

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Last week I was reflecting on the Nativity plays that our youngest children had put on; this week it was the turn of our older children who took part in carol services in St Mary's, Cogges.

It was a great joy to be part of the carol services and to see your children read and sing with such confidence. It was very special to be back in St Mary's after such a long time, I hope it will not be so long before we can be back there again.

As term ends, there is always an opportunity to reflect on what has gone before. For many of us it has not been the term that we would have hoped for. Sickness amongst adults and children has made it a particularly challenging term and I would like to thank you for your support and understanding as we have had to make very difficult decisions in recent weeks.

I am delighted that we have had far fewer positive Covid-19 cases this past term, currently just one. You will know from the news that both locally and nationally cases are rising at a rate we have not experienced for a very long time and what 2022 may hold for us is anybody's guess! As a staff team, we are prepared for whatever politicians may present us with and are expecting updated guidance in the New Year. We will communicate with you as soon as we have any concrete news to share, no news is good news and means business as usual on 5<sup>th</sup> January!

Usually the Christmas term ends with a fanfare of joy and laughter, with everyone excited about their plans and talk filled with anticipation of the holiday ahead. This year the mood, at least for adults, is much more subdued, we simply do not know what the next fortnight will bring, still less the New Year. As we look ahead with uncertainty and perhaps some fear, for Christians it is more important than ever to look right back, to the birth of Jesus two millennia ago. That single event in history changed everything, God becoming like us and living amongst us gives us hope and brings light, even on the darkest of days and amidst the unknowns of Covid-19.

I would encourage you in the days ahead not to get sucked into whatever our Newsfeeds send us, or the endless speculation, but instead to focus on the Good News of Christmas, when God became like us, so that we need never be alone again and can know peace, whatever 2022 brings.

## Good-bye to Miss Main - for now!

Today we said farewell to Miss Main, who is heading off on maternity leave. Miss Main will be missed enormously; her sense of humour, efficiency and dedication to your children will leave a real hole in our school community. However, we wish her every blessing as she starts the next exciting adventure as a Mum and look forward to meeting her baby sometime in 2022.

In January, we are welcoming back Mrs Rowlands after her maternity leave. Mrs Rowlands will be working in the lower half of the school, supporting classes particularly during teachers' PPA time. We look forward to once again benefitting from Mrs Rowlands' teaching and to hearing her ready laughter.

## **The Friends**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Raffle this year. This includes those who bought and sold tickets, those who donated prizes and those who attended our Choir and Raffle Draw Event. Together, with some help from the sale of sweets at the event, we raised a fantastic £1260.10. This money will make a big difference to supporting our children and the school.

With special thanks to the businesses who contributed prizes for the raffle:

Angela Anderson Accountancy Services, Baker and Taylor, Birdland, Blenheim Palace, Cafe Rouge, Coffee Shed at The Leys, Cogges Farm, Delice Café, Hardwick Park, Jules at your Fingertips, Karolina's Treatment Room, Nemo's Gymnastics, No.12 Jazz and Cocktail Bar, OSTMA Oxford Sport and Traditional Martial Arts, Part and Parcel, Pirate Fitness, Tesco, The Entertainer Toy Shop, The Flower Shop, The Shake Shop, Waitrose, Wychwood Brewery, Zumba and STRONG Nation with Katie Amiri and 5 Children and a Book.

Do look out for news of events planned for 2022 and consider joining The Friends Team, it would be great to welcome new faces to help us plan and run events.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas from all at The Friends of the Blake school.

## **The Governors**

The Governing Body is often unseen, but its role in the school is an essential one. Governors provide strategic oversight to the decision making of the school and are uniquely placed to ask senior leaders challenging questions!

Behind the scenes governors approve policies, scrutinise data and monitor the school's development priorities, they are also responsible for ensuring that the school's vision remains central to everything that happens in school.

The governors would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas!

## **News from Around the School**

Thank-you to everyone who donated to our Stepping Stones charity boxes after our Christmas events. We raised £75.38, which we will send to them to support the work they are doing overseas.

The staff have been very touched by the lovely cards, generous gifts and thoughtful words from so many children and parents over the past week. Thank you for taking the time to say a few encouraging words, or to help your children write cards and wrap presents. Your kindness is much appreciated. Working with your children is both a joy and privilege, but it is wonderful to receive your positive encouragement and thanks. Thank-you.

We hope you enjoy these photos of our Christmas events and classroom activities from all around the school. It has been a busy and a happy time as children have looked forward to the joy of Christmas and all the wonder of the Christmas story.





We wish you and all those whom you love a happy and peaceful Christmas, filled with time for special memories and laughter. We look forward to seeing you all in 2022!