



# Newsletter – No. 15 17th December 2021

## Message from Mrs. Mole

It has been an amazing last week of term. The highlights have been the Christmas productions and having parents and carers in to watch, laugh, cheer, clap and cry whilst supporting and being entertained by their children. Despite staff and children absences it all came together on the day of the performances. We even had some lines delivered remotely! I was so proud of all the children and the staff who were just wonderful. Today I was invited in to watch Playschool's show. They were retelling the story of the First Christmas and it was Christmas in a bottle! I felt that, during the performance, I was swept away and all the challenges that we are facing in the world temporarily disappeared.



Another highlight of the week was the phonics screening results. You may be aware that children in Infant schools, usually at the end of Year 1, undertake a phonics screening assessment. Due to COVID this was moved to the autumn term of Year 2 this year. Mrs. Quinn carried out the assessments over the last couple of weeks and I am delighted to let you know that all of the children in Badger class exceeded the pass mark. The percentage of pupils who pass the phonics screening at Polesden Lacey Infant School, is always above the national average but this is the first time that we have achieved a 100% pass rate. This in itself is an outstanding achievement but after the past couple of years it is even more impressive. An enormous congratulations to the children in Badger class and a huge thankyou to the adults both in school and at home who have supported them.

Finally, I will be monitoring the rapidly changing situation with COVID and will write to you on 4th January with any changes that we may need to implement. (Fingers crossed that there are none!)

I hope that you are all able to fulfil the plans that you have made for the Christmas and New Year period.

Take care and stay safe,

**Rebecca Mole, Headteacher**

## Star of Week

**Well done to all the winners this week.**

Rabbits: **Thomas** for fantastic writing

Squirrels: **Elisa** for working hard and stretching her brain!

Badgers: **Isla** for writing a fabulous Snow Dragon story

**Mrs Bryan** for working hard and being resilient in her first term of teacher training!

**Mrs Binding** for successfully completing and passing her 'National Award for SEN Coordination'



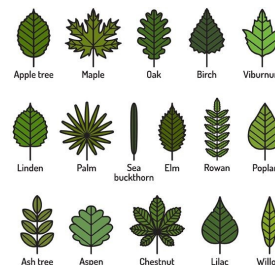
## Values Leaves

At Polesden Lacey Infant School we like to celebrate the different ways that children and adults show our school values of being **Fair, Resilient, Respectful, Caring, Courageous and Curious**.

If you see your child doing anything that you think shows one of our Values please write it on a leaf and send it into school. Rather than sending pre-cut leaves home from school please could you cut out a leaf and write the reason on it. Maybe you could pick a shape from leaves of different trees. Each class will have a box to put the 'Values Leaf' in and they will be shared with the class during the week.

Below are this week's leaves:

**Finbar** helped Grandad move a stack of wood logs for the fire. Later that day he enjoyed a warm roaring fire.



## A reminder of Green Santa's present list for the planet (From Surrey CC)

Green Santa's back! As well as wishing us all a merry old time, he has a Christmas wish too - please give a gift to the planet as well as your family and friends.

That means avoiding cards with batteries and glitter and steering clear of wrapping paper with a foil or plastic lining. To stay in Green Santa's good books this year, you can:

1. Recycle all your cardboard mince pie, biscuit, and chocolate boxes.
2. Empty, rinse and dry all food and drink packaging before it goes in your recycling bin – and place all items loose not bagged.
3. Fold and recycle cardboard such as delivery and toy boxes to make more room in your recycling bin.
4. Place all paper cards, envelopes and wrapping (that are glitter, foil and plastic free) in your recycling bin.
5. Place unrecyclable items such as polystyrene, bubble wrap, and plastic film in your rubbish bin. If in doubt, check it out with the Surrey Recycles search tool or app.
6. Plan your party food in advance and freeze any cooked or uncooked food you didn't get around to eating.
7. Get creative with your leftovers, why not try out some of our delicious recipes.
8. Put food that can't be eaten, like bones, eggshells and peelings into your food caddy.

Remember that any unwanted gifts like clothes and small electricals and batteries need to be recycled separately, not placed in your recycling bin.

## Fairtrade Alphabet

### F is for Fairtrade

Fairtrade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers, Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.

Choosing Fairtrade means standing with farmers for fairness and equality, against some of the biggest challenges the world faces. It means farmers creating change, from investing in climate friendly farming techniques to developing women in leadership.

With Fairtrade you change the world a little bit every day. Through simple shopping choices you are showing businesses and governments that you believe in fair and just trade.



## Message From The Friends

### A huge thank you - £750 raised towards our outdoor classroom!

As we come to the end of the term, we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting the Friends activity, and to all of you who gave your time to help organise and run these events. From uniform sales, a gardening day and bake sale to Halloween and Christmas events, we've had great fun and hope you and your family have enjoyed it too!

The great news is together we've raised over £750 this term! All the money raised in this school year will go towards the outdoor classroom that Ms Mole is planning for early 2022. The classroom will provide our children with a unique learning experience and we're sure is something they will love!

Next year, along with activities around World Book Day and Easter, we will be holding a quiz night for parents and carers on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. So pop the date in your diary, it's sure to be a night of fun and laughter - more details to follow early in the new year.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

The Friends

## Position for Clerk of Governors

Mrs Bryan, the current Clerk to the Governors, is stepping down after many years to pursue a career in Teaching. If you are interested in taking on this role please click on the following link; <https://www.eteach.com/job/clerk-to-the-governors-1197001> which will take you to the advert on E-Teach for more details.

Closing date for applications is Thursday 13th January 2022.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to...

# MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

## 1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

## 2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pinning for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

## 3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

## 4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

## 5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

## 6 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

## 7 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

## 8 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

## 9 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

## 10 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

Thank you

### E-safety Survey

Thank you to all parents who have completed the e-safety online survey! The winner of the treats was Mrs Rogers.

### Applications for Reception 2022

We are delighted that we have been able to show over 40 prospective parent families around our amazing school (all in small groups to ensure that we were following Government guidance and keep everyone in school and visiting safe). We have two more tours running in January, Wednesday 5th at 1.30pm and Thursday 6th at 10.30am.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place for September 2022, please do signpost them to us. Tours can be booked by calling the school office on 01372 456533 or emailing [office@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk)

### Applications for Year 3

Much as we would love to keep your children with us at Polesden Lacey Infant School, the time has come for you to consider the choice of Junior school for the next stage in your child's educational journey.

Below you will find the information from the Surrey Admissions team (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>) about the process.

Although we are unable to guide you with regards to choice of school we are more than happy to help with the process so if you do have any questions please ask. Applications close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Christmas tree voucher

The Vineries Garden Centre have once again provided us with a 10% off voucher when you purchase a real Christmas tree with them. The voucher below will entitle you 10% off your purchase and the Vineries will donate 50p to the school for every voucher they get back with our school's name on it.

THE VINERIES GARDEN CENTRE LOWER ROAD EFFINGHAM

**CHRISTMAS TREE VOUCHER** ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER 2021

**10 %** OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



### **Cold in School**

Please be aware that in compliance with the Covid guidelines we have the windows and doors open throughout the school day to increase the amount of ventilation in all areas. This includes the classrooms, school hall, library and offices. As a result it can get quite chilly in school and especially in Reception Class as the classroom door is open for most of the day, although to be fair most of the children don't seem to feel it! If your child feels the cold you might like to dress them with extra layers to keep them warm in class, as well as hats, scarves and gloves for lunch and playtimes.

### **Dates**

#### Spring Term 2022

4th January INSET Day

5th January All children return to school

14th February—18th February Half Term

1st April; Last day of term school closes at 1pm