



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER No 4

15th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems incredible that the end of term has already arrived! Looking back to September, I am once again amazed by all the events that have taken place this term and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you give to your children and to the school. Your help makes a world of difference!

We would like to warmly welcome Megan Foxwell and her family who have joined us in Hawks class this term.

Thank You!

We would like to thank the following people for their very kind donations:

Melissa Beard (mum to Matthew in Falcons class) who donated a periscope, Charlotte Gray (mum to Phoebe Gray in Puffins class) who donated a Police Bubble car and Michelle Rankin (Mum to Lennox Mok in Starlings class) who donated a small picnic bench for Forest School.

Our thanks also go to Danny Molloy (Dad to Elsie Molloy in Starlings class) at Tesco's in West Durrington and the staff at Tesco Express in Goring Way for their very generous mince pie donations towards Campfire Carols.

Christmas Fayre

Once again the FEPS team worked extremely hard to put together a really wonderful Christmas event which was packed to almost bursting point!

We would like to say a particular thank you to Megan Howdle, Andrea Chapman and Kelly Lasham who worked behind the scenes with the Junior School team to make this event a huge success. They achieved a fantastic net profit of £3,789.60 which will benefit both Infant and Junior Schools.



Staffing update

Some of you will be aware that at the beginning of December Ms Shelley Rose, our Caretaker, was offered the position of Teaching Assistant at East Preston Junior School. We are obviously delighted for her and I am sure that you will join us in wishing her every success in her new post. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Shelley for all her hard work at the school over the last few years.

We have recently advertised for a new Caretaker and interviews will be taking place on Monday.

Building works update

I am sure you have watched the new building going up this term with as much interest as we have and I hope that during Open Morning next week you will have an opportunity to look around the internal remodelling that took place in the summer break and during the course of this term.

Mrs Owens, Mr Hill and I have all now moved into our temporary offices at the rear of the school whilst our old rooms are being converted into new Y2 toilets. The builders will finish working on Wednesday next week when the school closes for the Christmas break and they will resume again when we return in January. I am pleased to inform you that all is going according to the schedule and that we are still on track to move into the new building at Easter.

I would once again like to thank you all for your support and consideration this term. I know that for some of you there have been some long walks round to the office and that there have been a few queues at the gate during drop off and collection time, but your patience has been highly valued.



UNICEF Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who made donations at the end of our Christmas performances. We raised a grand total of £361.17 which will be sent to UNICEF.

Thank you also for the kind feedback you have given us about this year's performances. The staff and children work very hard each year and it is lovely to hear your comments when you have enjoyed it!

Pantomime Donations

Thank you to all those parents and carers who donated additional money for the pantomime to support those families who were unable to contribute – your very generous gesture is very much appreciated.

thank
you!

Parking

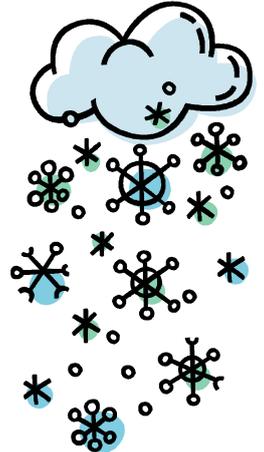
The Parish Council have received a complaint from a local resident about inconsiderate parking in Lashmar Road during school pick-up and drop-off times. His complaint is that parents are parking on the corners of Orchard Road and Cotswold Way, making it impossible for the residents of those roads to exit safely.

We are very aware that the vast majority of parents show consideration for others when parking and that it is just a small handful who do not, but could I please ask once again for all parents to park considerately and be mindful of the safety of not only our children but also that of our neighbours, thank you.

School Closure Procedures

It's that time of year again when the weather forecast starts to hint at snow falling in our area! We can assure you that we do not take the decision to close the school lightly and only do so when deemed absolutely necessary.

