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Please remember that children should **NOT** bring any form of medication in to school unless they have a care plan which has been arranged with the school. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this important matter.

Please remember that Dinner Money should be handed in on Monday mornings in a named dinner pot or envelope. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary

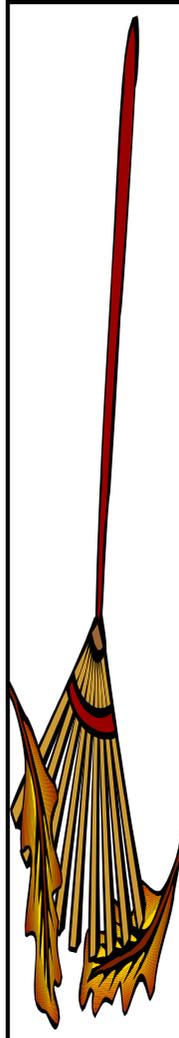
November

Monday, 21st School Harvest for children
Tuesday, 22nd Year 1 Knights and Castles Day
Wednesday, 23rd Year 3 Romans Day
Wednesday, 23rd Christmas Fayre 3.45 - 5.30pm

December

Thursday, 1st Y6 Victorian Day
Monday, 5th F.S. / K.S.1 Dress Rehearsal for K.S.2
Tuesday, 6th F.S. / K.S. 1 Production 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday, 7th F.S. / K.S. 1 Production 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday, 7th K.S. 2 Carol Concert at St Mary's And St Chad's for the choir and Musicians at 7 p.m.
Thursday, 8th F.S. / K.S. 1 Production 9.30 a.m.
Friday, 9th KS1 Christingle Service 9.45 a.m.
Friday, 9th K.S. 2 Christingle Service 2 p.m.
Friday, 9th Christmas Dinner Day
w/b 12th Party Week
Tuesday 13th Musicians to visit a home for the elderly to perform 1.30—3.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 14th The Nursery visit Conkers to see Santa
Thursday, 15th Choir 'Singing on the Balcony' 3.10 p.m.
Friday, 16th Christmas Sweater Day
Friday, 16th School closes for the Christmas Break

We have lots of other exciting Christmas events for December. Our special newsletter with full details will be out at the end of this month.



**GLADSTONE
PRIMARY
ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2016**



Dear Parents / Carers,

A **MASSIVE** thank you to everyone who has given so generously towards our Harvest appeal. As I mentioned in my last newsletter Gladstone is now a Dementia Friendly School and money raised this year will be going to the Dementia Action Alliance.

Thanks go to the School Council who organised the fundraising events with their class teachers. I have to apologise if there was initially some confusion over which activities classes were doing, and on which days, but we have learned a valuable lessons and can promise that next time all of the fundraising events will be on the same day! It has been wonderful to watch the children organising their own events, however, and a special mention has to go to 4LM and 6RE who raised an astronomical £693 and £550 respectively

We are very proud of all of our children, however and am I proud to announce that the total amount raised is an incredible **£2,270**. Words are not enough to express our gratitude and I am sure that everyone at the Dementia Action Alliance will be completely overwhelmed by your generosity. Mrs Annese is currently in touch with the Dementia Action Alliance and we are hoping to run a number of awareness courses for parents and governors during the Spring Term. Watch this space.

Elaine Preston



Christmas is Coming! Ho! Ho! Ho!

I am sure that you are all more than aware that Christmas will soon be upon us. As we have lots of activities planned so a special newsletter will come out next week. I have also included the December dates on this newsletter as many of you have been asking for more advanced warning about dates for the concerts and any performances.



The Long Road to Heaven

Father Kevin from St Mary's and St Chad's Church has asked us to inform you about a new service and confirmation course which is starting on Saturday, the 7th of January at 10 a.m. If you are interested in your child attending this course please contact Richard or Father Kevin on 01782 313142.



New Spelling Programme

A number of you have expressed a concern about the effectiveness of the spelling programme we introduced last September. We too were not 100% happy with the programme and, having spent half a term monitoring and evaluating the system, we have made the decision to change it for a new programme called 'Spell Zoo'. Spell Zoo covers the demands of the new curriculum in a far more child friendly way and it will also help the children to work more independently while developing their cursive script. For more information please check the website: spellzoo.co.uk.

STOKE SPEAKS OUT LEVEL 4

We are currently in the process of renewing our 'Stoke Speaks Out' Level 4 accreditation.

Stoke Speaks Out is an initiative which was set up in 2004 to tackle the high incidence of language delay identified in children in Stoke-on-Trent. The renewal of this accreditation will ensure that our school continues to work hard as a setting, ensuring that the development of children's speech and language remains a focus.

We are hoping to organise some sessions to let parents know about some the important key messages from Stoke Speaks Out, including how we are promoting these in school and how you can help your child at home. In the meantime, the web site address for Stoke Speaks Out is www.stokespeaks.org so please have a look as it has some useful information for parents.



Academy 'News'



Sadly, we have no more news to share regarding the school's move towards being an academy. It appears that there are a number of schools in the Local Authority currently waiting to convert to an academy and Gladstone is still part of the 'queue'. We continue to work with the other schools in the Societas Trust, but also work very closely with the Local Authority as we are still classed as a Maintained School. I will keep you all updated if I hear any news.

