



# December Newsletter

## Number 41



Dear Parents & Carers,

*Christmas is coming,  
The headteacher's getting fat!  
Don't forget to come to school  
In gloves, scarf, coat and hat!*

Poetry over with, it's been a long time since our last full newsletter and a great deal has happened since then. Two school inspections and snow days later and we are hopefully now back to business at full speed for the remainder of the Autumn Term (perhaps Winter Term would be a better name for it!)

### OFSTED INSPECTION

The long awaited phone call finally arrived the week after half term, giving us 48 hours notice of the arrival of Ofsted. Our lead inspector Mick Pye spent two full days with us and did a very thorough job.



The process was very demanding but on balance positive. Unlike the previous inspection Mick was able to give a great deal more in terms of guidance for future development and this can be added to the plans we already had in place to address the areas that the inspection highlighted. The outcome may appear, on the face of it, to call more for Lucozade than champagne but we now have a much clearer picture of where we are and where we very much want to be.

Our aim from here is to be, not just a good school but an outstanding one. We have all the "materials" to achieve this and I am confident that, by working well together, pupils, staff, parents and governors, we will be able to move things forward quickly and successfully. We will be organising a meeting in the Spring Term to plan how we can better work together to achieve

this big goal and I hope that many of you will be able and willing to get involved.

I would like to thank all the parents, staff, pupils and governors who contributed to the process and spoke so highly of the work we do, not least of all the care and support we offer the children.

### CHURCH SCHOOL INSPECTION

As a Church of England Primary School, certain elements of the school's work and approach are not inspected by Ofsted but instead come under the remit of the Church of



England. We therefore had two inspections, the second being on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November when we were joined by Mrs Susan Thompson, a Diocesan officer and inspector.

As with the main Ofsted, the criteria for judging the school have moved on significantly since the last inspection and therefore it is much tougher and more specific about expectations. In particular the way in which Church Schools reflect their Christian foundation and how key Christian values are used (in an inclusive manner) to underpin the ethos and work of the school.

As a C of E school we have a legal responsibility to have a distinctive Christian character and we have done a great deal to do this in a user friendly, inclusive manner. However there are still some areas to develop as the report, which will be published later this week, indicates. These include greater involvement of pupils in planning and leading our daily assemblies and how we can develop the outside areas to provide space and opportunity for quiet thinking and reflection. (I have a plan!) We will include discussion of these things at our meeting.

## FUND RAISING & CHARITIES

### Bag2School

Thank you to those of you who donated clothing shoes and bedding. We raised a fantastic £129.60 and will be spending this on books for the children.



We have another collection booked for Wednesday 4th May 2011 and bags can be dropped off from 26th April. Please think of us when you are having a clear out.

### Easy Fundraising

We have raised over £80 so far this year and Christmas is an ideal opportunity for you to raise money for the school as you do your Christmas shopping online - and it won't cost you anything!



Simply log on to:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westhoathlysch>

and click on the green Sign Up button. Alternatively come into the school office and Mrs Allen can sign you up and give you a quick demonstration.

### Poppy Appeal

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November we held our special remembrance assembly with parents attending as well as staff and pupils. It was a very reflective and moving occasion, including the two minutes silence. Our contribution to the Poppy Appeal this year was £31.41. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Despite the early snow and the enforced closure of the school, Christmas is still to come! Here are the details of the arrangements between now and the end of term. Brace yourselves!

## Nativity Play



The infants are hard at work rehearsing their Nativity production entitled "The Innkeeper's Breakfast". Please encourage your children to make sure they know all their lines (if they have a speaking part) and the words to all the songs.

The performance for **parents** will be on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at **9.30am** in the school hall. As in previous years we would ask that children under school age do not attend this performance. The children have worked hard to prepare for the play and it is a shame if they cannot be heard due to the cries of younger children.

The children will be giving a repeat performance for the school children and preschool on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at **9.30am**. If any parents with younger children, who cannot attend the performance above due to child care issues, would like to attend this performance they would be most welcome.

### School Association Christmas Fair



Due to the weather this event was postponed from last weekend. It will now be held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December** starting at the later time of **1.30pm** and running until **4.00pm**. Please come along

and join in the fun, a great deal of preparation has been done and it promises to be a really enjoyable occasion.

### Choir Carol Singing at Horncastle House



A number of pupils who have signed up for our Christmas choir have been rehearsing in preparation for the School's Christmas Carol service and also to

sing for the old folk at Horncastle House on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at **11.00am**. Mrs Lyford will contact parents of the children concerned separately to arrange transport.

## School Christmas Lunch



Our school Christmas lunch will be on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. I am looking forward to mine! Mrs Staples is well on the way with the preparations.

## School Carol Service



Our school Christmas Carol Service, led by the Junior Choir and Classes will be on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm in St Margaret's Church**. You are all invited to join us for this service of readings, carols old and new, prayers and a game of "pass the parcel" (sounds interesting, I hope there will be chocolate inside). Come along and help us celebrate the Christmas Story once again. If you are able to attend you are welcome to take your children home direct from the church afterwards.

## END OF TERM & NEW YEAR

The Autumn Term ends on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. Spring Term begins (weather permitting - hopefully there will be no more snow!) on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** at the usual time of 8.45am. We have an INSET day on the 4<sup>th</sup> January to work on the development of the curriculum, so the school will not be open on that day.



## SNOW DAYS

Due to the weather we were forced to close last week but we hope that the methods of communication we used proved helpful. In addition to the website we also sent out emails to everyone on our list. If you did not receive these emails then please contact the school office to ensure that we have your email address correct.



I'd also like to say big thank you to everyone who helped to clear the snow off the school playground on Saturday. It is very much appreciated.

I think that is just about everything for now so I say "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

Adam J. Earle - Headteacher

## DATES LIST

### SPRING TERM

#### January 2011

- 4 INSET Day - School Closed
- 5 Spring Term Begins
- 14 School Prayer Meeting @ 2.15pm

#### February

- 14-17 Curriculum Week - "Telling Tales"
- 17 "Telling Tales" Special Assembly - 2.00pm
- 18 INSET Day - School Closed
- 21-25 Half Term Vacation
- 28 Parent Consultations (3.30pm - 5.00pm) *TBC*

#### March

- 3 Parent Consultations (3.30pm - 7.00pm) *TBC*

#### April

- 9 End of Spring Term
- 11-21 Easter Vacation
- 22 Good Friday - School Closed
- 25 Easter Monday - School Closed

### SUMMER TERM

#### April

- 26 Summer Term Begins

#### May

- 27 INSET Day - School Closed
- 30-3 Half Term Vacation

#### June

- 6 INSET Day - School Closed

#### July

- 22 End of Summer Term