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16th December 2016

Dear Parents

This will be my last newsletter for the term and what a busy term it has been with some significant milestones achieved. I hope that those of you who attended the Reception and Year One concerts enjoyed them as much as the children, who enjoyed learning the songs and performing for you. It was lovely to see so many of you at the crib service at St Peters Church. The children in Years Two, Three and Four sung well, and those who had roles to play whether playing the recorder, speaking or putting characters in the crib scene rose to the challenge.

Over the term the children have participated in many learning activities both in and out of the classroom. These have included all classes making soup as part of Harvest, supporting Shelterbox, undertaking an art project called Take One Picture in conjunction with the National Gallery, Moneysense programmes for Year Three, Children in Need and lots of activities around Sustainability week. There have also been fourteen different after school activities run voluntarily by school staff who have given up their time after school to do so. I am very grateful to staff for this. All of these additional activities have enriched the curriculum and learning experiences for the children.

The most significant milestone achieved this term has been the completion of our playground and after so many years of working towards this goal it has been wonderful to see it come to fruition. On a daily basis it is good to see the children enjoying their play and lunchtimes and for the PE and sports lessons to take place on the sports pitch.

French Lessons

When we come back to school in January, Apple and Lime classes will have French lessons on a weekly basis with Madame Annis.

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped us over the term. Many of you have helped at PTA events, on trips and visits, with activities in school, or hearing children read. We do appreciate your support and the children benefit greatly from your help.

Heavy Snowfall/Severe Weather

I am hoping that we will not have to put in place the following procedures but should we have a change in weather and experience heavy snowfall at any time the following arrangements have been made should we need to close the school:-

1. A text message will be sent to each family advising of closure. It is important that we have up to date contact details as this will be our main source of communication.
2. We will post a message on the school website, please check for updates.
3. You can check www.hertsdirect.org to see if the school is listed as open or closed.
4. The gates of the school will remain closed and a notice will be posted on the gates.
5. The school answer phone will contain a message.

Numbers 4 and 5 above will rely on staff being able to get into school to action so please check your mobile phones first. I will try to keep the school open at all times if at all possible and we have managed this so far through some severe weather conditions, however some staff do not live locally and it will depend on whether we can staff the school safely.

End of Term

Please remember that we finish for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December at **1.30pm** and that school resumes again for the children on Thursday 5th January at the usual time. I do hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely
Mrs J Goddard
Headteacher