

Tividale Community Primary School

Newsletter December 2016



After sixty-seven days back at school, we have only two left before we send the children on their merry way to have a fantastic festive season. From everyone at Tividale School we would like to wish you all the very happiest of times and best wishes for 2017.

We all wish Mrs Fraser all the best as she leaves us to go her new school. She has worked hard with so many of our students over the years and we will miss her very much.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in January. Please be aware that the Spring Term starts on Tuesday 3rd January, as indicated on the Spring Term diary on our website.

Year 2 and Year 6 SATs Meetings for Parents

As in previous years, we will be holding parents' meetings in January to give an overview of how we can work together to give children the best chance of performing well in their SATs in May.

This year, the Year 6 meeting will be on Thursday 5th January, starting at 5.30pm. At this meeting, as well as discussing the content and expectation of the Y6 tests, we are going to introduce SAM Learning, which is a computer program that children can access at home to help them with their SATs. Regular use of it has shown that children can improve their SATs results by as much as one full level. To this end, we would encourage all parents and Year 6 children to attend this meeting which we expect to last a maximum of approximately one hour in total.

The Year 2 meeting will be on Thursday 12th January at 3.45pm. Again, please make every effort to attend. Teachers will talk to you about how your child is assessed and how judgements are made on their attainment.



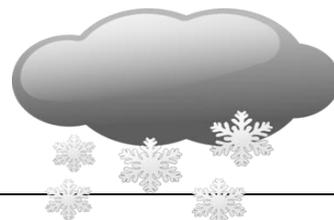
Winter Weather

So far this year, we seem to have avoided any disruptive weather. However, should I be speaking too soon and should we have any seriously bad weather this winter that requires us to close the school for a short period, we will be notifying you through our text messaging system, **so please make sure that we have your most up to date mobile phone number.**

In addition to this, we will also be informing you on our website and on our new school app.

This will tell you as soon as possible, whether or not school will be closed due to snow. Remember, on occasion, this may even be the night before in cases of particularly bad snowfall.

Also, as is required, we will be informing the local authority of the closure and they in turn publish it on the council website, and on the Twitter and facebook page. Be assured though, that school will be closed as a last resort only - **if you don't get a text from us or see it on Twitter or on our website we are open!**



Entering School

In the event that we do experience any frosty weather in January, we need to be especially wary of congestion on the playground adding to potentially hazardous conditions. In the light of this, on snowy and icy mornings, could I ask children in Years 3 - 6 to walk around the pathway, instead of cutting across the Key stage 1 playground. This will make it much safer for the younger children and their parents waiting in the playground.

Thank you for your help on this matter.

Autumn Term at Tividale

We have certainly had a wonderfully busy term at school.

The children have been working hard, performing in a vast range of very high quality assemblies and shows, and many have been out on educational visits. Year 1 went to Tamworth castle to find out what it would have been like to have lived there hundreds of years ago, Year 2 had a day at the safari park, learning about habitats and adaptation. Year 5 had a day at the National Space Centre where they watched a 4-D animation about how astronauts train their bodies and minds ready for space flights.

Reception had a magical visit to Hatton Country World, including getting to meet the man himself, Father Christmas. In-fact, we have been lucky enough to have managed to get him to come and visit our Early Years and Key Stage One children at school today, before he heads back off to the North Pole to prepare his sleigh for the big night!

A few weeks ago, Year 3 had a visit from a Roman Soldier. They all looked amazing in their costumes and they had a fabulous day experiencing all things 'roman.'

Year 6 have been thinking about heritage and belonging. They spent a day working with police officers and young person's workers on issues around community cohesion. The day focused on helping the children to consider opportunities that come with living and working in such a strong ethnically and culturally diverse community. The day did not focus specifically on, or highlight any group in particular, but provided pupils with opportunities to discuss and consider their opinions and views around issues of race, racism, identity, community cohesion and extremism; making links with current local, national and global issues. We have also launched our Community Cohesion project with Y6. This involves them working alongside the police, local businesses and Y7,8 & 9 children every Friday afternoon at Ormiston Academy. Look out for more information about this fabulous opportunity early next term.

The children enjoyed their Christmas dinners they had recently, and especially liked the fact that the staff donned tinsel and gave them table service. Thank you also to the kitchen staff for cooking such a wonderful festive meal.

During the past couple of months, we have had a number of fundraising events. We raised £265 for Children in Need and our Christmas Fayre was our second most successful ever, raising a massive £667, (missing out to last year by only £15) to go into our school fund. Thank you all so much for your support and generosity. Our final fundraising event of 2016 is taking place tomorrow, where we will be 'Doing our bit in our Christmas knits!' The £1 donation children pay to wear their Christmas jumpers will sent Save the Children Fund.

Finally...

Tomorrow is also, sadly, our final Orchestra concert, as due to funding cuts we can no longer sustain the tuition for free. After the concert, the teachers will get busy transforming the hall for our annual treat to the children.... Strictly for children's eyes only I'm afraid, no parents allowed. However, I'm sure your children will tell you all about it after school!

I have seen many of you personally at one or more of the many excellent events which have been presented in school over the past couple of weeks, but, on behalf of everyone in school, may we wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and send our best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Signed:

Headteacher

15th December 2016