

*Our 6th Newsletter - keeping parents informed of the School's new events and important information - Please see our recent Christmas Newsletter and recent staffing up date/newsletter sent to all children and to email addresses*

Tuesday 13<sup>h</sup> December

Dear Parents,

**Thank you so much to Mrs Kirsten Davies for an excellent Christmas Fair. Her vision organisation and execution of the day was superb! There was something to interest everyone and her mince pies were to die for! Thank you, Kirsten, for making it such a fun time for everyone. £840.00 was raised for school funds! Well done everyone for supporting such a wonderful event!**

### **1. Leadership and Management**

A word from the Chair of Governors – Mrs Amelia Bridges while Lorna Ward is on maternity leave.

"Thank you to everyone who completed a parent questionnaire over the last month; almost 50% of parents responded and your comments were all very helpful.

Not surprisingly, the changes to staffing over the last year are a cause for concern amongst many of you. We completely understand this and, alongside the Head Teacher, are working hard to provide as much continuity as possible whilst ensuring high standards of teaching.

We are so lucky to have the high quality and dedicated teachers and support staff that we do and the children are benefiting from this in terms of their overall behaviour, feeling safe and happy, and achieving high standards of learning.

A number of parents asked for music lessons and more sport. These activities would come at a cost to individuals who take part, but it is something we will look at in the New Year.

We know how important it is to communicate with parents and some of you thought it could be better. We've made a start; the new format newsletter that Mrs Cawthra has instigated has received a lot of positive feedback; the recent parent evenings allowed you to ask class teachers how you could help your children with their learning, and remember their doors are always open. If you have any questions or concerns then simply talk to them. And finally we are going to review the website in the New Year and make sure it provides you with as much information as possible. Thank you again for your ongoing support. We will continue to update you with developments."

**Also please use <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>**

Amelia Bridges Co-opted Governor

Parent Governors: Leila Evans and Matt Teeling

### Chair of Governor's Baby News

I'm sure you will echo our best wishes for Lorna Ward and her new baby Nara; neither Lorna nor her baby Nara, have been very well at all, over the past month. We send them all our love and a speedy recovery to them both. \*\* I've just had some very positive news that they are now out of danger and things are improving. Thank goodness for that! Take great care Lorna – We all send our love and kindest regards.

## 2. Teaching and learning

### **Christmas learning experiences for all! Well done everyone!**

We are beginning many Christmas learning experiences and the children have begun to learn about the Christmas story.



Our Leading Learning partner Mr. Yeoman visited our school last week and made some very positive and delightful comments about our school, the children and the teachers. His report will go to Governors soon. He was extremely complimentary of the children's work in their books, the progress they make and the overall teaching and learning in classes. Leadership and Management, including governance of the school, was a great strength. We are all delighted with this outcome. The teachers and office staff all work tirelessly in and out of school. I thank them so much for their wonderful efforts this term. I will inform you in more detail when we receive his report. Thank you for all your care and support and not least, for your most wonderful children!

### **Some new faces to welcome!**

We welcome Mrs Amelia Allonby in Yr 3 and Yr 4 who returned to work last Friday. We are delighted to have her back as her help and support will be invaluable

We welcome Mrs Sarah Baysting as a Teaching Assistant in Yr 5 and Yr 6. Mrs Baysting is an experienced assistant and we hope will bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and understanding to her role.

We welcome Mrs Sarah McNair in our office. She has generously come into school before she begins after Christmas, to learn the ropes from Mrs Davies before Mrs Davies leaves us this week!

Mrs Davies' Leaving Party is on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Please do come and say good bye to Mrs Davies as she departs from our school after 14 years' of loyal and amazing service. We will all miss her terribly. She has worked tirelessly for our school for many years. Please bring something to eat as we form a 'bring and share' table of cakes sandwiches and nibbles /goodies to be enjoyed by everyone. I will provide the drinks!



Please do come and wish Mrs Davies well in her new job in Salisbury!

## **3. Behaviour, wellbeing and safety**

**Winter weather reminders** - Please be careful coming to and from school as the weather gets colder, ensure your child is wrapped up against wind and rain. Please be mindful of Grateley not having street lighting and drive carefully in cold/icy conditions.

If we have snowy weather we will always text you to let you know if the school is open or closed (depending on the severity of the snow).

Children's behaviour is much better these days. They are calm and focused most of the time.

