



Learning, Playing, Working,
Growing Together

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Newsletter No 014 – 15 December 2017

It has been another busy week! The YR children have been performing their Nativity to parents and Y1 and Y2 have had their Christmas Expert Day! Thank you to everyone who came along!

This will be our last newsletter before the Christmas break so I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 18 December	Christmas Parties
Wednesday 20 December	Carols by Candlelight (Christmas Assembly) – school community only
	End of Term
Tuesday 2 January	INSET Day (school closed to children)
Wednesday 3 January	Children return to school

Attendance

Our current attendance figure is 96.05%.

Congratulations to Elephant class who has the highest attendance this week at 98.9%. Look out for their photo in the attendance gallery outside the school office.

Christmas Fun!

Make sure you don't miss the last 3 days of term – we have lots of special events planned over the 3 days, including Christmas parties, a very special visitor and lots of other Christmas fun!

Christmas Parties

The children are having their Christmas parties on Monday. They may come to school dressed in their party clothes.

Chartwells

Next Wednesday will be fish and chips instead of a roast dinner. The vegetarian option will remain the same – vegetarian sausages.

Y1 & Y2 Spellings

I really enjoyed looking at the Y1 writing as part of their Expert Day this morning and was so impressed by the standard of their writing. Many thanks to all parents for their continued support with learning spellings at home. Improvement in spelling is a key part of our School Development Plan for this year. By learning to spell words correctly the children will gain vital confidence in writing which will support a good level of progress.

We have carefully assessed the children and put them in groups based on these assessments. Therefore, please only practise the words you are sent via email.

Lost Property

As always the lost property box is overflowing and will be emptied at the end of term, so if you have any missing items please come and have a rumage!

YR – Hearing & Vision Screening

You were emailed a letter from the School Health Team regarding the Vision & Hearing Screening being carried out in January. A reminder that if you do not wish your child to have these checks you must opt out (please refer to the letter you received for details on how to do this).

Kiddi Active/Kiddi Tennis After School Clubs

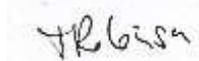
There are spaces on KiddiActive (Monday) <https://goo.gl/forms/pqd78gWdGZiD2HSD3> and KiddiTennis (Thursday) <https://goo.gl/forms/BwUFhtHrUIGpYlds2> for Term 3. Click on the links for more information or to book a place for your child. Contact: Emma on 07811 447711.

Nature Adventures Club

Nature Adventures After School Club has space on Wednesdays in Term 3. This term it will be woodworking, campfires, obstacle courses and signs of spring! To book, please contact Sarah on 07887 556336 or sarah@cherrywoodkids.co.uk.

Albion in the Community

The flyer with information regarding next term's football club is being circulated with the newsletter this week.



Tracy Robinson, Head Teacher

Friends of Motcombe

The Friends end 2017 with two big events successfully under our belt. Thank you for all your support so far in this school year. We will be returning in 2018 with a disco for Y1&2 and a party for our Reception year group.

Be sure to keep an eye on our notice board (located at the front gates) in the new year. It will be undergoing a revamp with a view to making it more informative with regards to the money we raise, how we raise it and how it is spent to benefit all children at Motcombe School.

As always, if you would like to contact the Friends or want to know how you can get involved our email address is motcombefriends@hotmail.com.

On behalf of the Friends of Motcombe, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Claire Silver - Chair of the Friends

Foundation Stage

Thank you to everyone who came to watch our Nativity performance and to share drinks and biscuits with us afterwards. It was lovely to see so many of you there and I'm sure you are as proud as we are of the children's hard work as they learnt the words for the whole story and the songs, together with the actions, created their costumes and scenery and decided on characters and casting.

Our classes have been visited by elves this week and we have had lots of fun finding out what they have been getting up to each day, being kind to them and helping them with their Christmas jobs.

In Letters and Sounds we have now learnt the letters 'j', 'v' and 'w', together with their cued articulation actions (have a look on YouTube) and their letter formation patten.
y (yak): down a horn, up a horn and under his head. z (zip): zig, zag, zig.

So far we have learnt these letters: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, l, j, v, w, y and z and these 'tricky' words: l, to, the, no, go Please help us to look out for them in our books when we are reading at home!

Foundation Stage plea!

Do you have any of the following items? Some of them might be left over after Christmas!

- Wrapping paper tubes
- Chocolate box, biscuit box insides
- Coloured cellophane sweet wrappers.
- Ball pit balls
- Spare tights (we are running out of tights for spare clothes)

All donations gratefully received. Thank you!

Also, if you have a real Christmas tree, we would love it if you were able to give it to us when you have finished with it rather than dispose of it in another way! We are able to use old Christmas trees as an interesting stimulus for learning. Pop the tree over the gate at the top of the Reception Green Path. Thank you!

Home challenge

As this is the last newsletter of the term, the home challenge is one for the Christmas holidays. Next term, we will be learning about all different kinds of special times particularly thinking about how different people celebrate different things in different ways and about similarities and differences.

We will start by sharing the different ways we celebrated Christmas, or didn't celebrate Christmas and spent our holiday in a different way. If you get a moment during the busy-ness of the Christmas period, it would be great if you were able to upload some examples of how you spent your holiday, perhaps showing some of the ways you celebrated Christmas - any family traditions and routines. Do you watch a special Christmas film as a family? Do you visit friends and family? Does Father Christmas come to your house? Do you go to church? Do you eat special food at Christmas? We are looking forward to hearing all about your holiday!

Y1 News

During Phonics sessions this week, we have been practising reading and writing real and alien words using our 'digraph detective' skills. In English we looked at a variety of Christmas poems and selected one to recite on Expert Day using our own actions.

In Maths we have been practising recognising, naming and sorting 2D shapes. The Geography focus this week has been how the weather affects Christmas celebrations in different parts of the world. In DT we enjoyed designing and making our own toy cars.

The children worked really hard this week to prepare for our Expert Day. They sang Christmas songs beautifully and retold the Christmas Story as well as reciting a Christmas poem about a Christmas Tree. Well done everyone!

Y2 News

In English this week we have been reading some Christmas poems. We made a word bank of lots of Christmas words to help us write our own acrostic poems. We learnt and performed these to our friends.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We have been identifying and describing the properties of shapes and have learnt the new word "vertices."

In our Topic work this week we have been continuing to think about the animals in our local area and what kinds of food they eat. You might have noticed our new bird feeders which we have put up around the school. We have been observing which type of food the birds prefer. We have used this knowledge to help us make our own bird feeders.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Expert Day. We really enjoyed sharing this term's learning with you.

On Friday 5 January we are having a "Stunning Start" to our Titanic topic. Please can children come to school dressed as if they are going to board the Titanic.

