



Friday 15th December 2017

Dear Parents and Children



It's my most favourite time of the year. Turkey and all the trimmings. Yum Yum

Foundation Stage

It's the most wonderful time of the year in Foundation Stage. The children performed 'It's a Baby!' to their families and friends – a magical treat for all. We have also been to the pantomime to see 'Peter Pan'. The children were beautifully behaved and enjoyed every second – especially the shout out for Haydonleigh and a special mention for Mrs Billinge! Another amazing term for our youngest children, each one a star!

Year 1

This week the children are getting a little bit more festive. They have been busy creating some pawsome crafts, writing a letter to Santa and a winter themed poem. The children have even been thinking ahead to their next topic, asking questions about what else they'd like to know about castles and medieval times. The children have worked hard not to get bent out of shape in Maths this week as they've been sorting, naming and thinking about the properties of 3D and 2D shapes. Although everyone was a bit disappointed about cancelling our trip to the library, I was delighted to take a cosy little cat-nap in the theatre, listening to some Christmas stories read by the Year 1 staff.

Year 2

As I was prowling down the Year 2 corridor I saw the children making different moving vehicles from construction equipment. Later, the children were all talking about all the features of a car. They were looking at something called axles. I found out these were used to connect the wheels of the car. The children were finding out about moving vehicles so they can design and make their own out of wood. Year 2 seemed very excited about this!

Year 3

Another busy week in the Year 3 corridor. The portal stories are well on the way now and the children have been "Feline" pretty creative with their awesome ideas. I have also seen some other crazy looking characters, as the children created their own Mayan Masks. I am pretty sure I even spotted some with whiskers, just like mine!

A mystery has occurred in Science as some skeleton remains have been discovered – the children are looking forward to helping solve the mystery by putting their Maths and Science skills to great use, helping University Scientists determine the age of the person – PAWSOME work guys!!!!

Year 4

Year 4 have been busy looking at fair testing within Science. They have paid purrticular attention to evaporation and how they could test the rate at which it happens. With a book focus of Alice in Wonderland this term, children have been busy tasting and designing their own tart idea for a Tea Party with the Queen of Hearts. I managed to sneak in and pick up a few tasty crumbs. In Maths, the children have been busy trying to purrfect their knowledge of the 6, 7 and 9 times tables which will help them when multiplying and dividing next term.

Year 5

Year 5 have been reading the spooky 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, it is the cat's whiskers! They used this as a model to write su-purr-ior spooky stories of their own; they made my fur stand on end when I read them! Their Victorian day was purr-fect, they made su-purr Victorian children but the teachers were a bit fierce! I'm glad I didn't go to school then, our school is by far and away much better!!

Year 6

My paws did not touch the snowy ground when I visited Year Six! I cannot believe how much they have managed to fit in since I last wrote to you. Firstly, they have had a visit from an Optician who explained the workings of the human eye before a Fire Safety Officer came in to share lifesaving information about fire prevention and keeping safe in the event of a fire. A further visit was made by the Head Teacher of Great Western Academy to show the children a secondary school style Christmas Maths lesson... utterly pawsome! Not to mention the fact that they have seen the Foundation Stage nativity, enjoyed songs from around the world performed by Year Four *and* experienced a Victorian themed school day. On the Victorian day, school was attended by a variety of Dickensian characters including street children, chimney sweeps and kitchen maids, plus some rather affluent children! Together, they were transported back in time, given Victorian names and taught in the 4 R's (Resilience, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness) by some rather stern teachers! It was quite a memorable day. Everyone in Year Six has enjoyed this whirlwind of activity and now they are ready for their Christmas break. Purr-sonally, I think they have earnt it!

Hope you all have a Wonderful Christmas and a



Happy New Year.

Let's

talk

What does Father Christmas do during the rest of the year?

Ok – I have heard that Father Christmas is actually a retired Head Teacher! So in January until November he is busy teaching the elves Phonics and the reindeer how to count.



Our new value is Creativity. Using your imagination is the beginning of creating something amazing. Being open to new ideas allows you to look for different ways to solve a problem. How can you be creative?



E-Safety Top Tips

Making devices safer - If your child receives a new technology device this Christmas, support them by setting up parental or other control settings.

Advice for setting up controls on the PS4 - <http://manuals.playstation.net/document/gb/ps4/setting/family.html>

Age appropriate – You may be thinking of purchasing your child a new game. With so many games such as Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto being popular in the media it can be easy to forget that they are targeted towards adults and come with an age 18 recommended rating. PEGI (<http://www.pegi.info>) provides game ratings and information. If you are ever in doubt, you can research the game online, by watching videos of the game on Youtube for example, in order to make an informed decision about the games appropriateness for your child.

Online safety – Many games on the Xbox and playstation come with the ability to play online. This can open up the possibility of your child talking to strangers via their headset or through the console's messaging feature. Inappropriate language can often be used by others through these platforms, particularly on those games created for adults. Remind your child not to add strangers as friends and ensure they know where the reporting and blocking features are.

Information about muting and blocking players on the Xbox –

<https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-one/xbox-live/block-or-mute-other-player>



Attendance

I would like to remind parents about good regular and punctual attendance for their children. Good regular attendance often means doing well academically, better relationships with other children and better overall behaviour in school. I have attached 'Every Day Counts' information leaflet from Swindon Borough Council.

Applying for a school place September 2018

If your child was born 1st September 2013-31st August 2014 you need to apply for a Primary or Infant School place by 15th January 2018.

A reminder to order your child's school meals for January; menus for the first 3 weeks are on our school website.



Well done to the choir for singing beautifully at the Church in Gorse Hill last Sunday.

As always, the Carol Concert was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended.



Thank you to our amazing school community for raising a whopping £3,733.89 for the NSPCC. We have beaten the record for the most money raised by any school in Wiltshire and thank you all for your continued generosity and support.

I hope that everyone enjoys the festive period, on behalf of all staff, thank you for your generous gifts.

School opens to children again on Wednesday 3rd January.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge

Headteacher