



What a wonderful fortnight full of super events for our children and families. Our six Nativities this week for Early Years and Key Stage One have been delightful. Well done to our children who have made us very proud. Thank you to all who came to see the children perform and to the staff who have put them all together. I hope that parents and carers of our Key Stage Two children will join us on Monday for the carols around the tree. Next week we also have Christmas lunch, our Christmas discos, Christmas parties and a surprise on Friday! Lots to look forward to!

Mrs G Plant – Head of School

Class Parties - Sign-up sheets for food contributions towards the Christmas class parties are outside your child's classroom if you are able to donate. Please see your child's teacher if you have any queries. Party clothes can be worn all day however please ensure that your child has suitable footwear and a coat with them for outdoor play. Many thanks for your support.

Last Day of Term – Then on **Friday 21st December**, which is the last day of term, we are once again inviting children to come to school in their own clothes but this time with a Christmassy feel! This may be your favourite Christmas jumper, red, green or white clothes or even tinsel in the hair. Please do not feel that you need to go to any extra expense buying clothes for this day and if your child wishes to come to school in their everyday clothes this is fine too.

School Council Christmas Fayre – The school council will be holding a Christmas Fayre for the children on Tuesday 18th December. There are lots of gifts, decorations, crafts and much more! Tickets are 25p each and items cost from 1-4 tickets. Please bring a bag to put your goodies in!

Christmas Dinner – A reminder that our school Christmas Dinner is on Tuesday 18th December. Please note that **no other alternatives are available on this day** so if you have not completed a form requesting a Christmas dinner please send them in with a packed lunch.

Please consider giving books to your children as presents this Christmas.

New research, published this week by the National Literacy Trust, shows that the more books a child owns, the more likely they are to do well at school and be happy with their lives.

Based on a survey of 44,097 children aged 8-18 in the UK, **Book ownership, literacy engagement and mental wellbeing report** found that:

- Children who have 60 or more books at home are **5.5 times more likely** to read above the level expected for their age than their peers who have fewer than 10 books
- Children who read above the level expected for their age have **twice as many books** as those who read below the expected level
- Children who have a book of their own at home have **higher levels of mental wellbeing** than those who don't have any books

However, children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are at risk of missing out on the educational and health benefits of book ownership:

- **1 in 8** disadvantaged children in the UK don't own a single book, compared to 1 in 11 children nationally
- Of children who own books, those from disadvantaged backgrounds have **25% fewer books** on average than their more affluent peers



Year 4 Carols at Christchurch – It was lovely that our Y4 children and staff were able to join Catshill Middle School for their Christmas celebration at the church last Monday. They particularly enjoyed the drama and the music.

Visits to Bluebrooke Nursing Home – Our Values Council visited Bluebrooke Nursing Home on Monday 3rd December where they decorated gingerbread men and shared them with residents. On Tuesday 4th, a group of Reception pupils visited as well. They delivered Christmas cards and hand-made decorations and shared some Christmas songs from their nativity. Everyone was a credit to our school as we shared our Christmas cheer. Thank you to all who helped make this important community project happen.

