



Headteacher Newsletter

Believe in yourself, Value others, Be proud of your achievements, Smile, Shine, Be happy.



I cannot believe that we are already coming to the end of our first term of the new academic year. It seems to have flown by without us even being able to blink!

As you all know, this month is one of my favourites with all of the preparations for Christmas. The children have been working so incredibly hard on all of their performances and I have to say a huge well done to everyone involved in making

them all so amazing. I can't wait for all of the parents, Granny's and Grandad's to come and see them, have your tissues at the ready as you are going to need them!

We have had a lot going on in the past few weeks which you can see to the side but I have to mention just a few. Last week we held a Science fair after we had a meteor crash land on our site! The children all completed some fantastic investigations and collated lots of evidence to support their theories which was shared with the parents. We had some lovely comments from parents such as: 'It is such an amazing sight to see the young scientists showcasing their experiments!' 'How lovely to have a clearly described demonstration performed by the children.' 'Really impressive, well done... wouldn't have happened in my day!' Thank you all for your kind comments and a special thank you to Miss Nicholson and Mrs Judd for organising such an engaging experience for our pupils.

As we look forward to the end of the Autumn term we have several big events to look forward to and particularly our annual Christmas craft event. This is always a fantastic family event, I know you have already received your letters about this so please read this carefully and get your slips back into school so that you don't miss out on this and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. This week we are having a non-uniform day in return for prizes for our Tombola stall so please don't forget your items. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

This week the children have enjoyed a fantastic Panto production of Aladdin. I am really looking forward to reading some of their writing that they are going to produce as a result of this wonderful addition. It really reminds me of this time of the year and I hope that all of the children came home and told you all about it.

Moving towards the end of the term we have got our usual Southfields has Talent Show, Christmas buffet day and disco for the children. This year we have changed the way we will do our Christmas buffet so please keep an eye out for the letter explaining what we will be doing this year.

We will still be making our way to the church for our annual Christingle Service. We are really looking forward to sharing this experience this year with our Year 4 parents and hope that you will enjoy the carol singing as much as we do. The rest of KS2 will have their service on the following day followed by the KS1 pupils who will have their service in school.

I have heard from a magical fairy that there may be a visit by a special gentleman dressed in red next week. I wonder who it could be? If anybody sees this person hanging around the school, please let him know that we have all been extremely good boys and girls this year and we will leave out the reindeer food, carrot, mince pies and milk for someone special to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

On the final two days of term we have our Reception children performing followed by games day on the last day. Please remember that this final day is not a non-uniform day but I don't mind if children would like to wear their Christmas jumpers just for one day :)

Finally before we move on, as we get to the colder months can we remind you to ensure that all children have a warm coat and appropriate footwear in school. Gloves and hats are also appreciated to keep us tasty warm on the cold break/lunchtimes as we continue to go outside in most weathers. We also appreciate that at this time you may wish your child to bring in cough sweets or throat lozenges into school. However, as a school we need to be aware of the safety and well-being of all children. We therefore ask that parents bring them into the school office in their original packaging and sign the appropriate form. They will then be passed on to your child's class teacher who will keep them in a safe place and record when they are requested.



Highlights from the past few weeks

The Year 3 children held a wonderful Harvest Assembly for parents linking to their topic on the Stone Age

We had a very successful Parents Evenings, thank you once again for your kind comments

The children all posed with big cheesy grins for their school individual and sibling photographs

We raised for Children in Need £1,088 thank you all for your support

We held a Science day and Science fair to showcase the children's learning

More Hello's and Goodbye's

We have some sad news to share with you all. Our own Mrs Bailey will be leaving us at the end of term to take up a post in a school much closer to home. Mrs Bailey has been an inspiring teacher to many children here at Southfields, has had a huge impact on many people and we wish her the very best in her new post. It wasn't a decision that she took lightly and I know that she will be back to visit very soon as she is a part of the family. We welcome a new member of staff, Mr Knightley, who will take over her class in the new year. Mr Knightley has been teaching for several years at Dogsthorpe Academy and has a flair for sports and science. He has two beautiful girls, one who was only born recently, and can't wait to start officially with his new class in the New Year. Welcome to the team!