If the situation does arise, please check the school website or listen to Spirit FM, Splash FM or Heart FM who read out lists of school closures regularly between 7.15am and 9.30am and detail local school closures on their websites. In addition, if we have your mobile number then you will receive a text message via the 'Call Parents' alert system. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fiona Waller and Mrs Sue Woodcraft who send out the text alerts and update the website in order to inform parents and staff as quickly as possible.



Falconer's Trust

Thank you to everyone who donated their change to the Falconer's Trust appeal. We are delighted to announce that we raised the grand total of £126.47. This will go towards helping get all the Christmas boxes delivered to the orphanage.

Governors' Corner

This week I was lucky enough to see both the Year 2 and Year1/Reception Christmas plays. A huge well done to all the children - everyone a star! Thank you to the staff for putting together such amazing productions and bringing the Nativity story to centre stage.

As the term draws to a close, on behalf of the governors, can I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Dates for your Diary

Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher





Diary Dates

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday 18 th December | - | pm Christmas parties |
| Tuesday 19 th December | - | 9-10am Open Morning – all welcome
1.45pm Christmas at Our Lady Star of the Sea |
| Wednesday 20 th December | - | am Whole School Pantomime 'Puss In Boots'
Terms ends at 3.15pm |

The term will restart for the children on Thursday 4th January 2018

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Thursday 4 th January | - | 'Three Little Pigs' event Y1 |
| Friday 5 th January | - | 'Three Little Pigs' event Y1 |
| Monday 22 nd January | - | INSET DAY ** |
| Friday 9 th February | - | Term ends at 3.15pm |

The term will restart for the children on Monday 19th February 2018

Other INSET days:- **Monday 22nd January 2018 ****
 Friday 16th March 2018
 Monday 4th June 2018

**** *Changed from Friday 9th February 2018***





Friends of East Preston School

Christmas Fayre



First of all we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made this year's Christmas Fayre the amazing success that it was. I'm sure that you will agree with us that in spite of all the building works and general disruption, it was a fabulous event.

We saw the Solar Dome transformed into a magical Santa's Winter Wonderland (see our Facebook page for photos), complete with fake snow! And the many, many volunteers manning the stalls throughout the school.

Thank you to everyone involved from donating to making, gluing and wrapping, hanging and serving. There were many, many volunteers who all worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event happen.

And a special thank you to Mrs New, as it was down to her that we even had a Fayre this year! Also thank you to all the staff who have put up with us walking through their classes and using all their free spaces!

We raised an amazing £3,789.60 to be split between the two schools to buy much needed resources.

Bake for Syria

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bake for Syria cake sale run by the School Council. Over £145 was raised and sent to UNICEF UK to go towards warm clothing and boots for the children of Syria. We had a lovely message on our Facebook page left by Joe from UNICEF UK – "Thank you so much for all of your efforts in keeping children safe and warm this winter. Thanks to everybody involved for all of your hard work! "



Aviva – Community Fund Grant

Unfortunately, we weren't lucky enough to get into the voting stage this year. However, Aviva are generously putting £100 towards our playground project! Watch this space for next year!

Southern Co-Operative Grant

We have had some success with grants to replace the Play Trail. However, with the Southern Co-op giving us £300 towards our project! Thanks Co-op!

Cash for Carriers



We have also been successful in gaining a grant from the One Stop Shop 'Cash for Carriers' grant program, where all the money collected from the sale of plastic bags goes back into the community. We applied and were granted £2,000 to purchase an interactive whiteboard for Falcons (Year 2) classroom which was the only class in the school who didn't have an interactive whiteboard. Hopefully this will be installed before the children come back from their Christmas holidays.

If anyone hears of any grant program that they think the school could apply for, please let us know!

Coming Up

Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th January

COMMITTEE

Megan Howdle: Co-Chair
Andrea Chapman: Co-Chair
Christabel Charrington: Secretary
Kate McCarthy: Treasurer

CONTACT US

You can email us at fepis@epinf.co.uk, message us on Facebook – 'FEPIS – Friends of East Preston Infant School', join our group 'FEPIS Organising Team' or leave a message with the School Office.

Thank you and Merry Christmas everyone!

Megan & Andrea