

# CRADLEY NEWS

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

## SIAMS Inspection

We are delighted to say that following our recent SIAMS inspection we have been rated as an Outstanding church school. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of all the members of the school community who have made this possible. The report stated: "The school clearly cares deeply for children and families, therefore parents and children cherish and appreciate the school... Behaviour is excellent because children understand the Christian values and strive to live their lives by them. The school has a clear and rigorous approach to tracking the academic progress of every child and uses data effectively to inform planning and develop strategies to ensure that every child meets their full potential." Once again, many thanks to everyone who has made this achievement possible.

## Parent Survey

The governors have prepared a survey for parents to complete, so that they can consider the views of all parents. This year the survey will be available online using Survey Monkey. You will receive a link via email to access it. There will also be paper copies available from the school office should you prefer to complete it this way. Please can surveys be completed by Friday 16 December; this will allow time before the next governors meeting for information to be analysed. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this.

## Carol Service

Just a reminder that the Carol Service is next Thursday, 6pm, at Cradley Church. We expect the children to be at the church by 5:50pm in their school uniform. All classes are leading one element of our celebration. As usual, FOCS will be providing mulled wine and mince pies afterwards for a small donation. We look forward to welcoming you to what is a magical evening.

## Transport Changes

*We have been asked to share the following information with all parents:*

Herefordshire Council has been making cuts to school transport for children in Cradley. As a result, most children in the village are now only entitled to transport to schools in neighbouring Worcestershire, rather than our catchment school in Ledbury. Practically speaking, it means that families whose children wish to attend John Masefield High School in Ledbury are paying several hundred pounds a year for the bus.

It also means that public bus services through the village have become much busier with children, as the school transport service is reduced. This has led to 'standing room only' as some buses are filled to capacity with schoolchildren, which has an impact on other bus users travelling to and from Ledbury.

The council has agreed to continue reviewing this policy change and, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, it is due to look at school transport again. They will be particularly interested to hear how the policy change is affecting Cradley; if it is creating financial hardship for families, if the cost prompts more children to choose an education out of Herefordshire, or if extra children on public bus services is creating difficulties.

Comments and questions for the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be emailed to Tim Brown on [tbrown@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tbrown@herefordshire.gov.uk)

*From School's point of view, the changes to the transport have made a dramatic difference to the intended destinations of our children, especially this year. We will be making representation to the Council on this issue.*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well done to the School Councillors for holding the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday. With festive music and the gentle chatter of parents, it was such a lovely atmosphere. Folk were most generous, donating far more than their coffee and cakes were actually worth. A huge thanks goes to the parents and councillors who donated cakes, and to Mrs Smith, Mrs Boniface and Mrs Davis for helping the councillors with the tricky bits. To date, we have a total of £130, but more cakes keep getting sold as this report is being penned!.



### Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who helped and came to the fair last Friday. It was wonderful to see the hall and grotto so busy. First indications are that we have raised around £1100 to support the school. Thank you to Mel and her team at FOCs for putting on such a great event. It is really appreciated.

### Reception Places

Just a reminder that applications for Reception places need to be in by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. These need to be completed upon the County website in which you live. Please pass this on to anyone who needs to apply.

### Christmas Cards

Christmas cards can be brought into school. There is a post box in the foyer. They will be collected by the Year 6 children and distributed on the last day of term. Please remember to correctly label the cards, as we have some children with the same names. Indeed, Class 3 has three Isabellas and three Williams!

### Christmas Concert

As part of our Christmas celebrations, the school puts on a small concert for the local Evergreen Club and the residents of the Leys. We perform many of our songs from the Carol Service and we provide mince pies and mulled wine for the audience. We are always happy to invite any other senior members of the community into school to join us for this small concert. If you know of anyone who might like to join us, please see Mr Greaves or Mrs Booth.

### Nativity

We've had a wonderful dress rehearsal of the Nativity this morning; the KS2 children thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. Our performances of *The Apprentice* will be taking place at 1.30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. No preschool children - other than our Nursery performers - are allowed at these shows.

### Nursery

Christmas tunes have been heard through the door of Nursery all week. Christmas has arrived and the children have been getting stuck in to festive crafts and activities. On Monday, Jack Frost left ice for us to explore. We also completed our name challenge, sorting the letters in our name to decorate a stocking for our tree. The children had to guess what was in Santa's stocking on Tuesday - no peeking allowed. They have been fascinated by the mannequin challenge, so we created one of our very own. Everyone freeze! We were covered in shaving foam on Wednesday and listened to the nativity in our very own barn outside. Lauren guided the children through a Christmas game that got us thinking about turn taking. We can do it! Finally, on Friday the children did a smashing job singing their number in the dress rehearsal of the Nativity. Well done all. We can't wait to see them on stage next Monday and Tuesday. And don't forget, we are off to West Midlands Safari Park on Wednesday to see Santa and his reindeer..... Excited!



