



Newsletter – December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow – what a busy month! It seems like only yesterday we were starting the Autumn term and now it is drawing to a musical and festive close.

It has been great to see so many parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles joining us for the many Christmas performances. I am sure that you would agree that the hall was oozing with confidence as our younger members took to the stage to showcase their talents.

The quality and standard of the performances was incredibly high and it was magical to listen to solo and group performances, and to watch whole classes play musical instruments – who would have thought you would hear *In dulci jubilo* on the boom whackers!

The highlight of the Christmas period for the children is always the KS2 disco and Early Years/KS1 Christmas party. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, and the events were made even more special as Father Christmas managed to drop by. The behaviour of all the children was impeccable and it was lovely to see them dressed in their party gear.

There is, however, a hint of sadness in the air at The Reddings. Mr Prickett will be leaving us at the end of term to start his new job at Watford Football Club. We intend to continue with the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities we currently offer, with PE remaining firmly at the core of our school. Mr O'Callaghan and Miss Broux are leading PE from January, and Mr Prickett will be working with the school in a consultant role to ensure high quality PE lessons and enrichment activities are effectively delivered.

It seems just the other day that I joined The Reddings, however, 2003 was a long time ago and as the Autumn Term concludes I celebrate my eleventh year of headship, a job I couldn't have done without the amazing team we have here at The Reddings. Thank you for playing a crucial part within 'The Reddings' family.

As we all get caught up in the Christmas excitement, it is important we remember that this is a time to spend quality time with families and friends, reading books together or snuggled up and watch some family films.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. School returns on Thursday 5th January 2017 at 8.55 am (doors open at 8.45 am).

Thank you for your continued support

Reception Place for September 2017

Have you applied for your child's reception place? If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 you need to apply for their Reception place online, at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions. The online system is now open and closes on 15 January 2017. If you do not apply on time you may not get the school of your choice. If you need assistance in completing the application please speak to the Office Team.

PE Kits/Plimsolls/Water Bottles

All equipment will be going home at the end of the term. As always feet have grown and PE kits will need a good wash in preparation for Spring Term. Please ensure all these items are returned so children are fully equipped and 'Ready to Learn'.

All children require a water bottle in school. Please ensure this is not a 'recycled' plastic bottle as these are designed to be used once. The school does have bottles, which are available to purchase at £2 from the school office.

8.45 am Start

I have received positive feedback from many parents following our early morning opening across the school, and it has reduced the congestion in the service road at the rear. There have however, been several occasions where cars have parked across the access point. There are signs requesting that this area is to be kept clear at all times. The main reason for this is to ensure there is quick access for emergency vehicles should they ever be called to site.

I appreciate that some parents are on the playground before 8.45 am. As teachers are all in classrooms/attending before school meetings there are no staff members on duty and therefore it is important that parents supervise their children. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

After-School Childcare

Following a very positive response from parents Mrs Fleet and Mrs Cornish have commenced the planning stage of our exciting new venture. Our plan is to open an after-school club which will run to either 5 pm to 6 pm (parental preference) from September 2017. If this is of interest please let the office know so we can start to plan the staffing requirements.

Poppy Appeal

A big thank you has been received from the Poppy Appeal as the school raised an amazing £262.



Nut Free School

We are a nut free school as we have several children who are allergic to nuts. Please do not put any nuts, including all products containing nuts such as Nutella in your children's packed lunches. Thank you.

Sewing Club

We have had a successful half term at sewing club. The children made lovely handmade Christmas trees, which were taken home to be hung up. After cutting out their own shapes, the children sewed on sequins and then used back stitch along the edges before stuffing their beautiful decorations.



Awards

I am delighted to share with you the following awards.

For Bronze, five merits need to be achieved, for Silver, 12 merits and Gold, 22 merits. These merits are awarded to children for participation in events, providing personal high quality pieces of work, overcoming tricky challenges or by going the extra mile.

Bronze

Navisha

Silver

Max M

Keira Lynne

Exemplar Learner Award

Khadija

Taylor O

100% Attendance – Autumn Term

The following children have achieved 100% since the start of the academic year; well done to all these children:

Isaac – EYFS1

Leena – EYFS1

Surina – EYFS1

Ollie – EYFS1

Bailey – EYFS1

Mellissa – EYFS1

Eva – EYFS2

Holly – EYFS2

Evlyn – EYFS2

Freya – EYFS2

Azaan – Year 1

Chloe – Year 1

Riley – Year 1

Mason – Year 1

Lexi-May – Year 1

Aaruthura – Year 1

Frankie – Year 2

Joshua – Year 2

Italia – Year 2

Isabelle – Year 2

Valeria – Year 2

Adam - Year 2

Isabella – Year 2

Max – Year 2

Carrie – Year 2

Andrew – Year 3

Luca – Year 3

Tia – Year 3

Ryan – Year 4

Paula – Year 4

Vagelis – Year 4

Kevin – Year 4

Alesia – Year 4

Ella – Year 4

Isabelle – Year 5

Elise – Year 5

Oakley – Year 5

Josiah – Year 5

Scarlett – Year 5

Emily – Year 5

Vinujan – Year 5

Anastasia – Year 5

Summer – Year 5

Serban – Year 5

Finlay – year 6

Noor – Year 6

Kristians – Year 6

Tamxin – Year 6

Nokukhanya – Year 6

Fundraising

Over the Christmas period there have been several fundraising events including the Christmas parties, Christmas jumper day and our Christmas raffle, plus donations received during our plays. We are still busy counting, and will let you know the full amount raised in our January newsletter.

