

13th December 2019

End of Term Disco

Many thanks to all the parents who helped at the school disco on Friday evening. Without you, these types of events don't happen. The disco was well attended by children from all classes who had a great time dancing with their friends. I really enjoyed seeing the children having fun with big smiles on their faces

New Member of Staff

I am pleased to announce that Rob Pepper will be joining the school as Deputy Head in January. You may have seen him around school at the start of last week. He has come across from Westcountry Schools Trust to work as part of the Senior Leadership Team for the rest of the year. Rob is a senior leader who has a great deal of experience in a range of primary schools. He will be working closely with Jess Alford, Rosina Kellman and myself to support the staff on school improvement. He specialises in maths, PE and behaviour and will complement the existing skills we already have on the team.

Rob will have a teaching commitment in Year 2 alongside Jess Alford until she goes on maternity leave later in the year. Jess will continue to teach the class every morning and Rob will be teaching in the afternoons. This will support a smooth transition as Rob will already know school routines and the children when he takes over from Jess when she is on maternity leave.



Dates

Infant Nativity

- Performance 1: Tuesday 17th December @ 2pm
- Performance 2: Wednesday 18th December @ 9:30am

KS2 Carol Service – Venue is St Luke's Church.

- Thursday 19th December @ 5:30pm – **Children should arrive at 5:15pm in their school uniform.**

Christmas Dinner on Friday

Friday 20th December is Christmas Dinner at school. This is last day of term. **Children can come to school in Christmas jumpers on top of their normal school uniform.**

Fundraising Totals

We have counted the donations for some of the events held at school this term. Many thanks for your kind and generous donations:

- Sports for Schools = £1760 (Wow! That's incredible)
- Children in Need = £227



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Safeguarding Support for Families

Internet Matters have created a lovely little guide to build critical thinking about fake news and what sources to trust.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-fake-news-misinformation-advice-for-parents>

Door Opening Times

One of the things discussed at the last parent voice group was start times in the morning. It was suggested that it would be easier at drop off time if doors were opened slightly earlier in the mornings. **From 7th January, doors will open in the morning at 8:35am.** We will run this as a trial for the first half of the Spring term. This will give children more time to settle in the mornings and lessons can start promptly at 8:55am.

- 8:30am – Top Gate unlocked
- 8:35am – Doors open and children can come into school
- 8:55am – Doors are closed and parents should have left the school building

(the Top Gate will be unlocked by 3:10pm in the afternoons)

Boys Dance Project

Calling all boys aged 5-18. There is a boys dance project being run at South Dartmoor College in the New Year. It starts on Tuesday 21st January from 4-5pm. Check out the flyer attached to this email for more information.

Start of New Term

Please note: The children are back in school on Tuesday 7th January, 2020.

2020-2021 Dates

Attached to this email are the term dates for 2020-21. I apologise that that they haven't been sent out sooner. They are the same as the dates for Westcountry School Trust, who we are joining in the new year. The dates are also available on the school website.

Important - Additional Non-Pupil Day

Our new Trust have added an additional non-pupil day to this academic year. It means school will be closed on Friday 14th February, 2020. We apologise for the short notice but reassure that this is to ensure that all our staff are ready for the new academy changes.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

EDDIE BROWN