

NEWSLETTER-The Christmas Edition 2016

Christmas Holiday School closes: Tuesday 20th December 2016
School opens: Tuesday 3rd January 2017

February half-term School closes: Friday 10th February 2017
School opens: Monday 20th February 2017

Easter Holiday School closes: Friday 7th April 2017
School opens: Monday 24th April 2017

Inset Days No INSET days planned this term



LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been an eventful term with the new pupils all settling in extremely well.

OFSTED have reiterated that the school is good and commented that-

“Pupils are confident, self-assured and willing to share their views. They are highly motivated and talk passionately about their work.”

We are very pleased with this result.

The school has also been audited and had very few recommendations for areas of improvement. Well done to everyone in the office for working so effectively.

In Rhys' absence, we have Becky Wells and Marie Redfern sharing the Acting Deputy role and they are doing a great job.

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication in what has been quite a challenging term and I am extremely proud of the pupils who have made great progress this term and represent the school with pride.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Cheryl Smart

CLASS NEWS

ACORN

The Acorns have had a brilliant time exploring festivals this half term and we have discovered lots about the customs, food, and meanings of Hanukkah, Diwali, Eid and Wesak. We have been especially thinking about being a good friend and enjoyed anti bullying week and sending Christmas parcels to children less fortunate than us. We cooked latkes (potato pancakes) for Hanukkah, we tried meditation for Wesak, we wore special new clothes for Eid and practised cleaning the house for Diwali!

Now we are looking forward to Christmas and in our class we are thinking about doing extra good deeds which we are writing on our advent lists to leave for Santa on Christmas Eve.



Our Elf day was really special because we had a Christmas party and Moo music entertained us before we had some yummy food and soft play. We are putting together a reverse Advent calendar, into which we put a memory for every day of advent to give to patients with dementia.

In forest schools we have been enjoying all the leaves and gathering them up into great big piles. The Christmas elf left letters and clues for all the Acorns to follow and find a magic key for Santa.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

APPLE

Hi all, this term we have been very busy exploring festivals and Christmas.

We have explored many festivals from Buddhism to Hanukkah. Our science topic has been space and we had a wonderful visit to the space centre. We also had a great day at Stubbin Wood School for a winter fun day and two lovely swims.

We had our Christmas party at the Genesis centre and are excited for the carol concert.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

ASH

Ho ho ho hello, Ash Class have had a wonderful start to the year and we are super excited for the countdown to Christmas!

We all settled in beautifully and enjoyed welcoming our new friend Lewis to Alfreton Park.

We have been working hard on our communication skills, fine and gross motor skills and literacy/numeracy skills, learning about Derbyshire, the weather, Diwali, Guru Nanak's birthday and much more!

We really enjoyed our first bus trip out and the pantomime and are looking forward to the carol concert.

BEECH

Beech Class have settled in well since starting in September. We have had lots of fun and done some super learning together.

Within the first term we learnt about the local history of where we live ('Derbyshire') and visited Eyam for the day. We found this interesting as we learnt about the famous plague that hit the village in 1665. The highlight of the trip was the visit to the museum where we saw the plague doctor's outfit! It was rather scary looking!!

This term we have been learning about 'The Weather'. We now know how each type of weather affects us and what we need to wear during each season. We went on a trip to Magna Science Adventure Centre and had great fun experiencing the 4 different pavilions: Air, Water, Earth and Fire. I think our



favourite level was the fire pavilion!!!

Recently we went to White Post Farm for our Christmas trip together. We had such GREAT fun watching the nativity play, racing on the slide, playing in the park, feeding the animals, reindeer and then holding new born baby goats, guinea pigs and pigs. We can't wait to go back again!

We all had such a great day out together at the pantomime.

We love our class, adventures and fun! I wonder what we will get up to together next?!

WILLOW

Hi from the Willow staff and pupils, Hope you are well!

Since September we have been very busy making lots of new friends, learning and engaging and of course having lots of fun.



Last term we learnt all about the history of Derbyshire, mark making with coal and reading sensory stories about Rosie and Jim to link in with the Cromford Canal, we all had a splashing time!

A big thankyou to Jos for her wonderful R.E sessions they have been amazing, all our pupils have gained so much from these sessions, the parachute and props were the best which have inspired us all! We look forward to more of these in the New Year.

We have really missed our swimming sessions in the pool, although hopefully these will be back up and running in the New Year as this supports our all-round development.

We are currently learning about the weather and seasons which we are all enjoying, especially our winter theme, which included a snow machine! How fantastic was this! And of course we cannot forget our wonderful Teresa who has made us a wonderful winter wonderland in the back of Willow class including an igloo, twinkling lights, snow and snowballs, everyone has enjoyed, explored and learnt so much. A big thankyou to Teresa for all your hard work! We have also been making wind chimes and learning about how we dress in different weathers.