While we are talking about staffing, we also have two more dedicated members of staff leaving our team to go onto pastures new. Our very long serving and hardworking Mrs Beeken has made the difficult decision after 15 years of working with us here at Southfields to move into a new role at a local Nursery. Over the years, Mrs Beeken has worked with many children 1:1, small groups as well as whole classes and has had a huge impact on everyone's lives that she has come into contact with. As you may know, Mrs Beeken's own children have grown up and moved onto adventures not only in this country, so this move will enable her to be able to go and visit her boys out of school time and we wish her every success and lots of love for the future.

Also making the decision to change profession is the lovely Miss Dann who has been with us for 4 years. She is a dedicated, caring and passionate person who has made such an impact. With her partner a serving member of the Navy working away, with school holidays fixed she is unable to spend the time she would like with him when he is home for short periods of time during the year. This move will enable her to spend more time with her loved ones when she would like and we wish her the very best in her new career.

We cannot stress enough how much we will miss all of these members of staff not only during the school day but for all of the support they have given over the years to support us outside of school hours, on residential visits and events. You will all truly be missed so much...someone please pass me the tissues! On the back of this we have appointed three new TA's; Mr Cossey, Miss Tams and Mrs Sutton will be joining the team after the Christmas break. All three are very excited and looking forward to starting their positions with their new classes. Welcome to the Southfields Family everyone.

Just a few more, but I promise on a positive. Our wonderful ladies Mrs Barnard, Miss McLaughlin and Miss Gray will be leaving us at the end of the term to begin their maternity leave. Both Mrs Barnard and Miss McLaughlin are waiting on the arrival of their first child and Miss Gray her fifth and we couldn't be happier for them. We wish you both lots of luck and love...I can't wait for cuddles with more babies!! We welcome back officially Mrs Ferrara who has been away on her maternity leave after her second child Heath. Mrs Ferrara you may have seen already in school as she completes her contact days. Excellent timing as she will return to take over for Miss McLaughlin's class in the New Year. We are so happy you are back Mrs Ferrara, we have missed you lots.

A Christmas Story to share

Joseph was a carpenter who lived in Nazareth. He was engaged to be married to a young woman named Mary. One night, he had a dream. In this dream, an angel of the Lord came and stood beside him. The angel said to him, "Joseph, son of David, I have a message for you. Mary is going to have a son, sent by the Lord. You are to name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins."

Joseph and Mary were married in Nazareth. Soon, a command was given from the emperor Augustus Caesar through all the lands of the Roman empire. This order said that all the people had to return to the cities and towns from which their families had come. Their names would be written down on a list, for the emperor wanted a list of all the people under his rule. This was called a census.

Both Joseph and Mary had come from the family of David the king. So they started the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to have their names recorded.

It was a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They had to travel down the mountains to the river Jordan. They then followed the Jordan almost to its end. After that, they still had to climb the mountains of Judah to the town of Bethlehem.

But when they arrived in Bethlehem, they found that the city was full of people, who, like themselves, had come for the census. They looked for a place to stay, but the inn was full. There was no room for them.

The best they could do was to go to a stable where the cattle were kept. There, the baby was born, and Mary laid him in a manger where the cattle were fed.

On that night, in a field near Bethlehem, some shepherds were tending their sheep. Suddenly, a great light shone on them, and they saw an angel of the Lord standing before them. They were filled with fear, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for I bring you wonderful news for all people. Today in Bethlehem, the city of David, a Saviour is born. He is Jesus Christ the Lord. Here is how you will know. You will find him wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger."

And then they saw that the air around the sky above them were filled with



angels, praising God and singing:

"Glory to God in the highest. And of earth peace among men in whom God is well pleased."

While they looked with wonder, and listened, the angels went out of sight as suddenly as they had come. Then the shepherds said to one another:

"Let us go at once to Bethlehem, and see this wonderful thing that has come to pass, and which the Lord has made known to us."

Then, quickly, they rushed to Bethlehem. There, just as the angels had said, they found Joseph and Mary and the baby lying in a manger. They told Mary and Joseph how they had seen the angels, and what the angels had told them. They spread the word everywhere, and everyone who heard was amazed. Mary thought deeply about these things, and treasured them in her heart.

