



SIAMS Outstanding
Church School

Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Friday, 20 December 2019

End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of an extremely busy and exciting term finally arrives and Christmas is almost upon us, here is our final newsletter of 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all your support over another excellent year, for the many Christmas cards and kind gifts we have received in school and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! I hope you enjoy a wonderful, well-deserved holiday.

TOP NEWS STORY! Primary School League Tables – OHS is in the top 1% of schools!

We were thrilled to find that our school has once again made it into the top 1% of primary schools in the whole of England (that is out of more than 20,000 schools!) in the Primary School League Tables, as published by the DfE last week for KS2 2019 results. **We came joint 1st nationally (with just 3 other schools) for value added progress between KS1 and KS2, when compared with schools with pupils at similar starting points.** We are top in Cumbria and joint 3rd nationally for scores in the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test; joint 2nd in Cumbria and joint 4th nationally for average scores achieved in the Reading and Maths tests; joint 12th nationally for achievement at greater depth in Reading and joint 15th for greater depth in Writing. This is a huge achievement of which we should all be extremely proud and is further recognition of the excellent work by all our dedicated team and amazing pupils! Congratulations everyone!

Staff news

Joining our staff team in Class 2 during the last half term, we had a new **student teacher, Callum Child**, who will return to work with us again in the Summer Term. Earlier in December, student placements were completed by **Emily Brownsord** (Class 4) and **Suzanne Gray** (Classes 1, 2 and 3), who made excellent contributions to their class teaching teams and will be greatly missed by both staff and pupils.

This week, we said goodbye to **Miss Maddie Parker** and a big thank you for all her excellent work as part-time Teaching Assistant in Class 2 over the last 2 years. We wish her well as she moves on to a full-time Nursery assistant post.

We have now appointed a new teacher, **Mrs Jude Parsons**, to join **Class 2** next term, working alongside Mrs Hopkins in a job-share post. Mrs Hopkins will teach Monday, Tuesday and Friday; Mrs Parsons will teach Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We have also appointed **Miss Katie Brown**, who will join our team on Mondays next term as **Teaching Assistant in Class 2** (morning) and **subject leader/teacher of Computing across the school** (afternoon), as well as being our new regular supply teacher when needed. Look out for the exciting new Code Club to be run by Miss Brown for Y5/6 pupils next term too!

We are currently still **recruiting for another Teaching Assistant** for January onwards. Please see the school website or contact the office for details. Closing date and interviews are after Christmas.

Christmas Production

We hope that you all enjoyed **our amazing 'Annie!' musical** as much as we did! Every pupil in KS2 took part and made us very proud of their excellent achievements! As usual, it was a real cross-curricular project, bringing together learning in English/Drama, Music, Art, DT, ICT and PSHCE. It was also a lovely social occasion (despite the unexpected awful stormy weather outside!), including the opportunity to share seasonal refreshments kindly organised by the PTA. For some super reminders of the performance, pop in to school to see a new display coming soon outside Class 4!

Very special thanks to **Miss Harrison** for all her fantastic hard work and dedication in creating the script, organising and producing the whole show. Many thanks also to the PTA for organising the raffle; Claire Mansfield (plus Class 4 and parent helpers!) for organising the programmes, publicity and the stunning New York skyline backdrop; New Hutton

Village Hall for providing the great venue; to the whole KS2 staff team for their assistance with practices and props and to all parents, family and friends for helping with costumes, practising words and coming along to support us.

Class 1 and 2 Nativity

A HUGE well done to all pupils in Class 1 and 2, together with Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Hayes and the Class 1 and 2 team for creating a beautiful **Nativity play in church** on Monday. The huge congregation of pupils, staff, family and friends all so enjoyed these young pupils' confident singing, narration and actions! Many thanks to St John's Church and all who came along to enjoy this very special event.

Fundraising events

A HUGE well done to **all our KS2 pupils** for their amazing enterprising efforts in **organising their own Christmas Fair** on Monday. A brilliant £431.61 was raised! Many thanks to the PTA for providing refreshments and to all parents, family and friends who donated, helped out and came along to support this excellent annual social and fundraising event. At the start of Advent, our **annual Christingle event** included making nearly 150 Christingles (making innovative use of glow-sticks for our younger pupils!) for use in a beautiful **candle-lit service in church** organised and led by the Collective Worship Committee pupils, attended by the whole school, plus family, friends and church members, with a collection for the Christingle charity, The Children's Society. Earlier this half term, the whole school raised funds for **Children In Need** organised by the School Council – well done everyone for raising £107.55! Thank you to everyone who donated **Boxes of Hope** in our annual collection sending gifts at Christmas out to needy children in Eastern Europe. We have also just enjoyed taking part in **National Christmas Jumper Day** last week, raising £71.86 for Save The Children. Plus, **the school choir, led by Kate Thomas**, had great fun on Monday morning **carol singing in Kendal to raise funds for our pupils' chosen charity this year – Cumbria Animal Rescue: The Wainwright Shelter**. Many thanks to Claire Toone, the NatWest bank and Elephant Yard for inviting us to sing and looking after us so well with much-appreciated hot chocolates half –way through our singing programme! Thanks to everyone who came along to support us; a brilliant £162 was raised. Also, thanks to kind donations of the **Green Tokens in Asda**, we were awarded a £200 cheque earlier this term to go towards our pod.