We have now started our build up to Christmas, which at times can be a little difficult for some of us to cope with although we have all dealt with the changes fantastically!! Our trips have included a trip to Westfield in Derby to experience the festivities, we played in some fake snow and listened to a carol singing competition, we all behaved superbly even the staff, well maybe a few singalongs! We are now looking forward to our visit to the East Midlands Designer Outlet to visit Santa, which is sure to be a magical experience for all.

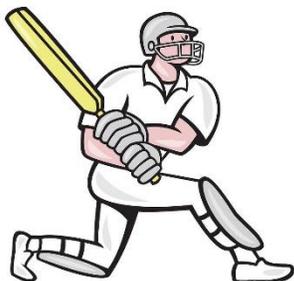
We have recently had our Christmas fayre within school and have been to the pantomime to watch "Peter Pan" this was a lovely experience also, smiles on everyone's faces. We now look forward to seeing you all at the Watchorn Church carol concert.

A special Thank you from Willow to everyone that has supported us through this term and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

LARCH

Wow, since September Larch class have been really busy, we had a great time team building at Skegness on our residential the 2nd week of the term, which provided us with endless amounts

of fun! After that we have been learning about our local area – Derbyshire, we had a fabulous trip to Eyam, finding out information about the plague and visiting the church.



Over the term we have really enjoyed developing lots of different skills during P.E when Derbyshire County Cricket Club has helped us to improve our hand eye coordination, batting, fielding and turn taking skills. During science we have been linking with geography learning about Alfreton, space and the weather. Numeracy has helped us to develop our sequencing skills thinking about days of the week, months and helping us to tell the time. Art has encouraged our mixing skills developing colour knowledge, the use of different painting methods and improving upon fine motor skills. Well done to all our wonderful pupils who have worked extremely hard and continue to make us proud every day!

In the New Year we look forward to starting a new topic on ourselves followed by dinosaurs and fossils.

Please remember to keep checking our section on the school website as we regularly update our page with lots of pictures and information.

Thank you all for your continued support, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHESTNUT

It has been such a busy term in Chestnut class we have all settled in really well and have adjusted to our new friends and routine. We had a wonderful time at Lea Green at the start of the academic year which really helped us to get to know one another. We are looking forward to going again for the day later in the school year.

Over the term we have worked really hard to develop our Literacy skills through sharing our weekend news, writing poems for bonfire night and responding to stories. In numeracy we have been practicing our number skills alongside developing our shape and time knowledge. We have really enjoyed the R.E days we have celebrated such as Diwali and Advent. We love the opportunity to cook and taste foods from different countries and cultures.

We are really looking forward to all the Christmas treats we have arranged over the next few weeks. Our trip to Chesterfield to see The Snowman was fab as well as the Panto.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas. See you in the New Year!

OAK

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in Oak Class! The new students who moved up from Chestnut and Willow have settled in well, as has our new starter, Jordan. We are so proud of how well all the students have done but we have to make a special mention to Mark who has made amazing progress in class and we are so pleased with his increasing independence and his newfound friendships.

The OFSTED visit went really well and we weren't surprised that our students got a special mention to say how impressed they were at the confidence that our students showed.

We have had a really busy term organising the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Children in Need – thank you to all the parents and carers that supported these events.

The students have really enjoyed their chosen trips this term. The trip on the train to the Nottingham Christmas Market was particularly wonderful and the students were absolutely amazing!

Thank you so much to Heather for all her hard work with Joshua and to Sue for her continued hard work and dedication with Work Experience.

We are looking forward to another great term in 2017!

OTHER NEWS

PHYSIO SUPPORT

A big WELL DONE to Ben in Acorn class, Sam in Chestnut class and Rubie in Apple class for completing their MOVE goals. They have all worked so hard to complete them. We are looking forward to working with them in the New Year on their new MOVE goals.

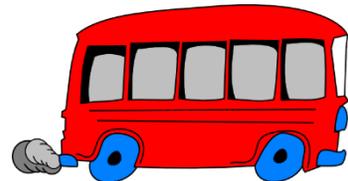
WORK EXPERIENCE

Sue Tunnicliffe continues to support some of our pupils in external placements. We have had some wonderful feedback from employers commenting on the fantastic work ethic of our young people and their enthusiasm to learn new things.

Barnardos issued some of our pupils with certificates and cards to acknowledge the amazing contribution they make to their team! Well done everyone!

FAMILY SUPPORT

It seems a while ago now but we all had a fabulous time when we held the Annual Family Summer Trip to Scarborough in the summer holidays. Two coaches made the journey there, the weather wasn't the kindest to us but a fab time was had by all!



On the last day of November a mini bus full of parents/carers participated in our annual trip to Meadowhall to Christmas shop, everyone looked exhausted at the end of the day but there were plenty of bags so I think we all enjoyed it and as one parent said to me”Same time next year Sharon?”....most definitely!

