

Headteacher's Update

Christmas is not a time nor a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas

C. Coolidge

Good afternoon...

The end of term has dawned and what a fabulous time we have had building up to it!

We have enjoyed our first ever Christingle. We were small in number but big in spirit. It is something which we will be repeating next year which hopefully more of you will be able to attend. The feedback from parents who were there was very positive. One of the parents said *"It was a lovely, enjoyable, intimate service"*. The retiring collection will be sent to **The Children's Society by St Andrew's church**.



The choir raised money for **Save the Children** by singing carols in Hoddesdon town square. We also raised money for this worthy cause when we all wore our Christmas jumpers on Christmas lunch day. Please see Office update last Friday for further information.



The Christmas Service this year had the theme of compassion. The children had all carried out research into ways in which people who are less fortunate than themselves are helped at Christmas. Our thoughts were with the lonely, the homeless and those who do not have enough to eat at this time of year. My thanks go to Revd Anne, all the teaching staff, the children and to all who attended. It was a very special service, one that reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

I would like to end my last update of the year with a quote from Mrs Poulton (with my thanks to her for her permission). She took the time to send in an email which said:

I would just like to take this opportunity to say how especially welcoming and informative I have found the school during this past term. Regularly updated class blogs, the return of class assemblies and the literacy evening are just a few examples that I have particularly appreciated since September. I also feel that communication to parents is now very good, with regular ParentMail updates and texts where necessary, and lots of information being sent out.

Thank you to all staff for your hard work, it really is appreciated.

Thank you Mrs Poulton, we were all so happy to read your comments

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very restful, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas where ever you may find yourselves.

Mrs Arnold

This term we are looking at the value of 'COMPASSION'

Please do read the Values Champions book which lives in the main Reception area, it lists all the children chosen and why they were chosen.

Values Champions choices for next term

Reception Values Champion **Bodie** chose Joseph for his respect towards the school rules

Yr 1 Values Champion **Ruben** chose Madison for her constant sharing and thinking of others

Yr 2 Values Champion **Lily** chose Ruby for her constant caring nature

Yr 3 Values Champion **Mollie** chose Keeyan for his compassion towards his peers

Yr 4 Values Champion **Rhiannon** chose Joey for his constant kindness towards others

Yr 5 Values Champion **Phoebe** chose Jack T for his helpfulness towards others

Yr 6 Values Champion **Maisie** chose Mitchell R for his calm and kind nature, always helping others

Great choices!

The outgoing values champions handed over their sashes to the incoming Values Champions this morning.

Keeping your children safe

Sergeant Davey came into school on Monday and spoke with each class of children separately so that he could deliver his message and hold discussions at an age appropriate level. It is not an exaggeration to say that he was shocked at some of the things that the children told him. He has been into school several times now and sadly his comment was that it seems that the children are accessing more of the things online that they should not as time goes by, rather than less.

He was particularly shocked at the lack of restriction that some children claimed about their internet usage. This included long stretches of unsupervised game playing in their bedrooms as well as access to the adult version of YouTube as opposed to YouTube Kids. Despite talking about the perils of internet gaming the children seemed unaware of the impact upon them of playing games such as "fortnite".

He strongly urges all parents to be vigilant about children's usage and to apply adequate restrictions on content. One child reported that it did not matter because there was "**no blood reaction when all the people are shot**". Shocking words from a nine year old.

Important dates for the New Year:-

We are all back in school on **Monday, January 8th 2018**.

The ChrissyB Show will be aired on Sky Chanel 203 Monday, January 15th 10.00pm and repeated on the following Sunday, 21st January at 3.00pm.

The PTA has asked me to pass on the following information. **The School PTA Facebook** page can be found by searching on Facebook for: **St Andrews School PTA**.

SHOUT OUTS! This week go to:

Miss Sewell and the School Choir for raising money in Hoddesdon town centre singing Christmas carols.

Mr Wescott for filming and editing the Nativities.

The Cook and her team for the delicious Christmas lunch that we all enjoyed, we were joined this year by the Governors who ate with the children!

The PTA who raised £393.20 from the Christmas Disco.

Miss Castillo for organising a wonderful Christmas Service.

Sergeant Davey for giving up his time and coming into school to talk to the children about keeping safe online at home.

Mrs Poulton for sending such a lovely email in to school.