Seasonal Theatre Visits

As part of our seasonal activities in the last few weeks, all of KS2 were treated to a visit out to the theatre in Lancaster to see **Cinderella**, while R/KS1 pupils enjoyed **Outside The Igloo** at The Brewery. Thank you to all staff for organising and leading these visits, to all the parents who accompanied the children and to the PTA for kindly funding the coach transport.

For more events news...

Please see our Facebook page (also available to view via the school website) for more information about more of the many other events and exciting learning activities we have all got up to this term, in and out of school!

School link news

As well as continuing our link work with Senegal and with the Mombaso Foundation orphanage in South Africa, we are very excited to share the news that we have just established a new partnership with a Muslim school in Blackburn, **Olive Blackburn School**. Huge thanks to the efforts of parent Mr Patel for helping to establish this link. We look forward to developing new friendships between our pupils and to making use of the link to enhance our learning in RE and Geography next term.

PTA news

The PTA have been very busy this term! They have supported us with our **Christmas Production, raffles, Christmas cards, Fair, Christmas Party**, as well as the regular **cake stalls after school**. Many thanks to everyone involved and to all of you who sent in donations and supported these events, the proceeds from which will be used to fund events and resources for all pupils in school.

Car parking safety reminders

We are very much aware of the fact that traffic congestion and parking outside school at the beginning and end of the school day continues to be an increasingly challenging issue. As a priority, we are continuing to monitor this, have had meetings with representatives from the parish, district and county councils and another meeting planned in January to look at possible ways to help. In the meantime, please can we remind everyone to continue to show consideration to others, including our neighbours in the village, by **driving slowly and cautiously in the school vicinity**. Please try your best to **park sensibly and always take extra care** of the children and yourselves when getting in and out of vehicles, crossing the road and walking to and from school. Don't forget that you can also help by trying to car-share when possible and also to make use of our Breakfast Clubs (8am or 8:30am drop-offs), After-School Club (3:20-5:20pm) and

many extra-curricular clubs (3:20-4:15/30pm) – watch out for the new list of these coming out at the start of next term – to alleviate congestion at the busiest times of day.

Plans for next term

We are already planning ahead with our new topics for next term. Across the whole school, we will focus in different ways on the Science – based theme of **Animals, including a special topic on Birds and our annual participation in the January RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch – so start feeding those garden visitors in preparation for this now!** Our Christian Value focus will be **Hope**. Any ideas or resources to help us will be welcome! **Reminder: next term starts on Tuesday 7th January (with a staff training day for all staff on Monday 6th).**

And finally... don't forget to come along if you can to join in our annual end of term Carol Service this afternoon at 1:15pm – a lovely start to the festive season!

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas and happy new year from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary Dates

Friday 20th December	Christmas carol service in church 1.15pm – ALL WELCOME! TERM ENDS AT 2PM
Monday 6th January	Staff training day for all staff Closing date for Teaching Assistant job 3pm
Tuesday 7th January	SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 1ST HALF OF SPRING TERM Teaching Assistant job shortlisting
Wednesday 8th January	Swimming starts weekly for YR3&4 9am – Leisure Centre
Thursday 9th January	Teaching Assistant job interviews Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 13th January	Extra-Curricular clubs start weekly – More info to follow
Thursday 16th January	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME! PTA meeting in school
Monday 20th January	Year 6 to Parliament, London
Thursday 23rd January	Tullie House Assembly – Chinese New Year Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 27th January	KS1 Gymnastics Festival @ QKS (date TBC)
Tuesday 28th January	KS1 Gymnastics Festival @ QKS (date TBC)
Thursday 30th January	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 3rd February	Children's mental health week
Thursday 6th February	Mindfulness workshops, Whole school, Konflux theatre Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Tuesday 11th February	Library book bus visit in school 9.15am
Thursday 13th February	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 14th February	PTA Cake stall after school
Monday 17th February	HALF TERM
Monday 24th February	SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 2ND HALF OF SPRING TERM
Thursday 27th February	Pupil Parliament Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Tuesday 3rd March	Comic Art Masterclass – KS2
Wednesday 4th March	Swimming continues weekly for YR3&4 9am – Leisure Centre
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 6th March	Tullie House Assembly – Exploring our oceans
Monday 9th March	Sports for Champions fundraising & Celebrity visitor YR3&4 The Big Play, Brewery Arts Centre - (date TBC)
Tuesday 10th March	YR3&4 The Big Play, Brewery Arts Centre - (date TBC) Full Governor Meeting 6.30-7.30pm

Thursday 12th March	Tullie House Assembly – Natural England Habitats Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 16th March	Finance meeting 9am
Tuesday 17th March	NSPCC safety talk – WEAR SOMETHING GREEN DAY!
Thursday 19th March	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 20th March	PTA Cake stall after school
Tuesday 24th March	KS2 Quicksticks Hockey Tournament @ QKS Moving up information evening for YR5 KKS
Thursday 26th March	Dance Platform YR5&6 (TBC) Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 27th March	TERM ENDS AT 2PM
Friday 20th December	Christmas carol service in church 1.15pm – ALL WELCOME! TERM ENDS AT 2PM

School Year dates 2019-20

Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 4th September – Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2020

Staff training day Monday 6th January

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 27th March

Half Term Holiday: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2020

Good Friday Holiday: Friday 10th April

Easter Monday Holiday: Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April – Friday 17th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Friday 8th May

Half Term Holiday: Monday 25th – Friday 29th May