FRIENDS OF ALFRETON PARK

We held a lovely coffee morning in September for anyone to pop along who may be interested in joining Friends or finding out more about what we doThank you to all who attended.

We have been really busy these last few months with our involvement with Ripley Sainsbury's and Alfreton Golf Club as we are Charity of the Year for both organisations.

Both organisations have worked really hard to raise money for us, the Golf Club has held a ladies shopping evening and a gentleman's evening both these events were very successful. A huge thank you to everyone involved at the Golf Club!

Friends have held a Tombola stall in Sainsbury's and have also had 4 book sale days , we are now focusing on the Charity Weekend at Ripley Sainsbury's which will take place on Friday 16th

December with a Tombola Stall and bag pack taking place and on Saturday 17th December with events happening in store.

A Friends winter newsletter will be available shortly with lots of information on what we have been doing and are doing next.....keep a look out for it!

WHEELS ON THE BUS APPEAL

Hopefully you are all aware that the school has been working very hard to fundraise for a new minibus. We have secured a commitment from The Lord Taverners who have promised to supply us with a brand new adapted minibus if we can raise £17k towards the costs of the bus.

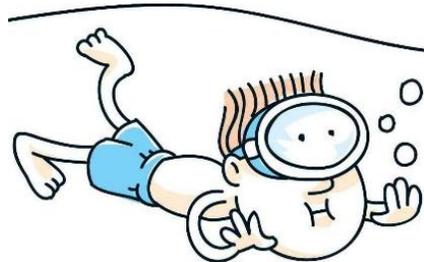
Thanks to the fundraising endeavours of the Friends of Alfreton Park, Alfreton Park Golf Club, donations from local businesses and organisations and the tireless fundraising undertaken by lots of dedicated individuals, I am delighted to tell you that we are very near to reaching this target.

However, the fundraising will not stop once we have reached this goal, as we will continue raising funds which will go towards the purchase of a people carrier. This people carrier will enable our pupils to access even more learning experiences, which will enrich their classroom learning. Please contact Rebecca Dallman if you would like to find out more about our plans or if you would like to help with fundraising.

POOL

We are extremely excited about the imminent opening of our new pool which will be an amazing facility for our pupils. Whilst our children will be the main beneficiaries of the pool during the school day, we will be hiring out the facility out of school hours.

We currently have an agreement in place with East Midlands Swimming Association (EMSA) who will be using the pool for swimming lessons etc. after school and on Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Sally Parkin 01623 43009 or 07813 892108 if you would like to enquire about lessons or hire.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Denise and her team are doing a fantastic job with the Out of School Club every Tuesday night. The pupils all have an enjoyable, social time with a range of activities to suit all and particularly like their 'tea time' snack. If you are interested in your child attending please contact Denise via the school office. Sessions run from 3.30-5pm and parents are responsible for collecting their child at the end of the day.

SCHOOL NURSE

This is the time of year when winter vomiting bugs and colds are common. Please ensure that if your child has been affected with sickness, to keep them away from school for 48 hours to prevent the spread of infection. Encourage good hygiene with your child and remember that if that if they have a cold to "catch it, bin it, kill it".



Our staff uptake on the flu vaccination programme has been very good this year and Flu vaccines have been offered in school to year 1,2 and 3 pupils. To help stay healthy this winter keep warm, eat healthy and stay active.

I am onsite full time at school. Should you have any queries regarding your child's health please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hannah Gregory

GOVERNORS

What a term that turned out to be!!! An Ofsted inspection, a Financial Audit, new staff members to integrate and school building improvements taking place.

First of all the Governors would like to congratulate Cheryl and all the school staff (you are too many to mention) on achieving our Good Ofsted rating even though it has been a difficult year with long-term staff absences. It was no mean achievement, the improvements that we still need to make are relatively minor and we are already "on the case". For me the most important statement that the Ofsted Inspector made was:

"The pupils in this school are very happy, feel safe in this environment and are progressing well with their learning".

If I was a parent of a pupil at this school that is precisely what I would want to hear and our staff should be proud that that is the atmosphere they have helped to create.

The Financial Audit was also extensive and successful. Rebecca and all the "under-pressure" office staff should be congratulated on their achievement, again in the light of the staff changes that had to be made because of long-term absences. Thanks to all!!

The Governors themselves have concentrated on balancing the financial budgets whilst at the same time attempting to continually release funds for school improvements. Our relationship with DCC is now good and they are trying their best to help us improve our facilities. The Pool is now almost complete and should be open for the beginning of February at the latest, the demolition of Bingham house will begin in January and the footprint of the school will be increased and fenced so allowing much more space for our kids to play. Other alteration and improvements are also in the planning stage and will be completed during 2017 – it looks like another busy year!!