After their visit, the shepherds went back to their flocks, praising God for the good news that he had sent to them.

When the little one was eight days old, they gave him a name; and the name given was "Jesus," a word that means "salvation," as the angels had told both Mary and Joseph that he should be named. So the very name of this child told what he should do for men; for he was to bring salvation to the world.

Snow Closures



With the colder weather approaching, please could I take a little time to explain the school's weather closure procedures.

If in the event that the school needs to close we will parent pay in the first instance, update the school website, teachers will send a Class Dojo message and parents can listen to 'Heart FM' on 102.7 where all of the Peterborough school closure announcements will be made. This can also be found on their web site www.heartpeterborough.co.uk. Posters will

then also be put on the external gates by the caretaker.

We try not to close the school as we are very aware that child care arrangements can be very difficult at short notice and unless the weather is very severe the school will endeavour to stay open (also I love playing in the snow with the children!). This is also very dependent on staff being able to arrive at school as we have many staff who drive as long as an hour to reach us.

If we are able to remain open, please could children bring extra clothes, (warm jumpers, wellies, socks and trousers or snow gear if you have any, warm hats and gloves...oh and a carrot for the snow man's nose...we always run out!) two lots if they love being outside and then they will have a change if they get wet.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Achievements:

Abolaji, Oliver, Annabelle, Elizabeth, Reuben, Erin, Katya, Sanjana, Antoni, Amelie, Fatou, Emily, Alannah, Ema, Mea, Paige, Maddison, Sally, Malachi, Orlando, Marco, Lucy, Brennen, Katie, Lillijana, Youssef, Samuel, Elijah, Rio, Bobby, Mia, Kai, Rachel, Callum, Farhan, Elliot, Freya, Lilly, Lena, Gabija, Jamie, Charlotte, Priyanka, Lewis, Mariss, Victoria, Lexi, Melisa, Grace, Jan, Kelsey, Esme, Savannah, Niamh, Tyler, Ruby, Ugne, Oliver, Avika, Lucy, Amber, Eduardo, William, Myles, Anda, Oscar, Scarlet, Evie, Miles, Ethan, Ella, Ruby, Alex, Hermione, Bella, James, Amelia, Giovanni,

Mathletes of the Week:

Henry, Noah, Shyla, Aisha, Sanjana, Layla, Kaden, Callen, Zakariya, Isla, Amber, Divyana, Harry, Natalia, Fatou, Owain, Tegan, Humza, Cameron, Nia, James and Luca.

National Maths Challenge
Winners:

Dhiran, Marco, Thomas, Lucas, Emily, Kady, Rachel, Owain, Prathika, Aysha, Alfie, Thomas, Louise, Bartosz and Saskia.

Well done to all of you :)





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Gemma B, Oliver C, Tobius H, Dylan N, Amelia RH, Callen S, Abolaji O, Thomas H, Kaylee TP, Ajay B, Amber N, Olivia B, Mason S, Oskar W, Mackenzie C, Layla P, Lucas L, Mea Z, Neo B, Eliza S, Malou S, Julia S, Ellie W, Lucy B, Gracie P, Oscar C, Lewis C, Oscar W, Jessie G, Shanelle N, Leo S, Fatimah A, Dexter B, Geovanni S, Leonie C, Hope O, Natalia R, Mia J, Keira F, Marlie B, Julia B, Niamh B, Mylie C, Maisie S, Teigan B, Amber CD, Layla H, Freddie M, Jamie S, Lena R, Leah E, Leo C, Dennis P, Jayden H and Grace J.

HOUSE WINNERS

House Point Results are as follows:



1st Robins	623
2nd Kingfishers	589
3rd Canaries	543
4th Parrots	540



Merry Christmas from everyone at Southfields Primary School!



We hope you all have an amazing break with your families :) x

Santa's Watching



It's that time of year when all of the little elves come out to take a sneaky peak at what the children are up to in preparation for the big red mans visit on Christmas Eve. I hope everyone is on the 'Nice' list this year. While I was having a read at home last week, I came across a really special list that I thought I should share with you all.

