



A message from Mr Bladon:

As we look back over a packed Autumn Term it's only right that this newsletter is a bumper edition. Just looking at the past fortnight shows what a busy time we've had at school and I'm so proud of everything the children have achieved this term!

Having spoken to many of you, I know you will share my delight at the KS1 play "A King is Born" last week. The children from Squirrel and Hedgehog class were all stars, telling the Christmas story with some catchy songs and "hashtags"! One of the audience members told me it was lovely to see a traditional Nativity tale told with "such finesse" and I've had many compliments from other parents too. Well done to all the staff who worked on this – particularly Mr Carter and Miss Diggle. Parents did a wonderful job with the costumes as well and the PTFA, After School Club and the School Council ran refreshments too. The School Council raised £28 for their chosen charity, Wateraid – you'll hear more on that next term. Well done everyone!

We've had a great time with the community this term too. Just this week Fox Class has been singing carols at the Toucan café and Barnhaven Care home. Tiverton Lantern Parade was again a success and it was good to be involved in this important Tiverton Learning Community event. In case you haven't heard, the PTFA raised a staggering £1068 at their Shopping evening and I know the village tree in the new position is getting lots of praise – a very festive evening! The PTFA Film Night was popular on Wednesday too with popcorn and festive films for all the children.

Parents do so much for our school; helping us with day trips, reading, cake sales and much more. It makes such a difference to the children and I know the staff and I are extremely grateful.

Christingle Making went well this week. Thank you to the PCC and Miss Coney for providing resources, not to mention Rev Kev who made the all-important dash to the shops for red sticky tape and sweets! It's always a popular activity and some of the very youngest children impressed teachers with their knowledge of the symbolism of "Christ Light". We have made a few extras to take with us to Church on Friday as the majority were eaten on the way home! There are some pictures on the school website of our Christingle assembly. There's been some great Tweets this week on our Twitter feed too – look at the left hand side of the school website for those if you don't already have Twitter.

Hedgehog class had a very festive time at Knightshayes on Tuesday! They learned all about a Victorian Christmas and made Satsuma Pomanders to take home with them. Miss Diggle tells me they all felt very warm and "Christmassy" inside the beautifully decorated house. Thank you for all parents who helped on this trip.

Sadly we say farewell to two members of staff this term. Mr Pestaille is moving on to new ventures and we wish him well – I'm sure we'll still see him around school. Mr Carter is moving to a new school in Bath and a new role as Head of Science as well. Those of you who have seen him in action in his Science Club and WOW days know his enthusiasm and knowledge on this subject. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and initiative inside school and in the local community in his time here. He came to us as an Newly Qualified Teacher and I know he has a successful career ahead of him and there are some lucky children he is about to teach.

Following a competitive recruitment process we have appointed Mr McCutcheon to replace Mr Carter. He is an experienced teacher from Bristol with a keen interest in literacy and he has led KS2 and Reception. He is relocating locally with his family. Due to contractual crossovers, he will start with us after the February half term. In the meantime we welcome Miss Thornborough to teach Squirrel class from January. I know her from her teaching at

Term Dates (*more dates on [school website](#)*)

Thurs 4 Jan: Spring term starts

Mon 8 Jan: Y1-6 Lego Robotics Day

Tues 9 Jan: 3.00 Y6 London Residential parents meeting

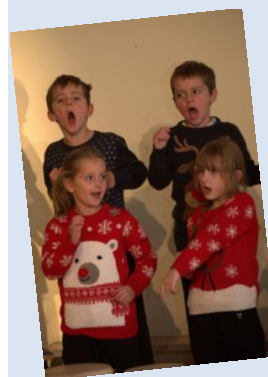
Mon 15-Fri 19 Jan: Y6 London Residential

Wed 24 Jan: 3.00pm Parent Voice

Week comm 5th Feb: Parent Consultation Week

Mon 12th -16th Feb: HALF TERM

Sun 25 Feb: 1st Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk



Woolacombe School and the Federation has enabled her to come across to us. She is an excellent all-rounder with a keen interest in Maths and loves Bampton School. We are looking forward to welcoming both Miss Thornborough and Mr McCutcheon.

You may have already heard that Miss Johnstone will take over from Miss Diggle to cover her maternity leave which starts later next term. Mrs Melmoth has been appointed to cover Miss Johnstone's temporary secondment. I am pleased to announce that this week we have appointed two new Teaching Assistants across the school to help support the children.

On the subject of staffing, I must say a big thank you to all the staff at school. This has been a busy term full of wonderful events, professional training and also sickness. Each member of staff has gone above and beyond to ensure the smooth running of the school, meaning last minute changes or even splitting their lunch breaks into a "split shift"! It is appreciated. Thank you.

We have much planned for next term already. The "Youth Speaks" teams have been rehearsing with Mrs Jones for a few weeks now. Some of the Year 6 head off on the London Residential in mid-January and Year 4 are looking forward to their Bristol residential in March (*still spaces available – see office*). Practice walks for the Exmoor Challenge are scheduled for later in the term. As a result of the very positive reaction from parents and children we have been able to subscribe to SumDog for the rest of the academic year. Mr Gill is continuing to support children with that and I know you've been impressed by this app.

To tie in with our Space and Robotics topic, Miss Grimshaw has organised a fantastic Lego Computing workshop in the first week of term. Children will learn how to build and program robots and write algorithms. It will be a brilliant introduction to the topic which will also see them visit "We the Curious" in Bristol later in the term.

We'll be adding more to the school calendar over the Christmas break including more Parent Voice dates and some Parent Workshops on both Maths and Literacy. Again, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone; children, staff and parents for such an amazing term full of positivity and enjoyment. My door is always open for anyone to chat through any queries they might be having.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, with family and friends and that the children enjoy the magic of Christmas with you.

See you next term on the 4th January!

Take care,



Next term's lunch menu is up on School Gateway. Please pay up any arrears on Autumn 2nd Half Menu. Any outstanding balances will be transferred to Spring 1st Half Menu early next term.