

Half Term ending Wednesday 20th December 2023

# **Head and Deputy's Messages**

Dear Parents, and Carers.

Christmas is a busy but wonderful time of year especially in Primary. The classroom carpets sparkle with glitter (even mine), Christmas cards are being made by the children in lots of creative designs, carols and Christmas songs are sung and you get to live the magic of Christmas with the children – which it can be hard to do sometimes as an adult. All the classes worked so hard to put together our Christmas performance of 'Bah Humbug' and I thank all the staff involved for patiently rehearsing and making it 'alright on the night'. It is a right of passage to sing carols and perform a play, and over the past weeks I have been excitedly told by the children what part they are playing this year. Our performances would melt even the most grinchiest of hearts.

The PTA again have done a fabulous job raising more money this term which goes a long way to support our children with various activities in and out of school. Thank you to the PTA team and we wish you a very merry Christmas.

The school had a Behaviour and Attitudes review by the Trust this term, and Mr Adam the CEO, was very pleased with the outcome. I didn't expect anything else as we have the most wonderful children here and the most dedicated staff, who try everyday to make school special and meet the children's needs. Well done everyone.

That just leaves me to wish children, parents, and staff – a happy and healthy Christmas and a New Year filled with family fun and laughter. *Mrs Haines* 

This Autumn term has at times seemed like a very long one, but it has also been a hugely enjoyable one. I have been proud to accompany our children to the church to celebrate Harvest and Christmas, to hear of their amazing progress and behaviour in the swimming pool and to hear the feedback from visitors and the community for their involvement in village life, and this is before I even get to the learning activities in school! My favourite part of the term is seeing the whole school come together as one to put on the play—and what an amazing job they did—from the biggest speaking parts to the one-liners, all delivered clearly, the singing and acting and the fabulous costumes.

Finally as well as wishing you all a very merry Christmas can I just say a few thank yous, firstly to Mr and Mrs Leeder who once again kindly donated the beautiful Christmas tree on the playground and to Katherine's Kitchen and the Fox and Hound in Great Moulton who donated the crackers for our Christmas Lunch. We would also like to thank Sue in the school kitchen for the amazing Christmas biscuits and cupcakes we have been enjoying for pudding over the last 2 weeks. I look forward to what 2024 will bring for our school. Mrs Turk

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#### **Around the School**

Owls have been reading "Stanley's Stick" and spent a lot of time imagining what our sticks could be by playing "this is not a stick, it's a...". We used this to help us write instructions for playing safely with sticks and for how to make a magic wand as well as thinking about the adventures we could have. In topic we have explored mechanisms and made space vehicles to go with our history topic about the first men on the moon. We enjoyed seeing how space travel changed from a fly to a person going into space. In computing we have thought about consent and keeping ourselves safe online. For our maths we have completed our first unit on addition and subtraction and spent time thinking about the names and properties of shapes. We loved hearing the story of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens as our Christmas play and really enjoyed singing along to the songs from our play.

What a busy half term we have had in **Kestrel** Class! We continued with our core story "Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx" ending the term trying to solve a daily riddle in our advent calendar! We also enjoyed spending time getting to know A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens to support our understanding of the Christmas play. In maths we have tackled multiplication using arrays and shape. In topic we have learned about food and nutrition including the 5 food groups and the effect that each food group has on our bodies. In RE we have been thinking about where religious beliefs come from, particularly in the Christian faith and thinking about the importance of the Christmas story for Christians. In topic we have completed our learning about Ancient Egypt.

Eagles have immersed themselves in "Wonderland" by exploring a range of poetry, art work and character description. We have enjoyed reading Lewis Carroll's classic text and comparing the film genre. The children have studied A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and have excelled in drama and performance this term. In Maths, we have worked hard to master the terminology of all four operations. We have challenged ourselves with multi-step problems and the BODMAS rule. In Science, we have explored electrical inventions and we have learnt how to draw and use electrical symbols. In Geography, we have studied how planet Earth is formed, the equator, the tropics and the Arctic and Antarctic circles. The children have a good understanding of how to read and calculate longitude and latitude readings. In RE, the children have investigated the use of art in different religions. We have explored Buddhist symbols, Rangoli patterns and the painting called 'The Creation of Adam'. All Eagles have demonstrated stamina and stroke technique in swimming and have been praised by swimming staff for their excellent behaviour. A super term of learning and hard work!

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Half Term ending Wednesday 20th December 2023

# **Christmas!**











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## Half Term ending Wednesday 20th December 2023

#### Information

Family Friday for the Spring Term - 9am unless otherwise stated

12th Jan: Owl

19th Jan: Eagle

26th Jan: Kestrel

2nd Feb: Owl

9th Feb: Eagle

16th Feb: Kestrel

1st Mar: Owl

8th Mar: Eagle

15th Mar: Kestrel

Invite from St Michael's Aslacton

Sally, Mary and the congregation of St Michaels invite everyone to join them for their family communion service on **Christmas Eve at 7pm in church.** 

All the children have contributed a decoration again this year towards the decoration of the church or tree outside, so do try and pop in and see them over the Christmas holidays.

Parent Readers for the Spring term:

Owl: **moving to Fridays** at 2.50pm

Kestrel: moving to Thursdays at 9am

Eagle: Monday morning 9am

Clubs

Clubs re-start on Monday 8th January 2024.

There are spaces at KS1 multisports (Thurs) and KS2 multisports (Tues). If your child no longer wishes to continue with a club please let the office know.

#### Friends

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Friends hamper raffle, calendars and refreshments over the last 2 weeks, the current total stands at £426.85 Thank you to the Friends for organising all these events.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the cost of the play we raised £137.

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# Save the date!

January	
Thursday 4th January	Term starts for pupils
Week beginning 8th January	Clubs start this week Mon: KS2 Gym Tues: KS2 Multisports Wed: Y4 Multiplication, Y6 SATs, KS1 Gym Thurs: KS1 Multisports
Tuesday 9th January	Year 3 and 4 Kestrels start swimming
Wednesday 10th January	2024 Reception starters stay and play
Wednesday 24th January	Eagle class learning café– 9-10am in the hall—open to all Eagle parents
Wednesday 31st January	Kestrel class learning café– 9-10am in the hall—open to all Kestrel parents
February	
Wednesday 7th February	Owl class learning café– 9-10am in the hall—open to all Owl parents
Thursday 15th February	Friends Valentines Disco—tickets will be on sale in Janaury 5.15-6.15pm Owls 6.15-7.15pm - Kestrel and Eagle
Friday 16th February	Friends cake sale—cakes to be provided by Kestrels on the theme of Valentines 3.15pm Break up for half term
Monday 19th—Friday 123rd February	Half Term
March	
Week beginning 4th—8th March	Parent Consultation week—times and days be confirmed.  Tuesday and Thursday clubs will likely not take place this week.
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day –details to follow.
Wednesday 13th March	Y6 parents meeting re Y6 SATs. 9am in the hall

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#### **Attendance**

There is room for improvement to be made with pupil attendance at school. It is a legal requirement that your child attends school everyday unless they are genuinely unwell. IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, YOU MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL ON EACH DAY OF ABSENCE before 9.00am. In most cases there are very simple explanations for absence, but if you do not tell us, your child's absence has to be recorded as unauthorised.

#### Our attendance:

Attendance target: 96%

This half term's attendance: 93.5%

Class with the best attendance: Eagle with 93.9% (All three classes were at 93% this half term—there 0.7% between the lowest and highest)

Late pupils this half term: 0

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