



Sageston CP School

Newsletter – December 2024



This Term's Values: Respect and Friendship; Self-belief and Kindness

Christmas is always a wonderful time in school (if a little tiring) and it has been our pleasure to welcome you all into the school in the past couple of weeks for our Christmas performances, Barn Owl's landing event for their 'Light and Dark' topic and for the Christmas Fayre. We are always very grateful for the amazing levels of support shown by the families of our pupils and the community in general. We were also delighted to see so many of you at St Mary's Church on 17th December to join us for our Carol Service.

If I do not get a chance to speak to you later today, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Upcoming Dates

December

Friday 20th

Final Day of the Term – Class Christmas Parties (pupils can come in non-school uniform and bring a toy or game to play)

January

Monday 6th:

INSET Day – school closed to pupils.

Tuesday 7th:

First day of the spring term for pupils.

Please note that a full list of dates for the spring term will be published in the first week back after the Christmas holidays.

Important Messages

Headteacher Recruitment

The advert for a new headteacher can currently be found on Pembrokeshire County Council's jobs webpage. The closing date for applications is 6th January and governors will then be shortlisting and subsequently interviewing candidates later in January. All being well, they hope to have news of a successful appointment towards the end of January. As I mentioned on my last newsletter, a video has been produced for perspective candidates and can be found on the school website. It is a very pleasing advert for our school.

INSET Days

A quick reminder that we have already had three of our six allotted INSET days for the year. The first day of each of the next two terms will be INSET days (Monday 6th January and Monday 28th April). The final INSET day for the year will be on Monday 21st July and staff will be expected to attend twilight sessions over the next couple of terms to make this time up so that they do not have to come into school on that date.

We return from the Christmas break on Tuesday 7th January as school is closed for an INSET Day on Monday 6th January.

Key Events and Visits

Whole School Pantomime Visit – Wednesday 4th December

The whole school visited the Torch Theatre to watch their annual panto, which this year was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Oh yes we did! A great time was had by all and we must thank the FOSS for subsidising tickets and providing a snack for all pupils.

'The Stars Come Out for Christmas' Performances – 9th to 11th December

We sold over 350 tickets for the three performances of 'The Stars Come Out for Christmas'. It was fantastic to see so many of you there supporting the pupils. Thank you for all of the support that you gave to pupils in preparing for the performances. From rehearsing their lines and songs with them to providing their costumes, we couldn't have put on such a successful show without you all. I also want to express my gratitude to the staff who gave so much of their time and effort to ensure the pupils were so well prepared.

Kingfisher and Swan's visit to Carew Wesley Chapel – Monday 16th December

As well as visiting the chapel to see how it has been dressed for the Christmas period, we also took all of the pupils in Kingfisher and Swan Classes into the 'Warm Hub' to sing to those members of our community who were accessing this vital service and enjoying their Christmas dinner. The pupils sang brilliantly and I have received some lovely feedback from members of the community who were there and who really enjoyed the pupils' singing.

Carol Service – Tuesday 17th December

What a lovely Carol Service we had on Tuesday morning. The pupils were very well behaved and, once again, sang beautifully. It was great to see so many parents and family members attend and we are grateful to Rev. Hannah and her team at the church for their warm welcome and to members of the FOSS who served refreshments once the pupils had left. I hope that we can try to get to the church at least once a term and Rev. Hannah and I are already planning an Easter event at St Mary's for the end of next term.

Swan Class's visit to Park House Court – Tuesday 17th December

As if members of Swan Class had not been singing enough over the past couple of weeks, they had one final and special performance on Tuesday afternoon at Park House Court Nursing Home. Their singing delighted the residents and staff at the home and as a special reward they were treated to cakes and drinks for their efforts.

Other Key Visits/Visitors

2nd December: PC Carolyn visited classes for School Beat lessons.

13th December: Kingfisher Class recorded a Welsh podcast.

16th December: Stay and Play event for new starters to the Nursery in January.

16th December: Photos and Nativity Scene in playgroup.

18th December: Christmas Dinner.

18th December: 'Glow' event for Barn Owl Class's topic Landing Day.

School Improvement

This month I am focusing on our second improvement target: Provide greater opportunities for developing independence across the curriculum, ensuring appropriate levels of challenge for all learners.

We have spent time as a teaching staff focussing on what true independence means and coming up with a shared understanding. It is not about children being given a task and working on completing it on their own, it is about pupils being taught a range of skills and then applying these skills to open ended tasks, independently selecting the skills they need to utilise and independently making decision about how they will present their work. Support staff have received training on this so that all staff have a clear understanding of what we mean by independence and how we encourage it within our learning environments.

The environment in Robin Class has been changed significantly to encourage independence with the very youngest pupils in our school and the learning environment has been praised by visitors to our school, including our Improvement Adviser. With half of the space, Barn Owl Class include some of the same learning areas as Robin Class to encourage and promote independence. We are currently working on replicating some of these successes in our Swan and Kingfisher Classes within the constraints we have around space in those classes.

School Council Priorities

Due to all of the Christmas events in December, we have not had a chance for the councils to meet. We will, however, continue with our fortnightly meetings after the Christmas holidays and councils will continue to work on their priorities. Here is a brief reminder of each council's priorities:

School Council

Encourage improved reading across the school and Encourage good school attendance

Health and Wellbeing Council

Create a Healthy Eating and Drinking policy and Encourage physical activity in and out of school

Criw Cymraeg

Achieve Siarter Iaith Gwbor Arian (silver status in the Siarter Iaith) and Plan and record a Welsh podcast to add to the website

Eco Council

Achieve Eco Schools status and Create a more eco-friendly school

The Latest from FOSS

The FOSS have been exceptionally busy over the Christmas period. They have done so much that I am afraid I may miss out on some of the ways in which they have supported our school and pupils. They have decorated the whole school (including my office!); run their annual Christmas Crafting day with all pupils; organised and run another successful Christmas Fayre, provided subsidized tickets for the panto and a snack for the children to enjoy during the interval; administered a very successful Christmas raffle; supported at the three Christmas performances; provided refreshments at the Carol Service in St Mary's church; lay the tables for Christmas dinner and helped to serve meals; helped Santa deliver presents to all of the pupils. It's quite the list! We cannot thank members of the FOSS enough for everything they have done over the festive period. In addition, together with the Halloween Disco, they have raised an exceptional £1410.28 for the school this term (as well as the huge amount of money they helped raise for LATCH in September).

As always, we welcome new members to the FOSS team to help with the many things they do for the school. Please contact Lisa Puzey or Kim Leach if you are interested in becoming a member.

Celebration Videos

As you know, each week, we have a celebration assembly where we award various certificates earned in school. It is also an opportunity for children to celebrate their achievements outside of school. I really enjoy this chance to find out about the amazing things the children get up to when they aren't here in school with us. If they have been awarded medals, trophies or certificates for these endeavours, please encourage them to bring them into school on a Friday so that they can be shared with all of us.

Here are the links to the celebration assembly videos for December.

[December 13th](#)

[December 20th](#)

If you don't already know the password to access these videos, please contact me via the methods shared earlier in this newsletter and I'll be happy to share it with you.