It's a hot tip of what Santa Claus is looking for in all of the children this year. Please share this with all of your children to see if they can tick all of the items off...remember there is still time to improve and try to get everything!

I think this list reminds me of ensuring that children have clear boundaries and good role models to learn from. The power of routines is incredible, I speak from experience! A good meal and sleep make a huge difference in the wellbeing of children and their families. It's that time old tradition: bath, book, bed. I know it doesn't work for everyone but give it a try, you may be surprised.

While you are thinking of Santa and the gifts he may bring for you and your family, please can I get you to think

about giving the best gift of all this Christmas...time. Time together playing and making memories is oh so important and I hope that you are all able to enjoy this festive time of year. For those of you, like me, who haven't bought all of your presents yet, please can I also suggest that you think about games that help support your children with their development. So games such as cards, master mind, connect 4 and darts all teach strategy. What about a monthly magazine subscription that you would be able to enjoy together throughout the year? I hope Santa is kind to you all and brings you all of your wishes :)

What is your wish for 2018?



As we reach the end of the year, it is a good time to reflect on what has gone well and what we would do differently if we were given the opportunity to do it all again. It is also a time to look forward into the future to see what we hope and wish for your families in the upcoming year.

Parents please can I ask you for a huge favour? I would love to create a family display which encapsulates your hopes and wishes for your children in the future, so can you do me a little bit of homework too? Would you all make me a wish list of what you hope for your children for the upcoming year? You can present it however you wish.

I look forward to seeing what you all come up with.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

Wednesday 6th - Whole School Panto - Aladdin
 Thursday 7th - Year 2 Productions
 Friday 8th - Year 1 Productions
 Monday 11th - Christingle for Year 4 Parents and Children
 Tuesday 12th - Christingle service for rest of the school
 Wednesday 13th - Christmas Fayre and Santa's Grotto
 Thursday 14th - Year 5 Productions
 Friday 15th - Talent Shows, Christmas dinner day and Disco
 Monday 18th Reception Performances
 Tuesday 19th - Games Day and break up for Christmas

January

Wednesday 17th-19th - Book Fair
 Thursday 18th - School Nurse drop in
 Wednesday 24th - Yr6 Stibbington Evacuee Day

2017-2018 TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2017

Ends - Tuesday 19th December

Spring Term 2018

Opens Thursday 4th January
 Half term - Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 End - Thursday 29th March

Summer Term 2018

Opens - Wednesday 18th April
 May Day - Monday 7th May
 Half term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Ends - Tuesday 24th July

PARENT'S COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

As always we really value your opinions about our school. Please add your comments here for the Headteacher. You can return them in an envelope if you would prefer them to remain confidential.

This month I am particularly interested in your views about the Christmas events that take place through December. We would like to have some feedback about the elements the children love and you would like to see continue in the future and the things you think are less important. Please

score 1-10 on the following.

1 = not important



10 = very important

December 2017

1. The Pantomime being purchased for all children to watch ____
2. The Family Christmas Crafts Event ____
3. The Christmas Productions ____
4. Visit from Santa ____
5. Christmas Buffet purchased for all children ____
6. Christmas Disco ____
7. Christmas Talent Show ____
8. Christmas Class Card for parents to purchase ____

Moving into 2018

What things would you like and feel are important:

1. Breakfast sessions, meet the teacher and spend time in class ____
2. Workshops ____
3. Clubs ____
4. School Nurse 'Drop ins' ____
5. Mid year report ____
6. E Safety - for parents at home ____
7. Food for Life family event (food growing ideas) ____

Please use the remaining space to make any further comments about things you like, the things you think we need to develop or any ideas you may have and we will try to use them in school.



A final comment, the magic of Christmas was brought alive today with the Year 4's who sang to the elderly people at the Tudors Care home and shared their writing which put smiles on the faces of many elderly residents living locally.

Well done to the children who performed in the Music Extravaganza playing the saxophone, electric guitar, classic guitar, drums, piano, clarinet, flute, violin and voice, you were all amazing!



Merry Christmas Everyone
Love from Mrs Martin and all the Southfields team xxx
See you all on Thursday 4th January 2018