



18th December 2019

Newsletter No. 115

St Dunstan's, Cheam, C of E Primary School

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy end to our



term but the Christmas Celebrations have all been joyful and uplifting, starting with Sing Aloud performing at a local retirement home as well as opening the Cheam Village Christmas Fair. Thank you to all of the children and staff for creating such wonderful memories as they retold the Christmas story in so many ways—the beautiful Nursery Nativity, the EY/KS1 production of 'Everyone Loves a Baby' and the very moving and meaningful Carol Service led by all of the KS2 children. Thank you also to you—our parents—for joining us in celebrating this very special time of year.

We have some other joyful news to share, as Ms Pearson has been blessed with a healthy baby boy who arrived a little earlier than expected—the whole family are doing well and we can't wait to meet the baby in the New Year.

On Thursday we will be saying farewell to Mrs Bakrania who has been our SBM—she will be moving to a new job much nearer to where she lives and we thank her for all she has contributed to our school this year and wish her happiness in her future. We have successfully appointed a new SBM for the new year and I will share more on that news when we return after Christmas. I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Whelan-Cox will remain as Mercury Class Teacher until at least Easter and we have also successfully recruited 3 new teachers, Mrs Farias Vasquez who will cover Ms Pearson's maternity leave, Mrs Collins who will work in Mercury and Pluto for release cover and Mrs E O'Sullivan who will support and cover release time across Y5 and Y6. We look forward to welcoming our new staff into our team.

On behalf of all at St Dunstan's, I wish you all a happy Advent, a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Ms J Corby

Nursery Places



AVAILABLE

Places are available in our current Nursery, to start in January 2020, for children born between 1st September and 31st December 2016. If you are interested in a place, please speak to Mrs Mellor in the School Office.

Carl and the Chocolate Factory

On Tuesday 3rd December Year 3

welcomed Carl (the chocolate man) from The Ministry of Chocolate into our school.



'He taught us so much about chocolate. How it first was known as xocolátl, to it being stolen by an explorer called Cortez from the Mayan tribes and also about its journey from the cocoa plant to the factory.' Zurich.

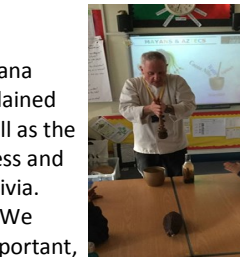


'Carl was a real expert. He explained how he had been to Ghana himself to cut down the cocoa pods with a machete. He explained how the pods had a white substance inside called pulp as well as the cocoa beans inside. We learnt about the fermentation process and how important it is otherwise the chocolate wouldn't taste 'chocolatey' at all!' Olivia.



'The best part was using our five senses when tasting chocolate. We learnt how the sound the chocolate makes when it snaps is so important, as that tells you that it contains good crystals from the cocoa butter.' Valentina.

We also got to plan and make our own chocolate using a variety of ingredients. It was a fantastic workshop and because we had worked so hard, at the end we became Level 10 Chocolatologists (and even have a certificate to prove it).' Billy.



Chris Callaghan visited Year 3 to talk about his book "The Great Chocoplot."



The children explored what it would be like if there was a 'Chocopocalypse' (no chocolate left in the world) and had the opportunity to ask the author questions to inspire their own creative writing. If you would like to purchase the book it can be found here;

<http://www.chris-callaghan.com/>



Thank you so much for the all your support over the last term. Thanks to all the events and fundraising activities we have raised nearly £8,000 this term which is amazing.

This academic year we will be raising money for Athletics and towards the Yr5 and Yr6 school journeys as well as new interactive white boards for the classrooms. Further information regarding our fundraising aims will be circulated next term. Wishing you a very merry Christmas.

PTFA

LAST DAY of SCHOOL
Don't forget school finishes at 1.30pm on Thursday 19th December.



Nursery



We are so proud of all the children in Nursery for their amazing performance on Wednesday 11th December.

Everyone sang, danced and shouted HOO-RAY, For Jesus was born on Christmas Day! We can still do the same today.

