



## Newsletter – November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

The Autumn term seems to be accelerating – one minute it is November and now we are in December! I have spent a significant amount of time this half term 'on tour'. There has been lots of interest for our Reception class for September and it gives me the opportunity to see how hard working and happy the children are at The Reddings.

Our Christmas rehearsals are now well under way. I know letters have gone home so please ensure you return your slips to avoid disappointment. From the snippets of rehearsals I have seen I can tell you we will all be in for a treat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting World Prematurity Day – we raised a massive £200. I shall be hand delivering the cheque to SCBU and will capture this event on Twitter. It is lovely to see we are starting a following. For those of you who haven't signed up yet you can follow the Twitter feed as it is embedded within the website.

Our next open house session is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 9 am. This is our Christmas art and craft session. I do hope you are able to join us for this event. Due to numbers, Reception and Nursery are opening up for the three mornings to ensure that all children and parents have an exciting time.

As we move towards the end of term, we start to think about Christmas events. The Christmas party tickets are now on sale with Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 being the last available day to purchase; without this information Father Christmas will not have the right number of gifts and he would hate an embarrassing moment where children are waiting and the sack is empty!

If you missed the paper letters, copies are available in the stand in the office foyer.

Thank you for your continued support

*Tracy Prickett*

## **Health and Safety**

Please may I remind you that the play equipment (trim trail and tractor) are not for use before or after school. At this time of year the equipment is slippery and there are no members of staff supervising the equipment.

I have seen children regularly playing on the tractor, with some choosing to sit on the roof. The roof area was never designed to withstand the weight of children which is why they only use the equipment under full staff supervision. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## **After School Childcare**

We are currently looking into running an after-school club, as I am aware that Kool Kats is heavily oversubscribed and therefore children at The Reddings are not able to access the provision. Our intention is to have this in place for September 2017; if this is something you would be interested in please could you drop me an e-mail at [head@reddings.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@reddings.herts.sch.uk) so we can have some idea of numbers and staffing ratios.

## **Christmas Dates**

The month of December is very busy, with Christmas performances for all years, two Christmas parties, an open morning for parents and our whole school Christmas lunch.

Please check the attached key date list to ensure you do not miss any of these events. Letters have already been sent home for you to place your order for tickets for the two Christmas parties and the Christmas performances. If you require tickets please place your order promptly to avoid disappointment. The deadline for ordering tickets for the Christmas parties is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and tickets will be unavailable after this date.

Letters have been sent home this week about our whole school Christmas lunch. Please only return the reply slip if your child requires a vegetarian meal or will be bringing their own packed lunch.

Slips and payments can be returned via the drop off box in the office foyer. Please ensure all payments are in a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly marked on the front.

## **Childcare Sufficiency Survey for Parents**

Hertfordshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places for children of all ages. They would like parents' feedback on the childcare options available for your family.

Your support in completing the survey will assist Hertfordshire County Council in the planning of childcare places throughout the county.

Please could you complete the survey by following the link:-

<https://surveys.hertordshire.gov.uk/s/sufficiencyparentsurvey/>

The survey will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

## Year 6 Trip to London

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November year 6 set off for the day, to experience some of the Christmas traditions on offer in London. After a delay at Apsley station (due to several cancelled trains), we finally arrived at Euston, and headed straight to the South Bank. Here we perused the Christmas markets, and made a few tasty purchases!



Next we travelled to Covent Garden, where we were able to shelter from the rain underneath the huge Christmas tree to eat our lunch, whilst listening to a street entertainer. We then strolled around the beautiful market stalls, looking but not touching; we were even treated to some opera singing!

From Covent Garden, we travelled to Oxford Circus and walked down Regent Street. Our first stop was the beautiful window displays at Liberty, which are based on the ballet The Nutcracker, written by Tchaikovsky.



After this, we walked down Carnaby Street, back onto Regent Street and into Hamleys, the oldest and largest toy shop in the world. Here we split into smaller groups to explore the vast selection of toys, games and stuffed animals on sale.



When we came out of Hamleys, we admired the Christmas lights in Regent Street and took the underground back to Euston to catch our train to Apsley. A lovely day was enjoyed by all, and we are now fully in the Christmas spirit!