As Chair of Governors I have to thank all my fellow Governors and all the school staff for their support, wish them, and all of you parents, a very Happy Christmas and hope that the New Year brings you all everything you wish for yourselves and your families.

John Glasby

100 CLUB

Christmas Draw winners- Drawn 6th Dec at Xmas Fayre

£100- no 21 Paul Cross

£10- no 37 Denise Mitchell

£10- no 15 Simon Roe

£10- no 78 Leanna Palmer

£10- no 14 lee Palmer

£10- no 54 Sue Smith



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council meet regularly. Elected School Council members have their photographs on the notice board in school and on the schools website.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Please remember that the government have said that we should not be allowing holidays to be taken during term time and the local authority do have the right to fine parents who take their children out of school during term times.

CLOSURE PROCEDURE

If the school closes due to adverse weather or mechanical breakdown, it will be published on the Derbyshire County Council website and parents and transport staff will receive a text message as soon as possible. Please make sure the office have up to date mobile phone numbers so we can contact you.

If we need to close during the school day we contact the transport companies and all parents as soon as possible.

BUMPS AND BRUISES

Please let us know if your child has an accident or injury, a bump or bruise and we will do the same. We are obliged to report inconsistent or concerning bruises or marks directly to social services.

ILL HEALTH AND ANTIBIOTICS

Please remember that school policy states that no pupils are allowed to return to school following being **sick** or having **diarrhoea** for **48 hours after the last time** they were sick or had a loose bowel movement.

It is very important that these policies are maintained to avoid cross infection. Many of our pupils have medical conditions which make them vulnerable to infection and the consequences of illness can be severe. Cross infection to staff means that we are unable to support the pupils due to them having to take time off. Please do not send your child in if they are not fit to be in school.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure that we have up to date emergency contact details including someone who can arrange for your child to be collected from school if they are taken ill during the school day.

MEDICATION

Please can you make sure that you inform class staff of any medication given to your child, such as antibiotics or painkillers on the first day of the course of treatment, or if you have administered Buccal during the night or before school? We need this information to ensure we can monitor pupils and in case of any emergencies.

Medication can **only** be administered at school if we have a signed permission form; medicine is in original package with dispensing label and must be within dates of use.

VISITS TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS/ CHANGE IN MEDICATION

Please write a note to let us know what the doctor and consultant have said so that we can keep up to date with your child's medical needs.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Please ring directly to school on the first morning to let us know why your child is not in school.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER A FRACTURE, SERIOUS ILLNESS OR OPERATION

We have a form to complete from the county council before your child can return to school. The school nurse will complete this with you.

SCHOOL MEALS

You may have noticed the school meal menu now includes many new dishes. The Catering Service is always grateful to receive any feedback you may have regarding the meals. Please e-mail catering@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone 01629 536704 to discuss any area of the school meal service.

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES

A charge of £10.00 for primary age pupils and £11.75 for secondary age pupils per week is made for school meals.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents/carers may be eligible to claim free school meals. It's easy to apply; ask our office and we will provide you with an application form to complete, see the online form

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your_child_at_school/meals/school_meals/default.asp?VD=freeschoolmeals , contact the Catering Service by e-mail catering@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone 01629 536704 and they will send you an application form. On return of the completed form the local authority will contact you to advise on eligibility.



THE LOCAL OFFER

The Local Authority progress towards all our pupils having an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) is making some slow progress. Please see the 'local offer' – see <http://www.derbyshiresendlocaloffer.org/> to investigate services available in your area, and how to access personal budgets.

HELP

The school can claim a substantial sum of money called 'Pupil Premium' for any child eligible for free school meals, so please claim eligibility for free school meals even if you do not intend your child having the meal of if they are able to claim free meals for infants.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

All school account balances, School Fund, Friends, 100 Club, Comenius & Let's Raise the Roof are available from the school office if you wish to see them.

WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on our school website and note that some information and forms are available to you online that may be useful such as parental permission to administer medication forms. <http://www.alfretonpark.derbyshire.sch.uk>

CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 01773 832019

Fax: 01773 833227

E-mail: info@alfretonpark.derbyshire.sch.uk

Head Teacher	Cheryl Smart
Acting Deputy Head	Becky Wells and Marie Redfern
School Business Manager	Rebecca Dallman
Heads PA	Toyah Ridgway
Admin	Angie Gadd
	Angela Stapleton
	Holly England
School Nurse	Hannah Gregory
Chair of Governors	John Glasby
Family Support	Sharon Walker

Jan 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
	Back to School			
9	10	11	12	13
				Super Hero Day
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Feb 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

March 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
		World Book Day		
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
				Red Nose Day
27	28	29	30	31

April 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols
17	18	19	20	21
Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols
24	25	26	27	28