



Middleton News



Volume 7 Issue 6

15 December 2016

Staffing Changes January 17 (Eagles, Toucans Penguins)

Just to let you know about staffing changes happening in January.

Mrs Rachel Hart is going to start her maternity leave. **Miss Shaw** will return to full time teaching in Eagles to cover her absence. We would like to wish Mrs Hart a restful time before the birth of her baby, however with two young children already we somehow doubt that she will get it!

Mrs Rayfield is having a well deserved term off to catch up with family in Australia. We are all quite jealous and hope that she has a lovely time. Toucans will be taught by **Mrs Easton** for the Spring term.

We are very sad to say goodbye to **Miss Parkes** who works in Penguins. She is moving back 'up north' to be with her family. We would like to wish her all the best.

Charity Stuff

We would like to thank you very much in helping us to support different charities this term.

In September we had a non-uniform day for Jeans for Genes, in October we donated the food items from our harvest to Hertford Food Bank. We raised money for Children in Need in November and and finally for this year we have enjoyed a colourful

day in our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for Save the Children.

Christmas Fun

We would like to thank everyone who came to our Fun afternoon on Saturday. All of the children seemed to enjoy themselves. We raised about £400 with an additional £400 or so being raised by the sale of the super Christmas photos organised by Mr and Mrs Hartley and supported wonderfully by Mrs G.

Santa's Shop

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time today to help with this event. It is always fun and a very popular with the children.

Christmas Celebrations

We were glad to see so many of you at the two Christmas Celebrations this Tuesday and Wednesday. The children really enjoyed performing. Once again I would like to thank Mrs Hartley for managing to pull together such an enjoyable event.

Snow.... and other important stuff!



As a school we subscribe to a service called Teacher2Parent. This allows us to send text reminders straight to your

mobile phone. It is therefore **really important that you tell us if your mobile number changes** so that you continue to receive these messages.

Pre / Post Christmas Clearout!

If you are looking at throwing out some old toys or toys your child has grown out of then please think of us. We are always looking for toys for the children on the playground. These can be of any size, cars, trains and playsets are always useful. Pushchairs, dressing up costumes are also popular – we can use almost anything. If you are not sure then please send the stuff in. Anything we can't use we will send to the local charity shop.

More Christmas!

We really enjoyed our Christmas Dinner yesterday. Cathie, Jane and Kizzy in the kitchen did an amazing job as usual.

Next week the children will be going to see the pantomime Dick Whittington and there are Christmas parties on Tuesday. On Wednesday children can wear their own clothes for our disco.

School closes at 1.15 on Wednesday and the children return to school on Friday 6th January.

2

Tales From The Chalkface!

Lower School

It will come as no surprise that like most of the school, Lower School activities have been linked to Christmas.

The children have been creating visual Christmas lists and writing their letters to Santa. They have learned about the story of the Nativity and have role played this in class which helped them to understand and enjoy their part in the Christmas celebration.



We have visited Santa twice. He magically moved from Tyndalls to Van Hages just for us. The children have been making lots of items for their Christmas boxes which will be coming home on Monday. The children are very excited to share the contents with you and we hope that you enjoy them.

Middle School

The children in Middle School are really enjoying the run up to Christmas! As part of their RE topic they have been learning about different celebrations. The children have focused on 'The Christmas Story' and have thought about the significance of Jesus' birthday for Christians.

They have enjoyed role playing the story and sequencing the events.

The children have also enjoyed their own Christmas celebrations and had a fantastic trip to Tyndalls Winter Wonderland and Santa's grotto. They enjoyed a magical walk past polar bears, dancing teddies, and penguins in the Arctic. They then met Santa in his log cabin and had a chat with him before choosing a gift to take home.

The children have been really busy in school making a range of Christmas crafts of their own and have particularly enjoyed making some fantastic Christmas treats during their cooking lessons including a delicious Christmas cake, mince pies and Christmas biscuits.



Upper School

All things Christmassy have been happening in technology.

The children have been making Christmas hats, a Christmas pudding bauble, Christmas pudding crispy cakes, Christmas wreaths, a calendar using textiles and embroidery and a sock snowman! They all look fantastic.

They have continued to learn about Christmas traditions all around the world. They have been especially interested in

Middleton News

listening to children in school whose families are from other countries and who do things a little differently.

In Poland families put straw under the table cloth. They have their celebration meal on Christmas Eve and not on Christmas day but they have to wait for their meal until the first star is in the sky. Let's hope it's not cloudy!! In France children put their shoes in front of the fire and not their stockings. In many European countries children have to wait until the coming of the three kings until they get their presents which is on 12th night whilst in Holland Sinter Klaas arrives on the 5th December with children's presents.

Of course there is always some fact which the children really think is funny. In this case it is that Mistletoe actually means poo stick as the fruits are eaten by birds and the seeds spread in their faeces!

Every day's a school day!

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

As this is the last Middleton News before the Christmas Holiday.



On behalf of the Staff, Governors and Children of Middleton School we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