### Class 1

This week we have been re-telling Christmas poems and looking at different versions of the same story with different illustrations. We have found that by learning it first, it is easier to write about and we have been using our phonics knowledge to write some words and sentences independently. Each day we have opened our advent calendar and discussed the days of the week and the dates in December which we have also been learning about in maths. This week we are in Israel and have been using the greeting Shalom for registration. The pictures of Bethlehem have made us think about the Christmas story. We are looking forward to our Christmas continuous provision next week and rounding off the end of a very busy and successful term.



### Class 2

This week we have been busy rehearsing for the Nativity Play. Everyone has worked hard to learn their lines and the songs, and we are all looking forward to the performances next week. Most children need some dark clothes to wear under their costumes - make sure you have checked your home liaison book to find out about this. We have also found time to carry out assessments and sew angel decorations.

### Class 3

Our rainforest village is complete! The children have worked together in pairs to design and build a rainforest hut using wood and other natural materials. We had to make modifications on the way to make sure that they were strong. The children have evaluated their work and are very pleased with the results. Our topic came to an end as we ate a feast made from fruits and vegetables grown in the rainforest. We had aubergine stew, rainforest rice, papaya, mango, kiwi and pomegranate, passion fruit and pineapple juice to taste. We finished our feast with 70% cocoa dark chocolate; everyone preferred the chocolate we had at Cadbury's! Everyone has worked hard on their assessments this week, too, and they are looking forward to getting Christmassy next week.



### Class 4

We've had a fun, festive week. We have undertaken our end-of-term assessments, where we showed off what we can do. We have learned about using imagery in our writing, studying the Grimm Brothers tales. In Maths, we have revised lots of different skills that we've learned throughout the term. During the afternoons we have studied different cultures across South America, sewed Christmas-tree crown decorations, played a basketball tournament and reflected on our art work this term.

### Class 5

This week, as well as completing our end of term assessments, we have been drafting a discussion text on whether or not Shakespeare should be taught in primary schools: we are getting better at talking the text before we write it! In science we created in groups a prototype of a lit table decoration, as the final piece of work in our electricity unit. We enjoyed making tree decorations, fashioning stable scenes with lolly sticks, to decorate our tree in the church.

### Value of the Month

PEACE James 3:18

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Chosen by Fin G and Ben R.

### Stars of the Week

**Nursery:** Naomi Griffiths for being reflective

Thomas Exton for working co-operatively

**Class 1** Riley Conlan for being reflective

Millie Elliot-Roberts for being co-operative

**Class 2** Adam Jones for taking pride in his work

William Porter for thinking positively

**Class 3** Mali Robb for being independent

Bo Brett and Darcey Rocca for working co-operatively

**Class 4** Jake Robb and Max Kite for working co-operatively

**Class 5** Adele Rutter for taking pride in her work

Aidan Somerville for being persistent

## Dates for the Future

### DECEMBER      **PEACE**

- 12<sup>th</sup>      Nativity pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>      Nativity pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>      School Christmas Lunch  
After School Club Christmas Party
- 15<sup>th</sup>      Concert for the Leys and Evergreens 10:30am  
Carol Service 6pm @ Church
- 16<sup>th</sup>      Animal Lady in  
Break up

### JANUARY      **HOPE**

- 3<sup>rd</sup>      Term Starts
- 10<sup>th</sup>      Football Fixtures @ Bosbury Primary School
- 17<sup>th</sup>      JMHS Open Morning  
Netball Fixtures @Ledbury Primary School
- 25<sup>th</sup>      Class 5 Collective Worship
- 26<sup>th</sup>      TAG Rugby fixtures @ Ledbury Primary School
- 27<sup>th</sup>      Year 3/4 Dance Festival @ Dysons
- 30<sup>th</sup>      Multicultural Week

### FEBRUARY      **LOVE**

- 1<sup>st</sup>      JMHS Trudge
- 2<sup>nd</sup>      Dance Workshop  
KS2 TAG Rugby Fixture
- 3<sup>rd</sup>      Samba Drumming Workshop
- 7<sup>th</sup>      Parents Evening 15:30-17:30  
Netball Fixtures @ Ledbury
- 8<sup>th</sup>      Parents Evening 17:30-19:30
- 10<sup>th</sup>      Break up for Half Term
- 20<sup>th</sup>      Term Starts
- 22<sup>nd</sup>      Net and Wall Extravaganza @JMHS
- 27<sup>th</sup>      Big Write Week