

NEWSLETTER 14 – 18th December 2015

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

Church Service – On Wednesday we all walked to St Laurence Church, for our Christmas Carol service. The House Captains narrated the Christmas story, and we all sang a selection of carols. Year 2 children took part in the Nativity tableaux. Thank you to our helpers who escorted the children and to Rev Ruth for leading the service.

Christmas Lunch – Mrs Fisher and her team cooked and served nearly 300 Christmas lunches to pupils and staff on Wednesday. They were ably assisted by the House Captains who served the younger children.

Play Equipment – Our KS2 children have been given an early Christmas present - they are now enjoying using the new play equipment that has been bought for us by the BSA. We would all like to thank the BSA for all their hard work and all our parents for supporting the events.

E-Safety –

- Its 'that' time of year again and parents may be glad to have a reminder that they can make devices given as presents, safer by putting age related restrictions on them before they wrap them up for Christmas. Internet Matters has an excellent website with an interactive house, which takes you step by step through what to press and what that looks like on the device. This is the link - <http://www.internetmatters.org/controls/interactive-guide/>
- Another useful set of leaflets you can print can be found on the Safer Internet website - <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-to-technology>
- The www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents website has been completely refreshed with a suite of articles and guidance on all aspects of child internet safety. Families can also use the website to access the CEOP Safety Centre (www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre) where they can report abuse and exploitation direct to CEOP.

Term Time Holidays – We would like to remind parents that we are not able to grant a leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term-time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional. Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Please Note - all unauthorised Leave of Absence applications will be referred to the Attendance Compliance and Enforcement Service.

Admissions for Sept 2016 - To secure a school place for children born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012 you need to apply online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions by 15th January 2016.

Messages from St Laurence Church –

- Torchlight Nativity procession starts at 3.30pm on Sat 19th Dec from St Joseph's RC car park in Bidford finishes at St Laurence's with carols and refreshments. Come dressed as shepherds, angels, kings... or yourself!
- Christmas Party Church is on Mon 21st Dec between 10 - 11.30am - refreshments and carols with plenty of space for excited children!
- Crib Service is 4.00pm on Christmas Eve
- Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve
- Family Holy Communion Service at 10am on Christmas Day

For more information contact Rev Ruth 772217.

Clubs Update – Cooking Club for **Group 3** will start on Thursday 7th Jan, Performance Club will restart on Friday 8th Jan and Girls Football on Tuesday 12th Jan. There will be a Year 3&4 Multiskills club starting on Thursday 7th Jan – please call into the office for details.

Book of the Week – We always enjoy 'The Night before Christmas' by Clement Moore. This traditional poem from 1822 is a lovely story that captures the wonder and excitement of waiting for St Nicholas.

On behalf of all our staff and governors I would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteer helpers for all their support this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on TUES 5th January 2016.

Mr A Simms

The latest from Bidford School Association...

The children in Key Stage 2 have already started enjoying playing on the playground equipment that was finished last week – all funded by you, through BSA events!

We were very grateful to the Bidford Chamber of Commerce for their kind donation to our BSA funds – we look forward to supporting village events again next year.

Early next year we will have a quiz night for the parents, and a disco for the kids. For now, we would like to thank you all for your support – it's been a great year!

Happy Christmas

From all the BSA Team x

Find us on Facebook – “Bidford School BSA”

The BSA Committee:

Emily, Glenda, Laura and Sue

Emily Lee – Chair (07989323997)

Glenda Vassie – Vice-Chair (07928656855)

Laura Simpson – Secretary (07712166158)

Sue Woodward – Treasurer