## Year 4 – Excursion to Verulamium Museum

Year 4 had a lovely trip to St Albans to support our learning about The Romans. We spent some time in the museum where we learnt about archaeological finds within the Verulamium area, the mosaics found, what it was like to live in Britain under Roman rule and the coins and pottery used. We then moved on to the mosaic within the park which shows how the Romans created under-floor heating. We all had a fantastic time and managed to stay dry!



## Boys' Table Tennis

The boys' table tennis team entered the Dacorum Table Tennis competition and fought hard against some very good players. Unfortunately they were unable to turn some good shots into winning rallies and did not make it through to the finals. The team gave it their full effort and had fun whilst trying to outwit their opponents.

Well done to Hadi, Shaveer, Kristians and Zehn.



## **Boys' Football**

The boys' football team opened their season against a strong Nash Mills side in the league competition. Despite a bright start with some early attacks through Pharren and Kamron, the team was eventually pegged back by their stronger opponents. Although he made some wonderful saves, Kristians was unable to keep out the onslaught from Nash Mills and eventually The Reddings were soundly beaten.

It was a disappointing start for this group of players, however, with so many Year 5 players in the team the long hard season ahead will be good preparation for next year.

Team: Kristians, Emily, Pharren, Kamron, Hadi, Shaveer, Oakley, Bill and Desmond

## **Girls' Table Tennis**

Back in October the girls' table tennis team competed in the annual Dacorum competition, an event which The Reddings has won for the past two years. The girls rattled through their group stage matches, winning every single game and hardly dropping a point. In the final they met Greenway School, who were equally as strong. In a tight final it was Greenway who managed to win through, progressing to the county finals.

Well done to Jess, Emily, Lacey and Nokukhanya

## **District Cross Country**

Well done to all members of the Cross Country teams who took part at the recent cross country festival at Longdean School. On a tough uphill course with a very strong wind, conditions were tough for all members of the team.

Congratulations to Emily, who beat her target of a top ten finish, by finishing in a fabulous fourth place! Equally Krystal pushed herself to her limits to finish runner up in the Year 6 race.

Well done to all those who took part:

Year 5 girls: Emily, Elise, Alicja, Sophia and Summer

Year 5 boys: Oakley, Pharren, Josiah, Bill and Kamron

Year 6 Girls: Aisha, Krystal, Lacey and Noor

Year 6 Boys: William, Desmond, Harvey, Hadi and Zehn



## Year 5 - 6 Basketball

The annual Dacorum Basketball tournament always brings a mixture of high tempo action and high emotions in each fast paced game. So it was again this year, with The Reddings team once again hoping for a surprise performance. The team excelled throughout and improved with each game they played. After a tough defeat in their opening match to eventual tournament winners Holstmere End, the team bounced back with two wonderful performances that, due to some wayward shooting, ended in draws. We then lost narrowly to Bridgewater School but ended the tournament on a high with a win against Yewtree. This put us joint third in the group, which unfortunately meant we missed out on a place in the semi finals.



Congratulations to Krystal, Lacey, Jess, Kamron, Pharren, Harvey and Scarlett

## Year 3 - 4 Tag Rugby League

It is a rare thing to find a team who is happy to work for each other and do what is best for the team. These kind of qualities are normally only found in elite teams such as the England rugby team of 2003 and the British hockey team of 2016. You can add to that list this exceptional group of players. For some, it was their first competitive Tag Rugby experience and how they excelled! Every player who took to the field did their best for the team and there was no mention of who was scoring the tries, as long as we, The Reddings were scoring. From the three games played the team scored 14 tries and conceded zero. Of the nine people on the team, seven scored tries in the games, showing what a great team effort it had been.

These three wins have put the team top of the league and with 2 games remaining they are on course to reach the Dacorum final.

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



## KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2016/SPRING TERM 2017

5 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Year 3 Trip – Celtic Harmony Camp
6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Girls Football Match against Lime Walk School
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	KS1 Christmas Production – 9 am
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	KS1 Christmas Production – 2 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	EYFS Christmas Production – 11 am
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	KS2 Festival of Carols – 2 pm
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	KS2 Christmas Party – 4.30 pm to 6 pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	EYFS/KS1 Christmas Party – 4 pm to 5.30 pm
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Peter Pan Pantomime for the whole school
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Christmas craft activities for parents – 9 am to 10.30 am
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Christmas Jumper Day and whole school Christmas lunch
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	Last day of Autumn Term – school finishes at 1.30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Chinese New Year lunch
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	INSET Day
13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Spring half-term