

POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

18 December 2015

I cannot believe I have written the final newsletter for 2015 and one to end my first year as Head Teacher. Christmas seems to have appeared from nowhere and 2015 seems to have disappeared in a flash!

The past fortnight at Potten End has been exciting, festive and extremely entertaining. The children's shows were absolutely incredible and I was blown away by their confidence, courage and excellent performances. Since the performances we have enjoyed lots of Christmas treats in school; ranging from a visit from a theatre group who performed the Snow Queen to our amazing Christmas dinner last week. It is such a fantastic school to be part of, that even Father Christmas managed a visit last week! It has been lovely spending time with the children during this exciting period; they have been, as always, an absolute credit to you and it continues to be a pleasure and privilege being Head Teacher of this fantastic school.

I would like to thank you, the parents/carers, for all that you do for your children and for Potten End C of E Primary School; you are a special group of people and your support for the education of the children is amazing. Furthermore, a special thank you to the FOS team for their amazing fundraising throughout 2015 and of course this hectic Christmas season. They have very generously chosen to donate the takings from the mulled wine and mince pies served at the Community Carols, to 'Text Santa'.

I know you will all join me in thanking the Potten End staff; they work tirelessly to provide the children with the best possible education and it is an absolute privilege working alongside them. Their passion, commitment and hard work are second to none and I know that this makes a huge difference to the children daily. Thank you and well done team!

Thank you for all your support and understanding regarding the power issues last week. It is always a difficult decision to cancel or postpone events,

but ultimately child safety is always central in any decision we make.

Charity donations

We believe that around £7,000 was raised by Friends of School this term. This is as a result of their hard work throughout the term and their hugely successful Autumn Fair, Film Nights, Yummy Mummies and numerous other fundraising initiatives. Thank you also, for your donations to DENS at the end of the Christmas performances. We were able to send them a cheque for £339.16 and I am sure that this will be put to good use supporting people who find themselves in difficult circumstances. Last month we also supported Children in Need and managed to raise an impressive £226.95 to support this worthy cause.

Parking

It has been confirmed that the double yellow lines around the centre of the village are going to be painted sometime in February - when we know more we will notify you. The decision to place these yellow lines was made a long time ago (prior to the school becoming a primary school) and was part of the conditions of approving the expansion of the school. Please be aware that after the lines are in place, traffic wardens will be active (I don't want you getting tickets)! Parking is always a contentious issue and I fail to see a solution that as a school, we can implement which does not involve digging up our playground! If you have any suggestions or ideas, then please contact your class representatives on the Parent Forum where they can raise them at the next meeting. We of course continue to liaise with Dacorum Borough Council and the Herts County Council to try and get additional parking bays on the Village Green completed and the additional section of footpath on Water End Road constructed (to aid crossing), but delays continue to be evident. We will of course let you know any information when we are aware of it.

Keeping Healthy

We continue to strive to keep the school a healthy place. I know it is difficult to get children to drink water, but it really is the healthiest option. I was sent an article from one of the members of our Parent Forum which stated:

“The 'healthy' flavoured water has as much sugar as three doughnuts”

The most popular brand, Volvic’s Touch of Fruit in lemon and lime, has 27.5g of sugar in its standard 500ml bottle – equivalent to almost seven teaspoons.

I am therefore grateful for your support in continuing our ‘water only’ policy which ensures children are hydrated by the most healthy and safe option. Thank you.

Business Links

As a note, if you ever need anything for you families’ bikes, you might want to visit <http://www.thelittlebikecompany.co.uk/> where pupils and parents of Potten End School can receive a 10% discount. Another business thank you is to Neil Presence who has provided the school with numerous fabric sample books that the children have enjoyed using to create collages and other fantastic pieces of artwork.

Club Opportunities

At a recent Parent Forum the possibility of organising a Potten End Skiing Group/Club, was raised. We understand that by grouping together, parents can take advantage of group/school discounts at the Hemel Hempstead Ski Centre. If you are interested in this opportunity, please give your details into the office and we will pass them onto Mrs Higgins who has kindly agreed to act as an organiser.

As usual, we will be publishing the club letter for the forthcoming term in the first week of the new term.

Music Tuition

Mrs Seodi has asked us to let our families know that there are spaces for music tuition with her during school hours. If you are interested, please

e-mail the school office and we will provide you with contact details.

Staff News

We are pleased to announce that from January, Mrs Swan will be joining our EYFS team and working in Nursery every morning. Mrs Seldon is going to be joining our Lower KS2 team where she will be supporting learning in Year 3. I am sure you would like to join me in welcoming them to the Potten End staff team where I’m sure they will settle in well and enjoy their new roles.

In my concluding paragraph I would like to thank all of you for your generosity in the gifts that you have given to myself and the staff in the school. It is extremely kind and we are all very grateful. Thank you. To finish, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas; I hope that this Christmas and the New Year bring you all much hope, good health and happiness and I look forward to seeing you all in January. I am confident 2016 is going to be another fantastic year in Potten End C of E Primary School.

Andrew Morris
Head Teacher