

News on the Nineteenth

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NOVEMBER 2011

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

The Christmas Shopping Night is taking place on **Thursday 24th November**.

Tickets are £2.50 for adults (free for children), drink and nibbles are included and are available from Jenny (Mia and Zack's mum) at school or in the village hall post office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings until 1pm, or from Sam McGreal (Milly and Phoebe's mum).

Everyone who attends will get a free day pass to the Hertfordshire Country Club which can be used for the gym and/or the swimming pool and sauna (maybe some mums can plan a trip there together - just what's needed after the Christmas rush!)

Please buy your tickets in advance to give the organisers an idea of numbers for wine and nibbles. It will be a lovely evening, so please come along - either earlier on with the children, or escape for an evening of shopping without them!

Help is needed with this event

Remember to invite family and friends for this fun fund raising evening.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar will be held on **Thursday 1st December** in school. Children in KS1 will be able to purchase homemade gifts for family and friends (more details to follow). Y5/6 will be running some fun activity stalls such as tombola, lucky dip, guess the weight of the cake, make a gift etc. The doors will open for everyone to come in and buy or just have a cup of tea and a cake at **2.30pm**. Hot dogs will also be available. If you are unable to attend and want raffle tickets, please buy before the event. 20p a ticket or £1 a strip available from your class rep.

*If you have anything you wish to donate (toiletries, bottles, items for children's tombola, etc) please drop them into school, **THEY WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.***

We would like to run a cake stall and any donations would be gratefully received.

CAR POOLING

At the last governors' meeting, parents discussed the need to encourage car sharing to cut down on the use of petrol, relieve parking space and to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

Please consider this if possible.

END OF TERM SERVICE

Please join us for our end of term service in church on Friday 16th December at 9:00. We will be singing carols and the children will give some readings. Awards, trophies and certificates will also be presented.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



A service will be held in the church on Sunday 11th December. All children that attend will receive a gift of a Christingle. Children will be making the Christingles on Friday 9th December if any parents could come in and help from 9:00am.

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Following the success of the last Bag 2 School Bags campaign we have repeated this Fundraiser. Many thanks to all of you who supported this campaign.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This is National Anti-bullying Week and each class has been thinking about and discussing what bullying is and strategies for dealing with bullying. They have listened to stories, been involved in role play and circle time activities.

A group of Y6 children are carrying out a pupil-led research project to investigate pupil perceptions of bullying in our school. They will collect and analyse the data and present the results in an assembly. They will explain the official definition of bullying through a powerpoint and explore what upsets children using a play they have written.

PSM's policy definition of bullying:

Bullying is the repeated action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally.

Bad Weather Procedures

The system that worked so well last year will be used again should we experience bad weather. Please go to <http://www.hertsdirect.org/> where you will find a link to information about the situation at Ponsbourne. As always safety comes first and our village can be treacherous during bad weather. The best way to contact the school is via email: admin@ponsbourne.herts.sch.uk We will try and respond as quickly as we can.

CHRISTMAS DINNER



We will be having our Christmas dinner on **Tuesday 13th December**. We want this to be an occasion that the whole school can enjoy together, including Nursery children who usually go home at 12 o'clock. Please collect them at 1pm on this day.

There will be no packed lunch option on this day.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Our trip to the pantomime this year will be to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Wyllyots Theatre in Potters Bar on Thursday 15th December 2011. We will be attending the 10.30am performance and will be back at school by about 1.30pm. Please collect your children at normal time. The cost of this trip is £10 per child. Please send your payment to the school office in a clearly marked envelope.



Numbers are to be given to the theatre then and we will not be able to add on. All children will need a packed lunch on this day. In addition to their lunch a snack such as fruit, bun or biscuit should be provided for break, and children will receive an ice cream. No fizzy drinks please.

The FTS have paid for the cost of the coaches for this event.

HEADLICE

Reports of headlice keep reoccurring in all of the classes which suggests that not all parents are checking their children's hair regularly with a nit comb.

We have witnessed a few children scratching their heads quite a lot.

We can only eradicate this *annoying little beast* if **everyone** is vigilant!

Please check your children's hair this weekend.