As we say to Jesus,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Infant Nativity

Over the last few weeks everyone in the Infants has been working hard learning new songs and dances for our Nativity. Miss Lister helped us to choreograph dances for the children on stage and Mrs Whelan-Cox helped us to use sign language for some of our songs. It was a very busy week getting ready for our big performances. Mr Rawlings came in with his camera to film us and we practised our words every day so that we wouldn't forget them when our families came to watch. Some of us were nervous but everyone did their best and felt proud to be a part of the celebration!



I liked the songs because they were fun to sing. **Gilbert, Jupiter**

I liked the dancing because I was an angel. **Pollyanna, Jupiter**

I enjoyed going on the stage and performing because I wasn't nervous at all. **Charlie, Saturn**

I liked being on stage and seeing all the grown ups who came to watch us. It was exciting! **Holly-Mae, Saturn**



St Dunstan's School Christmas Celebrations 2019

KS2 Christmas Service

Tuesday afternoon and evening saw St Dunstan's Church filled with children, parents and carers all sharing in our KS2 Christmas services. The traditional Christmas story was retold through song, music, dance, acting, poetry and readings. The children had worked incredibly hard to ensure that every word could be heard and the true message of Christmas was shared. Very many thanks go to Mrs Webber who joined us, following her recent retirement, to accompany the singing on the piano and to Mrs Tobitt and her aunt who have created a whole new set of amazing nativity costumes for us. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the services and gave so generously to our retiring collection.

'Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the lord will rise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.'

Isaiah 60

Christmas Celebration Retiring Collections

STOP PRESS!! Thanks to your generosity we have raised a total of just over £1200 which will be shared between our chosen charities - SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) and Epsom and Ewell AGE CONCERN.



Mrs H Cordery,
KS2 Phase Leader

Year 6 Roadwatch



On Friday 1st November, two groups of 10 Year 6 children took part in a road safety initiative with Sutton Council and Sutton Police. When the police stopped drivers for speeding, the children were able to ask the drivers challenging questions about why they were speeding! The police tell us the initiative is having a positive impact on speeding in residential areas. At the end the children had a chance to hold the speed gun at oncoming traffic. Well done Yr 6.



'Jingle and Mingle'

Members of 'Sing Aloud'



have had a busy time in the run up to Christmas. As well as rehearsing hard for the KS2 Carol Service, they have also been out and about in Cheam. On 5th December,



several members went along to a 'Jingle and Mingle' afternoon at Hudson Lodge Retirement Apartments where they sang Christmas carols and songs and chatted with members of the audience afterwards. One of the ladies there was able to tell us exactly what it was like to ride a camel, following our song about the wise men! The next day, they opened proceedings on the Radio Marsden stage at the Cheam Village Christmas Evening, getting the festivities started with a bang. Many thanks to the parents and friends who came along to support us.

Mrs Cordery

House Points

St Andrew
502

St George
413

St David
425

St Patrick
461

Attendance

The attendance figure for w/c 13/ 12/2019 was:

95.2% (4 day week)

Our target is **96.4%**

'Stars' of the last two weeks.....

Nursery	Joshua B	Amberly
Venus	Cora P	Lola S
Pluto	Alfred	Samuel
Neptune	Ava	JJ
Mercury	Betsy	Aarin
Jupiter	Angelo	Lucas
Saturn	Harry B	Abi O
Delphinus	Olivia B	Zunaira
Phoenix	Olivia J	Esther
Orion	Curran	Phoebe
Pegasus	Holly	Vera
Unicorn	Tilley L	Eloise
Hercules	Lola	Joshua P
Aquila	Anton	Lily
Cygnus	Lewis B	Tia

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

Weds 18th

Class Christmas Party

Thursday 19th

St Dunstan's School Prayer Group in school library 8.45am

Last day of Term - School Ends at 1.30PM

January

Mon 6th

Children return to school

Thurs 9th

Boys' League Football Match 3.45pm at Sutton United

Mon 13th

Boys' Cup Football Match 3.45pm at Sutton United

Tues 14th

KS2 Epiphany Eucharist in Church 9.00am — *parents and friends welcome*

Thurs 16th

St Dunstan's School Prayer Group 8.45am
Reception Dinosaur Workshop
PTFA AGM—6.45pm

Fri 17th

Lady Kathryn to visit Year 2

w/c Mon 20th

Clubs start this week

February

Mon 17th—Fri 21st **Half Term**

We would like to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas.