

Thankfulness

Monday afternoon we held a small gathering for the many volunteers who help out throughout the year. We just wanted to take the opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and commitment, as much of what we are able to achieve is as a result of the ongoing support we receive. Well done to all the children who played a selection of carols on the piano, ably supported by Mrs Innes, and to our *first ever* brass band under the experienced eye of Mrs Godwin. Having the children play created a wonderfully festive atmosphere and topped off the afternoon- thank you!

House Tournaments

"This week, the whole school has been involved with house tournaments that the Y6 house captains organised with Mrs Lewis. This time, it had a very festive feel. Everyone had to design and build a sleigh using a variety of different materials. We could use any type of construction including lolly sticks, cardboard boxes and even lego. There was a range of different sized models and some people even made a Father Christmas and reindeer to go with their sleighs. All the children took on the challenge with great enthusiasm and the whole school had very festive morning with lots of fun! The house captains then had the very difficult job of judging the winners - Cowcombe was the infant winner and the junior competition was won by Marle."

Ben I and Mason, Y6

Junior Carol Service

Fortunately, the rain held off for our Junior Carol Service on Wednesday evening. The children did a wonderful job in getting everyone in the Christmas spirit; sharing poems, acting so confidently and singing most beautifully! I know that Mr Thomas was extremely touched by the Y6 version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas,' it was a lovely surprise. It was fantastic to see so many families join us at this special time. Thank you to our ever amazing PTA who provided some much welcome mulled wine and mince pies and to Mr Gardiner for supplying a magnificent tree and shedding 'light' on the whole evening.

Music Assembly - Farewell Mr Thomas...

Our final music assembly of 2018 will definitely be one to remember. Thank you to Mr Jarvis, Meg & Noah (Y6) who shared their most 'memorable' songs. They successfully surprised Mr Thomas with some of his favourite tunes - from The Clash and The Monkees to Morrissey and the Ramones. We were delighted that Mrs Thomas was able to join us for the afternoon and be a part of the surprise. Mr Thomas was certainly overwhelmed by his gift of a Gretsch G2622T Streamliner electric guitar and case!

This was followed by a gathering of pupils, parents, staff and governors - both past and present, who all wanted to say thank you to Mr Thomas for his service. It was no surprise that the hall was so packed; it is clear to see how many lives he has touched during his time at Chalford Hill. We wish Mr Thomas good health and happiness for the future!

Reception request

If you could save and wash your 4-pint milk bottles and bring them in to the school office in January, the Reception class are hoping to use them for a project next term.

Y5 Help the Homeless

"For the last couple of weeks Y5 have been learning about homelessness. To help the homeless we have been giving up things that we do every day or challenging ourselves to do more reading or something. Here are some of the things that we have been giving up: sleeping in our bed, our toys, our rooms and some people have even been giving up chairs at school. Just doing that between Wednesday 12th and Tuesday 18th December we have raised £818.77, with more still to come in! Thank you for everyone who donated money at the carol concert, we raised £286.16 and 1 yellow Smartie!"

Eva, Y5

Father Christmas

This afternoon we welcomed the man himself - Father Christmas! The children took great delight in visiting his grotto and sharing what they are looking forward to most this Christmas time. Thank you to our creative PTA elves who ensured this ran so smoothly - this really does make for a special time!

Recycling

Please take some time to read the attachment from the PTA which lists some new items that you can recycle which will not only reduce waste, but will also help raise funds for the school. These are:

- Crisp packets, sharing bags & multipack wrappers
- Pringles tubes & lids
- Pet food bags & pouches
- Toothpaste tubes, brushes and the packaging they come in

The attachment also explains what we currently recycle. Recycling tubs can be found on the school garden near the gate to Randalls Green.

In assembly this morning we talked about the excitement and anticipation Christmas brings. The children were keen to share what they are looking forward to most; receiving presents and spending time with family and friends. We also took time to think about how joy and love can be shared just as much by giving - be it the gift of time or a reassuring hug. The Year 5 have been an inspiration to us all, giving up luxuries as a way of raising funds for the homeless. Thank you to everyone who has supported the children in their endeavours - your generosity is overwhelming!

As the last day of term draws to a close, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the people that make Chalford Hill so special. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support; to the staff for their total dedication and commitment to your children; to the governors who work with such diligence to guide and support the school's vision and of course to the children themselves who never cease to amaze me with their many talents.

Wherever you are, whatever you choose to do this Christmas, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Mrs Corinne Martin 🎄



Dates for your Diary

Monday 7th January 2019

Tuesday 8th January

Tuesday 15th January

Thursday 17th January

Term starts

Y1 visit to the woods

Y2 visit to the woods

Y3 swimming starts