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Tilston Parochial CE Primary School

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16th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

EYFS and KS1 Nativity: 'Lights, Camel, Action!'

There has been so much to celebrate in school this week and our Wrens and Robins are top of the list! The children provided two fantastic performances of this year's nativity, 'Lights, Camel, Action!' If you joined us in the village hall for either of the two shows, I am sure you were just as impressed as I was. The children told the Christmas story incredibly well and there was lots of fun and laughter! The standard of speaking and drama was very high and the children's singing and dancing were marvellous. Well done to all the children who took part; they made us feel extremely proud. Big thanks to the EYFS and KS1 staff team for all the hard work they put into the performances. As you are aware, Mrs Featherstone recorded the shows and I will let you know when copies are available.

Great Fire of London Activity Day

Monday was a very exciting day for the Robins class. Mr Harnden came into school to work with the children on their Great Fire of London topic. The children spent most of the morning outdoors, learning about the fire triangle, finding out how to light a small fire and cooking twists of bread over the flames. In order for the children to get a real feel for how the fire spread back in 1666, they created their own small houses. These houses were then placed closely together and set alight using the embers from the camp fire. The children were able to see how the fire spread quickly from house to house.

The Snow Queen at the New Vic Theatre

All the children from Years 1 to 6 travelled to the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme on Tuesday and we were treated to another dazzling theatre production. It was a long day for both the children and the staff but the visit was very enjoyable. As ever, the children behaved impeccably and represented the school well. I'd like to give a special mention to our Year 5 and 6 pupils who did an incredible job looking after the younger children during the visit.



Christmas Parties: 22nd December

Our Christmas parties will take place on **Thursday**, the last day of term. Your child is welcome to come into school in his/her party clothes for the whole day. The school will provide snacks and drinks for the party.

Joint Carol Service: 18th December 2016

The school choir (a mix of both children and staff) will be taking part in the annual Joint Carol Service at St Mary's Church on **Sunday, 18th December** at **6.30 pm**. The service is always very enjoyable so do come along if you're free. If your child is singing, please could he/she wear school uniform and be in church no later than **6.20 pm**. Thank you.

Christmas Dinner: 20th December

Mrs Dutton will be cooking Christmas dinner on **Tuesday** next week. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free lunch. If your child is in the nursery or KS2 and would like a Christmas dinner, please ensure that you have sent in **£2.20** by Monday. Thank you.

Lunch Menu for week beginning 19th December 2016	
Monday	Sausage and mash or jacket potato with cheese
Tuesday 🌲	Christmas dinner
Wednesday	Pasta in tomato sauce or jacket potato with cheese & tuna
Thursday	Fish and chips or omelette and chips

KS2 Christingle: 21st December

Our Y3/4 and Y5/6 classes will be leading their Christingle Service on **Wednesday** next week. The service starts at **6.30 pm** and we would like all the children in church at **6.15 pm** in their school uniforms. We look forward to seeing you for this service. Donations to [The Children's Society](#) are welcome on the night; there will be a collection at the back of church (envelopes are also available from the school office). I appreciate that this is a busy and expensive time for families, so please do not feel obliged to make a contribution.



Mrs Weaver

I am delighted to inform you that our very own Mrs Weaver has been awarded the *Chief Scout's Award for Merit in the Scout Movement*. Mrs Weaver received a letter of congratulations from the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, who thanked her for all the hard work she has undertaken as a Beaver Scout Leader in Tilston. We know that Mrs Weaver is a wonderful lady who puts so much into her community work and her numerous roles in school. Well done from us all, Rose!



Music for Life Instrument Lessons

The booking deadline for music courses to start after the Christmas break is **Wednesday, 21st December**. If your child is interested in trying a course of instrumental lessons, you can find out more and book online at www.musicforlife.org.uk/apply-now. Payment for courses can be spread over several months or paid in full when booking. Financial support with the cost of lessons may be available in cases of hardship. Please contact Music for Life before booking if you would like to discuss this further. All new courses enjoy a 12 week 'taster' period to give your child a chance to see how things go. After that time, Music for Life will send a report on progress and you can then decide to continue with the programme, cancel further lessons or change the course.


Personal Development

This week, we have been looking out for children who **do not give up**. Successful people have bad luck, setbacks and failures but they find a way to bounce back. Well done to the following children for demonstrating 'stickability' and determination across a number of areas:

★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

YR	William B: for persevering with his cutting skills
Y1	Dylan: for not giving up on learning his lines for the nativity
Y2	Toby: for not giving up on learning his lines for the nativity Zakk: for not giving up when faced with a tricky situation
Y3	Erin: for showing determination and focus in all her work
Y4	Bridget: for not giving up when her maths work becomes challenging
Y5	Oliver J: for showing determination to keep going in maths
Y6	Laura: for seeing possibilities and opportunities in her maths learning

CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATE

 Thank you for supporting the **Christmas Fair** last week. Following the raffle draw on Thursday evening, I can confirm that the fair raised **£1741!** Well done to everyone who worked so hard to plan, organise and run the event.

Copies of the **Tilston School Cookbook** are still available to buy for **£5** from either the school office or Tilston Village Shop. The **Tilston School Calendar** can also be ordered from the school office for **£4**. Both would make great Christmas presents and all money raised will go directly into our school hall fund.



Thank You

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support this term. I wish you the very best this Christmas and I hope the coming year brings peace, prosperity and good health to you and your family.

School re-opens on **Monday, 9th January 2017** and I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley
Mr R Harley