



SIAMS Outstanding
Church School

Old Hutton C of E School

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Monday 18th December, 2017

End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of an extremely busy and exciting term finally arrives and Christmas is almost upon us, here is our final newsletter of 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all your support over another 'Outstanding' year, for the many Christmas cards and kind gifts we have received in school and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! I hope you enjoy a wonderful, well-deserved holiday.

TOP NEWS STORY! Primary School League Tables – OHS is in the top 50 schools!

We were thrilled to find that our school has this year made it into the top 50 primary schools in the whole of England (that is out of more than 12,000 schools!) in the Primary School League Tables, as published by The Telegraph last week – **we come in at number 43! We are also placed 2nd out of all schools in Cumbria and in the top 20 of all schools nationally for value added between KS1 and KS2.** This is a huge achievement of which we should all be extremely proud and is further recognition of the excellent work by all our dedicated team and amazing pupils! Congratulations everyone!

Staff news

Joining our staff team during the last half term, we had two new **student teachers, Lucy Taylor and Abby Carradus**, who made excellent contributions to our teaching team in Class 2 – they will return to work with us again in the Summer Term.

We look forward next term to welcoming **Mrs Rachel Angus** as part-time additional teacher in Class 4 and Teaching Assistant in Classes 3 and 4. She will be teaching Y5 as a separate group on Wednesday-Friday mornings, while Miss Harrison teaches Y6. Mrs Angus will also be a TA in Class 3 and 4 on Wednesday-Friday afternoons.

Christmas Production

We hope that you all enjoyed **our amazing 'Oliver!' musical** as much as we did! Every pupil in school took part and acted and sang brilliantly, making us all very proud of their excellent achievements! It was a real cross-curricular project, bringing together learning in History, English, Music, Art, DT, ICT, PSHCE and through the R/KS1 Nativity included in our Music Hall, RE. It was also a lovely social occasion, including the opportunity to share seasonal refreshments kindly organised by the PTA. For some super photographic reminders of the performance, pop in to school to see Amy Bateman's fantastic shots on the entrance hall screen and also up in a new display coming soon! Huge thanks to Amy for being our 'official photographer' for the show; if anyone would like copies of her photos of their own children, please let Amy know or contact Angela in the office. Many thanks to the PTA for organising the raffles, which raised an excellent approx £250 for PTA funds; Claire Mansfield for organising the Class 4 props/scenery and publicity department, producing the programmes and together with Caroline Birch, Rebecca Hodds and the many additional parents who joined in for help creating the props and stunning backdrop; Danny Hinchcliffe for loan of the electric piano and amplifier; Sedbergh School for loan of several top hats; the New Hutton Village Hall for the great venue; to the whole staff team for their hard work helping to organise the show and to all parents, family and friends for helping create the authentic Victorian costumes, practising words and coming along to support us.

Class 1 and 2 Nativity

A HUGE well done to all pupils in Class 1 and 2, together with Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Hayes and the Class 1 and 2 team for creating a beautiful **Nativity play, not just once as part of our Oliver production, but twice, with a repeat performance in church last Friday.** The congregation of pupils, staff, family and

friends all enjoyed these young pupils' confident singing, narration and actions! Many thanks to St John's Church and all who came along to enjoy this special event.

Fundraising events

A HUGE well done to the **School Council and all our KS2 pupils** for their amazing enterprising efforts in **organising their own Christmas Fair on 1st December**. A brilliant £312 was raised! Many thanks to the PTA for the raffle and organising refreshments and to all parents, family and friends who donated, helped out and came along to support this excellent annual social and fundraising event. Earlier this half term, the whole school went spotty making costumes and money boxes to raise funds for **Children In Need**, again organised by the School Council – well done everyone for raising over £100! Thank you to everyone who donated **Boxes of Hope** in our annual collection sending gifts at Christmas out to needy children in Eastern Europe. We have also just enjoyed taking part in **National Christmas Jumper Day** last week, raising £67.96 for the British Red Cross. Plus, **the school choir, led by Kate Thomas, had great fun this morning carol singing in Kendal to raise funds for our link school in Senegal**; many thanks to Claire Toone and the NatWest bank for inviting us to sing and looking after us so well with much-appreciated hot chocolates half-way through our singing programme and chocolate presents afterwards! Thanks to everyone who came along to support us; a brilliant £141.05 was raised.

Multi-faith Festival of Light event

A big thank you to our Collective Worship Committee, school staff, Rev Angela and her team of helpers from St John's for helping to organise our first ever **'Festival of Light' event** on 30th November. Led by the CWC pupils, everyone worked with their buddies to explore the Hindu, Sikh and Christian festivals of Divali, Advent and Christingle. From an amazing dance for Divali specially created by Class 4, to a Divali puppet play, lantern-making, mindfulness colouring, Advent ring collaging and creating Christingles for our church service to end the afternoon, we were lit up with our multi-faith learning! Thank you to everyone who came along to share our lovely **candle-lit Christingle service** and to all who have sent donations in the Christingle candle boxes, which contributed £37.64 in funds for The Children's Society.

Seasonal Theatre Visits and Visitors

As part of our seasonal activities in the last few weeks, all of KS2 were treated to a visit out to the theatre in Lancaster to see **the pantomime Aladdin**, while R/KS1 pupils enjoyed **The Snow Dragon** at The Brewery. Class 1 also invited their friends from Pre-School to watch NISCU perform their lovely **Puppet Nativity Play** in school. Thank you to all staff for organising and leading these visits and to all the parents who kindly helped out with transport and/or accompanied the children.