CHILDREN IN NEED



To support the Children In Need fund raising event, children and staff participated in 'Brightly Coloured Clothes Day'.

This has been organised by the school council. Children donated a minimum of **50p** to support the cause.

You raised £58

Thank you very much.

Samaritans Purse Appeal

A very **BIG THANK YOU** to all the families who brought in shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in Eastern Europe. These children will receive no other gifts this year since they may be orphans and/or live in extreme poverty.

We collected 40 boxes (20 less than last year). Rev. Pauline would like us to pass on her thanks for your kind response. You have made a real difference to many children.

KS2 PRODUCTION

We are very pleased to announce that this year's production will be held once again at Queenswood School on **Wednesday 14th December**. We ask for children to be dropped at **Queenswood School by 9.15am** to allow them to rehearse all day. Children need to be collected from Queenswood by 3pm and returned for the evening production at **6pm**. A packed lunch and drink needs to be provided. Please provide your child with a mid-morning snack.

Parent helpers much needed to serve wine and nibbles in the evening please.

PAPER AND PLASTIC RECYCLING

At present our refuse collection will not collect items for recycling. Parent governors felt that parents would volunteer to take recycling to local recycling bins on a weekly basis. If you are willing to do this, please contact the school office so we can draw up a rota and start recycling!

KS1 NATIVITY

The FS/KS1 Nativity will be performed on Thursday 8th December 2011 at 6.00pm in the church.

There will be a dress rehearsal at 11am on the same day for grandparents and pre-school siblings.



APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE

Information Books have been distributed. Parents can apply online from 14th November 2011 and closes on 15th January 2012. Siblings must still apply for a school place. Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application on 18th April 2012. Should anyone need any help, please call into the school office.

BONUS BALL

Thank you for contributing towards the Bonus Ball, the lucky winners so far are:
Kim Charles and Sam McGreal;
If you have not paid for your ball please pay Rachel asap. Thank you.

PARENT GOVERNORS

Your parent governors are:
Rachel McHattie, Suzanne Perry, Viv Owen
and Sarah Walk.
You can contact them via email at
parentgovernors@yahoogroups.com

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Following the continued success of the Christmas Tree Festival, the church is organising a similar event this year. The opening ceremony takes place on **25th November** and finishes on **November 27th**. The school will be holding a service to open the festival on **Friday at 2.45pm** in the church; parents and friends are all invited.

Why not design a family tree and help raise some funds for the church? Entry forms are available from Gill Sutcliffe. Otherwise go along to the festival to see the trees and support our church.

Kingswood Meeting

A meeting for all parents whose children will be going to Kingswood will be held after school on **Wednesday 11th January 2011**.



Please attend to find out any important details and to ask any questions you may have. If you are unable to attend please contact Mrs. Bower.

Ponsbourne St. Mary's Church Carol Service

The church hosts a carol service on the **18th December** at 6:30.
Families are warmly invited to attend.

Mrs Sutcliffe's driveway

Gill has asked us to remind you that the driveway in which parents wait is her only access. If she needs to reverse out from her drive at the beginning or end of the school day, your children are **not** safe running around in the drive. Parents are advised to wait outside Discoverers' gate or in the playground.

Parent Consultation Evening

It was great that so many parents were able to come to Parent Consultation Evening on Tuesday 8th November. We hope it was a helpful and useful evening for parents to find out more about their child's progress and attainment and how you can support your children in partnership with the school to achieve their best.

Question:

Are Parent Consultation Evenings helpful? How could they be improved?

Please send replies by email, in writing or make an appointment to see Mrs Gaiteri if you have any ideas.

ROBO LEGO CLUB.

On Mondays we will be running a very exciting Robo Lego Club. This will be a club for children from Y1-Y6. The children will be playing and building with lego and making robots but also learning about science, technology, engineering, maths and language.

For the club to run we need a minimum of 12 children so when the letter comes home, please reply as quickly as possible.

BOOSTER CLUB for Y6

It has proved very difficult to find an evening to run Booster Club this half term. After Christmas Booster Club will be on a Tuesday after school until 4:25. I hope all Y6 pupils will be able to attend - refreshments will be provided.