 'Sparkle Night' held at Crouchers Country Hotel in aid of our FPTA. A big thank you to all those companies who sponsored tables at the event and to those parents who not only paid for their tickets but also bid on auction items such as an annual car park pass for West Wittering Beach and hand-made jewellery. With our massive thanks to the FPTA, we raised a total of **£2,200** for the school during the evening.

Road safety

Parents are reminded please that they must not park on the yellow lines outside school at any time, but particularly during pick up and drop off times. Our JRSOs are reporting any number plates in to school and we will be issuing safety cards to parents. Please consider all our childrens SAFETY when parking outside school.



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Punctuality

We are launching a punctuality trophy to be won every month by one class with a small prize attached for all the children. This morning 16 children arrived after 8.50. Doors are locked at the side of school shortly after, so please ensure your children are in the playground by 8.50am so that they can be ready to start the day with their peers.

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Christmas fayre

Our Christmas Fayre took place last Friday when we also had a non-uniform day in return for a bottle or cake for our stalls. With our very grateful thanks to the parents that supported the event, we raised a total of **£850** for the school. Amazing! Well done everybody.



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Carols by Candlelight jam jars



If your child is in Y3 – Y6, then next Thursday evening is our 'Carols by Candlelight' concert in St James' church at 6.00pm. Please send your child in with a battery operated tea light in a jam jar which we will use to light the church during the evening. The flickering candles cast a beautiful light which makes the event very atmospheric.

If you would like your jar and candle back, then please make sure it is named!

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Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December is our Christmas jumper day when we ask that children wear any Christmas jumper and donate **£1** to *Save the Children* to support their vital work in countries where children lead lives so different from our own.

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This is also the day where our FPTA come in to school and serve the children their Christmas lunch. If your child is in Y3 and above and you haven't yet paid the **£2.30** for their lunch, please would you do so as soon as possible. Money can be left with the school office or your child's teacher.

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Hockey



On Thursday 7th December, all the children that have been playing hockey in our after school club went along to the Westgate Centre to participate in a Quicksticks hockey tournament. There was some training and then time for 3 short games of which we won all 3! Congratulations to those children for taking part so well.

Maths workshop



On Wednesday, Mrs Farrell held a 'Working Wednesday' maths workshop for orange class parents. We were visited by approximately 20 parents who came to see how we learn maths and to help us if we needed it. All the parents agreed it was very good and gave them a clearer idea of how to help with homework and supporting the learning at home.

Cathedral visit

We also sent Orange class children to Chichester Cathedral for a school visit. The accompanying staff, coach driver and cathedral volunteers all commented on how brilliantly the children behaved during their time there. The class was divided into small groups who were then given a volunteer to show them around and look for things that they might not ordinarily see. One group had the chance to sit in the choir stalls and sing a Christmas Carol, and the special lights came on while they were singing.



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Fishers Farm Park



Red class took their teachers and helpers to Fishers Farm park where they had a brilliant day! First of all they had a talk about the animals and were allowed to stroke and feed the animals. They then took part in an aerial assault course at the tops of the trees before climbing all over the wooden fort in the grounds. After lunch they went on a tractor and trailer ride which went all over the farm. Red class had a lovely day and the best part was 'all of it!' I wish I had been there!!!

Op Christmas Child shoe boxes

Thank you so much to everyone who donated gifts for our shoe boxes. We created 10 boxes full of things for children aged 4-11 in the classrooms and we had lots of things left over, so we were able to create 4 more boxes! All the boxes have been delivered to the charity now and will soon be shipped overseas to where they are most needed.



As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoy your break, re-charge those batteries and we will see you in 2018! Remember you have an extra two days holiday, so school starts on **Monday 8th January 2018.**

Kind regards

Mark McCadden
HEADTEACHER

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Dates For your Diary:

December 2017

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| 12 th – 13 th | KS1 Christmas Play |
| 14 th | KS2 Carols by Candlelight – Birdham Church |
| 15 th | Christmas lunch and jumper day |
| 20 th | Last day and service in Birdham Church |

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January 2018

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| 4-5 th | Two INSET days |
| 8 th | First day back to school |
| 16 th | Chichester Festival Theatre visit (whole school) |

February 2018

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| 9 th | INSET day |
| 12 th | Start of half term |

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