More Class 4 and School Council events

This half term has seen members of Class 4 take part with great enthusiasm in the **Kendal Schools' Netball tournament** at Heron Hill. The whole class enjoyed an excellent **visit to the Kendal Mountain Festival** as part of their study of Extreme Environments. Four lucky Y5/6 School Council pupils also got to **meet John Bercow, speaker of the House of Commons at the South Lakes Pupil Parliament** – an amazing opportunity to find out about how parliament works and practice their debating skills! Many thanks to Miss Harrison, Mrs Birch, Rebecca Hodds and all parents who helped out with these events.

School link news

Our **Senegal link** continues to grow, with **Claire Griffel** visiting us with news about her latest trip to our link school and all Class 3 and 4 pupils writing and sending **postcards in French** to their penpals. We also heard that the **Solar Panels** which we raised money for over the last year are hopefully to be installed after Christmas – what a wonderful present! Claire's latest **Art Exhibition, Imagine Senegal and the Quetzal Bird**, showcasing her first children's book, is currently open daily 9am-4pm at Space2Create, Tap Brewery House, Kendal – all welcome! Class 2 are to visit the exhibition next term, as well as Claire returning to school in January to lead art workshops with all pupils inspired by her new book.

We are also very excited to share the news that we have established **a new link with a school in Marseille, France: L'Ecole Elementaire de la Visitation**. This will initially be for our Y5/6 pupils, who have all now got a named penpal from Marseille to write to in French, while they will reply to us in English, so both developing our language skills with a real purpose. Last week we made and posted Christmas cards and messages to our new French friends and we are eagerly awaiting their replies!

PTA news

The PTA have been very busy this term! As well as supporting us with our **Christmas Production, raffles, Christmas cards, Fair and today's Christmas Party**, they organised an excellent **children's disco** and another very successful **cake stall after school**. Many thanks to everyone involved and to all of you who sent in donations and supported these events, the proceeds from which will be used to fund events and resources for all pupils in school – including this term, coach transport for our theatre visits and items for Class 1.

Septic Tank news

Following the flooding event last month which unfortunately caused the shared school/village hall septic tank to breakdown/overflow and school to be closed as a result, I can report that Cumbria County Council is proceeding with works to repair the damage, hopefully asap in the new year. In the meantime, we continue to need to monitor and empty the tank weekly. However, this is only a temporary solution to the problem and CCC is still researching a permanent one – we will update you with more news on this when we have it next term.

Uniform news

Please note that new uniform is now available to order online only – see the school website at www.oldhuttonschool.org.uk (prospective parents page) for the link to use or go directly to www.conistonshop.com/Old-Hutton-CE-Primary-School-118/school/index.php. See Angela in the office for more details if needed.

Car parking safety reminder


We are very much aware of the fact that traffic congestion and parking outside school at the beginning and end of the school day continues to be an increasingly challenging issue. As a priority, we are continuing to monitor this and have a Governors working party researching ideas to try to improve the situation; the traffic police are visiting to support us. In the meantime, please can we remind everyone to show consideration to others, including our neighbours in the village, by **driving slowly and cautiously in the school vicinity** and **avoiding parking in front of all the private properties opposite the school. It is dangerous and illegal to park on the yellow zigzag lines in front of school.** Please try your best to park sensibly and always take extra care of the children and yourselves when getting in and out of vehicles, crossing the road and walking to and from school at these busy times. Thank you.

Plans for next term

We are already planning ahead with our new topics for next term. Across the whole school, we will focus in different ways on the Science-based theme of **Animals, including a special topic on Birds and our annual participation in the January RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch – so start feeding those garden visitors in preparation for this now!** Our Christian Value focus will be **Respect, including a special multi-faith event on Prayer**. Any ideas or resources to help us will be welcome! **Reminder: next term starts on Thursday 4th January (with a staff training day for all staff on Wednesday 3rd).**

And finally... don't forget to come along, if you can, to join in our annual end of term Carol Service tomorrow afternoon at 1:15pm – a lovely start to the festive season!

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas and happy new year from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Dates for your diary January/February 2018 (more details/events to follow next term)

Thursday 4th January

SPRING TERM STARTS

Friday 5th January

Choir begins again weekly – Lunchtime

Monday 8th January

Sports club KS1 weekly 3.30 – 4.30pm
Claire Griffel leading art workshops for whole school with Senegal/birds focus – all day

Tuesday 9th January	Football club KS2 weekly 3.30 – 4.30pm
Wednesday 10th January	Class 3 swimming weekly 9.00am – Leisure centre Y2 visit to Space2Create Senegal art exhibition & workshop with Claire Griffel - morning Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME! Warhammer Club weekly 3.20 – 4.30pm Dance club KS2 weekly 3.30 – 4.30pm
Thursday 18th January	Open the book in School 1.00pm
Tuesday 23rd January Wednesday 24th January	NO FOOTBALL CLUB Class 3 swimming 9.00am – Leisure centre Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!
Wednesday 31st January	Open the book in Church 2.45pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 5th February	Class 3 Pied Piper concert rehearsal in school - am
Monday 12th February	HALF TERM
Monday 19th February	SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 2 ND HALF SPRING TERM Governors' Finance Committee meeting – 9am
Tuesday 20th February Wednesday 21st February	School Book Bus visit Whole-school multi-faith event: Prayer focus -pm
Thursday 29th March	TERM ENDS

School Term dates – 2017-18

Please note that school ends at normal time for half term holidays but at 2pm at the end of full terms.

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 April – Friday 20 July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 7 May

Half Term Holiday: Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June