



### Foundation Nightwalk!

During this half of the Autumn term, the Foundation children have turned into Scientists!

They have been doing experiments each week and predicting what will happen and being very excited when their predictions come true!

As part of our topic 'Look at the State of us' the children have been finding out about Dark and Light. So we decided that we would come to school when it was dark and go on a night walk around our forest and Mr Clark's Garden.

The children congregated by the swimming pool with their parents with their hats and scarfs on, and most importantly carrying their torches! They went off in groups and walked through the forest looking at the trees in the dark. Ten pumpkins had been hidden in the forest for the children to find. They were very good at this!

We then walked through our apple orchard and looked at how different it all looked. We listened to how quiet it was.

At last we all sat round the campfire and drank some delicious hot chocolate and sang some songs. The children even showed the parents their performance of a firework poem. It was marvellous!

The children and grown-ups loved the night walk and we look forward to completing more experiments as scientists!

### School Questionnaire

Thank you to all those parents who replied to the recent questionnaire. We had 136 returned which is a relatively high return, over a third. Both Mrs Buckingham and Miss Nairn are currently analyzing the responses and will publish the results shortly. Your feedback on the school is very important to us and we will endeavour to respond to any concerns raised. There was an overwhelming positive feel to most questions and a sense of how important the school community is to so many parents.

### Reading

Miss Nairn has already made changes to the reading in light of the responses and after Christmas, parents will have access to School Pupil Tracker. This will enable you to check your child's progress and attainment through the year against national expectations. We will be holding a meeting for parents in January to demonstrate how it works.

### After school

Can I remind parents that the school is not a playground after school. There have been several reminders that parents and children should have left the premises by 3.45pm. There have been incidents where children of this school and from West Exe have damaged school property. Also, if you are staying at a club after school, could you please ensure other siblings are supervised and well behaved. We are not responsible for your children before 8.40am and after 3.45pm.

**Sadly, Mrs Powell will be leaving us in the New Year and will be working as a private tutor. Miss Trainor will be working four days a week and Mrs Fidler will be working on the Friday. Mrs Powell has worked at Alphington for over 11 years and has made an enormous contribution to school life.**

### Curry & Quiz night

What an entertaining night! Thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the quiz. Please support the PTFA, not only do they raise much needed funds for the school, they also have a commitment to providing lovely social occasions. Thanks to Alan Davey for his services as quiz master. Over £300 was raised for the school.

### Shoeboxes for Moldova



We have received so many shoeboxes full of gifts to send to Moldova – thank you so very much, there will be lots of happy faces on Christmas morning.

### PTFA News

Next Friday (24th) is the last day for orders for letters from Santa. Please post your order in the PTFA letterbox in reception. Cheques can be made payable to Alphington Primary PTFA.

Next Friday is also 'Wear what you like Day' (wear your own clothes in exchange for donations to Christmas fayre). Suitable donations are wine, chocolates, biscuits, smellies, teddies and bric a brac (all good condition please).

The Christmas Fayre is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 11.30 until 2ish.

[We need helpers – \(form coming home tonight\) - on the day and for set up/prepping jobs at home.](#)

### Helmets

Thank you for ensuring that all your children wear helmets if they are riding scooters and bikes to and from school. Please remember that they should not be riding them in school grounds

### Parking

Please think about where you park your car when you drop your children off at school in the morning. Today one of our pupils was nearly knocked over by a van parking outside the school gates.

### Alphington Pantomime

Will be performing Aladdin on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, a few of our children will be taking part, please come along if you can. Tickets are £5 on sale in the office, it will be a highly entertaining evening.

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm – 5M assembly

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Wear what you like day PTFA

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Pantomime

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm – Parent Café

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – decorations day

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 11.30am – Christmas Fayre

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2.00pm – Key Stage 1 performance

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm – Foundation nativity

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Parties  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm Carol service – St Thomas

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – last day of term

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 – first day of term

### Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching and you should have received details regarding Christmas dinner. Please make sure you return your form by 24<sup>th</sup> November. We will be holding our annual decorations day for all classes on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, this is an opportunity for parents to come in and work alongside their children and prepare their hoop for the hall as well as decorating their classrooms.

Foundation will be performing the nativity on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Key Stage 1 will be performing on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and tickets will be available from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Key Stage 2 carol service is always the highlight of the Christmas celebrations and the church is a lovely venue. However it is not big enough to fit us all in, in one evening, therefore we have made the decision to hold two services on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. It is essential that your child attends both nights. Details of tickets will follow shortly.