

Value of the week:

Well Christmas is most definitely on its way! Last Friday we held a "Christmas Decoration Day" throughout Primary, and the school looks great. Then on Wednesday afternoon and yesterday evening we were treated to a feast of music and drama by Key Stage 1, with a fair amount of humour thrown in. The children put their hearts and souls into this, and were amazing! Thank you to all those who supported us by coming, by bringing children back to perform in the evening and by helping children learn lines (I saw several parents saying the words along with the children and I'll bet many of you would have been word-perfect on the songs had we asked you to join in!!) Thank you too to Tamsin Littlewood for her work with groups on dance routines. Special thanks must go to the Key Stage 1 team, especially Miss Ward, Miss Brock and Mr Mac for all their hard work, patience, commitment and enthusiasm.

Yesterday also, our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception got together to perform their version of the Christmas story (although there were definite nods to The Three Little Pigs!) They performed brilliantly, and all were proud of their achievements. Thank you to the whole of the Foundation Stage team, especially Mrs Walker, Miss Larsen and Miss Bignell for all their hard work and dedication. You have set a very high standard!

Fittingly, our Value this week is Courage, and many of our children showed this by stepping outside their comfort zone and performing in front of a real live audience – well done to you all! In fact Mrs Walker and Miss Larsen didn't feel that they could choose individuals from Reception because they were all stars and showed courage! There are, however, other ways to show courage – facing up to a situation that is uncomfortable, asking for help from someone, admitting that something is difficult or challenging, making a choice that is different to the one made by friends... there have been many examples of Courage shown this week.

Achiever of the week:

Tigers: Josie S
Zebras: Florence
Penguins: Evie
Giraffes: Finley P
Lions: Tyler N
Meerkats: Henry P
Eagles: Olivia

Value of the week:

Tigers: Liam B
Zebras: Caleb E
Penguins: Lily B
Giraffes: Connor C
Lions: Max K
Meerkats: Otto Z
Eagles: Samuel B

Notes and Reminders:

Children in Giraffes and Lions classes need a clean jar with no label by Monday 11th
School closes at 2pm on the last day of term (Tuesday 20th) and Wraparound finishes at 4pm.
Please remember that children need a waterproof coat each day.

Farm Trips for KS2 – after Christmas:

It is soon time for our next visits to the farm at Greatworth. For those of you who are new to our school, we have a farm partnership, which means that all out Key Stage 2 classes (Giraffes, Lions, Meerkats and Eagles) go to spend a day in the farm four times during this academic year: we have been in the Autumn, and the next trip is Winter. The dates are as follows:

Giraffes: Tuesday 9th January

Lions: Tuesday 16th January

Meerkats: Wednesday 10th January

Eagles: Wednesday 11th January

We asked for parent helpers before, but we would welcome confirmation of those who are still able to come: we need two helpers for each trip. Please speak to your child's class teacher or email me at rhughes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org and I will pass the message on.

Your child will need wellies and indoor shoes, as well as the shoes they are wearing to get there. They will also need to wrap up warm! Part of the experience will be about being outside in different weathers, and they will be experiencing winter!

PE next week:

No classes will now be going to the Specialisms Campus for PE before Christmas, due to rehearsals and other Christmas activities. Please collect children at the normal times from the main site.

KS2 Christmas Carols:

On Monday 18th December at 2pm, Years 3 - 5 (Giraffes, Lions, Meerkats and Eagles) will be performing some carols and poems, and parents and carers are invited to attend. Children can choose to wear their Christmas Jumper as well as a festive hat (Santa hat), although please ensure it is small so it doesn't block someone standing behind. This is not a ticketed event – all are welcome. If you do bring young children, please make sure that you leave the hall for the readings if the little ones are making a noise so that others can hear the reading. The carols should be able to be heard regardless!

Christmas Jumper Day: a message from Mrs Dallas:

This year we are celebrating Save the Children Christmas Jumper day on Friday 15th December. We ask for a donation of a pound as students showcase their favourite festive jumper on this non uniform day. Housepoints will be given to all students who join in with the festivities. Your donation will raise money for the charity Save the Children Fund where we can make the world better with a sweater! If you would like to see how this money makes a difference and helps children around the world, check out christmasjumperday.org Thank you for your support!

Residential Trips – first thoughts:

Thank you to those who have given your feedback on the proposed residentials as outlined in the newsletter last week. For more information, the web address for the Year 4 residential is <http://hill-end.org/> and for Year 6 <http://www.crsadventures.com>. There is still time to give us your feedback.

Healthy Eating: Reminders:

- No juice or squash in water bottles please – water only.

- If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch, please make sure that it is a balanced meal that will set them up for the afternoon: children shouldn't have sweets or bars of chocolate in their lunch box.
- No nuts please

Reindeer Dust: a message from some of our secondary students:

In order to raise funds for our Prom, we will be selling handmade 'reindeer dust' after school (at the primary pick up point) and at the Christmas concert [on Wednesday 13 December](#).

The reindeer dust costs just £1 per bag and is completely safe to be used outside in respect of pets and wildlife, as it is made with all edible ingredients, including edible glitter.

In order to purchase your very own magical Christmas reindeer dust, please come and see us [on Wednesday 13 December](#).

We look forward to seeing you.

Chloe, Grace and Aimee (Year 11 students)

There is a poster from Chloe, Grace and Aimee attached. Thank you for your support for this event – I am sure some of our own children will be enterprising enough to ask for information in newsletters when they are raising money for their own prom!!!

Christmas Parties: Friday 15th December

Please remember to sign up for party food for the children's party in year 1&2 and 3,4&5. The sign up posters are at the main primary entrance. Thanks for your support. Note that we don't need you to provide food for Reception as we are ensuring that it is completely safe and dairy-free!

Oranges! A message from the KS2 team:

Please can all year 3,4 & 5 children bring an orange in by Wednesday 13th December (next week)? We are planning to make Christingles. Thank you!

Dates for your diary: (whole school)

Wednesday 13th December 2017 – Carol Concert run by Mrs Beckett (selected children from Year 4 and 5 are involved in this)

Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day (whole school) and Christmas Activity and Party Day (Primary)

Monday 18th December 2017 – Rewards Day (secondary only)

Monday 18th December 2.00pm – KS2 Carol Concert for parents and carers (Years 3-5)

Tuesday 19th December – last day of term: note that school finishes at 2pm on this day.

20th December 2017 – 3rd January 2018 – Closed for Holidays

4th and 5th January 2018 – INSET Days

Monday 8th January 2018 – students return to school for Spring term