Thank you for all those who have supported us during the past few months to get the children calm and settled. My mantra has always been happy, calm and settled children learn so much better! Well done children!!



### **Parking - A Plea from our Neighbours**

Please may I ask that parents/carers do not park in driveways when visiting the school, also during pick up and drop off times. I would also remind parents that they must not park in the bus stop, on the pavement or on the zig-zag lines outside the school. Thank you for your help with this.

## **4. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education**

A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Morrell, for donating to the school a magnificent, real Christmas tree. It has been decorated and is now standing proudly in the hall for all to see and appreciate!



Other Christmas dates: - please note in your diaries

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Wednesday 14th December – KS2 led - Christmas Carol and Christingle Service at St Mary's Church Andover at 6pm – 7pm – all are welcome! *Children will need to be dressed in School uniform and bring their completed Christingle orange please.*  
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Thursday 15th December - Children's Christmas lunch

Thursday 15th December - Christmas jumper and/or Christmas disco clothes in readiness for the PTA Christmas disco at 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the hall tickets available from Mrs Edds in the playground after school. Bus children can bring in their £2.50 in a named envelope and hand it to the office.



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Friday 16th December – last day of school, please do wear your Christmas jumpers again if you want to and Mrs Davies PARTY!!!! At 1.30pm to 2.30pm then final assembly

#### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 Christmas Christingle Service at St Mary's Church, Andover, 6 – 7pm. All children.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch for children in school – 'Christmas Jumper' day.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Davies' Party at 1.30pm and last day of school

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Inset Day school closed for children

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – First day back for children

Note some new dates (all in school hall)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Parent questionnaire, feedback opportunity, to meet Mrs Cawthra 7pm-8pm

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Radicalisation/Prevent duty/Exploitation/ Safety – training with Mrs Cawthra 7pm-8pm

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Yr 6 open discussion evening with Miss Bailey, Mr Holmes and Mrs Cawthra on the theme of "Growing up" Yr 6 only - 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January - Anti-bullying and positive behaviour management evening 7pm-8pm

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Maths Workshop for Parents 7 – 8pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Internet Safety Week – opportunity to meet Mrs Cawthra to discuss internet safety 7pm-8pm

20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Helping your child read well! Mrs Cawthra 7pm - 8pm

10<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Holidays

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Bank Holiday

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day school closed for children

29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – School Photographer – class photos 1pm

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Inset Day school closed for children

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Summer holidays

#### Websites of the week

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<http://www.ictgames.com/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/promo?partner=google&campaign=1239&adGroup=IXL+-+Misspellings+-+General&gclid=CMSz8MvKm9ACFbMK0wodQSQGCw>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Some of these sites will help your child with maths and English – some have a price tag however they may be of interest to you.

*Thought for the week* - 'Amid the noise, the traffic, the loud parties, the drinking, the celebrations, the bother of planning and preparing for Christmas, the presents, the turkey, the Christ Child is born - quietly and gently - waiting for us in a manger.'

That just leaves me to wish Mrs Davies all the very best as she begins her new work in Salisbury! We will miss her hugely and I won't know what to do without her. Please bear with us as we try to replace her in the office! Mrs McNair and I will do our very best to accommodate all your needs.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas with your beautiful children. It's a very busy time as many of us prepare for visiting family and friends and it can be exhausting. So, take great care of yourselves and each other. Thank you for reading this letter.

Kind regards,

**Trudie Cawthra**

**Acting Head teacher**

"Be kind to each other"

### **Safeguarding Children at Grateley Primary School**

Grateley Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This means that we have a Child Protection Policy and procedures in place which we refer to in our prospectus. All staff, including supply staff, volunteers and governors, must ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Parents and carers are welcome to read the Policy on request. Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

#### **Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:**

Mrs T Cawthra – Head Teacher

Miss D Knights – Class Teacher

#### **Safeguarding Governor is:**

Mrs Sarah Jarman

#### **Our Chair of Governors is:**

Mrs Lorna Ward

If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please record your concern, and any observations or conversation heard, and report to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads as soon as possible on the same day.

**DO NOT** conduct your own investigation.

If your concerns relate to the actions or behaviour of a member of staff (which could suggest that he/she is unsuitable to work with children) then you should report this to the head teacher in confidence.

If the concern relates to the Head Teacher you contact the Local Authority Designated Officers, LADO, on 01962 876364, who will consider what action to take.