

December 14th 2018

Headteacher's News

I was extremely proud of our Key Stage One pupils this week. Their positive attitude and hard work meant their talents really shone through in their production of 'The Inn-Spectors'. They really impressed the audiences with their singing, dancing and clear speaking. A big thank you to all those who helped put the production together, particularly the Key Stage One staff.

Our Year 5/6 choir performed with other local schools at St Michael's Church on Monday night. It was a magical evening with our choir singing beautifully. They also sang for the residents at Elmhurst and represented the school superbly. Well done everyone!

Our Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre was a huge success last weekend. Many thanks to all those who supported the event or helped out in any way. We are especially grateful for the hard work of the organising committee and delighted that the event raised around £3,300! It is due to the hard work of the PTA that allows them to pay for these fabulous opportunities to really enhance the end of term and to purchase greatly needed resources.

On Monday, all the children across the school had a Christmas treat paid for by our PTA. We wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to them for paying for the Key Stage Two panto, as well as the Key Stage One panto and the EYFS entertainer. The children across the school thoroughly enjoyed them!

It was lovely to see so many volunteers this morning at the coffee morning. We really appreciate the time you give.

Have a good weekend.

Safeguarding - eSafety

ParentZone have just released a handout regarding a new YouTube trend called 'Strip Fortnite' which we would like to make you aware of.

What is 'Strip Fortnite'?

Fortnite is currently one of the most popular online games out there and receives a lot of its publicity through videos posted on YouTube of influencers playing the game. A 'Strip Fortnite' video generally shows a young male playing Fortnite, while a female companion removes items of clothing every time he makes a 'kill'.

Can my child access it?

Videos on YouTube generally do not have an age rating and can be accessed without the need to sign in.

What are the risks?

It seems to be something created with the aim to encourage visitors to click on a link in the video to visit another website. Some of these could be links to adult sites that host pornographic content.

What can I do?

- Make sure that you have applied the parental controls to your broadband and devices to prevent pornographic content.
- Encourage younger children to use the YouTube Kids app.
- Talk to your child about what is OK to watch and what isn't. Children may not be actively looking for this content but click on it out of curiosity because they are not aware that the content is inappropriate. The full handout with more details is attached to this newsletter.

Important Dates

Mon 17th Dec	Nursery/Little Ladybirds Christmas Party 2.45pm Yr 2 Work Sharing
Tues 18th Dec	EYFS/KS1 Xmas Lunch and Xmas Jumper Day
Wed 19th Dec	KS2 Xmas Lunch and Xmas Jumper Day 2.45pm Yr 1 Work Sharing
Thurs 20th Dec	2pm St Michael's Church Service
Fri 21st Dec	Term Ends at 2.00pm
Mon 7th Jan	Children Return to School
Fri 18th Jan	9.00am Volunteer safeguarding training
	Maths games with children at 2.50pm:
Mon 21st Jan	EYFS
Tues 22nd Jan	KS1
Wed 23rd Jan	UKS2
Fri 25th Jan	LKS2
30th Jan	Supporting with writing at KS2 9.00 - 9.45am
Half Term	18th - 22nd Feb 19
Mon 25th Feb	INSET DAY
Tues 26th Feb	Children Return to School
Fri 5th Apr	Term Ends at 2.00pm
Tues 23rd Apr	Children Return to School
Half term	27th - 31st May 2019
Mon 3rd Jun	INSET DAY
Tues 4th Jun	Children Return to School
Sat 9th Jun	Association Summer Ball
Tues 23rd July	End of Term at 2.00pm
Wed 24th July	Occasional Day

Safeguarding

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

In the run up to Christmas, it's especially important to be aware of toys and devices that use button batteries (the flat disc-like silver batteries) and to make sure we keep children safe by using, storing and disposing of them properly.

It's extremely dangerous to swallow button batteries or to insert them into noses or ears where they can still create a circuit and cause harm.

Button batteries are in far more products that you might initially think, including car key fobs, musical cards and books as well as toys that are powered and household electrical items, such as a thermometer.

Always make sure that button batteries are securely stored out of sight and reach of children. When they are no longer powering items, dispose of them safely and do not leave them laying around – they can still harm children if swallowed, even if the product they power needs new ones.

Reception Christmas Activity Day

On Tuesday, the children had a wonderful Christmas Activity Day where they were immersed in lots of creative activities. They made hot chocolate reindeers, Christmas Pops, as well as using lots of glitter, glue and sparkly sequins to create Christmas trees and stained glass windows. Thank you to the parents who were able to give up their time to help during the day. We really could not have done it without you.



Reminders and Updates

KS2 Carol Concert—Thursday, 20th December at 2.00pm

All KS2 children will be walking down to St Michael's church for the Christmas carol concert which will start at 2.00pm. Please make sure they come to school with a suitable coat. They will need to be collected at 3.00pm from the church please. There will be a collection in church which will be split 50% to the church and 50% to Shelter. This charity was chosen by the School Council.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be having their Christmas lunch on Tuesday, 18th December- **KS2 will need a packed lunch from home on this day.**

KS2 will be having their Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 19th December - **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need a packed lunch from home on this day.**

Children can wear a Christmas jumper (or a jumper that is decorated for Christmas with tinsel, etc.) and wear them with their school skirt or trousers.

Speech & Drama Club

Congratulations to the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children who took part in the LAMDA exams last week. I hope it was a positive experience for all and we look forward to receiving your results next term.

We do have a few spaces available for Year 1 & 2 children for next term so please contact me via jdearnley71@hotmail.com for details if you are interested in your child joining Speech & Drama Club.

Many thanks, Jacqueline Dearnley

Northgate Association

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU...

...to everyone who supported our Winter Wonderland. Volunteers, skaters, shoppers - we couldn't have done it without you. We raised around £3,300 for the school which is amazing. We hope you enjoyed it.

Merry Christmas from the Northgate PTA and best wishes for 2019.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery AM: Joshua M R1: Thomas
PM: George W R2: James

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on Performing Artists.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for their confident singing, dancing and acting

Well done to:

Class 1: Harry	Class 7: Louise
Class 2: Penelope	Class 8: Isla J
Class 3: Jack	Class 9: Emily
Class 4: Emily	Class 10: Monty
Class 5: Jack	Class 11: Elexcia
Class 6: Isobel	Class 12: Callum

Reception and Nursery Application Dates

Reception applications are still open. Please make an application online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Applications close on **Tuesday, 15th January, 2019.**

Allocation of places will be made by Hertfordshire County Council on Tuesday, 16th April 2019.

Nursery applications will open on Monday, 4th February, 2019. More information will follow.

Community

Rhodes Support Group

You may be aware that we have organised a petition to Bishop's Stortford Town Council calling on them to continue to support the Rhodes Arts Complex in South Road by means of an annual grant, whatever the outcome of the proposed new arts venue in Old River Lane. The grant currently supports both the town's Museum and the wide range of arts and community activities which take place at Rhodes. The Town Council have agreed in principle to contribute to the on-going costs of the proposed new venue and we are concerned that they may withdraw or substantially reduce their support of Rhodes. Without it, the Trustees will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to run a viable business for the benefit of the town. We appreciate that Bishop's Stortford is growing and does need a wider range of facilities for its residents, but we do not wish the growth to be to the detriment of Rhodes nor to let the money that has already been invested in the venue go to waste.

The petition, which already has over 1,000 signatures on paper, is also on line until the New Year at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/retain-rhodes-arts-complex-bishop-s-stortford> which, in addition, gives a more detailed account of the background to our campaign.

Please note that we are an independent group, not part of the Rhodes Birthplace Trust or the Rhodes Arts Complex management.