



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter 13

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Orchard Class have been developing their teamwork skills this week as part of PSHCE, with a challenge to build the tallest freestanding tower in 5 minutes. They have also been designing "spy gadgets" in English and writing persuasive texts to entice others to buy them. They are now in the process of creating ideas for the "Best Christmas Present". Through doing this, they will apply their persuasive writing skills.



Reception have been enjoying the hot chocolate station and the winter wonderland village this week. They have been particularly developing their fine motor skills through Hama beads, peg boards and lots of creative Christmas activities. Next week we will have a Christmas workshop. Please can we ask for a little donation - If you have been really organised this year and have wrapped your presents already, any spare wrapping paper you have would be hugely appreciated on Monday. We have some but the children tend to get through it extremely quickly.



Pippin have been busy creating their own set of instructions this week. They started by creating some instructions to trap Miss C. We planted some chocolate and coffee and hid behind the tables whilst we waited for her. The plan was so foolproof that we managed to trap her! They are now writing their own instructions on trapping something of their choice. Don't be scared when going to the forest because the children in Pippin definitely have the skills to protect you.

Please can reception parents ensure they are looking at the memo part of Tapestry, there will often be weekly challenges sent here to be completed at home. When you read the memo,

please can we ask that you press the like button so we can be sure you are receiving them.

Musical performance

Today Orchard Class were treated to a musical performance by two of their class, Helena and Dylan, who took their Grade 1 cello exam this week. They performed their grading pieces for the class, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs Hovil. Well done to both children. We look forward to some more performances next week by Pippin Class and the school choir!



Virtual Parents Evenings

Parents evening emails have been sent with details of sessions next week when the teachers will be available to speak to parents about children's progress. Please reply to the email or call the office to sign up for a slot.

Nativity

We will send a Zoom link to your email address on the morning of Friday 18th December. Please do a "technical check" in advance to ensure you have access to the Internet and to Zoom. Please do not share this link with other people - it is just for families to watch and we ask that you please do not record the performance. We will take photos which will be shared with parents afterwards, but we ask that you do not share photos on social media which contain images of children other than your own.

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club have been busy working on their Christmas crafts this week, making Christmas masks in Arts & Crafts and some pretty paper snowflakes for a display. They've also watched Muppet Christmas Carol and played some team games with Joe from PH Sports. Mrs Diamond is working on some lovely Forest School activities for the spring term which we are very much looking forward to! If anyone would like to book spaces for next term, please get in touch with the office.



Staffing Update

We send our congratulations to Mrs Battersby who has secured a permanent post at another school with more hours – unfortunately, this means her last day with the children will be next Friday. We thank her for all her effort and hard work this term. From January, Pippin Class will be taught on Friday mornings by Miss Chestney, while Thursday and Friday afternoons will be covered by PH Sports coaches with support provided by Miss C and Mrs Diamond.

End of Term Date

You may have heard that the Department for Education has asked schools to consider the possibility of an optional INSET day on Fri 18th Dec to be made up later in the year. We have decided that due to the short notice and the events we already have planned for that date, we will not be taking this option. We will continue as before with our final day of term remaining the 18th. There is an INSET day on Monday 4th January and children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January.

Class teacher emails

During the period of lockdown earlier this year, we set up class teacher email addresses: pippinclassteacher@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk and orchardclassteacher@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk To simplify our communications, these emails will no longer be monitored. If you need to contact any member of staff, please do so via the office email address or phone.

Reading records

Please continue to write in children's reading records when they have read at home so that we can track their progress – for Orchard Class as well as Pippin.

Last week of term

Wednesday 16th	Online Panto (If you have any questions or concerns about this please let us know.) Local Food Links Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th	PFA Christmas Party Lunch 2pm Pippin Class "A King Is Born" Performance (live streamed to parents and carers) 3pm School Choir Performance and Whole School Carols - children will stand in the wildlife garden and parents are invited to sit in cars or stand in the car park to watch and join in! Social Distancing must be adhered to and will be reiterated nearer the time. 3.15pm School breaks up for the Christmas Holidays

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely, Miss Smith