The winners of the Christmas raffle are as follows:

Christmas hamper – Reece (Yr 2)

Stage School voucher – Simmron (Yr 6)

Soap and hand cream – Ryan P (Yr 4)

Books – Louisa (Yr 5)

Lights – Faith (Yr 6)

Garden moulds – Milly (Yr 1)

Top Trumps – Vince (Yr 2)

Jewellery making kit – Olivia (Yr 4)

Sewing kit – Ella (Yr 4)

Candle – Dylan (Yr 2)

Where's Wally books – Vagelis (Yr 4)

Ginger bread teddy – Dylan (Yr 2)

Pad/pencils – Patrick (EYFS2)

Yankee candles – Isabelle (Yr 5)

Jam and marmalade – Anastasia (Yr 5)

Little Angel Gets Her Wings

Well what a show key stage one put on. Little Angel Gets her Wings and indeed she did! The countless scenes, songs and dance routines that year one and two learnt was phenomenal. They worked incredibly hard and put on a superb show. Broadway here we come! At one stage we didn't think there was a dry eye in sight. How we will outdo this next year is beyond me. A big thank you must go out to all the adults behind the scenes who made all of this a possibility. Congratulations to all involved - the children have made us extremely proud.



Noisy Nativity

The Early Years Nativity certainly lived up to its name this year, with fantastic performances from all of the youngest members of our school.

All of the Early Years staff we so proud of how well the children coped, especially when you consider that due to many cases of chicken pox, lots of children swapped roles, some more than once!

The singing, dancing and acting was wonderful and we know that the children loved performing it to their families.



Peter Pan Pantomime

Last Thursday we had an exciting afternoon of cheering, booing and shouting with a visit from Pyramid who performed their Peter Pan pantomime. The delight on the faces of children from Reception to Year 6 was wonderful to see, as the characters took us through all the features of a traditional pantomime.



Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony

On Monday 5th December, Year 3 embarked on a trip to Celtic harmony to spend the day living in a Stone Age village. They got up to many different activities such as bread making, weaving and observing the magnificent roundhouses, as well as making their own bracelets! It was a fantastic day and Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2017

5 th January 2017	First day of Spring Term
9 th January 2017	Open house for parents – book look
30 th January 2017	Chinese New Year lunch
10 th February 2017	INSET Day
13 th to 17 th February 2017	Spring half-term
3 rd April to 17 th April 2017	Easter holiday

Netball – The Reddings v Lime Walk

Congratulations to the netball team which had its first competitive game against Lime Walk recently. In a fast paced game it was the speed and accuracy of The Reddings' passing which created more scoring opportunities. The twin attack of Jess and Lacey was clinical under the net, and they managed to score an impressive 13 goals between them. At the other end, the defensive work of Kenneth and Scarlett kept Lime Walk at bay with the final score being 13-0 to The Reddings. A fantastic start to the season.

Team: Jess, Krystal, Lacey, Vagelis, Scarlett, Kenneth, Jasmine and Louisa



Girls' Football

The girls' football team continued its league campaign against local rivals Lime Walk. In an open game it was The Reddings who started the better with early chances falling to Emily and Tori. However, it was Lime Walk who almost took the lead with only a good save from Aisha keeping our opponents out. Eventually, the dribbling skills of Emily paid off as she was fouled inside the penalty area, then picked herself up to tuck home the penalty confidently. This goal gave the team new energy with further goals coming from Krystal and Emily. Both girls managed to score a hat trick. Lime Walk replied with a stunning strike with the game ending 6-1 to The Reddings.

Although the score is impressive, it was the team work and togetherness which the girls showed that really made the difference. Congratulations to them all.

Team: Jess, Krystal, Lacey, Aisha, Tori, Paula, Scarlett, Anastasia, Emily and Noor

Tag Rugby

The year 3-4 tag rugby team continued their league campaign against a strong Yew Tree side in an end to end encounter. The Reddings' organisation gave them the early advantage springing into a 2 try lead, however the power of Yew Tree began to tell and the lead was shortly reduced to 3-2. The game flowed from end to end, and eventually The Reddings managed to hold out for a 4-3 victory.

This keeps the team top of the league with one more game to play.

Congratulations to Kenneth, Paula, Meicha, Taylor, Vagelis, Kiera Lynne, Tori and McKenzie